

SOLO

A Somercotes Parish Council Newsletter



TOXIC TIMEBOMB ON YOUR DOORSTEP!

CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION

STOP PRESS

UK Health Security Agency investigating "potential exposure to toxic waste" by residents in Derbyshire street bordering contaminated housing site

The UK Health Security Agency is investigating "potential exposure to toxic waste" experienced by residents in a Derbyshire street bordering a contaminated housing site.



Officials at the highest level are now involved in looking into issues raised by residents in Birchwood Lane, Somercotes.

This comes after two residents suffered seizures and stroke-like symptoms which they believe are linked to harmful substances from nearby historic landfills.

By Eddie Bisknell
Published 24th Apr 2023

OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM SOMERCOTES PARISH COUNCIL

Somercotes Parish Council has grave concerns about planned housing developments in Somercotes on and surrounding former hazardous waste sites known as LS01, LOM, LS41 amongst others. The Parish Council has raised these concerns on a number of occasions with Amber Valley Borough Council and officers

Amber Valley Borough Council on the recommendation of officers have agreed planning permissions for three major developments on areas containing hazardous waste without the stringent investigations that are required

The health and safety of residents should be a primary concern for Amber Valley Borough Council but this does not appear to be the case

Following expert advice, it is the opinion of the Parish Council that the Borough Council does not fully understand the contamination issues of these site and therefore their suitability for housing development. This is further underlined by the absence of comprehensive site investigations before outline planning permission was granted.

(continued inside)

Members of the The Planning Board who voted for the Developments



Jane Orton
South West Parishes
Conservatives



Ron Ashton
Ripley/Marehay
Conservatives



Jack Brown
Ironville / Riddings
Conservatives



Steven Grainger
Heanor West
Conservatives



Richard Iliffe
Shipley / Horsley
Conservatives



Alison McDermott
Duffield
Green Party



Matt Murray
Ripley
Conservatives



Trevor Spencer
Ripley / Marehay
Conservatives



Sheena Trower
Langley Mill / Aldercar
Conservative
now Independent



David Wells
Duffield
Green Party

Somercotes Parish Council have included this on the agenda (below) for the forthcoming Parish Council Meeting – IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE OR have your say please come along.

PARISH OF SOMERCOTES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Somercotes Village Hall (Lounge or Hall) 6:30pm Friday 19th May 2023

AGENDA

- 1/APM/2023: Election of the Chairman
(if the chairman of the Parish Council is present then he shall be elected as Chairman for the APM)
- 2/APM/2023: Election of a Clerk to take the minutes
- 3/APM/2023: Parish Council Income/Expenditure Report for 2022-23
- 4/APM/2023: Chairman's Report
- 5/APM/2023: To discuss and consider any Parish matters that may be brought forward by the Council or local government electors.
- 6/APM/2023: **Housing Developments in Somercotes around Toxic Waste Sites**

Those eligible to vote (registered electors for the parish) may request a vote on any appropriate parish issues. In the result of a tied vote the chairman has the casting vote.

For more information on AVBC Planning Board see the following link:
www.ambervalley.gov.uk/council/committees-and-meetings/planning-board/



Bonsall Row
Lower Birchwood

LS01

Norman Road

LOM

LS41
Rugby Club site before opencast
shown here as its original use as
Pye Bridge Sports Ground

The three developments are -

Nether Farm
180 dwellings (Avant homes, outline planning permission passed, development not started) AVA 2021-0771

Stanley Street
180 dwellings (Miller homes for Futures Housing, outline planning permission passed, development started) AVA 2022 -1104

Amber Valley Rugby Club
250 dwellings (David Ashley Construction, outline planning passed) AVA 2021-0880

THE HAZARDOUS TOXIC WASTE TIPS

LS01, LOM and LS41 contain millions of tonnes of toxic waste including blue asbestos, liquid lead from Stanlow oil refinery, cesium, and radioactive substances.

Reports exist that deadly dioxins were secretly disposed of in LS01 and LOM under the cover of darkness after the 1968 explosion at the Coalite chemicals factory in Bolsover.

In 1988 the Secretary of State for the Environment Nicolas Ridley stated

"So little is known about the waste deposited on site and the hazards of disturbing any Dioxin contaminated waste are so great and technically complicated that planning permission should not be forthcoming for such an area until a complete investigation has taken place

Attributed to the Smotherly site

The Council understands from its expert that highly dangerous toxic waste has migrated underground and gone into numerous sub surface mine workings, LS01 was placed on top of two disused mine shafts. Imagine a bath without the plug in spreading deadly toxic waste throughout the myriad of historic mine workings under and around these sites.

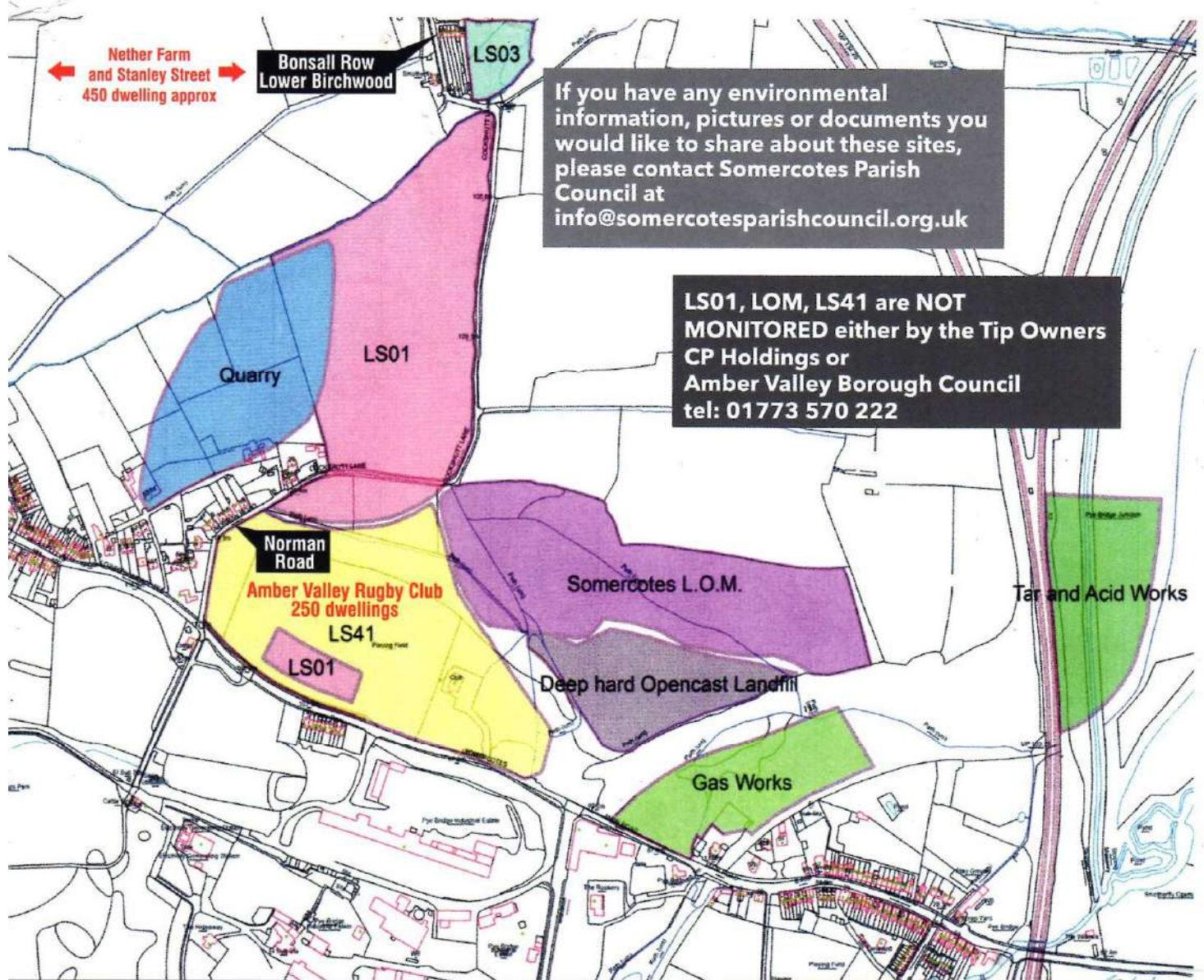
There is evidence that Dioxin which is highly dangerous was found on one of the sites which further strengthens the parish councils view that these three sites should not be used for housing purposes.

Planning consultation records show that CP Holdings (the tip owners) have not been consulted regarding these planning applications. This is surprising as the law states that it is likely they would be liable for any adverse consequences under the "cradle to grave" principle.



BBC PANORAMA

BBC Panorama have taken up this story and is due to be broadcast in the middle of May 15/05/2023.



If you have any environmental information, pictures or documents you would like to share about these sites, please contact Somercotes Parish Council at info@somercotesparishcouncil.org.uk

LS01, LOM, LS41 are NOT MONITORED either by the Tip Owners CP Holdings or Amber Valley Borough Council tel: 01773 570 222

Timeline of toxic dumping - Derby Telegraph 7th Oct 2019

- **1960s:** Waste begins to be dumped at the Somercotes site, later to be known as the tips LS01 and LS41.
- **1968:** Explosion at Coalite chemical works in Bolsover leaves 79 with cysts known as chloracne
- **1973:** Derbyshire County Council grants planning permission to Cambro Contractors Ltd for deposit of industrial waste at Somercotes site
- **1974:** Control of Pollution Act brought into law
- **1975:** 50-100 lorries regularly seen queuing at night-time on Norman Road to tip waste
- **1976:** Waste from 1968 Coalite explosion was dumped in secret location, the Derby Telegraph reported.
- **1978:** Derbyshire County Council grants waste disposal licence LS01 (Somercotes) for 732 tonnes a day
- **1979:** Derbyshire County Council grants waste disposal licence LS41 (the rugby club) for non-hazardous waste
- **1979:** Coalite buys Cambro Waste Products Ltd
- **1980:** LS01 closes
- **1981:** New Scientist article says Coalite had used Cambro to transport 1968 toxic explosion remains
- **1986:** LS41 closes
- **1986:** Application filed by Opencast Executive to mine 2.3 million tonnes of coal from Smotherly A, B and C, near the LS01 and LS41 tips.
- **1989:** The Secretary of State for the Environment declines Smotherly A due to "dioxin contaminated waste" and other unknown waste
- **September 2014:** 200 houses at Amber Valley Rugby Club site refused for Carter Construction (Derby) Ltd by Amber Valley Borough Council due to lack of information on ground conditions and contamination
- **July 2017:** Planning Inspectorate dismisses appeal into 200 homes at Amber Valley Rugby Club site for Carter Construction (Derby) Limited
- **June 2018:** Plans for 200 houses approved at Nether Farm, Somercotes, close to former landfills, for Bernard Swain
- **October 2018:** Fundraising for judicial review into Nether Farm starts by local campaigners.
- **June 2019:** Bernard Swain submits new version of 200-home Nether Farm plans - these plans reveal that contractors should not touch or breathe in the soil on the site
- **August 2019:** Campaigner says that residents near the site have contracted forms of cancer
- **September 2019:** Amber Valley Borough Council rejects plans for 99 homes from Paul Newman New Homes due to vicinity to "toxic tip"

Flashback to the site last August... a picture taken by villager John Wright of what he claims is a pool of toxic waste.

Toxic dump fears after horse's death

The mysterious death of a gypsy's horse has reawakened old anxieties for people living near a former toxic dump.

For residents fear that dangerous chemicals buried at the former Blithwood toxic dump at Lower Somercotes could be responsible for the animal's death.



And now they are awaiting the outcome of a post-mortem to find out if the caravan families occupying the site are also in peril.

Dioxin fear

Mr Wright and his neighbour, Mrs Anne Sewry, of 573 Lower Somercotes, both campaigned to stop the former opencast coal site being used as a toxic dump in the 1970s.

They feared the owners, Cambro Waste Products, used the site to dispose of dioxin — one of the deadliest chemicals known to man — following the Coaltile explosion at Botsவர் in 1968.

"There is evidence to suggest dioxin was buried here, as well as waste from Windscote," said Mrs Sewry.

But he added: "If it is proven that this horse died as a result of dioxin or some other type of chemical poisoning then it becomes a matter for the coroner to deal with."

Mr Wright said the horse was found dead in a field near his home. The animal had been kept in a field near his home for several years.

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COVER UP CLAIM OVER TOXIC WASTE

BRITISH Coal has been accused of masterminding a 'cover up' campaign concerning the former Pyle Bridge acid works.

The cover-up campaign is alleged to have involved the destruction of evidence and the suppression of information about the extent of contamination at the site.

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At a special ceremony at Selsby Primary School, the former Pyle Bridge acid works site was officially handed over to the local community.

The ceremony was attended by local officials and residents, marking the end of the site's use as an acid works.

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TOXIC WASTE SCARE

NEW ROW OVER BLUE ASBESTOS

Another row has blown up over the dangerous blue asbestos waste which is being buried at the former Pyle Bridge acid works site.

The row is over the proposed construction of a new road through the site, which would increase the risk of contamination.

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Coach Operator Fined

A fine of £100 has been imposed on a coach operator for breaching road traffic regulations.

The fine was imposed for a breach of the regulations relating to the use of the vehicle on a public road.

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'Three crosses' poison puzzle

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Threat to withold rates in tip row

ANGRY residents of Lower Blithwood at Somercotes are threatening to withhold their rates if action is not taken to stop the tipping of poisonous waste near their homes.

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Plans for a multi-million pound sport, leisure, industrial and housing development on the site of a former waste tip at Somercotes have been thrown out by Amber Valley councillors.

Members of the district council's planning committee decided that the risk of contamination was too great.

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SUMMER Sale Now On!

Now On! The summer sale is now on, offering a wide range of clothing and accessories at special prices.

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