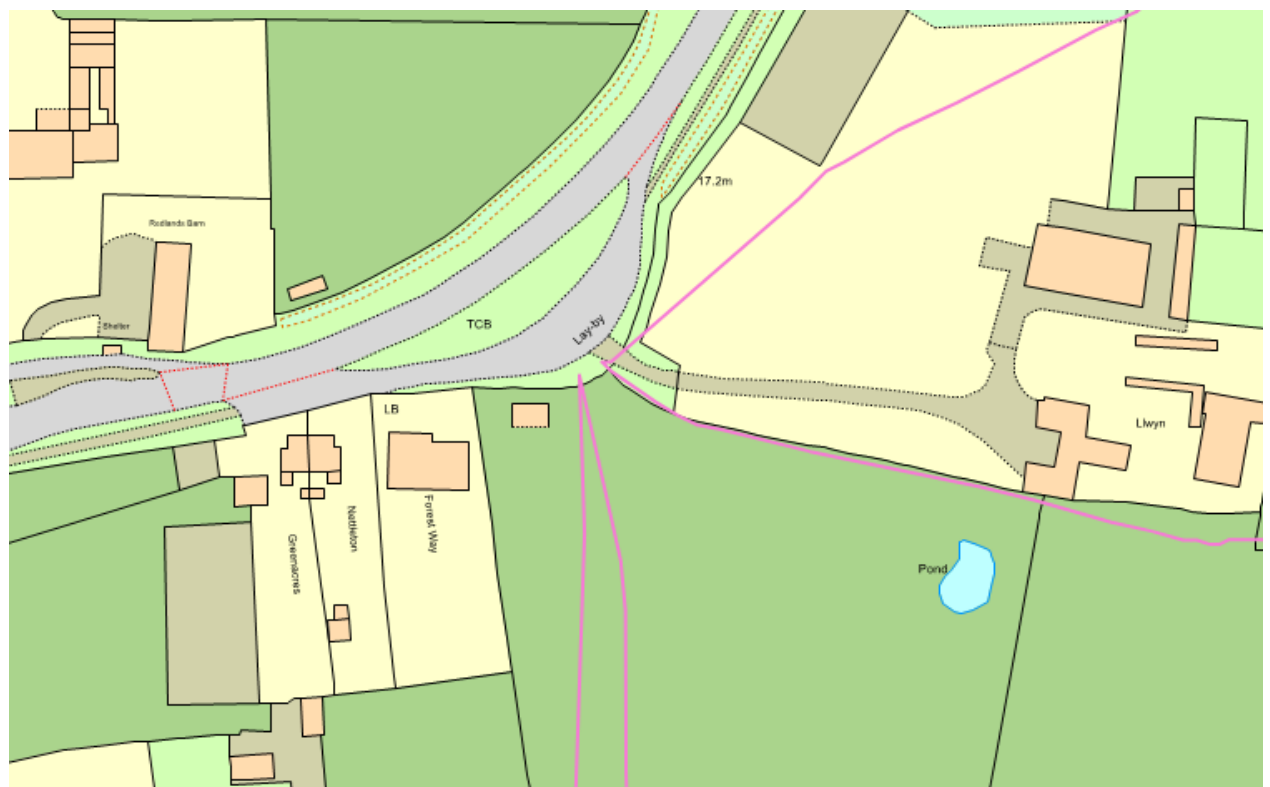


# Antisocial behaviour in Wild Goose Layby, Minsterworth, Gloucester

## Minsterworth Parish Council Request for provision of lighting

1. Over the past 6 months there have been increasing numbers of reports of antisocial behaviour in Wild Goose lay by, just east of the Apple Tree.
2. The most common incident is the use of gas canisters, which currently occurs 2 – 3 nights each week, leading to the need to regularly clear up the litter – gas canisters, balloons and discarded take away food waste.
3. In addition, the presence of people in cars late at night is intimidating for nursing staff leaving the Forest Way Care Home late at night when their shift ends.
4. On occasions there has also been property damage reported – malicious scratches to vehicles etc. – plus other activities reported in the attached emails
5. The four residents adjacent to the lay by have all been contacted. The properties are Copse House, Forest Way, Nettleton and Greenacres. Three have written emails confirming their concerns, and Nettleton has verbally requested action



6. At our request the police have visited the lay by several times at night and have moved on cars, but as it is not illegal to inhale gas, nor to drive immediately afterwards, and as litter is not a police matter, there is a limit to how much action the police can take.
7. One option would be to install lighting in the lay by, as it is likely that this would deter loitering in cars at night. If the Parish Council approves, we could make an approach to Highways for their advice.

## **EMAILS FROM RESIDENTS**

### **Resident One**

Good Morning Roger,

Thank you for taking time to visit me at Copse House Farm yesterday to discuss this ongoing situation.

Having given consideration to your comments I believe that this situation is escalating to a disturbing and disappointing conclusion.

I have sent you pictures of large amounts of rubbish including gas containers that have been discarded in the lay-by on an average of two occasions a week for the last three months. The debris is a disgrace and in my opinion dangerous.

The events usually occur between 22:00 and midnight however on one occasion 02:00 in the morning.

Vehicles usually more than one arrive and leave their headlights on disrupting the CCTV monitoring that I currently have in place. On occasions packages are exchanged. I have recordings of individuals urinating in the lay-by.

My concern is that eventually these individuals may choose to enter my property utilizing the public right of way. You are aware of the damage to my farm machinery that I have suffered in the past cost several thousand pounds.

Damage to tyres using the lay-by could be very dangerous and indeed expensive.

I believe the individuals responsible for these actions are aware of my CCTV equipment bearing in mind the signs displayed, and park outside the viewing area.

Further to your suggestion of lighting the area I believe low-level lighting will not be productive however, high-level lights illuminating the kerb side would be helpful. I note from our conversations that police have checked the lay-by on a random basis; I believe this may be a deterrent.

## Resident two

Hi Roger,

Thank you for coming by and speaking to us. There has been a number of concern's raised in regards to the layby, along the A40.

I am writing to express my concern and dissatisfaction taking into account my whole staff team and the vulnerable people we support 24 hrs a day, their health and safety , appertaining to the layby of which is in darkness and is deemed very dangerous. We have witnessed cars pulling into the layby off the main road and back up to the road, not taking into account anyone who is using the layby. I have had to move out of the way myself before. When evening staff finish their shift, they will walk one another out and use torches as it is pitch black out there. Once they are safely in their cars, the night staff return to the bungalow.

The layby is situated in a dip and due to having no street light , it invites people to carry out many different activities. It has been used for fly tipping , sexual activities where staff have seen people in compromising positions and alcohol & drug use.

Staff have also reported damage to their cars , flat tyres and scratches. Our tenants vehicle has a huge scratch across the whole body. On several occasions, there have been people knocking on the front door of the bungalow, in the middle of the night, staff were understandably left frightened. Some incidents have been reported to the police.

I strongly feel, that there is no justification to overlook this request for a street light to be erected , to prevent further activities taking place. This is a very serious issue to consider. I hope this can be resolved as a matter of urgency which will help to provide security not only for my staff team and the tenants, but also the neighbours who have had their own experiences.

I have attached a photo from yesterday morning – which shows the mess that has been left lying around yet again.

Many Thanks

## Resident Three

Hello Roger ,

We are concerned at the late night misuse of the lay-by by people in cars seemingly using it as a place to take drugs in the form of gas from little canisters which are then discarded in large numbers along with other litter . The problem with litter along this stretch of the A48 is bad enough and a problem in itself but it does seem to be greater in the lay-by . I've heard you are in conversation with others and that the idea of a street light has been suggested and I'd like to say we are in favour of this idea .

Roger , Further to yesterday's email , and having just watched the morning news , do you also think a camera would be useful to identify people who constantly litter the lay-by and the A48 . Even picking up a short stretch and maybe catching a few people would help to deter others from throwing litter from their cars . The news just highlighted other councils using particular technology that can spot littering and associated number plates leading to prosecution . We often pick large amounts of thrown away takeaway food containers , drink bottles and cans etc , as I'm sure lots of other residents do .

Thanks again ,