Thu, Nov 9, 2017 at 12:20 PM

Dear Mr Aldenton

Thank your for your email.

Air pollution is one of the most significant challenges facing London and is a matter we are taking seriously. The introduction of the T-Charge means that London now has the world’s toughest emissions standards and is just one of the wide range of measures being introduced to improve London's air quality. The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has also asked us to transform our bus fleet, get rid of the oldest polluting taxis and create healthier streets that will leave a lasting legacy. In addition, the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), which has already been consulted on, will bring forward the introduction of the central London ULEZ by 17 months from September 2020 to April 2019.

I appreciate your concerns about pollution coming from the Rotherhithe Tunnel vents. The number of vehicles using Rotherhithe Tunnel has remained constant over the last ten years with an annual average daily flow of 30,000 vehicles. These are limited to cars and light goods vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes. Once inside the tunnel, the flow of vehicles is relatively smooth therefore the level of emissions generated by these vehicles compares favourably with other single carriage-way roads in London.

The ventilation fans control the air quality of the environment within the tunnel and are therefore critical to the safe operation of the tunnel. This supplements the natural ventilation and is generally used on average for 4.5 hours a day at peak times in the early morning and evening. There are five environmental monitors throughout the tunnel and are set to activate the ventilation in accordance with trigger levels set by international best practise. Nevertheless, we are dedicated to improving London’s air quality, whilst also ensuring the arrangements are optimal.

As part of our ongoing work to improve the arrangements at the tunnel, our consultants have started their detailed investigations on the ventilation at Rotherhithe Tunnel. This work will allow us to look into potential improvements which will benefit the area and in turn, the Capital.

We have set up monitoring equipment outside Shaft 2 (on the south side of the river) to determine if there is a problem. Unfortunately, it is not currently possible to do the same at Shaft 3 near the park as the Thames Tideway works are in close proximity and would interfere with any readings. Shafts 2 and 3 do mirror each other therefore the results at shaft 2 should be able to be applied to shaft 3 and we will be able to decide what we can do once this information has been analysed.

While this scope of this work is significant and will invariably take time, I hope this demonstrates we are working to improve at the workings of Rotherhithe Tunnel.

Kind regards

 **Leon Daniels**

**Managing Director – Surface Transport**

-----Original Message-----

From: Turk's Head Charity [Sent: 24 October 2017 12:45

To: mayor@london.gov.uk

Cc: Wild Mark (MD)

Subject: King Edward memorial Park Pollution

Dear Sadiq,

On the weekend of 14th October, the Turk's Head Charity and Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre organised a community planning weekend about the improvement of King Edward Memorial Park, known locally as Shadwell Park. It is part of a number of community-led initiatives to improve the public realm in the area including a naturally heated and treated lido in Shadwell Basin, which now has planning approval, and the restoration of all the river stairs in Wapping and Shadwell.

Attendees were particularly concerned that the park suffers from serious air pollution both from the highway to the north, (for which we have a remedy) but even more from the Rotherhithe Tunnel vent on the waterfront in the park.

The vent was built before the invention of the car, but the pollution around it makes people gasp and choke. We are, of course, unable to inspect its workings but suspect that a large extract fan pulls the heavily polluted air and fumes out of the tunnel which disperse into the park without filtration.

Could you please ask TfL to investigate and propose and execute a solution to the problem?

Yours sincerely

Jon Aldenton

Chair, the Turk's Head Charity

Wed, Nov 15, 2017 at 9:32 AM

Dear Mr Nichols

Thanks for your prompt response to our concerns. It is part of a wider concern about the level of pollution in the Park, since, along the Highway which abuts the northern park boundary, pollution levels were three times over WHO standards some eight years ago, and are now likely worse.

As far as pollution levels from the vent are concerned, surely concentrated expulsions of unfiltered pollution must be more injurious to health than the pollution from passing traffic in the open air?

Do you have a time frame for completion of the consultants' work and whether their brief includes the investigation and recommendation of filters and other remedial measures?

We have investigated the potential of protecting the park from the Highway's noise and air pollution through the installation of a baffle wall using technology promoted by Green City Solutions that installs moss walls to capture toxic pollution. Has TFL considered this in any other location?

Sorry to raise these questions, but we're very concerned about the effects on park users, and we want to ensure that the renovated park acts to promote good health, rather than threaten it.

All the best

Jon Aldenton