

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 18TH MARCH 2021

**Question to Cllr Jessel
Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change**

By Cllr Charlotte Atkins

Question

Now schools are fully open, what practical steps is the County Council taking to promote its Air Aware Project to ensure that the pollution from idling vehicles is eliminated? Will the County Council assist schools to measure air quality now and in future months to demonstrate to students and parents the polluting impact of drivers leaving their engines on when parked up outside schools?

Reply

The Air Aware programme played a significant role in improving air quality outside schools prior to the pandemic and the team have continued to work with schools in readiness for the return of all pupils to school on 8th March.

Based on the success of the programme, a bid was submitted to the DEFRA Air Quality Fund last year to expand the programme to other areas in the county. I am pleased to confirm that last week DEFRA awarded Staffordshire County Council £296,828 to engage with schools, businesses, and communities to tackle air pollution. This funding will ensure that the Air Aware programme, including measuring air quality outside schools and anti-idling campaigns, will continue.

In addition to Air Aware, we have a Traffic Demand Management (TDM) programme in place, which also includes tackling issues outside school gates such as parking. Throughout the summer we will be delivering sustainable travel campaigns to encourage more pupils and parents to walk to school.