

**Councillor Dominic Beck – Cabinet Member for
Transport and Environment**

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12th December 2022

Councillor Tim Baum-Dixon
Elected Member

Via email: cllrtim.baum-dixon@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Baum-Dixon

Question at Council – Wednesday 30th November 2022

Thank you for submitting a question to the Council Meeting on Wednesday 30th November. I have detailed the question below along with my subsequent response for your information.

What action has the council taken to protect the health of residents, in areas such as West Thorpe, South Anston, Kiveton, Harthill and Todwick who have been affected by smoke from the fire at Kiveton Industrial Estate?

The Council has worked closely with key partners such as the Environment Agency and the Health Security Agency, who would ordinarily lead on air quality implications as a result of pollution incidents such as the fire at Kiveton. The Council has taken a proactive approach to this issue by chairing multi-agency meetings with partners to look specifically at air quality as well as chairing the overall strategic group leading the response. Air quality monitoring tools have been deployed to this incident to measure ambient air quality, which provides a proxy indicator of any health impacts arising from smoke. Whilst the advice remains to avoid the smoke where possible, the data, which is analysed by the UK Health Security Agency, shows air quality to be within the national standards.

The Council is working closely with our own Public Health colleagues as well as the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board to monitor any changing trends in health presentations at local GP surgeries. The Council has also ensured that advice is shared with schools and care homes in the area as well as sharing the general advice to the public through our media channels.

Most importantly, the Council has worked with partners to ensure that the fire itself put out and that the risk of a further fire is significantly reduced. This has involved the use of heavy plant machinery, which has been brought in by the Environment Agency, who are working closely with the Fire Service on site to break up the waste in order for the smouldering waste to be fully extinguished. The waste is then being moved into smaller piles which reduce the risk of a further large-scale fire at the site. This has been challenging work to complete but significant progress has been made on the site and the Council has supported on the ground in various ways including removing small amounts of waste that were preventing progress on site, removal of a fence and engagement on all enforcement and regulatory options.

As you know, Partners held the second drop-in event for the local community on the 5th December, which was well attended and hopefully demonstrated the commitment of partner to support the local community and address this issue.

For up-to-date information I would urge members to look at the dedicated incident page on the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue website and in addition, I have requested fortnightly meetings with local ward members, the first of which was held on the 21st November.

I trust the above information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Dominic Beck
Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment /Ward Councillor for Wales Ward