



## The Parish Council wish all residents a Very Happy New Year!



The Twigworth Parish Council would like to wish everyone a very happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year.

We would also like take this opportunity to thank residents for their support throughout the past year, we appreciated your support on the consultation of the 4-year plan and the comments made on numerous planning development applications that arose, expressing your views not only to us but directly to the local authority.

## Reduction in the speed limit on the A38?

Having read the December Newsletter from the Norton Parish Council, they report that they have been holding discussions with Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) about a speed reduction on the A38 which also runs through their village, they report that their parish council has been informed that GCC Highways are now considering lowering the speed limit on the A38 to 40mph from Down Hatherley Lane right through to The Leigh.

This would mean that the entire section of the A38 running through their village would have a speed limit of 40mph, rather than the current 50mph.

Norton Parish Council have stated that there will be more news on this matter next month.



Twigworth supports our local Parish Councils in their bid to reduce traffic speed through their villages from 50mph to 40mph but there was no mention of Twigworth in this news article, where we too have a strong desire for the speed limit to be reduced from 40mph to 30mph.

Unlike our neighbouring parishes, the residential properties in Twigworth are much more condensed into a smaller area, with many properties located either side of the busy trunk road, with no crossing points and where the road winds its way through a densely populated area.

## **North Gloucestershire Borough Council is the new name for Tewkesbury Borough Council - STOP PRESS!**

Last year, following a public consultation process, Tewkesbury Borough Council voted to change its name to North Gloucestershire Borough Council!

Recently however, the Tewkesbury Borough Council decided to reschedule the launch of its name change to North Gloucestershire Borough Council until March 2025, so that it could consider any impact from the anticipated government white paper on devolution.

The white paper, which was announced in the budget in October, was expected by the end of November, but on Monday, 16 December 2024, the Government published the English Devolution White Paper and the following statement has been issued in response:

### **Tewkesbury Borough Council Leader's statement on the English Devolution White Paper**

Following the publication of the government's white paper on English devolution and given the Government's position on removing District Councils in favour of Unitary Authorities, Tewkesbury Borough Councillors will be asked to review the decision to change the Council's name at the next meeting of Council on 28 January 2025.

When deciding to change its name, the Council made it clear that any change would be made with a phased approach at a low cost. As such, spending on the project, to date, has been minimal – only £100 was spent purchasing a new web address from the Government – so if the decision is to remain as Tewkesbury Borough, the Council will look into options for this to be refunded.

The white paper sets out a new structure for Councils across England, so the Borough Council will work with the other five District Councils and the County Council to establish the new unitary structure in Gloucestershire. The Borough Council's focus will be to ensure the needs and priorities of its area are taken forward into the new Council.

Cllr Richard Stanley, Leader of Tewkesbury Borough Council, said, "At the time of us making our name change decision, there was no indication that our Council would cease to exist in future. Given the new direction outlined in the Government's white paper, I believe maintaining our current name is the most prudent course of action. We are committed to exploring new opportunities for collaboration with our neighbouring Councils to ensure we meet the needs and priorities of our residents effectively.

"Throughout discussions on our name change, we have always prioritised the efficient use of resources and the best interests of our community, as reflected in the two consultations we ran."

### **Stagecoach 71 Bus Service**

We have listened to the concerns from residents who regularly use the Stagecoach 71 Bus Service, there are frequent issues about the unreliability of the service, with buses either late or cancelled altogether, particularly at morning school times... Cllr Redfern contacted Stagecoach for comment, without reply so far.





## More Good News!

The Parish Council are pleased to announce that the second, of two new Bus Shelters, has now been installed at the A38 Tewkesbury Road bus stops near the Oakwood Hotel.

The latest bus shelter has been installed on the A38 Southbound side, towards Gloucester.



These Bus Shelters have been paid for, from the S106 Agreements associated with Twigworth Green development planning approvals.



The bus shelters will provide much needed protection against the elements and road spray together with some comfort for passengers.

## What we are doing in 2025!

The Twigworth Parish Council have once again got their work cut out in 2025 delivering for the residents of Twigworth!

- ✦ We will continue to hold the Gloucestershire County Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council to account on the delivery of the S106 Agreements for the new housing developments, to bring the much needed infrastructure to our growing community eg. School, Multi Use Games Area, Children's Play Areas, Bus Shelter, Dog Waste and General Litter bins.
- ✦ We shall be working on the Year 2 deliverables of our 4-Year Plan for the community.
- ✦ Dog owners who consistently fail to clean up their dog waste or dispose of it correctly, can expect to be targeted by the authorities, it is unacceptable and has no place in our community.
- ✦ Following Anti-Social Behaviour issues in 2024, we can reaffirm that this too has no place in our community and residents can expect our full support when dealing with this, in all forms of it!
- ✦ We shall be holding the developers and estate management companies to account, to ensure that residents voices are heard, so that services are delivered to specification, we regularly submit residents concerns and observations to Vistry and Gateway.
- ✦ Littering is unacceptable in any area, as the Twigworth Green development grows, we are seeing this becoming a big issue, especially at the bus stop and Local Centre, with alcohol bottles, drink cans and confectionary wrappings everywhere, we shall be promoting various campaigns to highlight this concern and do whatever we can to make us all proud of the community we live in.
- ✦ The Parish Council recognises that it has an important part to play in the global issue of climate change and wants to ensure that climate change is tackled locally to create a more climate friendly community. We shall develop a Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan, to compliment and contribute to the delivery of the Pillar 1 Environment Plan (4-Year Plan 2024-28).

## Twigworth Green - Damaged Saplings

Following the winter storms, there has been much damage to the saplings all around Twigworth Green, those in photos have been reported both to Vistry and Gateway Management.

It is fair to say though, that some of these saplings had been dead or damaged for sometime, even before the winter storms and before Gateway Management took over the estate maintenance, we have records of when these saplings were first reported.

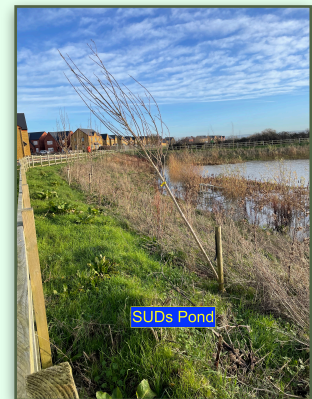


SUDs Pond

Both Vistry and Gateway were invited to support the Ash Die-Back Scheme run by the Gloucestershire County Council, unfortunately, both declined to take part, this would have provided free saplings, which could have replaced the damaged ones and mitigate any costs that residents are likely to incur as a result.

What we have found is that many of the saplings were poorly supported, with many themselves broken or not not fully supporting the saplings, had these been inspected following each of the storms, further damage may have been averted.

We shall continue to report any saplings that are or have been damaged, please let us know if there are any that we have missed...



SUDs Pond



Comfrey Gardens



Footpath to SUDs Pond



Barley Drive



Nr Hatherley Brook



Footpath to SUDs Pond



Kate Close



SUDs Pond



Behind Sainsbury's Office



Doleen Walk

## Twigworth Local Centre

There is much anticipation about the current work taking place in the vacant units at the Twigworth Local Centre, the interiors of the vacant units have now been split into three, with considerable fitting out taking place in the unit next to Janes Pantry, which we understand is to become a Hair Salon.

There is a Planning Application before Tewkesbury Borough Council to approve a new shop sign for one of the units and an application for a license to sell alcohol at the unit next to the Mid-Counties Co-Op.



## Living in Gloucestershire's 'water meadows'

We've long struggled to get planning and flood monitoring teams from Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council to acknowledge the scale of Twigworth's flood woes, and still do.

There are houses at the southern end of the village vulnerable to flooding from the Severn, but for the rest of us the principal threat lies in surface-water flooding. This is accumulated rainwater which stays for weeks. The poet and musician Ivor Gurney used to call the fields around Twigworth 'Gloucestershire's water meadows'. Well, they're not any more. Thousands of tons of hardcore have been piled into them, causing concern to those living in older houses close by. Even if your house is new and built on raised land, you are still vulnerable to a sewerage system which routinely malfunctions in times of heavy or persistent rain. The trouble is that Severn Trent's network is too old to prevent floodwater entering the system. This overloads the pumping stations and forces foul water up through the manholes into our streets and properties, and to revisit our bathrooms. Twigworth Green actually has a new pipeline, but this too has blocked and burst a few times since its inception just a few years ago. The official line is that residents were disposing of inappropriate items. I don't believe that to be the principal cause at all. The system around Twigworth Green is constantly clogged.

Hundreds more houses are still being built – and added to the network. At Chestnut Tree Farm (by the A38/Sandhurst Lane junction) more houses are due to be built. Earlier this year the planning inspector stipulated that new houses there could not be connected to Severn Trent's network until there had been an upgrade of the system. A ray of light that someone somewhere important has recognised the problem! And now the developer's lawyers are trying to get that condition removed ...



Twigworth Green on Christmas Eve 2020.

If you have photographic evidence of flooding or sewerage issues, please email them to me (include the location, date, author of the picture, and your phone number). Nothing will be shared beyond without your permission.

Or if you want to be included in my updates, please send me your email.

**George Sharpley**  
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## Twigworth Green Bus Shelter

As you know, the Parish Council has been chasing the delivery of a Bus Shelter at Twigworth Green for sometime now, it is long overdue by the Developers and clearly this is not acceptable for the long suffering passengers who are patiently having to wait for their bus in all weathers.

Together with the Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), we are doing all we can to prioritise this.

The signed S106 Agreement (Between GCC & Robert Hitchins) dated 7th July 2017 pages 12 and 13 states as follows:

*"The Owners undertake, prior to the First Occupation of the 100th Dwelling, or two years after the First Occupation of the 1st Dwelling (whichever is the earlier), to provide a turning facility sufficient to accommodate a 12.8m MAN 18.240 single deck bus together with a bus stop incorporating bus boarder kerbing and a shelter at the access into the Land from Twigworth Road and being no further than 250 metres from the Land's access point at Twigworth Road."*

## Dog on the loose!

Once again we have received reports that there has been a dog running loose around Twigworth, this dog (Labrador type), is well known for running wild around Twigworth Green, it's been captured on cctv and doorbell video quite a lot, it has also been seen around the Nature in Art Lane.

We also believe that this dog is responsible for a lot of the dog poo issues around the area.

We call on the owners to take responsibility please before it is too late... it is only a matter of time before this dog will get hurt or lead someone else being hurt in a car collision.

## Next Parish Council Meeting

**Thursday 9th January @ 19:00 - 21:00**

**Down Hatherley Village Hall**

*This meeting is open to the public if you wish to hear what's going on in and around Twigworth or to raise any issues or ideas.*

## Have you visited our website lately?

The website has a lot of information to help new and old residents - from Doctors, Bus Timetables, Schools, Bin Recycling dates, Gyms, River Severn Bore times and much more!

Who to contact at Gloucestershire County Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Vistry, Bloor, Wain Homes and may others.

Subscribe or Visit our website at:  
**[www.twigworthparishcouncil.com](http://www.twigworthparishcouncil.com)**

## Local Issues in Brief

Here are some of the local issues we are working on:

There is continuing dialogue with Vistry and Gateway Management about various issues at Twigworth Green..

- Bus Shelter at Ironbridge Road
- Dead or damaged saplings (photographed, dated, reported) - Vistry/Gateway
- Dog Waste bin at SUDs Pond regularly overflows, despite weekly servicing, additional or larger bin required...currently being monitored by Gateway
- Road traffic issues on development - Vistry
- Neighbouring residents fencing post not secure, installed by Vistry

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Damaged PRoW Sign in Sandhurst Lane has been reported to GCC Highways. This is the second time within a year, suspect it is the landowner causing damage when cropping hedges, as signpost is very close to hedgerow

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The Parish Council noticeboards, at Orchard Park Bus Shelter and the Lay-by, are no longer not fit for purpose, either too small or difficult to manage, the Council have agreed, that one central notice board at the Local Centre would be ideal for everyone, with the greatest footfall and easy to manage.



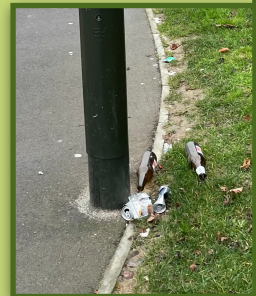
# TWIGWORTH GREEN - LITTER



How sad it is that we seem to have a small minority of people living at Twigworth Green who seem to think it perfectly acceptable to throw away their used bottles of alcohol, cans and other litter just about anywhere they choose.

There is much evidence of this, in particular at the Twigworth Green Bus Stop and Barley Drive area around the Local Centre and estate footpath areas or under the many hedgerows.

Twigworth Green residents deserve better and this type of behaviour is completely unacceptable.



What makes it so more annoying, is that there is a litter bin less than 50 metres from the bus stop; when the new bus shelter is installed, it will have a litter bin.

Tewkesbury Borough Council is committed to fighting environmental crime and taking action against those responsible, to enable residents and visitors of our borough, feel proud and safe.

Those caught littering in the Tewkesbury Borough can expect to receive a Fixed Penalty Charge of £75.

If the Fixed Penalty is not paid, the Council can prosecute the offender in the Magistrates Court for breaching the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). The fine could then increase to up to £1,000.

The provision of litter bins and their servicing does not come for free either, everyone at Twigworth Green pays for this in their Council Tax or Estate Management Fee. It is the responsibility of everyone to dispose of their litter correctly, even if means taking it home or waiting to find an appropriate litter bin.



**PLEASE ACT RESPONSIBLY WHEN  
DISPOSING OF YOUR LITTER!**

**RESPECT YOUR COMMUNITY**

