



BRAMLEY SPECIAL UPDATE

Bramley Fuel Leak Remediation

This special update is to help residents, particularly those who don't have access to social media, to understand what is going on behind the scenes in respect of remediation measures after the fuel leak. Regular updates are also posted on the Parish Council [website](#)

Prior to and following identification of the fuel leak, Jane Austin first in a personal capacity and then once elected from May 2023 acting on behalf of Bramley Parish Council followed appropriate procedures in notifying the statutory authorities. i.e. WBC, SCC, environment agency etc. Residents, please note that Bramley Parish Council is not a statutory authority. Jeremy Hunt MP has been involved since this issue was escalated to him in early 2023 and has advocating for Bramley residents in his role as MP.

The incident was escalated to a 'Gold Command' serious incident managed by Surrey County Council in May / June but has since been de-escalated to a recovery incident which has now reverted to the responsibility of Waverley Borough Council.

This worsening situation in the village, coupled with a slow response by ASDA, WBC and other authorities to generate and communicate a satisfactory action plan resulted in some residents forming an action group, BRAG (Bramley Residents Action Group) in recent months.

BRAG's stated objectives are:

1. A plan for the remediation of Bramley Village.
2. Be a voice for Bramley residents.
3. Understand and communicate the impact of the fuel leak in the village.

BRAG's committee includes representatives from the Parish Council and Bramley Village Society:

- Alice Phillips - Headmistress of St Catherine's School
- David Culley - Veterinary surgeon
- Helen Melia - Solicitor
- Jane Austin - WBC Councillor and Bramley Parish Councillor
- Sam Millar - Solicitor
- Liz Sutherland - President Bramley Village Society

The Parish Council supports this group which has contacted and put pressure on multiple agencies to come together to discuss compensation to businesses and residents, and to implement remediation of the pollution. In order to make sure that residents who are not following updates on social media are kept informed, the Parish Council will periodically send out special updates informed by BRAG and the WBC Recovery working groups described below.

Two things for residents to note:

1. ASDA will be holding a meeting the Village Hall on Tuesday 16th July at 6.30pm to report developments and action plan. All Bramley residents are invited to attend.
2. Below is the report that we received from Richard Homewood, Asst Director of Regulatory Services, Waverley Borough Council on 5th July. You will already have seen some of this summarised in the Bramley Update sent out earlier.

There were two meetings last week:

1. Business and Economy Recovery Working Group (BERWG)

This inaugural meeting of the BERWG focused on the impact on businesses and what can be done to mitigate it and to help businesses recover from that impact. It was an opportunity for local businesses to express their concerns. The meeting was constructive and moving forward will be looking to establish a business network to represent the interests of businesses going forward. A further meeting is planned, and additional local businesses are being invited.

2. Technical Recovery Working Group (TRWG)

The TRWG focussed on the development of 'road maps' setting out the proposed programmes of work for the different companies involved.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

- Asda and their consultants EPS are developing a detailed off site remediation road map for monitoring levels of groundwater and contamination off site and steps to remediate. They are working closely with the Environment Agency on this. At the same time, they are monitoring levels of groundwater and contamination at their boreholes around the High Street and are continuing the work on site to extract and treat groundwater.
- Thames Water have completed the water mains replacement and have now lifted the Do Not Drink order for the residential properties. Bottled water distribution to residential properties has ceased and as letters were delivered residents were asked if they had any water they wanted to return. A final extra recycling collection will be made this Saturday to collect any remaining plastic water bottles. They are working with the schools to ensure the complex pipe networks on these sites are flushed completely before considering lifting the DND /order on the schools.
- As of Wednesday 3 July, Telecommunications network provider Openreach has analysed the current impact and, at this moment, the direct impact on local phone and broadband services is limited. Openreach, along with specialist environmental consultants, OHES (part of Adler & Allan), are now working outside Grange Cottages and near to the Holy Trinity Church, where there are underground access points to its network. These points have particularly high petrol contamination, so attempts are being made to reduce the concentrations to levels which are safe enough for engineers to access. This process is unique and complex, so work needs to proceed with caution, and it is unclear how long it will take. Openreach hope to give a clearer indication of its position and further next steps over the coming weeks. Masts have already been deployed to help with mobile coverage. There is still cellular

coverage in the area, but masts should help reinforce coverage. Mobile dongles are being issued by providers for additional bandwidth.

- There have been issues this week with traffic management in the High Street because pedestrians were not following the directions to use the pelican crossings and two-way traffic lights had to be re-introduced. Following a site meeting on Thursday alternative arrangements were agreed and are being implemented now which will negate the need for daytime traffic lights. Overnight restrictions will still be needed however whilst Openreach carry out their work, but these should be less disruptive to traffic.
- A recurring theme this week has been that more communication is required from all partners with the community and businesses. As part of this a public meeting involving partners has been suggested which we will be looking to take forward. WBC's Richard Homewood has also committed to issue a weekly update after the RCG meeting on Fridays. He is also meeting representatives from the Bramley Residents Action Group (BRAG) next week to explore other ways of improving communication and keeping the community informed going forward.

Best wishes

Bramley Parish Council

www.bramleyparish.co.uk

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If you wish to discuss any matters with a parish councillor, their full contact details are available on the parish website www.bramleyparish.co.uk.

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