



Sewerage Incident at Twigworth, Innsworth and Longford

At the beginning of February, Vistry, the Twigworth Green Developer, were made aware of a sewerage issue, initially in the rough location where the Twigworth Green and Innsworth Whittle Garden sewers meet and then take the flows to the Longford Pumping Station.

Vistry walked the whole length of off their site sewer to check for any other issues and also to verify the initial report which originated from the Longford development.

Vistry found the initial report to be correct and also identified a couple of other locations of concern, which were addressed by their contractor, whilst further investigations are ongoing with all parties involved – Vistry, Taylor Wimpey (TW), Robert Hitchens Ltd (RHL), Severn Trent Water (STW) and the Environment Agency (EA).



Vistry are aware that their current activities will no doubt attract attention and would ask for support in this whilst the works are carried out. The pump and pipework is associated with the 2no. areas previously bunded / contained as traditional vehicular access was not feasible. They have also fenced these areas temporarily to ensure access is restricted at this time.

From the work that Vistry and TW have undertaken to date, they believe the issue appears to be focussed on the Longford Pumping Station and is currently affecting sewers on all three developments. Vistry have been in dialogue with STW to determine the actual performance of the Pumping Station for some time and understand that the EA are also pressing for answers on this.

Vistry are dealing with what is in front of them at present... they have a logistical problem accessing the site with heavy machinery and pipe, on what is saturated ground...(even a tanker got stuck, see photo!)... apart from the pumps and pipes on the footpaths and fields... there was a convoy of tankers in Halfpenny Close and Ironbridge Road, Twigworth Green to carry the pumped waste away.

Dog walkers and others, should avoid this area while these works are progressing (likely to be sometime)... apart from the possible sewage contamination in the fields, there is also heavy plant machinery and piping accessing the fields via the footpaths.



We would request residents send us any pictures they have of bad flooding or sewage. Email: twigworthparishcouncil@gmail.com

Sewerage Press Statement - Cllr George Sharpley

The villages of Twigworth, Innsworth and Longford have seen much recent housing development – with more in the pipeline. Residents are worried by the prospect of hundreds more new houses being added to their chronically failing sewerage network.

For over two weeks fields and footpaths between the three villages have been flooded with excrement. Tankers are trying to relieve the system, scooping up as much of the foul excess as they can. Some of these lorries are drawing sewage out of manholes in streets, filling what should be quiet residential areas with smell, noise, and large vehicles. Residents have no idea how long this is going to continue. “Is this what we have to expect indefinitely? Try as we have, we cannot get any information from the tanker drivers, or from the borough council,” said Cllr Rick Harris of Longford Parish Council.



One resident of Twigworth Green said: “I walk the dogs in the fields regularly and, as soon as the heavy rains started, the water in the fields began to smell of sewage. You can see several areas where it is clearly bubbling up from below the surface and the smell is unmistakable.” Others report their properties have been suffering from blocked sewers and drains.

Twigworth has two sewerage networks, and neither are coping. One has failed for decades. The other is virtually brand new. Twigworth Green developers believe the problem lies at the Longford pumping station. Twigworth Parish Council have asked the Borough Council at Tewkesbury several times for an update – and Tewkesbury are not replying.



“We have been asking for two things,” says George Sharpley, chair of Twigworth Parish Council. “An update on the immediate crisis, and secondly that hundreds of new houses due to be added to these failing networks will be held back until the problems are properly sorted. I’ve had no reply to emails or phone messages. People are angry, and worried.”



Gloucestershire Constabulary Severn Banks



Inspector Grant White

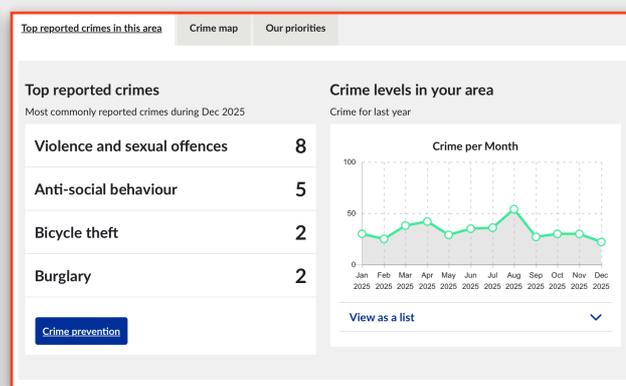
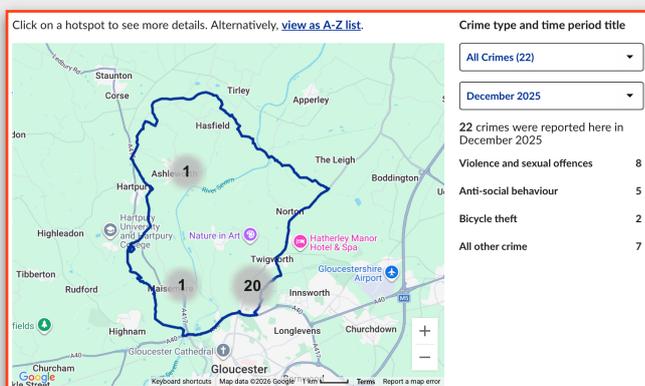
Twigworth falls within the Gloucestershire Constabulary Area of Severn Banks and the following information has been taken from the Gloucestershire Police website to share with residents.

“Our ambition is to provide a neighbourhood policing service of which you, and we, can be proud. Prevention will be at the heart of our work, through well-informed collaborative problem-solving, building participation and strengthening the communities we serve.

We will remain part of those communities, known and accessible to you, and policing in a way that both prevents harm and enhances your trust in us.

Our approach is shaped by five key themes: accessibility, prevention, vulnerability, relationships and partnerships.

These will underpin all areas of our service and form the basis of our neighbourhood policing offer.”



Keep the Green Clean!

Are you concerned about the amount of litter at Twigworth Green?

Following the winter storms, aside from the persistent rain, flooding, the high winds also created their own problems and left their mark!

Residents wheelie bins have been blown over along with their contents spilling out onto the roads, pathways and green areas.

We still have some serial litter offenders discarding their beer bottles, cans and litter at the bus stop and elsewhere, if anyone witnesses this, please notify us of the details and we will follow up.

All of this has left Twigworth looking untidy, with litter and debris strewn everywhere, particularly around the Local centre, in the hedgerows and open grass areas.

It would be appreciated if all residents and retail units could just spend one or two minutes checking the immediate areas around their properties/businesses and remove any debris, this would be very welcomed.

Our thanks to Paul James, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and his dedicated team of volunteer litter pickers who spent their time collecting and disposing of litter recently (20 Bags!).



***Please have pride in our
Community!***



Twigworth Green - News!

Any Problems?

As the Twigworth Green development progresses towards completion later this year, homeowners, tenants, landlords, borough and county councils, all need to be satisfied that the new development, with its properties, drainage, sewage, roads, landscaping and all other infrastructure has been completed correctly to the plans that were submitted and approved at the Planning Application stage.

These landscaped areas have now, or are in the process of, being handed over by the developer Vistry, to Gateway Management and their sub-contractors (Tony Benger Landscaping), who will have the responsibility of maintaining the grounds, for which the residents will pay an annual fee.

There is now a real concern expressed by some homeowners, that when Vistry leave the development, they may see their Gateway Management annual fee increase at some point in the future, in order to address these grounds and landscaping problems, when they should have been addressed and handed over in good order by the developer in the first place.

When the developer is gone... they will be gone for good!

It will be the homeowners and the local councils who will be left with the problems and we need to avoid this - please see the article on Pages 5 & 6.

If you are a homeowner and have experienced problems getting issues resolved or that you may be concerned about the "finished state" of the development in some way - we would like to hear from you, please contact us:

twigworthparishcouncil@gmail.com



Neighbourhood Watch



Twigworth Green has a new Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

"My name is **Paul James** and I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Coordinator for Twigworth Green Neighbourhood Watch.

I have recently taken over the role and am very much looking forward to supporting our community in keeping Twigworth Green a safe, connected and welcoming place for everyone.

Neighbourhood Watch plays an important role in sharing information, raising awareness, and encouraging us all to look out for one another. Over the coming weeks, I hope to connect with as many residents as possible and keep you updated on relevant news, safety advice and local matters."

Next Neighbourhood Watch On-Line Meeting (<https://meet.google.com/sme-nhan-kpz>)

17th March 2026

7:30pm – 8:30pm

If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to get in touch at twigworthgreen.nhw@gmail.com

Paul James

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

New Home Owners - Heads-Up Advice 1

As a new home owner, we all want our purchasing experience to be trouble free, after all, it is probably the single most expensive purchase that any of us will ever make, so its very important that we are satisfied that our house builder has delivered on the promise they initially made - the majority of new homeowners will be pleased but there may be some whose experience was not the same.

When a housing development nears completion, homeowners want to be reassured that they will continue to receive support - it's a huge milestone, and that "end of development" phase is definitely the most critical time to be proactive.

Once the builder moves their site office and equipment to the next project, getting them back for minor issues becomes much harder.

To make sure you aren't left high and dry, here are the most effective steps to take before the builder exits:

- ✦ The first two years are the "Developer Warranty Period," during which the builder is directly responsible for fixing defects
- ✦ If you are approaching this two-year mark as the developer leaves, push for all outstanding issues to be resolved immediately
- ✦ Log and report all outstanding defects now, even minor ones, use the official snagging/defects process so there's a paper trail; take photos and keep copies of emails or forms submitted.
- ✦ If the developer refuses to fix a defect during their warranty period, you can contact the NHBC Resolution Service to mediate

Carry out a snagging survey of your property - DIY

- ✦ Check windows and doors for operation; that they open and close, they don't stick, jam, or rattle
- ✦ Check seals and draughts for gaps between frames and walls
- ✦ Verify all locks, handles, and trickle vents work correctly; ensure all keys are provided
- ✦ Check kitchen and bathrooms, run all taps to check for leaks, adequate water pressure, and correct hot/cold flow, fill sinks and basins, then release to check for slow drainage or leaks in the waste pipes underneath
- ✦ Flush every toilet to ensure they fill and flush correctly and are securely fitted to the floor
- ✦ Check that unit cupboard doors and drawers are aligned and operate smoothly. Inspect worktops for chips or scratches
- ✦ Check plasterwork look for bumps, uneven surfaces, or "screw pops" (nails/screws pushing through the plaster)
- ✦ Check paintwork for inconsistent coverage, runs, drips, or missed spots, especially in corners and high areas
- ✦ Ensure floors are level, listen for creaks in floorboards and check that carpets or tiles are laid flat without gaps or bubbling
- ✦ Verify tiles are fully adhered (tap them; they shouldn't sound hollow) and that grouting is neat and consistent

New Home Owners - Heads-Up Advice 2

- ✦ Check sockets and switches, test every plug socket and light switch
- ✦ Turn on the heating to ensure all radiators heat up evenly and are free from leaks
- ✦ Test all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- ✦ Confirm all integrated appliances (ovens, hobs, extractor fans) are functional
- ✦ Ensure that your Utility meters are working correctly, that correct billing has been set up with your utility provider and make sure you have final readings recorded if needed
- ✦ Keep handover packs, manuals, certificates, warranty documents and any correspondence with the developer
- ✦ Find out who manages defects after the developer leaves, who to contact in an emergency and is responsible for communal areas going forward

Development Infrastructure

- ✦ Check that the roads and pavements are in good order, surfaces are smooth, even and unbroken, drains unblocked of construction debris, kerb stones have been set correctly with no broken or loose ones, any manholes which have not been fitted correctly that may be noisy, all street lighting is working, signs and bollards are in place, road markings
- ✦ Check the landscaped green spaces are in good order, make sure that all newly planted trees and shrubs are in a healthy condition, footpaths surfaces are even, not damaged by construction traffic or prone to flooding
- ✦ The developer typically maintains these areas until they are either adopted by the Local Council or handed over to a Managing Agent

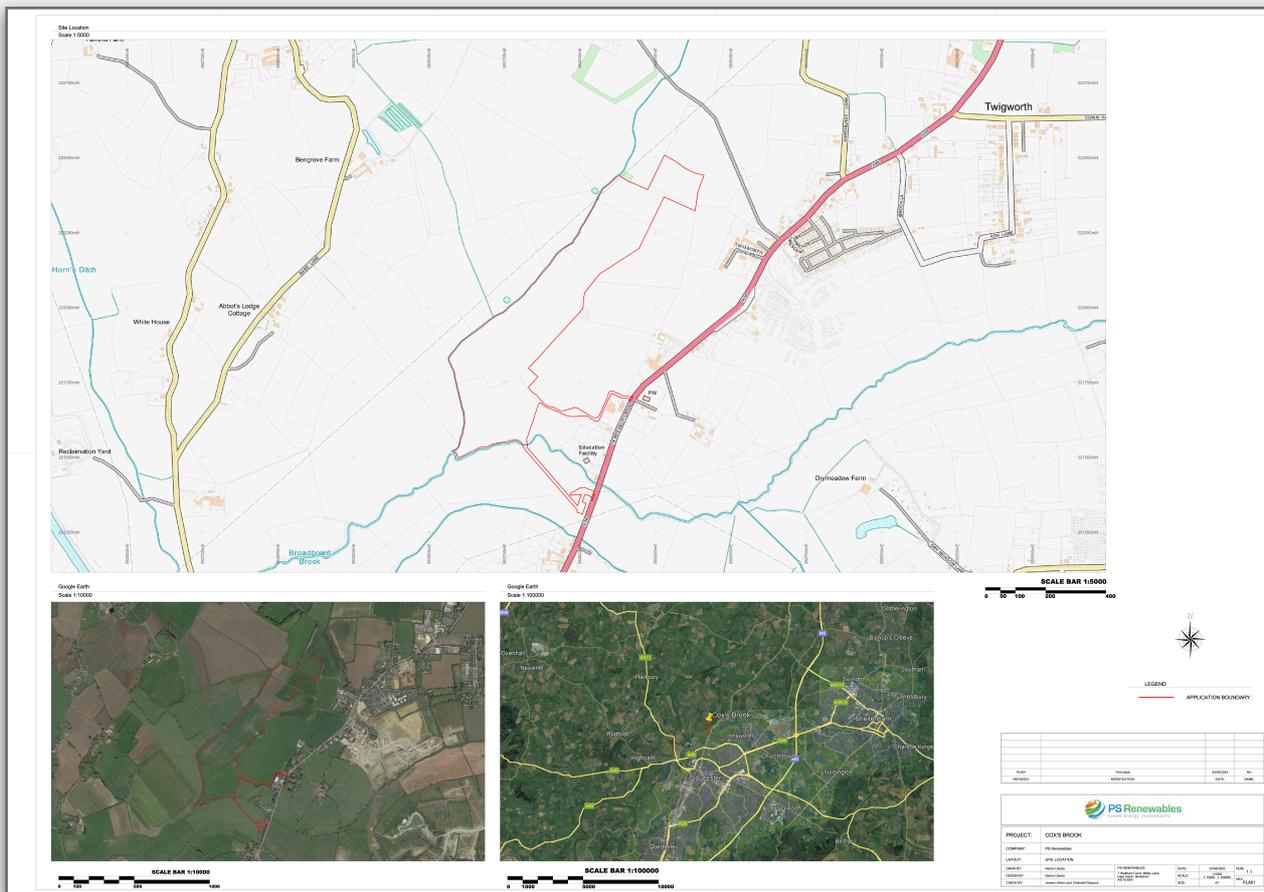
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Cox's Brook Solar Farm - 23/0041/FUL

PS Renewables who are developing the Cox's Brook Solar Farm on land to the west of Twigworth Court Farm, which was granted planning permission by Tewkesbury Borough Council in April 2024 under reference: 23/00441/FUL are now preparing to commence construction works pursuant to the planning permission.



This will involve initial access implementation works programmed to take place in late March 2026 prior to main construction works which will take place later into the year.

It was a requirement of the planning permission to establish a Community Liaison Group prior to the main construction phase to facilitate communication during the construction period.

PS Renewables envisage the group to take the form of an initial meeting and then ongoing communication via WhatsApp etc.

As host Parish Council to the development, PS Renewables would expect Twigworth Parish Council to be party to the group, but they have also contacted Sandhurst and Longford Parish Councils.

Gas & Electrical Meter Housing Covers - have you checked yours?

External meter boxes may be a convenient solution for locating gas and electricity meters on housing properties but, unfortunately, they are not the best design and are susceptible to damage as they are usually made of plastic.



There are Gas and Electricity Regulations that govern the requirement of these meters which should have secure protective housing covers to protect the meters against the elements.

Following the recent winter storms, at Twigworth Green there appears to be quite a number of properties with these Gas and Electrical Meter housing covers, either missing completely or left open in an insecure state.



Check your Gas and Electrical meter cabinets now to make sure that your meter housing is fitted correctly and that it is locked secure, you should have been given a key for this.

If you are unable to find your missing cover or unable to secure it for any reason, you should contact your Housing Developer or Landlord for this to be attended to.

Red Dog Waste Bins



The dog waste bins that are coloured red located around Twigworth Green are strictly for dog waste only.

They must not be used for general litter items, such as bottles, cans and other items.

Next Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 5th March @ 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.

Local Issues - Under Review

The following issues have been brought to the attention of the Parish Council and have been reported or are currently being investigated:

- ◆ Loose noisy manhole cover at the junction of Ironbridge Road and Weaver Crescent and raised and loose kerb stones in Purton Close, Vistry have been advised
- ◆ Damaged footpaths, grass verges and landscaped areas from the tankers and other vehicles dealing with sewerage incident on the fields and footpath - Vistry advised
- ◆ Concerns about the development finishing standards of completion ie, roads, pavements etc, TBC Planning advised by resident, Enforcement Case has been opened.
- ◆ Litter (see this newsletter P3)
- ◆ E-Scooters are being used illegally in Public Spaces around Twigworth, rider/owners face confiscation of their e-scooter by Police if they are caught using them