



Complaint (ref: 9262389)

1 message

Kent County Council <kcc.corporate@email.icasework.com>

Thu, Oct 31, 2019 at 9:48 AM

To: clerk@wouldhampc.co.uk

Dear Ms Grimes

Thank you for your letter, dated 7th October 2019, regarding Knowle Road, Wouldham.

Please accept my apologies for the delay in the installation of a safety barrier in Knowle Road.

These works were programmed to be undertaken under traffic light control but following a safety review I have been established that they could only complete the works under a road closure.

It would normally take a minimum of three months to arrange a road closure, but in order to avoid further delays we have worked with the local bus companies in order to re-design the scheme which will allow work to be accelerated without the requirement for a road closure.

We are currently awaiting final confirmation of the installation date from our contractors, but further details can be obtained from the area Project Manager [REDACTED]

Thank you for raising the important matter with me.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste
Growth, Environment and Transport



www.tmbc.gov.uk/noiseandpollution

Environmental.protection@tmbc.gov.uk

The Occupier
12 Ferry Lane
Wouldham
Rochester
Kent ME1 3UU

Contact	Peter Thomason
Email	Peter.thomason@tmbc.gov.uk
Your ref.	-
Our ref.	19/00625/DRNDOM
Date	09 September 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Misconnection of Foul Water pipework to Surface Water sewer and blocked Surface Water sewer at Ferry Lane, Wouldham.

As you may or may not be aware, some local residents have recently experienced problems regarding a surcharge from a surface water sewer; the surcharge was found to contain foul water. The surface water sewer serves the properties in Ferry Lane, before discharging into a surface water main that, I believe, discharges into the River Medway.

I am writing to you to seek your co-operation by asking that you ensure that your water pipework connections are directed into the correct pipe. To clarify this, there are pipes carrying two different types of water away from your property:

- Surface water, this is the rain that falls on your property and is usually carried away via gutters and downpipes before entering below-ground pipework; and
- Foul water, this is all the water from items such as dishwashers, toilets, washing machines, showers, sinks, wash hand basins and the like. In simple terms, it's everything that isn't just rainwater.

Only surface water is allowed to be discharged to a Surface Water sewer, as the outfall from this will typically be to a ditch, stream or river. A misconnection of Foul Water into such a pipe will lead to the pollution of a ditch, stream or river and is an offence.

... continued

Planning, Housing and Environmental Health
Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill,
West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ

Have you tried
contacting us at
[www.tmbc.gov.uk/
do-it-online?](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/do-it-online?)

I would thus ask that you ensure that all of the Foul Water from your property goes into an appropriate Foul Water pipe and not into a Surface Water pipe. If a pipe on your property is taking Surface Water, it is highly likely that it will discharge into the Surface Water sewer and Foul Water should not be discharged into it.

I do not know when the misconnection(s) took place and it is possible that it was several years ago. Any work that you have had done to your property that involved drainage/sewerage work, should thus be checked.

Further information on this matter can be obtained from the following website:
<http://www.connectright.org.uk/misconnections>.

There is also the matter of the blockage to the Surface Water sewer, which is blocked at the alleyway between no's 11 & 12. I believe the Surface Water sewer to be a private sewer and as such the responsibility for the cleansing and maintenance rests with those persons "deriving benefit from them", that is all of the properties in Ferry Lane. In this respect it is important to note that the fact that the problem may be at some distance from your property, and you may be unaware of it, is not relevant in drainage law. I have enclosed a copy of the Council's guide to household drainage for your information.

In situations such as this, the Council always advocates that affected residents should collectively arrange for the works to be undertaken, and the costs shared equally. Although I appreciate that the number of properties affected may make this difficult, I would be grateful if you could indicate to me your willingness to contribute an equal share towards rectifying the defects to the pipe. You may also wish to check whether your household insurance would cover your share of the works required.

You are advised that should no agreement be reached, the Council has enforcement responsibilities under Environmental Protection/Public Health law. This is to ensure that private sewers are maintained by the relevant property owners to avoid risks to public health, and prevent the occurrence of a Statutory Nuisance.

The Council's actions would likely involve the service of notices on all those who derive benefit from the sewer, requiring the works to be undertaken within a specified time period. If they are not, the Council may carry out the works in default and bill each property for their respective share of the costs. Such a bill would also include administrative and other costs incurred by the Council.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further please contact me.

Yours faithfully




Environmental Health Officer (01732) 876178

Information provided by: PCSO Tiller, Tonbridge and Malling Police

Crimes of note:

- 13/10/2019 – 3 reports of criminal damage caused to vehicle parked on Knowle Road Wouldham.
- 16/10/2019 – report of persons entering site on Peters Village and causing damage to van on site.
- 16/10/2019 Theft from motor vehicle on Belway site, Peters Village, tools stolen.
- 25/10/2019 – criminal damage caused to vehicle in Peters Village by paint being thrown over it.
- 27/10/2019 – Shed broken into on High Street Wouldham, tools stolen.
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Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:


- I have been made aware that there is lots of “reporting” on community Facebook pages, I would remind residents that all reports of Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal activity needs to be reported via 101 or online in order for it to be dealt with effectively.
- I have been made aware of another vehicle driving around the villages in an anti-social manner. I have advised appropriate departments of this. I would encourage any residents who are experiences similar problems to report the matter via 101 or online via the Kent Police Website.

Items of good work:



For more information about policing in your area, visit www.kent.police.uk

To report a non-urgent crime online, visit www.kent.police.uk/contactus

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- I continue to patrol the area on a regular basis, speaking to local residents and those working in the area.

Updates of previous reported issues:

- I have been made aware of a vehicle driving in an Anti-Social manner around Peters Village. I have spoken to the driver of the vehicle and advising accordingly. I have provided strong words of advice regarding manner of driving.



**Kent
Police**

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