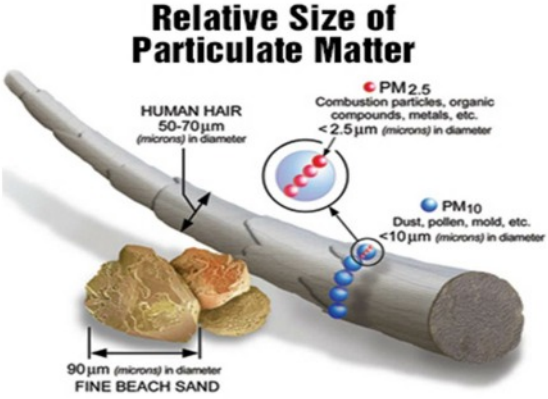
Clean Air for Henley

Hello
We are "Clean Air for Henley"

Air pollution is a real and damaging but largely invisible problem. Black fumes from a smoky lorry are not good for us - but it is the very much smaller particles that all vehicles emit which really do damage!

Diesel vehicles have been promoted as "better for the planet" - and it is true that diesels produce less CO2 per mile than petrol engines - but they also emit damaging particulates. Petrol engines emit these as well but filters are easier to implement and maintain on petrol engines so in general petrol vehicles produce a lot less air pollution.

The most damaging particles are very very small. Less than 2.5 millionths of a metre diameter. They are the tiny red dots on the drawing. If you could string them into a necklace it would take nearly 100 to go round a single human hair.



These tiny particles are extremely damaging to everyone's health but particularly for the young. You breathe them in. Your children breathe them in. They stick to your airways and your lungs. They get into your blood stream. They are not good news.



Children who regularly breath particulate laden air can lose as much as twenty per cent of their lung capacity by the time they are eight years old. At one time a head teacher would expect just one or two children to bring inhalers to school. Nowadays there are dozens.

Health effects are not limited to respiratory problems.
Links have been demonstrated to:

Brain development.	*Damage to unborn children.*
Accelerated aging of lungs	*Asthma*
Heart diseases	*Bronchitis*
Cancer	*Dementia*

We all pay. It costs the NHS millions. Doctors, the Lung Foundation and Heart Charities are calling for a ban. Paris, Mexico City, Madrid and Athens are banning diesel vehicles. Six British cities have been given the go-ahead to create clean air zones in which drivers of diesel cars could face congestion charges.

These particles are so small that they don't fall to the ground. The molecules in the air jostle them and keep them suspended above ground. Brownian Motion if you were paying attention in science lessons. In the canyons of the town centre the air gets progressively worse through the day. Each queuing car contributes to the total.

Outside of the town centre you don't escape the pollution as much as you might imagine. A gentle breeze doesn't clear the air. It just moves it somewhere else - and the particles go along for the ride!

What can you do?
Why have we produced this leaflet?

First! If this is under the wiper of your diesel car - we aren't picking on you personally - we are putting this information under the wipers of any car that stands still long enough, including electric cars and hybrids.

How you can help solve the problem.

Do you really need to drive?
We can reduce the harm to ourselves and our children by changing the way we travel. Walking and Cycling are ideal.

Give the bus a try.
While our buses are old and pretty polluting at the moment - if enough people use them we could hope for cleaner gas powered or even electric buses in the future.

Leave a space!
One of the worst places to be - as an adult or as a child - is in a car behind a diesel stopped in traffic. Fumes get concentrated in your vehicle and have little chance to escape. When following a diesel keep well back and stop the outside air from circulating.

Turn it off

Be considerate to others. To occupants of other cars and pedestrians. Turn off your engine at every opportunity. When parked. When stationary in traffic.

Close the door!

We are asking retailers to keep their doors closed to reduce the pollution inside shops. Look for our "close the door" stickers.



Change your vehicle

We aren't asking that you abandon your diesel car right now, but if you drive one then, when it comes to change your vehicle, consider which fuel choice you make. There are early indications that the value of used diesel cars is falling and that petrol vehicles are starting to command a premium so changing early may make financial sense

To comment or get involved please email

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Clean Air for Henley

Henley in Transition