



# Friday Newsletter

Date: Friday, 30th June 2023

## NO2 Diffusion Tube Network

Sustainable Merton has a wonderful group of dedicated **Citizen Science volunteers** who regularly help swap and install NO2 diffusion tubes across Merton ensuring we are able to take NO2 readings from a wide area across Merton, which help us to **understand air quality in more detail**, assist with evidence-based decision making and allow us to identify the factors impacting on air quality.

The volunteers who are currently part of our NO2 (Nitrogen Dioxide) diffusion tube network, should have received their tubes via post this week. If anyone hasn't received a tube, please let me know.

- **Changeover date is Wednesday, 5th July**, and tubes should be returned to the **National Trust Office in Morden Hall Park, SM4 5JD, in the old Stable Block.**
- We also welcome our **newest members** to the NO2 Diffusion Citizen



Science Air Quality Project Group; **Zoe, Christine, Tony, Tony (yes, we have 2), Louise, Heather and Kate.**

- Please feel free to encourage your friends and neighbours in Merton to join our Citizen Science Air Quality Project and sign up [here](#). The wider our community of Citizen Scientists are, the better able we are to monitor air quality and encourage positive participation in activities which improve our health and our environment.

## Clean Air Day

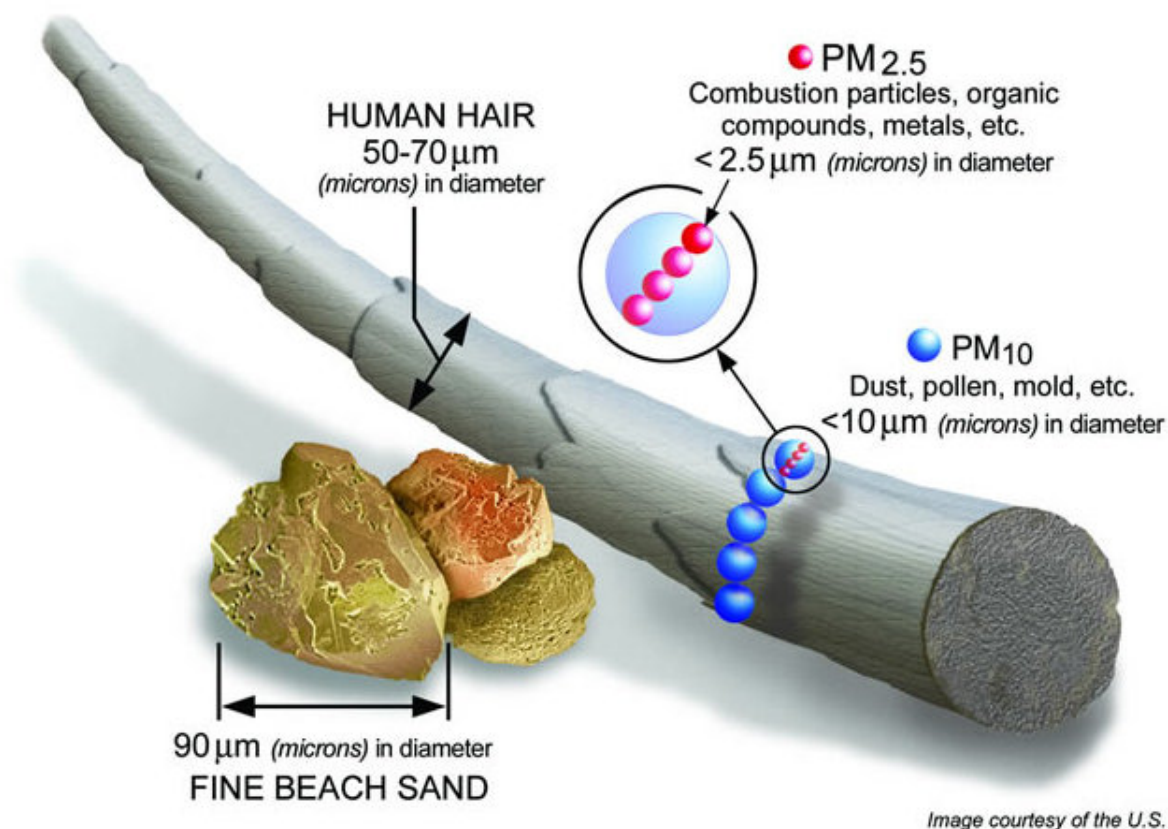
On [Clean Air Day](#), 15th June, Sustainable Merton held an event at the Wimbledon Piazza to showcase what we do and encourage people to join in and learn more about air quality.



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- A big **thank you to our volunteer Heather** for taking time out of her busy schedule to join me at our stand. It was lovely to have such good company.
  - The **Air Quality team from Merton Council** also joined in the Clean Air Day event and there was great interest from the public, especially for Dr Bike - we clearly have keen interest in cycling in the borough.
  - **Desiree from [Global Action Plan](#)** also joined us at Clean Air Day and was a great source of support and resources. We were very lucky to have her loan us a PM 2.5 monitor - more about that later. Desiree also did a demonstration of the monitor to local children at their primary school.
  - **Amy C** designed some lovely primary school resources, and we were thrilled to see them being used in class when I visited St Mary's RC Primary School in Wimbledon on Clean Air Day and spoke about our [volunteer projects at Sustainable Merton](#).
  - **Tony**, our latest volunteer, signed up to the Citizen Science Air Quality Project on Clean Air Day! Welcome Tony!

## PM 2.5 Monitor

We were lucky enough to be loaned a **PM 2.5 monitor by Global Action**, and I spent the day before clean air day, taking over 550 readings over **14 km of travel / 10,834 steps** across Merton. Have you ever wondered what PM 2.5 is and how small it is?



For the PM 2.5 monitoring I chose an **outbound route** which tracked an **off-road walking** route from **Morden to Wimbledon** which could be used as a school journey, to a number of schools in the borough. The **return journey** was chosen as a contrast, and was mostly on **high streets, in and out of shops, libraries and restaurants**, and then a **short diesel bus journey, a one-stop tube ride from South Wimbledon to Morden, and then an**

electric bus trip.

## Air Quality Walk in Merton on 14 June 2023

Distance

14.26 km

Steps

10,834

Time

2h 7m



Nicely done! Keep moving by joining a challenge

See More



“To say I was surprised at the readings was an understatement! Who knew that indoor air quality in shops and restaurants across Merton could vary so wildly! I have a **substantive amount of information to help me compile a report** and link it to my Strava journey. I will keep you all in the loop once it is completed. In the meantime, here is a

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little clip of me on [instagram](#), on my journey across Merton.” - *Danila Ardé, Air Quality Project Manager*

## Merton's First Electric Buses

- You will be pleased to know that one of our longest bus routes, the **93 bus from North Cheam to Putney** which travels through Merton now has electric buses! The new buses, which will soon roll out on other routes (already on the 80 route), include a number of new design features, colour-coded priority seats, comfortable chairs and **USB charging points!**

## Facebook Group

- Please feel free to join our [FaceBook Group](#), encourage others to join, and share news and updates. I will be including links to latest news, updates, both locally and internationally too. On our FB page today is the latest news about [Wandsworth's Citizens' Assembly on Air Quality](#), which was showcased in Air Quality News. They have some great recommendations.

## Breathe London Nodes Offer

- The [Breathe London](#) Community Programme is an exciting three year programme which aims to provide sixty fully funded Breathe London Nodes to community groups and organisations across London.
- The programme is run by The Environmental Research Group at Imperial College London with funding provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies.
- The current round is the 3rd and final round, and there are 20 Nodes to give away.
- Midnight on Friday, 30th June is the last date for applications.
- Sustainable Merton has applied for a Breathe London Node, and we would encourage any other community groups to submit an application too.

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## Community Action in Abbey Road, SW19

*.“A typical doorbell camera is registering over 5,000 cars per day on this residential street.”*

Congestion and traffic is a major source of air pollution in residential roads which can harm health and wellbeing and contribute to noise pollution too. A current hot-spot for congestion is Abbey Road, a small residential road in South Wimbledon where a community has come together and [created a campaign to reduce air pollution](#).

## Indoor Air Quality Assessments for Schools

- Indoor air quality is an important aspect of our environmental wellbeing. In an indoor education setting with young children, assessing indoor air quality is vital as poor air quality can affect health, wellbeing and cognitive development.
- If your local school is interested in a **confidential indoor air quality assessment**, please encourage them to contact me and I will liaise with the Merton Air Quality Team to make the necessary arrangements.

*Thank you everyone for your support in helping us improve air quality in Merton.*

Wishing you all a great weekend.