

Witham Friary Parish Council

Witham Water LLP

The Duke of Somerset's Estate has informed the Parish Council that it no longer wishes to run Witham Water LLP and that it wants to sell or lease it to someone else within the next 12 months. They are giving the Village first option to take it on and would like our ideas by the end of November.

Your Parish Council would prefer that the Estate management continue to run Witham Water LLP, but they will take some persuading. It would considerably improve the Council's bargaining position if those householders currently refusing to pay their bills would kindly settle their accounts. It would also help if those who are in a position to do so would install water meters. We are all on the same side in this situation and Witham Water management is being helpful and realistic. Your Council is working with them to achieve a long term solution.

A word of explanation. The quality of water supplied to the Village is generally good. Occasionally the weather causes some discolouration at the source spring, but that water is treated on the way down and made safe to drink before it reaches our taps. However, we are victims of a cumbersome system. When someone in the Village complains to Mendip Council about the colour of the water, the law dictates that the Council has to issue a "Boil your water" notice until they can check and confirm the water is drinkable. Because Mendip Council has a heavy workload, collecting samples inevitably takes a few days. Those samples then have to be

analysed, which takes further time. The results often prove that the water is and always was safe to drink. So when, ten days later Mendip Council issues an 'all clear' notice, in most cases the Estate has been blameless from the start. It is not a perfect system and Mendip Council, WF Parish Council and the Estate are working together to improve the timescale of this procedure.

NB. We would ask that anybody who has yet to respond to Mendip Council's request to provide them with a quick means of contact, e.g. email, text or telephone, does so as soon as possible.

In the meantime, the WFPC has appointed Council Member John Knowles as the first point of contact for all queries about the quality of the Village water supply. He can be contacted on 01749850630 and at <johnknowles1@btinternet.com>. We would ask that in future all queries are addressed to him initially.

We are very fortunate that our water supply is so fresh and pure. It comes straight from the spring to our taps, unlike town water that is likely to have been recycled several times. Your Parish Council aims to keep it that way and will be running an open meeting in due course for everyone to discuss the options. In the meantime, the continued good will and co-operation that we pride ourselves on in Witham Friary will help our cause enormously.

Witham Friary Parish Council
2019

5th November

