

Joint Statement on Behalf of

Charndon Parish Council, (PC), Charndon Community Association, (CCA), and Bloom Valley Ltd

On **08/03/2021** and **29/03/2021** there were two occasions where confrontations occurred with:

1. HS2 Contracting staff using the Bloom Valley facility, and
2. Security Contractors using Bloom Valley facility but parking at the playing field car park for an extended period of time without prior notice.

On both occasions contractors were challenged by the Chairman of the Parish Council, (PC), and witnessed by the staff of Bloom Valley, which made them uncomfortable. In the first instance the owner of Bloom Valley raised concerns that the staff did not feel safe due to the escalation of the exchange. Bloom Valley was given assurances from the chair and the PC that no further disruptions would occur. Following the second, similar, incident of 29th March Bloom Valley reiterated these concerns and the owner stated that he had no confidence in the chairman or his actions. The Parish Council held a meeting on 30th March at which a vote of confidence was passed in favour of the Chairman. Furthermore, protocols were put in place for approaching and handling concerns.

Going forward, the PC and CCA, require joint action to deal with any concerning behaviour. Despite measures and assurances from the PC, Bloom Valley staff still felt that they were not safe and the owner had no other option but to close the shop until he was satisfied that the staff's safety could be guaranteed. We are happy to say that all parties are still committed to finding a resolution and that we are working towards a satisfactory way forward for all involved.

Items raised via Social Media

1. Suspicious Behaviour
 - A vehicle parked at the playing field parking lot. There was found to be no risk to parishioners.
2. One to One Confrontation
 - This was a verbal exchange between HS2 contractors and PC Chairman. This was not connected in any way to Bloom Valley or their staff, however, took place near the kiosk, its staff and customers.
3. The decision to remove access to Bloom Valley
 - The Parish Council and the Community Association did not require Bloom Valley to stop trading, nor have they considered it, it was Bloom Valley's decision to stop trading.
4. What concerns did the Parish Council have with Bloom Valley?
 - The Parish Council has no concerns with Bloom Valley or their operation.
5. Was any attempt made to mitigate these concerns?
 - The Parish Council and the Community Association have met on a number of occasions to review the safety of the Bloom Valley shop staff, and protocols have been made to ensure safety of all user groups.
6. Which concerns introduced could not be addressed?
 - All concerns have been addressed
7. Why is this matter being addressed by the Parish Council and not the Community Association?
 - The Parish Council is the elected body and the owners of the playing field, they are taking the lead only both groups are working jointly on this as all other aspects of the improvements to the village both at Charndon Village and Old Calvert.

The Charndon Parish Council, Charndon Community Association, and Bloom Valley welcome feedback, suggestions, and comments from all parishioners in all parishes. We continue to look for ways to enhance community connections and strive to overcome any growing pains associated with new ventures, now and in the future, to the mutual benefit of all who live, work, and play in our community.

We kindly ask that social media sites associated with our district remain friendly and enjoyable pages to visit. Please be mindful that without possession of all the facts, conjecture and speculation can lead to damaging and/or potentially defamatory statements.

Thank you for your cooperation.