



MITCHAM SOCIETY

Air Quality Survey Summer 2018



In May and June 2018 Mitcham Society conducted an air quality measuring exercise for seven sites in Mitcham.

Why we measured air quality

We had two aims:

Re-measure sites we had collected data for in the summer of 2016, before the bus street was put through Fair Green, to learn whether there had been any change in air quality after the arrival of buses.

Gather data about new sites to build a more complete picture of air quality in Mitcham.

What we measured

We measured the amount of Nitrogen Dioxide in the air using diffusion tubes. These were left in selected locations for a number of weeks, and then sent for analysis.

The measure is given as a numerical figure that can be compared with the maximum set by the European Commission. The detail on European Air Quality Standards can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/quality/standards.htm>.

The European maximum is 40 µg/m³.

What we learned

Only one of the seven sites we measured had a reading below the European limit – and even that was edging very close to the limit.

The two readings we took in the bus street were over the limit.

The reading taken in a tree outside the Tag Elezz café is at a place where people sit to enjoy eating outside. There is a bus stop here. People using the café or waiting for a bus are experiencing air quality over the European limit.

There is a bus stop near the Mitcham Islamic Centre. Here the reading is significantly over the European limit.

	Date test put in place	Hours of test	Average $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Outside Mitcham Islamic Centre on bus street	15/05/2018	840	65.3
In a tree outside Tag Elezz cafe	15/05/2018	840	42.4
Barnard Marcus , Commonside West	15/05/2018	840	44.8
Lidl, Western Road	15/05/2018	840	55.0
Outside former Pound Store London Road (opposite Langdale Avenue)	15/05/2018	840	56.2
Lamp post at Junction of Holborn Way and Upper Green West	15/05/2018	840	34.3
At Three Kings Pond, Commonside West	15/05/2018	840	50.1

Comparison with 2016 data

Our previous survey was carried out in July 2016.

One of our sites was exactly the same in 2016 and 2018 – we measured at the same tree outside Tag Elezz café.

One of our 2018 sites was very close to a 2016 site – the Mitcham Islamic Centre is very close to the lamp post at Holborn Way we measured in 2016.

	2016 Average $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	2018 Average $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
In a tree outside Tag Elezz cafe	32.51	42.4
Lamp post Holborn Way	31.23	
Outside Mitcham Islamic Centre on bus street		65.3

Full 2016 measurements

	Date test put in place	Hours of test	Average $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
In a tree outside Tag Elezz cafe	06/07/16	377.33	32.51
Lamp post opposite White Lion of Mortimer	06/07/16	377.27	31.03
Lamp post on Holborn Way	06/07/16	377.15	31.23

What we conclude

Mitcham town centre is a place people visit to shop, to eat, and to visit the market. When they do this people are exposing themselves to poor air quality, which is known to have a negative effect on health.

Air quality at sites we measured in Summer 2016 and Summer 2018 has fallen dramatically. It is over the European limit.

Between the times we measured air quality, the new bus street was opened through what was previously a grass and path pedestrian area.

It is likely the bus street is the major contributor to the overall fall in air quality.

What we will do next

Put the results on our web site at www.mitchamsociety.org.uk.

Share the results with Clean Air in Merton, so they can be added to the [Community Air Quality Map](#) and made publicly available.

Share the results directly with Merton Council and ward councillors so that they can be used to help inform measures to improve air quality in Mitcham and Merton Council's [Air Quality Action Plan](#).

Call on Transport for London to create a [Low Emission Bus Zone](#) in Mitcham.

Continue to support measures aimed at improving air quality in Mitcham and beyond.

www.mitchamsociety.org.uk

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