

Local residents concerned about pollution in Wyman's Brook



Councillor Paul Massey reports that the latest site investigation at the old Marle Hill waste site has confirmed that pollution is getting into Wyman's Brook.

Before it runs into **Swindon Village ward**, **Wyman's Brook** flows through a buried pipe (a culvert) under **Pittville Golf Course**, which many years ago was used as a waste disposal site. Liquid from the waste is leaking into the culvert and polluting the brook. Also methane and carbon dioxide gases, which are generated when waste rots, have been found in the waste and in one borehole in the road at Pentathlon Way. This means gases from the tip may be moving sideways through the land and under those houses on Pentathlon Way and Hill Top Road immediately next to the site.

A spokesperson from the Environment Agency said: "We have been investigating the golf course located at Tommy Taylors Lane for the past 18 months. The first phase of investigation confirmed that Wyman's Brook is being polluted by landfill leachate. The second phase (now completed) looked at contamination by asbestos and the generation of landfill gas. No asbestos was found within one metre of the surface and any health risks from this have been ruled out.

"However we know the tip is generating gases such as methane and carbon dioxide. Once the site is officially determined as contaminated land, we can work with the borough council to deal with the contamination."

The Borough Council have not as yet tested for these gases in people's homes, but this will be an early step in the next phase of the site works. They may also need to drill small boreholes in some properties' back gardens to look for gas. This will then give a clearer picture of any effects on residents and their homes. We are not currently aware of any health impacts from this site.

Cheltenham Borough Council will formally define the Marle Hill site as 'contaminated land'. This involves writing to the occupiers of the site and the Environment Agency (who will then take over enforcement responsibilities for the site). The council will then examine the best way of stopping the polluting impacts of the tip, with ground works taking place afterwards to remedy the problems.

The final results will be available within the next six months, when teams undertake further water and gas sampling at the site. Potential solutions to deal with the matter will be looked at after this time.

Cllr. Paul Massey said "Obviously these new findings are a cause for concern for local residents. I will be working closely with council officers to ensure that all findings are made available to residents and nothing is swept under the carpet. The more we recycle and the less rubbish we throw away in landfill, the lower the risk will be that our children will have this sort of problem in the future."

Wingmoor Farm

Plans to expand the waste recovery and landfill site at **Wingmoor Farm** have been given the green light by the Conservative-dominated planning committee of Gloucestershire County Council.

Ceri Jones, Liberal Democrat County Councillor for Bishop's Cleeve urged councillors to reject the plans, saying, "We have a case of traffic creep. Such levels are causing problems for the community, especially for the elderly and young people crossing the roads." However, his plea was rejected by the Tories.

Councillor Paul Massey said, "I am concerned that plans to expand the Wingmoor Farm site will lead to more traffic passing through **Swindon Village**. In theory, lorries should not come through the village, but we know that many do. My colleagues and I will be watching closely for any indications of this, and reporting any violations back to the council."

Local councillor calls for a "FAIRTRADE" county

A motion proposed by Swindon Village Liberal Democrat Councillor Suzanne Williams to make Gloucestershire a "Fairtrade County", recently moved a step closer to being accepted as formal County Council policy. The motion has been referred to a sub-committee for further research.

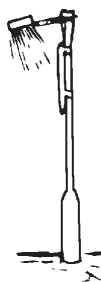
"The Fairtrade County Scheme is set up by the **Fairtrade Foundation** and is a wonderful opportunity for Gloucestershire," said Suzanne,

She added: "We want to make Gloucestershire a Fairtrade County as a matter of pride in order to show where we stand on this issue."

Faulty street lights

Suzanne and Paul often receive complaints about faulty street lights.

If there are any lights malfunctioning in your road in the first instance please call **FREEPHONE 0800 220735** to report it quoting the location and number of the offending light(s).



Curry's and PC World

Councillor Suzanne Williams reports that the car park for Curry's and PC World is now gated after normal opening hours.

This has effectively closed down one of the meeting places for car enthusiasts and will enable local residents to have more peaceful evenings.

Suzanne is also pleased that we have encouraged the managers of the site to keep tighter control of their rubbish and as a result the whole site is looking a lot more pleasant.

Local news in brief

Drayton Close

Paul has been helping residents in **Drayton Close** whose properties back on to **Wyman's Brook**.

Heavy rains have caused the brook to swell and wash away some of the gardens that back onto it, and in addition there is a problem from trees on the other side of the brook overhanging residents' gardens.

Paul has written letters to the Rivers Authority and the neighbouring land owner to support the residents. If you are in a similar position, please get in touch.

Empty Houses

Residents in **Wymans Brook** have recently contacted us about a local house which has been empty for some years.

Empty houses can cause a number of problems, including health hazards, and the local council does have some powers to deal with this problem through Empty Homes Management Orders.

If you live next to an empty or derelict house which is causing you concern, let us know.

Church Road

Councillor Suzanne Williams has asked the council to look at the problems caused by dangerous and inconsiderate parking in **Church Road**, particularly on some of the bends. We will report back through **Focus** when we have had a response.

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Your local Lib Dem team is here to help

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