Monday 20 October 2025

Re: Update on Bolton House Road

Dear Resident,

I wanted to write to update you on the recent activity in relation to the waste site on Bolton House Road.

On Friday 17 October Wigan Council returned to Magistrates Court and, with support from our partners, have successfully applied for the closure order to be extended by the maximum period of a further three months. We also applied for a variation to the Order, to increase the area that the Closure will cover.

A closure order stops any unauthorised people from entering the site and a breach of the closure order is a criminal offence.

Looking at the wider and longer-term situation, the Environment Agency has an ongoing significant and complex criminal investigation into waste deposits at the site. It has visited the site, alongside the Council, Greater Manchester Police and United Utilities, and has started interviewing individuals under caution.

It has identified several sites, people and companies where the waste may have originated from or that may have been involved in the movement of the waste.

It continues to gather evidence and members of the public who have information about the waste deposited on the site are encouraged to report any information on its incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

As a partnership, we understand the impact this site is having on the local community and want it cleared as a matter of urgency. Unfortunately, the legal and financial landscape for clearing illegal waste sites is complex. The Environment Agency has sent out several formal notices to those parties with an interest in the land at Bolton House Road requiring the waste to be removed.

Partners including Wigan Council, the Environment Agency, Greater Manchester Police, United Utilities and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service continue to meet regularly as part of a multiagency recovery operation.

Thank you for your ongoing patience.

Kind regards,

Paul Barton
Wigan Council - Director of Environment