

Lambeth Council accused of covering up air pollution crisis



28 February 2019

Lambeth Labour has been accused of “covering up” the borough’s deadly air pollution crisis after it failed to monitor one of Britain’s most polluted roads.

Air pollution has gone unchecked in Brixton Road, London, for six months since the street’s monitor broke in August 2018. [1]

Lambeth Green Party has criticised the council for failing to put an interim system in place, saying it is “choking its residents” by leaving air pollution unchecked.

Brixton Road is one of Britain’s most polluted streets. Last year air pollution in Brixton Road broke annual limits by January 30, a slight improvement on the decade before when the street always broke annual limits within six days. [2]

The last air pollution reading from the Brixton Road monitor was recorded on 29 August 2018. [3] Lambeth Greens have repeatedly urged Lambeth Council to fix the monitor as a matter of urgency, and to use a temporary monitor until the permanent one is fixed.

In September 2018 Lambeth councillor Pete Elliott asked the council why the monitor had been offline. Cllr Elliott followed this up in October 2018 when he asked the council to ensure pollution continued to be measured while the monitor was broken. [4]

These questions were repeated in November 2018 and January 2019. To date, no timeline has been given for when the monitor will be repaired and monitoring can recommence.

In response to a question from Green Party London Assembly member Caroline Russell, the Mayor of London confirmed the Brixton Road monitor became water damaged in August 2018 and said it was expected to be repaired by the end of January this year. [5]

Cllr Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party and leader of the Green opposition on Lambeth Council, said:

“Lambeth Labour is covering up a deadly air pollution crisis. The council is choking its citizens and putting lives at risk by leaving air pollution in one of Britain’s dirtiest streets unchecked. It is unforgivable that pollution levels aren’t being measured, with no temporary systems in place pending repair of the permanent system.

“Greens in Lambeth have continuously raised this with the council and have been fobbed off every time. Everyone has the right to breathe clean air, but we simply can’t tackle air pollution effectively if we fail to measure it. Lambeth Council must install a temporary air pollution monitor in Brixton Road immediately, and fix the permanent one as a matter of urgency.

“There are basic steps Lambeth Council can take to clean up our air and make the borough a healthier place to live and work. As a start we need to see tougher measures on vehicle engine idling, an end to waste incineration, incentives for businesses to use environmentally friendly methods, and proper no-drop off zones around schools. Nationally we desperately need the Government to back a new Clean Air Act fit for the 21st century.”

Green peer Jenny Jones introduced the bill to the House of Lords in July last year – the 70th anniversary of the first Clean Air Act. [6]

Notes:

1. <https://www.london.gov.uk/questions/2019/0251>

2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jan/30/london-reaches-legal-air-pollution-limit-just-one-month-into-the-new-year>

3. https://www.londonair.org.uk/london/asp/publicbulletin.asp?region=0&site=LB4&bulletin=daily&bulletindate=29/08/2018&la_id=&postcode=&level=All&MapType=Google&VenueCode=

<https://www.london.gov.uk/questions/2019/0251>

4. <https://lambeth.greenparty.org.uk/news/2019/01/18/lambeth-council-slammed-over-failure-to-act-on-air-pollution/>

5. <https://www.london.gov.uk/questions/2019/0251>

6. <https://jennyjones.org/2018/07/04/clean-air-human-rights-bill-launch/>

[Tweet](#)

[Back to main news page](#)

[Let's block ads! \(Why?\)](#)

[Green Party responds to record breaking February temperatures](#)



25 February 2019

Responding to reports from the Met Office that temperatures today surpassed 20 degrees for the first time on record, Green Party MP Caroline Lucas said:

“I like spending an afternoon in the sunshine as much as anyone, but it’s impossible to shake the feeling that this isn’t right. After last year’s unprecedented global heatwave and last month’s deadly temperatures in Australia, our baseline perception of what’s normal is shifting.

“We are living through climate breakdown – and instead of taking urgent action, ministers carry on as if nothing has changed. The Government must wake up to this crisis, urgently declare a climate emergency and introduce a Green New Deal to provide a green job to everyone who wants one and transform our economy to prevent climate catastrophe.”

[Tweet](#)

[Back to main news page](#)

[Let’s block ads! \(Why?\)](#)

[Greens win climate emergency declarations from 27 councils](#)



25 February 2019

Green action across Britain has pushed 27 councils to declare a climate emergency creating a mechanism to hold local authorities to gold standard climate action.

The Green Party launched the campaign, which aims to see every council in England and Wales declare a climate emergency, in response to the UN’s warning we have until 2030 to take positive action limit climate catastrophe [1].

With the Government in Westminster failing to take the action needed to meet the scale of this challenge, Green Party councillors and members are stepping up to take local action to curb climate breakdown.

Motions calling for councils to declare a climate emergency have been passed on 25 principal authorities across England and Wales [2], with many speeding up commitments to go carbon neutral. Climate emergencies have also been declared on 10 parish or town councils [3].

Bristol City Council was the first principal authority to declare a climate emergency in November 2018 [4], with Cambridge City Council becoming the 25th on Thursday 21 February.

Green London Assembly member Caroline Russell has also pushed the Mayor of London to declare a climate emergency after winning support from the London Assembly to go carbon zero by 2030 [5].

Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party who won a climate emergency declaration from Lambeth Council where he is a councillor [6], said:

“Greens are setting the gold standard on climate action. The local people stepping up to lead where the Government has failed on climate action, are a source of hope for us all. The UN has made clear we have a limited window of opportunity before 2030 to limit climate breakdown, but the Government is twiddling its thumbs. I am incredibly proud of all Green Party councillors and members taking real climate action – it’s time for Westminster to follow our example.”

Notes:

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/08/global-warming-must-not-exceed-15c-warns-landmark-un-report>

2. Principal authorities which have passed a motion declaring a climate emergency:

Bradford City

Brighton and Hove U.B.C.

Bristol City

Calderdale

Cambridge City Council

Cheltenham

Cornwall Council

Enfield

Forest of Dean D.C.

Hastings Borough

Kirklees M.B.C.

Lambeth L.B.C.
Lancaster City Council
Lewes D.C.
Liverpool City Council
Manchester City
Milton Keynes
North Somerset Unitary
Nottingham
Oxford City
Reigate and Banstead B.C.
Richmond
Saint Albans City
Scarborough B.C.
Shropshire Unitary
Stroud DC
Trafford M.B.C

3. Parish and town councils which have passed a motion declaring a climate emergency:

Alnwick town council
Frome town council
Glastonbury town council
Ladock parish council
Langport town Council
Machynlleth town council
Oswestry town council
Stithians parish council
Stroud town council
Totnes town council

4. <https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/bristol-climate-emergency-carbon-neutral-2219477>
5. <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/assembly/call-on-mayor-to-declare-climate-emergency>
6. <https://lambeth.greenparty.org.uk/news/2019/01/23/greens-declare-a-climate-emergency-and-bring-borough%E2%80%99s-co2-emissions-target-forward-to-2030/>

[Tweet](#)

[Back to main news page](#)

[Let's block ads! \(Why?\)](#)

[Green MEPs arrested for protesting nuclear weapons](#)



20 February 2019

*** Molly Scott Cato one of three Green MEPs arrested for breaking into Belgian military airbase to protest stockpiling of American B61 nuclear bombs**

*** Sian Berry, co-leader of the Green Party, said: "These Green MEPs will be found on the right side of history for the principled actions they have taken"**

Molly Scott Cato, Green Party MEP for the South West, is one of three MEPs arrested after breaking into a Belgian military airbase to protest against its stockpiling of American B61 nuclear bombs.

The MEPs scaled the perimeter fence and blocked the runway holding a large banner which read: "Europe free of nuclear weapons."

The MEPs are currently being held and questioned in a local police station. They are likely to be released later today. [1]

Sian Berry AM, co-leader of the Green Party, said:

"We stand in full solidarity with our brilliant MEP Molly and her Green

colleagues who have been arrested for taking a stand against nuclear weapons.

“These bombs have the potential to kill millions of people. They make us less safe, are obsolete in modern warfare and are a colossal waste of money. It is only right all US nuclear weapons are removed from Europe.

“Greens are never afraid to put their bodies on the line for what is right. These Green MEPs will be found on the right side of history for the principled actions they have taken.”

Ahead of the protest, Molly Scott Cato MEP said:

“Our action is intended to challenge EU countries to remove US nuclear weapons from European soil. Each B61 bomb is 23 times more powerful than the bomb that devastated Hiroshima. These apocalyptic weapons should find no home in Europe.

“We demand that Europe’s nuclear nations immediately sign up to the landmark global Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and begin the process of decommissioning their nuclear arsenals.

“Nuclear weapons are obsolete in an era of asymmetric warfare and cyber warfare and have no place in a European defence policy for the 21st century. Britain and France have ignored their obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons for far too long.”

ENDS.

For more information contact: press@greenparty.org.uk / 0203 691 9401

Notes:

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/feb/20/green-meps-occupy-belgian-f-16-runway-in-anti-nuclear-protest>

[Tweet](#)

[Back to main news page](#)

[Let's block ads! \(Why?\)](#)

[Sian Berry speech – Green Candidate for London Mayor](#)



14 February 2019

Check against delivery

Thank you so much.

I'm honoured to be chosen as the candidate for mayor in the Green Party's biggest and boldest ever campaign across London.

And I'm so excited to be standing alongside such an incredible team of people ready to represent Londoners on the Assembly.

I want to take this moment to thank everyone who put themselves forward, and to all the Green members who played a part in selecting us as candidates. Thank you so much.

This is the most exciting slate of candidates that the Greens have ever put forward for these elections – I've worked with many of these amazing, diverse, experienced, passionate, young, talented people – and Greens at last are starting to represent the real diversity of our amazing city – in our people and in the issues we are known for achieving on too.

Our record over the past two decades at delivering for Londoners can only grow with more of these brilliant people in City Hall in the Green Group of Assembly Members.

I can't wait to start campaigning with all of them and continuing to cement our status as London's third party.

Greens are well known for our good ideas.

We look at the challenges of today, and tomorrow, and we find the right, and the fair, solutions.

And on the national stage too – from the four day week, to the Green New Deal, where Greens lead, others follow.

But here in London, elected Greens don't just come up with good ideas.

With Assembly Members in City Hall we have the power to put them into practice.

Greens make change happen.

Greens deliver for Londoners.

For nearly three years now, I have worked alongside Caroline Russell in the London Assembly.

We learned how to be effective Assembly Members from the amazing Greens before us since 2000, and we are all proof of the power of having Greens in the room – we get things done and we deliver.

Greens early on won the introduction of the London Living Wage

Last year won ballots for Londoners on estates whose homes face demolition.

And we won £45 million in funding for youth services after we exposed the huge cuts across the city.

On so many issues, we've pushed for action, when the Mayor has dragged his heels.

And just in the last few months, because of elected Greens pushing for action, the Mayor has

agreed to make emergency plans for climate change,

to campaign for rent control powers,

and to support a People's Vote on Brexit.

When you put a Green into power in London, you get someone who delivers for London.

There are so many problems facing our city today.

But few are more pressing than the housing crisis, which continues to get worse and worse.

For far too long, development in London, even on our public land, has been led by the biggest of the big developers.

But Greens have been listening to Londoners about the solutions to the housing crisis for many years. And when we make a promise, we deliver.

We promised to fight for the right for residents to have a real say – a ballot, a final say that matters – in any regeneration plans. We faced resistance from the Mayor, but now we have ballots in force and being held for schemes the GLA funds and beyond those too.

But we need to go further – not just to prevent the worst of the top down ideas...

But to put real power in the hands of Londoners to find the right places for our new homes and plan for the housing we need from the ground up.

That's why a Green Mayor will give Londoners control over more land across our city with a People's Land Bank.

Greens will empower Londoners to seek out the places where we can build new homes, and choose how to build them.

Right across the city there is so much land going to waste.

Empty buildings. Underused car parks and garages. Pockets of unused space. Space around and above with no need to demolish anything to make way.

Our People's Land Bank would work with estate residents and community groups across the city – to map and find these empty buildings and spaces that we can build on.

Because the solution to our housing crisis isn't just about bricks and mortar. It's about giving people the power to plan what happens to their city.

It's about making sure houses are built to be homes, not speculative financial assets for the rich.

Our People's Land Bank will bring communities together and put community organising at the heart of solving the housing crisis.

From the housing crisis to the climate crisis, only Greens have the answers to the most pressing problems facing our city today.

London is overdue a Green Mayor and the fresh ideas – and the record of delivery – that we bring.

Every single Mayor so far has failed Londoners on the biggest issues.

They are all over social media but nowhere to be seen in our communities actually listening to Londoners.

People know now that Labour's slogans and the Conservatives' vested interests don't lead to the action we need. They know that the Lib Dems are dwindling – and people are ready for real change.

I'm here today to tell you that Greens are delivering.

Other parties let Londoners down. But Greens listen to Londoners, and we act on what you say.

Where other parties offer empty promises, we get results.

Every single Green you put in City Hall next year will deliver for Londoners.

Other parties can take up Green ideas in the end, but it always takes years for them to catch up with us. Why should London wait?

Vote Green in 2020.

Thank you.

[Tweet](#)

[Back to main news page](#)

[Let's block ads! \(Why?\)](#)