



16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**CASH response to Ealing Council initiatives following BLM protests - this letter will also appear in the public domain**

Dear Cllr Bell

Clean Air for Southall and Hayes (CASH) welcomes Ealing Council's plan to review the public realm and express solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Protests but these anti-racism initiatives won't help the black, brown and minority communities who are experiencing a grave environmental injustice in Southall.

Ealing has not listened to the message from one of the most ethnically diverse and deprived parts of the borough that "we can't breathe." As the Covid-19 crisis makes clear, the health of the BAME community is disproportionately affected by air pollution and this form of systemic racism is blighting our lives.

For two years we have reported the odour nuisance and health impact of the gasworks site through the correct channels but there has been no effective action to stop these. Ealing's anti-racism initiatives won't prevent us from choking on airborne carcinogenic chemicals from the Southall Waterside site. Expressing solidarity with BLM protests won't halt the mounting cases of pneumonia and cancer in our community. Reviewing statues won't reverse rising asthma among BAME children in our primary schools.

Ealing's responses to complaints about Southall Waterside have not addressed the life-changing impacts of air pollution on a community that scores highly on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Earlier this year an eminent scientist who reviewed the air monitoring data said publicly that the levels of chemicals present a "threat to health" so why has Ealing not taken steps to properly assess the health impact on people living near the site?

It is now almost a year since the public meeting in the Dominion Centre and we would like to invite you to a follow-up online evening public meeting between **29 June and 7 July or 12 July to 16 July (7 to 8.30 pm)** to give Ealing the opportunity to answer our questions and update us on action. This meeting will be held via Zoom. Please confirm your preferred date.

Our questions include:

- On what date will Ealing implement the air quality strategy and monitoring for Southall Waterside, as provided for by the section 106 agreement.
- When will Ealing look at GPs' data on health problems linked to Southall Waterside in a cross-sectional study to better understand what is happening at a demographic level, as called for by the Centric Lab.
- In its report in March 2019 PHE said levels of naphthalene needed to be 'reduced urgently' to protect people's health from long-term exposure. Has Ealing taken steps to ensure these levels are reduced?

We know that the coronavirus crisis has placed a serious strain on public services in the borough. It has also made the supporters of CASH even more acutely aware of the deadly effects of air pollution on our community. We feel certain that you will welcome the opportunity to meet us to address our concerns and look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,  
Campaign for Clean Air in Southall and Hayes (CASH)