

**Bramley Parish Council**

serving the community since 1894



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# BRAMLEY SPECIAL UPDATE

## Bramley agrees Support Package with Asda

Dear Bramley Resident

Please see below an update newsletter from Asda which we forward for your information. Hard copies of this update will be distributed by Asda through letterboxes in the coming days.

At the bottom of Asda's email you will see reference to compensation for businesses and residents so we take this opportunity to update you directly.

We are pleased to announce Asda has agreed to provide funding to support our Bramley community, totalling £512,500. This payment will take the form of donations towards a number of projects across the community as well as to our local fundraising associations.

We are finalising the finer details so more will be disclosed soon, but we take the opportunity to thank the councillors and community representatives who have met together to agree the proposed list of items to be funded by this scheme and progress discussions with Asda.

We believe that agreeing the funds for our community is a fantastic result for our village and, while it will not take away the impact of the fuel leak, it does mean we will be able to facilitate positive outcomes across our community. The funding will go towards projects and organisations including our new Christmas lights and marketing of the village, refurbishment of Eastwood Road playground, our schools, the Four Villages Day Centre, other long overdue refurbishment and repairs in the village.

While we are delighted with the above, unfortunately discussions about payments to households have not progressed. Despite strong representation from Bramley Parish Council and local community group representatives, Asda has now indicated a final amount of £50 Asda voucher to each of those 621 households impacted by the drinking water restriction.

Bramley Businesses and schools are applying under a separate scheme. Under this scheme payouts are being processed with reference to a loss adjuster and the first payments are beginning to be made.

It is important to also to confirm there are no conditions attached from Asda in accepting the above. Agreeing to the community support payment does not preclude any individual or group from taking legal action against Asda or any other party in the future.

We will be issuing more detail in due course but in the meantime well done everyone,

Best wishes

Bramley Parish Council  
Bramley Residents Action Group  
Bramley Business Network  
Bramley Village Society  
Bramley Village Fete Association  
Bramley Bonfire  
Bramley Helping Hand

### **From ASDA - Update Newsletter - October 2024**

#### **EPS Remedial Roadmap – On Site Clean Up**

Our Environment Agency approved remedial ‘treatment train’ strategy has been progressing well. The first stage involved using a series of pumps to recover a mixture of groundwater and fuel from beneath the petrol station and the immediate vicinity for separation and treatment. We have successfully reached a point where no more fuel is on the water table in any of our on-site boreholes and this has enabled us to move on to the second stage of the process, which went operational last week. This next stage uses vacuum pumps to extract petrol vapours from the ground and pull fresh air through the affected areas; the extracted air then being cleaned by passing through carbon filters. Early signs are showing this to be very effective.

#### **‘What’s in the Box’ QR Code**

A QR code will appear on the side of our remediation system in the next couple of weeks which will link to a 3D virtual tour of the remediation system, providing an explanation of the process and purpose of the various components. We hope you find it interesting!

#### **EPS Remedial Roadmap – Off Site**

At the last public meeting in July, we presented our Off-Site Remedial Roadmap – here’s an update on how each path continues to progress.

#### **Controlled Waters Risk Assessment.**

The Environment Agency have confirmed that they are satisfied with the progress being made with respect to controlled waters (groundwater and surface water) in line with the agreed roadmaps and positive discussions continue regarding demonstrable and sustainable risk based end-points for the clean up work. A lot of those discussions are based around the results of the groundwater sampling work from over 40 borehole locations which was undertaken across the summer to establish the extent of the impacts and understand which directions the groundwater could be flowing. The findings of that work have been encouraging, with affected groundwater being quite localised to the northern end of the High Street, but as we know, the situation and it’s impact was seriously complicated by the water table being at a very similar depth as various utilities that run down the High Street, which brought petrol into contact with things like Thames Water pipes and Openreach cable ducts, as well as getting into the road drains which connect directly onto the brook. Our hope was to use a public meeting to present and share the findings of that work with the village, in an accessible format that would be useful for everyone to understand the situation, but in the absence of a confirmed date, we will instead share that information with a follow up newsletter within two weeks.

#### **Northern High Street / Connections ‘In Trench’.**

Through a collaborative approach with Thames Water and their contractors, EPS were able to install six access chambers and connecting duct work within the pipe replacement trench as it was backfilled. Our thanks go to the efforts of all involved, as it enabled us to access ground which would otherwise have been extremely difficult to safely drill into, due to the number and density of utilities present.

The ducting feeds back up to the petrol station, where a second remedial system will be located to deliver a very similar treatment system under an extension of current EA permit, combining groundwater pumping and vapour extraction. At the time of issue, it has not been possible to access two of the six remedial boreholes

with an appropriate drilling rig, located within the area occupied by the Openreach contractors, but we sincerely hope to have this completed by the end of October so that we can get that second system up and running.

#### **Land Northeast of High Street.**

Throughout the summer of 2024, EPS drilled additional boreholes in land to the northeast of the High Street and manually recovered any floating petrol that was encountered. This process was very successful, and the latest monitoring visit confirmed that all floating fuel has been removed from our boreholes. We will continue to monitor our network and take further action where needed.

#### **Southern High Street.**

Our groundwater monitoring boreholes do not indicate any high impacts extending to the south of the pipe replacement trench, however it is clear that the petrol has used the gravel backfill around buried utility pipes and ducts to shortcut through the ground. This is why we consider it important to complete this section of the roadmap with exploratory trenches being opened within the footpath to enable inspection and sampling of the ground immediately surrounding those services and establish what else might need to be done for clean up.

We have been working with specialist contracts and the council's Highway department to establish a safe method to undertake this work and currently hope to complete within October. Our collaborative plans will require a section of the footpath to be closed for a few days but importantly, the intention is to avoid any road closures on the High Street.

#### **Business and Community Support Schemes**

As the above demonstrates, Asda takes its responsibilities incredibly seriously. We continue to be focused on remediation efforts and supporting local businesses and the community. Asda's Bramley Business Support Scheme is currently processing applicants with the first payments having been made. In terms of the community, in discussion with the Parish Council and others, Asda has also agreed to support a number of community schemes with a fund in excess of £500k. Finally, Asda recognise the disruption to the 621 households impacted by a loss of drinking water and will be issuing vouchers to the value of £50 in the coming weeks to those households.

**James Barge**

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