



In conversation with

Jo Loring-Fisher
Thomas Daniels
Trowbridge Community

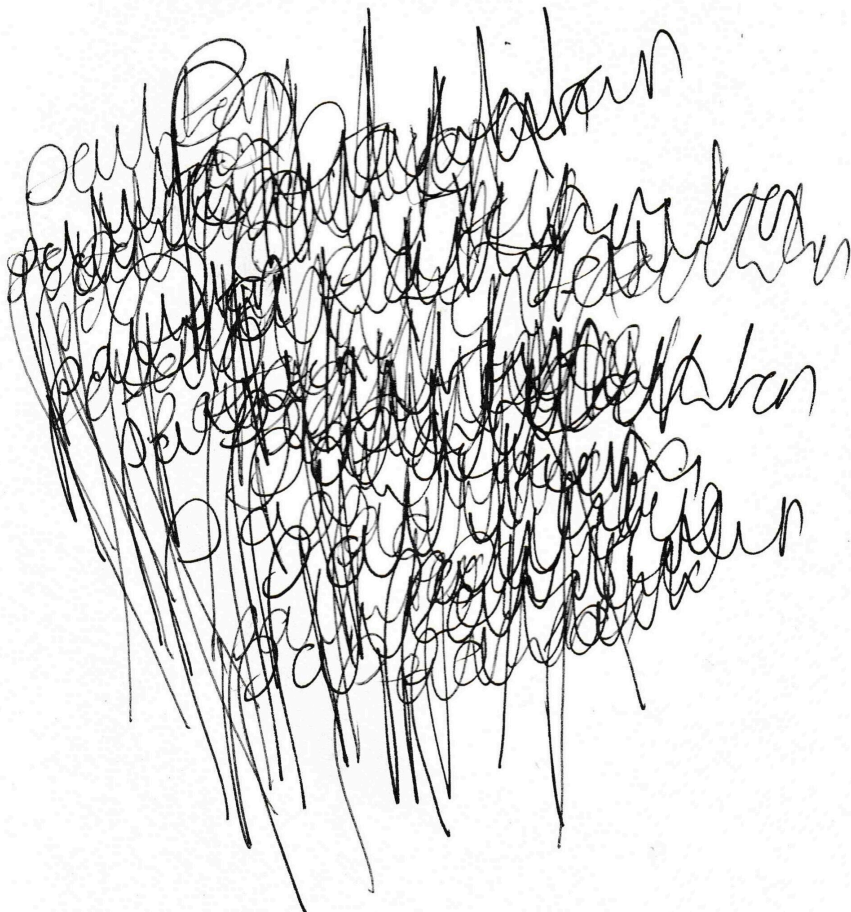
James Shaw

I speak with Jo Loring-Fisher about pollution within inner cities, in particular we highlight Bath Spa as the city to discuss due to its locality and both of us either living or lived there.

Jo Loring-Fisher

I don't know if it's classed as pollution as such, but the rubbish problem in Bath is really appalling and in a sense it kind of is a polluting thing, isn't it? Hygiene thing. This is because of the bin systems within Bath,

We have multiple bins, plastic and aluminum in one, glass and paper in another, then a bag for cardboard and a wheelie bin for rubbish. If you want, you can also have a green bin for garden waste. The problem here is when the weather changes and it's windy for example everything just flies around the streets. People fill them up and don't put lids on, especially students. This leading to rubbish all over the street.



James Shaw

What are your thoughts on pollution within inner cities (you can choose a city if you wish to focus on for example Bath)

Thomas Daniels

Pollution is going to increase with populations. Councils are trying to make a difference to the pollution levels in the city centres. Bath for example has started a clean air zone which means that older less efficient vehicles will need to pay to enter the city on certain routes. In the surface this seems like a good idea to deter unneeded trips. But it has created rat runs where vehicles that could be charged are finding routes through residential areas that mean they don't have to be charged. Thus moving the pollution from one place to another. Arguably to more detrimental places where people live. Bath also tried a scheme where companies would have their deliveries sent to a central warehouse and bath council would provide a lorry to deliver to the addresses within bath. The idea to cut down the amount of lorry's having to enter. This was not well taken up on. It added a day to delivery and most of the time businesses needed their deliveries that day. ***Bath needs to be careful with the bath stone buildings this is susceptible to acid rain and pollution, you can see buildings that are stained and eroded from this.***

London road is a good example of a road that has a constant bumper to bumper traffic - regardless of time of day. What is the possible alternative. They have suggested a new park and ride for that side of the city (not currently one) a new ring road. All of which are opposed by environmental people and residents. Should we not look at the bigger picture and spread out the pollution? It isn't going away. Roll on the governments plan to only sale electric cars in the next few years.

2. As a individual working within education what do you think you as a teacher or as a school can do to help with inner city pollution

The environment is a topic that is often popular within school. A lot of the younger generation are passionate about pollution and steps to fix this. We spend a lot of time talking about it and sharing ideas of how we can make change. We have an eco group who have made changed within school. We have stopped single use plastic, we no longer print unnecessarily and we monitor our carbon footprint with the printing we do. We have a program that tells us how many trees we are using and how much energy we have used (in terms of lighting homes) it also tells us how much CO2 we have released. It is not a big part of the curriculum however we have made sure that we are allow students to feel like they can make a change in the future.

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Tackling pollution is more about behavior than anything.

Tom brings up some really interesting points around pollution within Bath especially around the effect it has on the stone which is the structure of the city. This is most noticeable on roofs and stonework within the city, changing the visual landscape of how this historic town looks. Can looking at how the town has already been effected lead to visual which could have impact? Like the Red Rain Drone Project mentioned within this weeks podcast lecture.

It's clear there are a number of different thoughts on what can be done to tackle pollution in Bath but it always leads to traffic being diverted to another area of town like Tom mentions.

City's like Bath are not designed for the amounts of traffic which pass through it so how can something like Graphic Design help this? Does it start at school level, getting students to understand the effects? It's slightly worrying to hear that these subjects aren't covered in more detail within school syllabus? Why is that?

or is this a bigger issue which needs to be looked at by the government now... for example the ban of diesel cars which has been put in place already.

Tom makes a point that peoples behaviour needs to change to reduce pollution which is a tough ask on mass. I spoke with Children's book author Jo-Loring Fisher who said it could be that it starts in communities and grows into larger projects?

In my opinion design is a huge factor, people are so distracted by everyday life that the basics need to be put in place to reset behaviours. That then needs to be underpinned with education, starting as early as possible. Campaigns can work, but it I think they can be hit and miss, and potentially not reaching enough people. Also, if you get the design right people will be more respectful and supportive of what you are trying to achieve.

Many urban centres are devoid of trees etc. Introduce living walls for air pollution Introduce trees to reduce sound. Direct light down on streetlights to reduce light pollution. Understand what causes traffic build up and look for solutions. ie. Trowbridge has pupils walking to secondary education, crossing at designated road points, but the lights are not linked to allow flow, so standing traffic causing pollution. Introduce ways of slowing traffic coming into Trowbridge (Wingfield Rd and BoA Rd) by way of lights, at edge of urbanisation allowing better movement of traffic at Station / Church roundabout.



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