



TWIGWORTH NEWS

Community updates, events, road notices & village news!

Frustration over villages' sewage 'crisis' as more homes approved

"We have a procession of tankers making their way through residential areas to try and alleviate the excess by constant daily pumping."

There are serious concerns that the sewage system in Twigworth and Down Hatherley cannot cope with all the new housing.

There is growing frustration over the sewage "crisis" affecting villages near Gloucester, where residents say a daily procession of tankers is being used to ease the problem.



Residents in Twigworth, Longford and Down Hatherley are extremely concerned that more and more homes are being built and connected to what they describe as "failing and outdated" infrastructure.

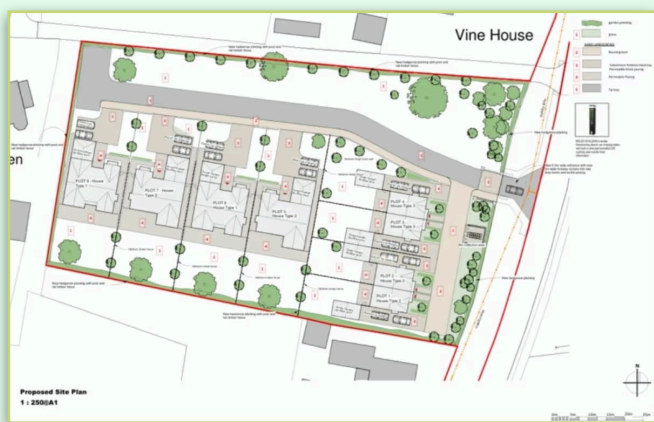
These concerns were raised as planners considered a scheme for eight homes off the A38 Tewkesbury Road in Twigworth.

Rick Harris, vice-chair of Twigworth Parish Council and chair of Longford Parish Council, spoke against CR Leasing Ltd's plans to develop a parcel of land at Twigworth Fields.

He told Tewkesbury Borough Council's planning committee that the village's sewage network is in "crisis" and has been "getting steadily worse" this year.

The scheme is one of several new developments seeking to connect to the "failing and outdated" infrastructure, he said. "For those who live in these parishes, it's becoming a familiar cycle. Sewage overflows into public areas and walkways through manholes.

"These areas are now cordoned off by Severn Trent, I believe, but not before residents and their pets have walked through it.



"We have a procession of tankers making their way through residential areas to try and alleviate the excess by constant daily pumping. This has been going on for months."

He said the community is desperate for some "control over this chaos" and called on councillors not to make the situation worse.

Anne Kenchington said the proposals were for housing in a sustainable and suitable location.

She said the council cannot demonstrate a five-year housing land supply and that the principle of development on the site was well established.



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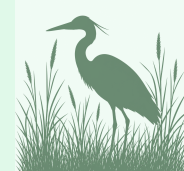
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"We recognise the concerns raised by local residents regarding highways, flooding, drainage, water pressure, ecology, community infrastructure, noise and light impacts," she said.

"However, as set out in the officer's report, these matters have been thoroughly assessed in consultation with the relevant technical consultees and found to be acceptable."



During the debate, Councillor Jim Mason (C, Winchcombe) asked who would be responsible for clearing up the mess if sewage spilled out of manholes.

"When the sewers can't take it, they just blow the lids off," he said.

"I've seen this happen at the bottom of Gretton Fields and it's all over the roads. If something like that happens, who actually picks up the tab for it?"



"Who's responsible? Is it the local authority, or is it Severn Trent's responsibility to clean up the mess?"

"Because this is what's going to happen if we keep constantly allowing these sites to be built when there isn't the capacity to take away the foul water."

Officers said responsibility for operating the network lies with Severn Trent. However, the Environment Agency and the council would be involved if pollution occurred.

Councillor Mel Gore (C, Isbourne) said there were issues with the plans but recommended granting permission in line with the officer's recommendation.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Matt Dimond-Brown (G, Tewkesbury South).

"There's nothing we can do," she said. "It is down to Severn Trent, and one would hope Severn Trent is listening to us yet again."

The committee voted to approve the proposals.

Speaking after the meeting, Twigworth Parish Council chair George Sharpley said the communities are in a "catch-22" and that "no one seems to want to recognise the scale of the problem".

"The planning process is limited to determining on-site drainage only, never mind whether, off-site, the extra foul waste generated means even more overflow through manholes around the village," he said.

He said a planning inspector imposed a condition on the Chestnut Tree Farm development in 2025 stating that no new houses at the site should be connected to the sewer until the wider network had been upgraded.



"That condition is the only recognition we've had from the authorities that the sewerage network in Twigworth is a busted flush, spewing grotesque foul water into our streets and walkways, followed by tankers sucking up the excess, with all the inherent dangers these add to local safety," he said.

Severn Trent is not a statutory consultee on planning matters, and developers can automatically connect new homes to the existing wastewater network.

While water companies can request changes to planning applications, legally they have no say over whether a new development can go ahead.

The water company said it endeavours to work with developers to ensure the drainage they are constructing meets national standards and to agree connection points to its network.

MP Cameron Thomas arrested on suspicion of assault and controlling behaviour!

The Tewkesbury MP has been suspended from the Liberal Democrat party, it is understood

Liberal Democrat MP for Tewkesbury Cameron Thomas has been arrested on suspicion of controlling and coercive behaviour.

It was reported on Thursday (June 18) that the Liberal Democrat member of parliament had had the whip suspended pending a police investigation.

Gloucestershire Police said in a statement on Friday, June 19, that a man in his 40s from Tewkesbury was arrested on suspicion of controlling and coercive behaviour and assault on Wednesday, June 17.

While not confirming the name of the man arrested, a police spokesperson said: "On Wednesday (17 June), a man in his 40s from Tewkesbury was arrested on suspicion of controlling and coercive behaviour and assault.

"The man was interviewed by officers before later being released on police bail.

"Enquiries into the allegations made against him are ongoing."

As well as having the whip removed, it is also understood that Mr Thomas, who was elected for Tewkesbury in the 2024 general election, has been suspended from the Liberal Democrats.

A Liberal Democrat spokesperson said: "Cameron Thomas MP has had the party whip suspended pending the outcome of a police investigation, we are unable to comment further while the police investigation is ongoing."

Thomas spent 23 years in the RAF, during which he initially served in telecommunications and information technology.

He later became a Military Police Officer, serving in Lincolnshire and the West Midlands, across Oxfordshire, and in the Western Sovereign Base Area in Cyprus.

Thomas was also deployed to the Falkland Islands, Iraq, Oman, the UAE and across the USA.



Credit Source: Gloucestershire Live Shannon Brown - Senior Reporter

Twigworth Green Residents – Update on Development Issues

I promised that I would keep residents updated regarding their concerns about the Twigworth Green development, so the latest update has been now posted to our website: <https://twigworthparishcouncil.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/twigworth-green-report-2.pdf> or just click on the image.

Thank you to those residents who have already raised concerns and engaged with the issues affecting our development.

However, I have received very little feedback from the wider community. If residents want these concerns addressed, now is the time to speak up.

The reality is that Vistry will not be involved with Twigworth Green indefinitely. Once the developer has completed the site and moved on, residents could be left dealing with unresolved problems for years to come.

This is our opportunity to demonstrate that these concerns are not isolated complaints but issues that matter to the community as a whole. The stronger the level of resident support, the stronger our position when pressing for action.

If you agree that these issues should be addressed before the developer leaves the site, please take a moment to show your support by commenting or simply reacting with a

Silence will be taken as acceptance. If we want improvements, we need to make our voices heard while we still have the opportunity.

Thank you for your support - Cllr John Redfern



Twigworth at a Crossroads: Feedback Summary

In response to a recent question posed to residents about the potential overdevelopment of Twigworth, and the related articles published in our June newsletter, many residents have submitted their views. The following is a summary of the feedback received.

Twigworth, has long been valued for its rural character, open landscapes, and close-knit community. However, growing concerns are emerging among residents about the scale and pace of development proposed for the area, raising questions about whether Twigworth is at risk of losing the very qualities that make it unique.

A Village Under Pressure

Like many communities across Gloucestershire, Twigworth faces increasing pressure to accommodate housing growth. Supporters of new development argue that additional homes are needed to meet local demand, provide opportunities for younger families, and support economic growth in the region.

Yet some residents fear that the cumulative effect of multiple housing schemes could fundamentally alter the character of the village. What was once a small rural settlement may increasingly resemble a suburban extension of Gloucester if development continues at its current trajectory.

Infrastructure Concerns

One of the most frequently raised issues is infrastructure. Residents have expressed concerns about the non existence of community facilities, whether local roads, drainage systems, healthcare services, and schools can cope with significant population growth.

Traffic congestion is a particular concern. Commuters already experience delays on routes connecting Twigworth with Gloucester and surrounding areas, and some fear that additional housing could place further strain on roads that were not designed for substantially higher volumes of traffic.

Questions have also been raised about whether public services will receive sufficient investment to keep pace with development.

Protecting Green Spaces

The countryside surrounding Twigworth plays an important role in defining the village's identity. Open fields provide wildlife habitats, recreational opportunities, and a visual separation between settlements.

Critics of large-scale development argue that building on greenfield land risks eroding these benefits. They warn that once open countryside is lost, it cannot easily be restored.

Others argue that carefully planned development can balance housing needs with environmental protection, provided adequate green infrastructure and biodiversity measures are incorporated into new schemes.

Community Identity at Stake

Beyond practical considerations, many residents are concerned about the impact on community identity.

Villages such as Twigworth often derive their appeal from a strong sense of place, historic character, and community cohesion. Rapid expansion can sometimes make it difficult for existing social networks, local organisations, and facilities to adapt.

Some residents fear that excessive development could blur the distinction between Twigworth and neighbouring urban areas, reducing its rural village atmosphere.

The Case for Growth

Not everyone opposes development. Supporters point out that new housing can bring investment, support local businesses, and help address wider housing shortages.

They argue that growth is inevitable and that the focus should be on ensuring development is well-designed, sustainable, and accompanied by the necessary infrastructure improvements.

For younger residents seeking to remain in the area, additional housing may provide opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable.

Looking Ahead

The debate surrounding Twigworth reflects a wider challenge facing many communities across Gloucestershire: how to balance the need for new homes with the protection of local character and quality of life.

As planning discussions continue, residents, developers, and local authorities will need to engage constructively to determine what level of growth is appropriate and how it can be delivered sustainably.

The future of Twigworth may ultimately depend not on whether development occurs, but on how much development takes place and whether it enhances or diminishes the village that residents know today.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this survey, your feedback has been shared with fellow Parish Councillors and our County & Borough Councillor for their reflection.

Cllr. John Redfern

Coming Together for a Stronger Community

Every community faces challenges, and ours is no exception.

With no dedicated community facilities where residents can regularly meet, it can sometimes feel difficult to build the connections that help neighbourhoods thrive.

Alongside this, concerns about anti-social behaviour, drug-related activity, litter, and the unsafe use of e-scooters and bikes continue to affect the quality of life for many residents.

While these issues can be frustrating, they also highlight the importance of working together as a community.

Positive change begins when neighbours get to know one another, look out for each other, and share ideas about improving the area.

Community clean-ups, local events, neighbourhood groups, and regular communication can help strengthen relationships and create a greater sense of pride and belonging.

By working with local authorities, police, housing providers, and residents of all ages, we can tackle challenges constructively and make our neighbourhood a safer, more welcoming place for everyone.

Every conversation, volunteer effort, and act of kindness helps build the stronger community we all want to see.

Together, we can make a difference.

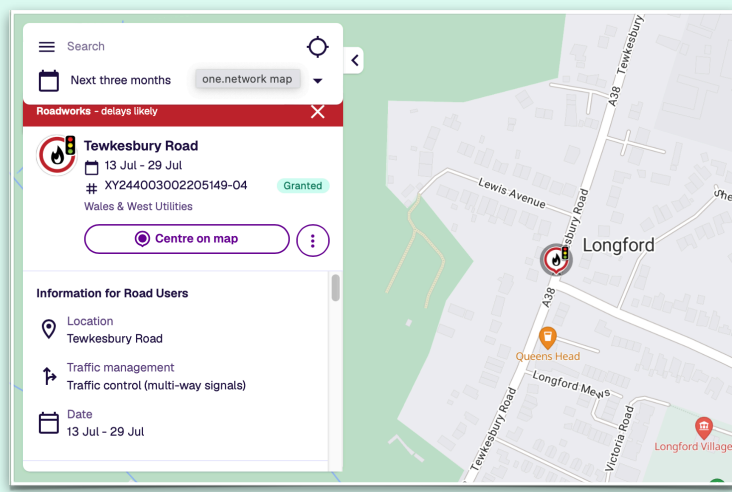
Traffic Management Planned at A38 Longford Lane Junction This July

Motorists travelling to and from Gloucester are advised to plan ahead this July, as temporary traffic management measures will be in place at the A38 junction with Longford Lane.

Multi-way traffic light signals will be operating from Monday 13 July to Wednesday 29 July while essential works are carried out by Wales & West Utilities.

Drivers may experience delays during this period and are encouraged to allow extra time for their journeys where possible.

We thank residents and road users for their patience while these important utility works are completed.



A38 Road Safety

Cameron Thomas MP, together with County Councillor Sarah Hands and representatives from Gloucestershire Highways, visited Twigworth in June to review the road safety issues and concerns affecting the A38 through our village.

This follows the serious incident involving a 12-year-old local schoolgirl who was struck by a car on a stretch of road where her parents had previously appealed to Gloucestershire County Council for the installation of a pedestrian crossing. Their request was denied.

Cameron Thomas MP stated that the bus stop will be converted to a hard standing over the next 8-weeks, making it more safe for bus passengers, he further stated that the A38 would also be subject to a number of other improved road safety measure over the coming months and that he will continue to liaise with the GCC Highways department to ensure that this is delivered on.

The Parish Council have been raising concerns with GCC Highways for many years, including speed reduction, pedestrian crossing points and other safety measures... we have not received any feed back on what "other improved measures" will be taken.



Planning Application - 26/00409/ADV

Heritage Skoda, Tewkesbury Road, Twigworth, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL2 9PG

New Planning Application has been submitted for the removal of existing signage and the display of 3 no. illuminated fascia signs, 1 no. illuminated pylon sign and new illuminated entrance portal

Planning Application - 24/00695/FUL

Planning Application 24/00695/FUL Part Parcel 2691 Tewkesbury Road, Twigworth

Full Planning Application for the erection of 8 dwellings and associated vehicular access, landscaping and other associated infrastructure.

Despite representations at the Planning Committee by Twigworth Cllr Rick Harris and the support of other councillors, objecting to this application, the Planning Committee agreed to Permit.

This was a disappointing but wholly predictable outcome, despite recognising the issues with sewage and drainage in the area, as all the authorities involved could see no reason to refuse.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Twigworth Parish Council will be held on:

Thursday, 2 July 2026

19:00 – 21:00

Down Hatherley Village Hall

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public.

If you would like to address the Council, or simply hear what is happening in and around Twigworth, please do come along — you will be most welcome.



! Community Notice !



Twigworth Green residents have once again reported, that a group of adults with bicycles have been gathering behind the Sales Office and Children's Play Area at various times of the day and night.

Reports indicate that those involved have been consuming alcohol, shouting, littering, swearing, and causing disturbance to nearby residents.

There have also been reports of individuals urinating in the hedgerows adjacent to residential properties.

This behaviour is completely unacceptable and is having a negative impact on those living nearby and on the wider community.

We strongly advise residents not to engage with this group.

Instead, if you witness any anti-social behaviour, please report it to the Police by calling 101.

Where an incident is ongoing and there is an immediate threat to safety, residents should call 999.

Twigworth Green is a family-friendly community, and this type of behaviour will not be tolerated.

Whoever these individuals are, they are not welcome to use our communal spaces in this manner.

Thank you to those residents who continue to report incidents and help keep our community safe and welcoming for everyone.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who supported our community litter pick on 13 June. Your time, effort, and encouragement are greatly appreciated. Together we are helping to keep our community clean, tidy, and a great place to live.

Thank you all for your fantastic support, and we look forward to seeing you at the next litter pick!

If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to get in touch with:

Paul James - Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator

Email: twigworthgreen.nhw@gmail.com

The next On-Line meeting will be held: TBA