

NEWSLETTER

CONFERENCE STARS!

Latest Conference Update: *Professor Stephen Holgate*, our newly appointed Clean Air Champion, will update Conference on progress for clean air action. *William Wilson of Wyeside and Professor Eloise Scotford of UCL* will give an update and commentary on the Environment Bill, and *Neil Wait, Environmental expert advising the HS2 project* will present his findings on assessing and resolving the environmental challenges. This is just to name just a few of our EPUK stars presenting at Conference 2020.

So, the Early Bird Rate attendance fee running until the end of this month is doubly good value for our 2-day event. Don't keep it to yourselves though, tell your colleagues and collaborators about it both here in the UK and overseas.

Sign up here:

<https://www.environmental-protection.org.uk/events/epuk-events/annual-conference-2020/>

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

Conference 2020

A final reminder to book soon for our Annual Conference on 18-19 November 2020 to take advantage of the Super-Early Bird Fees. Tell your associates about it too.

Martin Williams

It is with much regret that we report the sudden death of Martin Williams. An obituary follows.

Land Quality goes virtual

LQC held its first virtual committee meeting on 16th September. Details follow later in this Newsletter....

The Nuisance of Barking Dogs – See the correspondence below and advice from EPUK Noise Committee Chair, Robin Whitehouse.

Martin Williams



Martin, as many members will know, had a long and eminent career in air policy, from head of the Warren Spring Laboratory Air Pollution Research Division, through a distinguished period in Defra to Chair of the Executive Body of the UNECE Convention on Longrange Transboundary Air Pollution. He was Professor of Science Policy and Epidemiology at Kings College London and a Clean Air Champion. He was a long-standing supporter of EPUK and a Vice President. Our sympathy and thoughts go to his family at this difficult time.

Land Policy Committee

Robin Lancefield, chair of Land Quality Committee reports that he held the first virtual LQC meeting on the 16th September. He welcomed Angela Haslam (Environment Agency) to the committee.

Discussions included , an update on Annual Conference, LQC – membership, future meetings – virtual or mix of virtual/physical, an Environment Agency update (Angela Haslam), a NBF update, “Planning for the Future” response to Government consultation and, the C4SL Project – update and EPUK participation.

IChemE Environment Special Interest Group Webinars

The Environment Special Interest Group invites you to join them for their upcoming webinars.

Air - The Basics - 6 October

This is a repeat of the 2015 presentation, as an introduction to other air related presentations, which follow in the Environment series. A walk through the properties of air, with some illustrations of practical air handling calculations.

Scrubbed Horizontal Films for Gas Cleaning - 20 October

Join our Presenter Clive Hadfield for this webinar. Clive will discuss this well-established gas/liquid transfer mechanism which offers particular technical advantages for gas cleaning and the treatment of emissions to air. The mechanism will be explained and recent developments outlined.

Methane emissions in the gas value chain: sources and abatement – 17 November

This webinar will provide an overview of the different sources of emissions in the gas supply chain and how emissions can be abated. The emissions intensity of the different supply chain stages will be presented, considering upstream, midstream and downstream, along with the factors which affect emissions. Please see here <https://www.icheme.org/methaneemissions> for more information or to register your attendance.

Correspondence From our Mailbox- the issue of barking dogs

Dear Sir/Madam

I found your site online and would like to bring to your attention a matter which has been affecting many across the country. With regards to the issue of barking dogs in the UK, with the rise in dog ownership this has become what can be described as a chronic nuisance, and for some a health hazard.

At present it is very difficult for many to enjoy peace and quiet in one's own private property, with regards to dog noise. Given the current situation, many are working from home. Many people are blasted with 90db+ of noise, on a regular basis in the privacy of their own homes. Even intermittently, the level of noise exposure is incredibly detrimental to the quality of one's life at home.

I refer you a link for the World Health Organization

<https://www.who.int/docstore/peh/noise/guidelines2.html>

Once there, click on Adverse health effects of noise. There you will learn that intrusive sound, like that of a barking dog, constitutes a potent stressor that can result in increased blood pressure, essential hypertension, increased heart rate amongst other conditions. In addition, according to WHO, exposure to noise increases drug use, fosters substance abuse, and promotes anxiety, stress, irritability, depression, aggression, interpersonal conflict, and sexual impotency.

This lists some of the symptoms and side effects of chronic noise on those who suffer with it being forcibly projected into their homes, from the immediate impact to the end organ damage that often stems from long-term exposure.

This is a serious matter. A quick online search will reveal many people in the UK are suffering, and with very little opportunity to amend the situation in the near future. As an unresolved complaint must be reported when selling one's property, the homeowners are not

only subjected to a level of noise pollution detrimental to one's health, he/she must potentially face the loss of thousands of pounds also.

The politicians I've spoken with, are very reluctant to address this matter. I am wondering if there is anything that yourselves could do, to help the many people in the UK suffering from barking dogs.

I look forward to your reply.

Kind Regards,

Dear Sir

Barking dogs has for a long time been a common complaint from domestic premises. By its nature (short loud bursts) it is likely to disturb and therefore give rise to complaint. The noise can often happen at unsocial hours thereby disturbing sleep etc.

Investigating nuisance from barking dogs is difficult. It is often fairly random as to when or how often it occurs making witnessing the noise very difficult and officers will need to possibly witness on several occasions to establish nuisance and will need further information and evidence from the complainant who will also need to be willing to give evidence in court. This can be quite daunting for complainants.

The remedy is also challenging in most cases. Dogs are not a machine that can be serviced or shrouded as we would ask to do if it were a noisy refrigeration unit. Nor is it likely that the owner would be willing to give the dog up. The dog will need to be trained to not bark which is challenging.

In terms of the use of notices (Environmental Protection Act 1990 section 80) this is also difficult. Notices often specify a remedy but this is not readily achievable given we are requiring a behavioural change of the dog.

While as discussed above control of noise from dogs is challenging Authorities still have a duty to both investigate and if a nuisance serve notice. I would like to think that in clear cut cases where the dog is causing noise and is not being controlled in anyway by the owner-eg left for long periods in the garden etc then notices would be served and prosecuted and this has and does happen. It is more difficult if the owner of the dog is trying to minimise the barking etc. I am not sure what actions by government would assist in improving this situation. Controls on dog ownership etc would be controversial.

I suspect the main issue is that of resources. The cases are difficult and time- consuming and local authorities have little of both. I regret for the time being that residents that are disturbed will need to be persistent with their authority to ensure the matter is properly investigated and actioned appropriately.

Non statutory advice would probably help. Dog fouling has changed significantly, and while there is a legislative backing the direction of travel had already been established before the risk of fines etc had been established. So perhaps some of the dog websites should be promoting responsible behaviour by dog owners.

Yours faithfully

Robin Whitehouse

Noise committee chair

EPUK

AND FINALLY, FROM THE PRESS**Early findings from Aqeg Covid probe**

Jack Pease reports in Air Quality Bulletin on the early findings from the Aqeg Covid probe:

Quote: "The Air Quality Expert Group has released a summary of findings from its hurried review of Covid and air quality (AQB June p1).

The Air Quality Expert Group released a raft of other reports in June. They cover:

1. Estimation of changes in air pollution emissions, concentrations and exposure during the Covid outbreak in the UK;
2. Trends Report 2020: Trends in critical load and critical level exceedances in the UK;
3. Assessing the effectiveness of interventions on air quality;
4. Impacts of Net Zero pathways on future air quality in the UK;
5. Non-methane Volatile Organic Compounds in the UK.

<https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/library/>

MEMBERSHIP

We are always looking for new members. Please recommend EPUK and its services to your colleagues and any organisation you feel would benefit from membership. Follow the link below for more information regarding types of membership and associated cost.

<https://www.environmental-protection.org.uk/membership/>

Or ask us for a Membership Booklet by emailing info@environmental-protection.org.uk

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