

## **CIEH EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2017 (sponsored by EMAQ+)**

The winner of the award for Environmental Hero (Air Quality) is Stephen Moore: Many Congratulations. The award was presented by the Air Quality Practice Director from Ricardo Sean Christiansen who manage the EMAQ+ programme.



**Stephen Moore:** My manager Mike Walker, (Environmental Protection & Private Sector Housing Manager) entered me for the CIEH Environmental Hero award for my role in providing air quality monitoring data and health advice for the duration of smoke from a fire at an illegal waste site in 2016.

On 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016 reports were received regarding a fire at a site used for the illegal storage and disposal involving what appeared to be chipped wood waste. Efforts to extinguish the fire were thwarted by the challenging nature of the material and the conditions on site. The smoke produced by the low temperature fire had little buoyancy and the plume adversely affected residents in the nearby communities.

The deployment of the National Air Quality Monitoring Cell to provide reassurance was considered and dismissed as the incident did not meet the appropriate threshold and responsibility for monitoring fell to the Council.

Public pressure for monitoring was grew amid concerns about the possible content of the smoke given the past illegal waste activities. I was allocated the task of identifying potential monitoring sites and sourcing suitable AQ monitoring equipment that could be deployed rapidly to reassure the public. Two suitable locations for the particulate monitoring equipment were selected, and provided air quality data on a 24/7 basis and remotely accessible.

I liaised with PHE to produce a daily reports between 27<sup>th</sup> September and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 covering the level of pollution from smoke, the wind speed and direction, the communities potentially downwind of smoke emissions and using, DEFRA's Daily Air Quality Index, an indication of the health advice appropriate. A page on the Council's website was configured, and can be viewed at <http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/residents/environmental-health/environmental-protection/fire-oak-tree-farm-slitting-mill-air-quality>.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the other shortlisted nominees, who were:

### **Air Quality Team – City of London Corporation**

The City of London Corporation's innovative Air Quality Team has been awarded nearly £1 million by the Mayor of London to create a Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN) in the North West part of the city. A wide range of ambitious measures to improve air quality for people living and working in this area is being introduced through targeted interventions that tackle the key sources of air pollution. The most successful measures will be rolled out across the City, and as well as having a beneficial impact on air quality, the LEN will create a more liveable neighbourhood with a new green sustainable infrastructure.

### **Stuart Steed – Medway Council**

Stuart is an Environmental Protection Officer, with extensive experience and knowledge of local air quality management. He was Chair of the Kent & Medway Air Quality Partnership for four years until January 2017, and he is also Air Quality Regional Coordinator to DEFRA. Through Stuart's leadership, important links were forged influencing a number of high level regional and national plan, including the Kent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Sustainability Plans and Kent Environment Strategy.

### **Amanda Berry – Thanet District Council**

Amanda is nominated for her outstanding work that led to Thanet District Council declaring an Urban Air Quality Management Area in 2013, which has hugely benefited the wider population of Thanet. She has since pursued further projects to drive through improvements in air quality, including the adoption of the AQ Technical Planning Guidance in 2016 which helped address the public health risks faced by vulnerable members of the Thanet community. Amanda's hard work and contribution to the successful implementation of the guidance for Thanet is an achievement that deserves recognition.

### **Chris Poole – Worcestershire Regulatory Services**

Chris has been a very important link between non-metropolitan authorities with multiple AQMAs of significant pollution excess, and smaller resources allocated to addressing air quality by comparison with urban neighbours. He has led the county

and regional consultations with DEFRA and the technical wider community of air quality professionals. His interpretation and dissemination to local government colleagues has helped to maintain consistency of knowledge, understanding and further appropriate action to tackle poor air quality.