



NEWS RELEASE

19 July 2023

Dear Editor

NO IDLING

We'd like to invite you to join us in a campaign to raise awareness about the impact of engine idling as a source of air pollution, and to help us spread the message to remind drivers to switch off.

Leaving your engine running, or 'idling' wastes fuel and money and increases the amount of exhaust fumes in the air.

Marlborough is a busy town with A-roads meeting in the town centre. School and club entrances are close to houses and many people live or work next to busy roads and shopping or other commercial areas.

Every minute, an idling car produces enough toxic exhaust emissions to fill 150 balloons.

Reducing emissions from idling vehicles can significantly contribute to a better environment for everyone – saving money and reducing noise, smells and toxic emissions.

We hope you can help us raise awareness.

Yours sincerely

Richard Spencer-Williams

Richard Spencer Williams, PSLCC
Town Clerk

Notes to editors

Background

The Committee on Medical Effects of Air Pollution (COMEAP) report "[Mortality effects of long term exposure to particulate air pollution in the UK](#)" found that the burden of manmade particulate air pollution on mortality in 2008 was equivalent to nearly 29,000 deaths in the UK at typical ages and an associated loss of total of population life of 340,000 life-years. The Royal College of Physicians' report "[Every breath we take: the lifelong impact of air pollution](#)" puts the figure at 40,000 deaths per year and the cost to health services and business at more than £20 billion.

Marlborough Town Council

A few years ago we contacted bus and coach companies to ask their drivers to switch off when waiting at bus stops and received a positive response. Time marches on, and we have written to them again to ask them to remind drivers to consider the impact of idling engines. (Letter attached)

Although many drivers (commercial and private motorists) have switched to cleaner vehicles, there are still harmful emissions (not to mention noise) from *all* idling vehicles. This applies to electric cars, too.

The matter was discussed recently at a Planning Committee meeting after receiving a plea from a resident:

"I have recently been seeing lots of people idling in their cars while parked in the 30mins free parking on the side of the High Street in Marlborough. I work on the High Street so walk along it most days. I am sure people are not aware that it is such a major contributor to air pollution, but idling increases the amount of fumes in the air. These fumes contain gases such as carbon dioxide which is a major player in climate change. It is also written into the Highway Code. Rule 123 states that drivers must not leave a vehicle engine running unnecessarily while the vehicle is stationary on a public road. I also often walk around Elcot Lane as I use the gym there. The green is used for the football club and other sports clubs/events. I understand dropping off and collecting children from these events is necessary, but parents are often sat idling for a while before and after."

You can read the full report considered at the Planning Committee meeting on 3 July at agenda item 13:

https://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/images/your-council/Planning_Agenda_3_July_2023_web.pdf

Councillors recognised that putting up signs was not an option and decided that it was more a matter of communication. Read the minutes of the meeting here (look for Minute No 100/23):

https://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/images/your-council/draft_Planning_Mins_3_July_2023.pdf

Resources and further reading

Posters and social media images

We have produced resources that you are welcome to use – 2 x A4 posters and 8 x square GIFs - attached as PDF and JPG files



Royal College of Physicians: Every breath we take – the lifelong impact of air pollution

<https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/every-breath-we-take-lifelong-impact-air-pollution>

RAC: Engine idling – why it's harmful and what's being done

<https://www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/emissions/idling/>

Mums for Lungs: Easy to read facts, campaigns and FAQs

<https://www.mumsforlungs.org/faqs>

Idling Action London: Has free resources and toolkits for schools and businesses who want to take action

<https://idlingaction.london/>

Department of Transport Report: Transport and environment statistics 2022

[https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/transport-and-environment-statistics-2022/transport-and-environment-statistics-2022#:~:text=transport%20is%20the%20largest%20emitting,emissions%20in%202020%20\(406%20MtCO2e%20\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/transport-and-environment-statistics-2022/transport-and-environment-statistics-2022#:~:text=transport%20is%20the%20largest%20emitting,emissions%20in%202020%20(406%20MtCO2e%20))

Wiltshire Council:

Air Quality in Wiltshire – highlights Marlborough as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/air-quality-wiltshire>

Air quality menu

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/env-health-air-quality>

Consequences of poor air quality

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/air-quality-consequences>



7th July 2023

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: No Idling Initiative in Marlborough

I am writing on behalf of members of Marlborough Town Council to seek your support for a no idling initiative across the town.

Marlborough is recognised as one of Wiltshire's hot spots in terms of poor air quality and areas within the town have been designated by Wiltshire Council as Air Quality Management Areas. Environmental groups have been campaigning for many years and more recently local residents have shared their concerns with us around this increasing environmental issue.

Idling increases the amount of exhaust fumes in the air. These fumes contain a number of harmful gases including carbon dioxide, which is bad for the environment and contributes towards climate change, as well as a range of other harmful gases including nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons which are linked to asthma and other lung diseases. Diesel vehicles are thought to be one of the biggest contributors to the problem.

The Royal College of Physicians estimate 40,000 deaths a year in the UK are linked to air pollution, with engine idling contributing to this. Children, the elderly and people with heart disease, respiratory illness and asthma are particularly vulnerable to this type of pollution.

Marlborough Town Council are currently looking at ways to mitigate air quality issues in the town. One way which they feel would dramatically reduce the unacceptable levels is to encourage bus and taxi drivers to turn off their engines whilst waiting at the bus stops and taxi ranks in the High Street, Marlborough.

The Town Council is also looking to launch a media campaign raising awareness and seeking road users support, engaging with local schools around idling at school drop off and collection areas, outside sports clubs and leisure facilities too.

I would be grateful if you could consider this request and let me know your views. If you do require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards

Ms Clare Harris
Deputy Town Clerk

don't be a **STINKER**

I'm just waiting for the kids...

Please
switch off
when your
engine
is
idling

I'm just dropping off a parcel...

Highway Code Rule 123 states "You **MUST NOT** leave a parked vehicle unattended with the engine running or leave a vehicle engine running unnecessarily while that vehicle is stationary on a public road"

Under Regulation 98 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, **it is an offence to cause emissions or noise** by leaving engines running unnecessarily whilst a vehicle is stationary. These requirements apply when a vehicle is parked at the roadside.

don't be a **STINKER**

I'm just
waiting
for the
kids...

Please
**switch
off**
when your
engine
is
idling

I'm just
dropping off a
parcel...

Leaving your engine running wastes fuel and money and increases the amount of exhaust fumes in the air.

Every minute, an idling car produces enough toxic exhaust emissions to fill 150 balloons.

These toxic emissions, which include particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide, are linked to:

**asthma | lung disease | cancer | dementia | stroke
mental health problems | miscarriage | low birth weight**

“Poor air quality is the biggest environmental risk to public health in the UK” – Public Health England



Marlborough
Town
Council

A silver SUV is shown from a side-rear perspective. A white speech bubble with a tail pointing to the driver's side window contains the text "I'm just dropping off a parcel...". The car is parked outdoors with trees in the background.


I'm just
dropping
off a
parcel...

Remember to **switch off** when your **engine** is **idling**



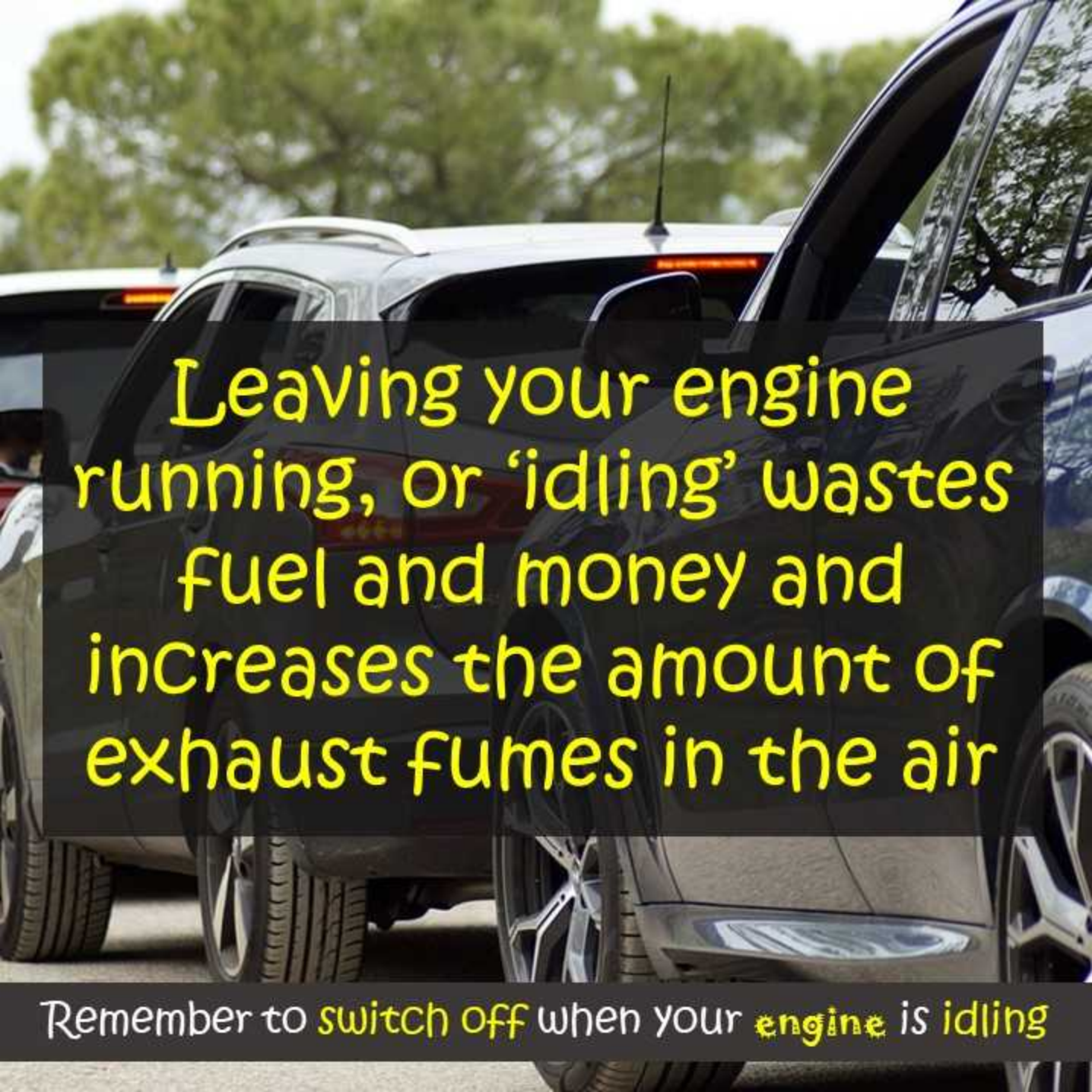
I'm just
waiting
for the
kids...

Remember to **switch off** when your **engine** is **idling**

A photograph of a line of cars, likely in a traffic jam, with a semi-transparent dark grey box overlaid in the center containing yellow text. The cars are parked on a paved surface with green trees in the background.


Every minute, an
idling car produces
enough toxic exhaust
emissions to fill 150
balloons

Remember to switch off when your engine is idling

A photograph of a line of cars parked outdoors. The focus is on a dark-colored car in the foreground, with other cars visible behind it. The background shows green trees under a bright sky. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing yellow text.

Leaving your engine running, or 'idling' wastes fuel and money and increases the amount of exhaust fumes in the air

Remember to switch off when your engine is idling

A photograph of a line of cars, likely in a parking lot or on a road. The cars are mostly silver and grey. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing text. The text is in white, yellow, and blue colors. The background shows green trees and a clear sky.

Toxic emissions are linked to:
asthma | lung disease | cancer
dementia | stroke | miscarriage
low birth weight
mental health problems

Remember to switch off when your engine is idling




Idling vehicles are
noisy and smelly

Remember to **switch off** when your **engine** is **idling**

A photograph of a line of cars in traffic, viewed from the side. The focus is on a dark-colored car in the foreground. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the car, containing the text "don't be a STINKER". The word "STINKER" is in a large, yellow, stylized font with mechanical details like gears and bolts. The background shows other cars and green trees.

don't be a
STINKER

Remember to **switch off** when your **engine** is **idling**

A dark-colored SUV is shown from a side-rear perspective. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white and yellow text. The background shows a blurred green tree and a light sky.

Please switch
off when
your engine is
idling

Thank you