

Dear Town Council Clerk,

I am writing to raise urgent safeguarding and safety concerns regarding the open area on Stalls Meadow Wem, particularly the section by the pool and the train track. This space is currently being used by children as an informal pump track, and the situation has escalated to a point where immediate support and intervention are needed.

Although the Town Council does not own this land, we are requesting your assistance in helping to manage the issue, as it now affects not only children from the Wilmot Field Estate but also young people from across the town of Wem.

There are several serious risks that require attention:

- Children are using the T-junction along Blakes Meadow as a runway to gain speed before launching off makeshift ramps into the wooded area.
- The proximity to the pool presents a significant drowning risk, especially as children are playing unsupervised.
- The area near the train track raises additional safety concerns, which Network rail attended yesterday to cut branches back on the trees to stop children climbing and sitting on the fence a potential risk for children to access the trainline.
- In recent days, children have begun digging into the land, creating large holes and building ramps in the soil. This has made the ground unstable and hazardous.
- These activities have already resulted in four witnessed accidents over the past week.

It is also important to highlight that this site is protected under planning regulations due to the presence of **Great Crested Newts**, a legally protected species. The digging, soil disturbance, and creation of ramps pose a potential ecological risk and may breach environmental protections.

The matter has been reported to both the police and the property management company, but the risks continue to escalate. Residents are extremely concerned that without coordinated support, a serious injury is inevitable.

We are therefore asking for the Town Council's help in:

- Supporting efforts to manage and secure the area
- Advising on any safeguarding measures that can be put in place
- Coordinating with relevant agencies to prevent further accidents
- Helping to identify longer-term solutions to ensure the safety of children and road users
- Providing guidance on how to address the environmental protections relating to Great Crested Newts

We appreciate that the land is not under Town Council ownership, but given the scale of the issue, the environmental sensitivity of the site, and the risks involved, your support is essential.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

Resident at Blakes meadow