

SANDWELL AIR QUALITY

»» NEWSLETTER ««

Working with faith centres to improve local air quality



SANDWELL'S AIR QUALITY HEADLINES

**SANDWELL'S
SMOKE CONTROL
AREA IS NOW IN
PLACE**



FROM MONDAY 1 JULY 2024

The whole of Sandwell has now become a Smoke Control Area from 1 July 2024. These rules will not only help improve air quality in Sandwell, but also our individual health.



AUNTIE DUCK LAUNCHED

On 20 June 2024, Clean Air Day 2024, 'Auntie Duck' was launched. The FREE resource is aimed at kids, with a fun story and activities all about air pollution and how we can protect ourselves and others. Email us for your own copy today!



**STORYBOOK
RAISING AIR
POLLUTION
AWARENESS**

SMOKE CONTROL AREA

>>> ALL OF SANDWELL IS NOW A SMOKE CONTROL AREA FROM 1 JULY 2024

A Smoke Control Area is meant to reduce harmful smoke from chimneys because it pollutes the air and can be bad for our health.

These rules only cover smoke from chimneys in buildings and don't apply to outdoor fires like bonfires, barbecues, or garden waste burning.

If you're not sure if your home or business is in Sandwell you can check using your postcode here: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council?postcode=SW1A>

**BREATHING IN
SMOKE HARMS OUR
HEALTH**

**HELP IMPROVE
AIR QUALITY IN
SANDWELL**

>>> WHAT DO THE RULES SAY?

With the whole of Sandwell becoming a Smoke Control Area, the following rules apply:

- Visible smoke must not be emitted from any chimney located in any building or moored vessel such as a canal boat.
- Wood or coal must not be burned in an open fireplace or in a stove unless the stove is a 'Defra Smoke Exempt Appliance'.
- You are allowed to burn authorised smokeless fuels such as manufactured briquettes or anthracite coal in all stoves and fireplaces.
- Those who break the rules can be fined up to £300.

To find out more about Smoke Control Area, visit Sandwell Council's webpage:

<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/consumer-advice/air-quality/4>

**YOU COULD BE FINED
UP TO £1,000 BY A
MAGISTRATES' COURT
IF YOU USE
UNAUTHORISED FUEL IN
AN APPLIANCE THAT
ISN'T EXEMPT**



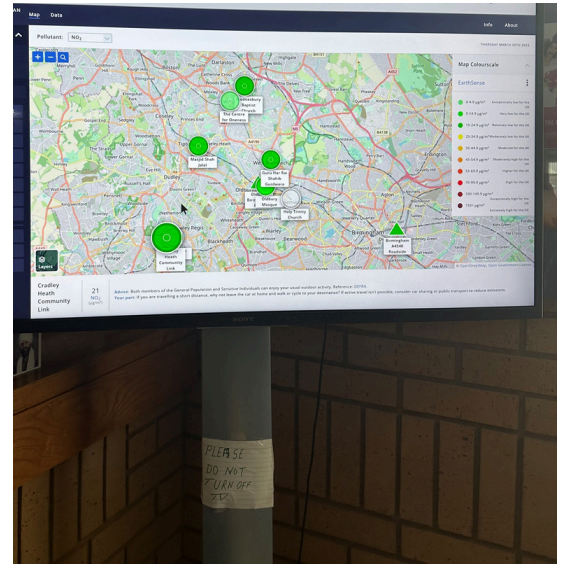
FAITH CENTRE PROJECT UPDATE

➤➤➤ END OF PROJECT SUMMARY AND REVIEW

The Faith Centre Air Quality Project has officially come to an end and the final end of project review has been sent to DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural affairs), who funded the project.

Our evaluation of the initial and final project surveys showed that the project was a success as there has been a notable increase in air quality awareness and behavioural change among people who are now taking actions such as walking more, car sharing, litter picking, and cycling, where they were not doing these things before.

Special thanks to faith centre leaders and members, who have contributed to the success of this project. Thank you for taking your time to fill in the feedback forms and surveys.



➤➤➤ QUARTERLY AIR QUALITY NOTICEBOARD UPDATE



Although the faith centre project has ended, the air quality information has not stopped coming! Thanks to the Guru Nanak Gurdwara for their ideas, we are now updating the noticeboards quarterly. If you have air quality news or events you would like added, please just let us know!

We're thrilled that faith centres find this a valuable tool for raising awareness about air pollution and want to keep it going.

AUNTIE DUCK OFFER TO FAITH CENTRES

As part of our work with faith centres to improve air quality in Sandwell, we're introducing Auntie Duck to the centres. Faith centres can choose between a book reading session led by the air quality team or a digital format for their children's teachers. Some centres went for the digital version, while others prefer a book reading session. For example, a book reading session is already planned to take place at the Guru Har Rai Sarab Ji Gurdwara in West Bromwich.

For more information on this, kindly email tina_okewale@sandwell.gov.uk



UPDATE ON AUNTIE DUCK

➤➤➤ PAEDIATRIC SESSION AT SANDWELL GENERAL HOSPITAL

Earlier this month, the air quality team, in collaboration with Jon from the Dog, Duck, and Cat Trust, visited the paediatric unit at Sandwell General Hospital to read Auntie Duck to the children.

The storybook was read to kids in two different wards, making for a truly enjoyable event. Following the success of this visit, the play team at the paediatric ward has requested another reading session, which is now scheduled to take place during Ask About Asthma Week.



Sophie, Jon and Suzy at the children's unit



The Air Quality team at the children's unit, Sandwell General Hospital



➤➤➤ BOOK READING SESSION AT OLDBURY LIBRARY

During Ask About Asthma Week, September 9-13, 2024, we have a special book reading session lined up at Oldbury Library on September 9th from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Join us for an exciting time as Auntie Duck teaches us everything we need to know about air pollution. It's going to be a lot of fun!

AUNTIE DUCK GOES TO SCHOOLS

This September, watch out for Auntie Duck as she makes her way into every primary school in Sandwell! How exciting!



This
ASK ABOUT ASTHMA WEEK
Join us for a fantastic
BOOK READING SESSION
WITH
AUNTIE DUCK!

JOIN US FOR A FUN STORYTIME WITH OUR QUIRKY AUNTIE DUCK! SHE'LL TAKE YOU ON AN ADVENTURE WHERE YOU'LL LEARN ALL ABOUT AIR POLLUTION AND DISCOVER COOL WAYS TO DEAL WITH IT AND PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IT!

GET READY FOR SOME HANDS-ON FUN AS YOU LEARN HOW TO CREATE YOUR VERY OWN AIR POLLUTION CATCHER! YOU'LL DISCOVER HOW TO BUILD A COOL GADGET THAT CAN HELP YOU SEE WHAT'S IN THE AIR AROUND YOU.

PREPARE FOR A BLAST AS YOU HUNT FOR HIDDEN WORDS IN A WORD SEARCH, SOLVE EXCITING PUZZLES, AND LET YOUR IMAGINATION RUN WILD WITH COLOURFUL PAINTING FUN!

IF YOU'RE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 5 AND 11, YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US!

FREE

Monday, 9 September 2024 at 3:30pm - 4:30pm
Oldbury Library, Sandwell Council House B69 3DE





Hello, my name is

ANNA

Birmingham

Age: 35

MY BIKE



Q&A

Q: When did you start cycling to get around Sandwell?

A: During the pandemic when I started working in Sandwell, I cycled along the canal from Birmingham to get here. Now I cycle from home to the train station.

Q: Where do you cycle to and from regularly?

A: I regularly cycle to and from work, and also to go to yoga class and to see my friends.

Q: How do you plan your bike routes?

A: Mostly I like to choose routes with nature- that are through parks, along the river or canal.

Q: What bike do you have?

A: I have four secondhand bikes- a Peugeot, a roadbike, a hybrid and a polo bike.

Q: What is your favourite part about cycling?

A: Getting outside, going fast past traffic jams and feeling freedom from going downhill!

TOP TIPS:

1. Start off with some short cycling routes in the park
2. If you cycle to work, use panniers for your equipment
3. Hire or buy a secondhand bike first to figure out what you like





MEET OUR ACTIVE TRAVEL HERO OF THE MONTH

Anna is our Active Travel Hero for this month! She started cycling to work during the pandemic and has kept it up ever since. Check out Anna's profile to discover how she got into cycling and what it's been like commuting by bike!

Would you like to be our next Active Travel Hero, or know someone who should be? Just drop us an email at [pollution_control@sandwell.gov.uk!](mailto:pollution_control@sandwell.gov.uk)

JOIN THE GLOBAL TRAVEL CHALLENGE: MODESHIFT TRAVELWISE WEEK 2024!

From 16-22 September 2024, Modeshift TravelWise Week will take place—a yearly global travel challenge. This initiative promotes active travel, public transportation, and other cleaner, healthier modes of transport. We encourage everyone to #TravelWisely by walking, wheeling, or riding more throughout Modeshift TravelWise Week.



MODESHIFT

TravelWise Week

16-22 September 2024

Travel Wisely!

TravelWise Week is Modeshift's yearly, global, week-long travel challenge. Could you #TravelWisely and walk, wheel or ride more during Modeshift TravelWise Week?

Taking place between 16-22 September each year, Modeshift TravelWise Week promotes walking, wheeling, riding, public transport, and other cleaner and healthier transport choices. It culminates in World Car Free Day when everyone is encouraged to find an alternative mode of travel for just one day.

Go on, Travel Wisely!

Tag @TeamModeshift using #TravelWiseWeek #TravelWisely
Visit [TravelWiseWeek.org.uk](https://www.TravelWiseWeek.org.uk) for more information

MODESHIFT
SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

EUROPEAN MOBILITY WEEK
16-22 SEPTEMBER

MODESHIFT
TravelWise Week
16-22 september

CYCLE TO SCHOOL WEEK 2024!

Would you like to save money, improve your health, and help the environment? Join Cycle to School Week this year, taking place 23 - 27 September, 2024. Find more information here:

<https://www.bikeright.co.uk/>

<https://www.bikeability.org.uk/cycletoschoolweek/>



CYCLE TO SCHOOL WEEK '24

Sponsored by **NatWest** Rooster Money



23rd - 27th September 2024

ASK ABOUT ASTHMA 2024

➤➤➤ #ASKABOUTASTHMA 2024: HELPING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO LIVE THEIR BEST LIVES

#AskAboutAsthma returns for its eighth year in September 2024. The campaign encourages simple changes to children and young people's care that will make a big difference to how they experience their asthma. The 2024

#AskAboutAsthma campaign will run from 9 – 13 September, ahead of the rise in asthma attacks in September when students go back to school after their summer holidays.



The campaign is run by the NHS England – London Babies, Children and Young People's Transformation team and each year sees cross-sector support including healthcare, education, local authorities, voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) and London region partners.

This year's theme is focusing on helping children and young people with asthma to live their best lives. Asthma should not limit children and young people's lives in any way and good asthma control means having no symptoms.

➤➤➤ #ASKABOUTASTHMA PROMOTES GETTING THESE FOUR ASKS IN PLACE:

1. Get an asthma action plan in place.
2. Understand how to use inhalers correctly
3. Schedule an asthma review every year and after every attack.
4. Consider air pollution and its impact on lung health – every asthma conversation should include indoor and outdoor air pollution.

For more information and resources to help you share the campaign, visit the 2024 campaign website here:

<https://www.transformationpartners.nhs.uk/askaboutasthma-2024/>

