

CHARFIELD PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk & RFO: Mrs. Paula Evans
Tel: 07704 732267
Address: PO Box 1947, Bristol, BS37 0BU
Email: clerk@charfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.charfieldparishcouncil.org.uk

South Gloucestershire Council
Members, Planning and Biodiversity Officers

12th May 2020

Dear Sirs

Charfield Parish Council has become aware of an issue in another part of the country and wish to draw attention to it in South Gloucestershire in the presumption there may be examples here, now, or in the future. It refers to an unfortunate harmful impact to wildlife of a modern technique for laying turf lawns and would most likely occur on new developments during or shortly after construction.

Please read the follow text, which was shared with the Parish Council by the Chairman, who saw it in a social media posting.

---<starts>---

I recently noticed that a plastic mesh was starting to appear in the garden of my two-year old property. A little research later and it was clear that this has been used to hold the turf together. I don't know who the turf supplier was, but it looks very similar to Rolawn's Oxygrid product that is supposed to degrade over 2-5 years. Well this mesh is still as strong as anything and not going anywhere anytime soon.

I sliced my hand on some whilst removing it which made me realise how nasty this stuff is, especially as we have dogs and a little one on the way. So, I've removed as much as I can and have contacted my home builder to see what they will do about it.

Sadly, this morning I took photos of a starling in the garden that appeared to be in some distress. On closer inspection I could see that this exact same mesh had become wrapped around its head and beak, it probably got tangled in it whilst plucking for grubs in our garden or another garden with the same crappy turf product.

It makes me wonder how many birds and garden visitors are suffering because of this plastic mesh being used in garden turf? And from what I've read it's simply so they can cut the turf finer to save money 😞:(

It might be worth checking your own gardens to see if you also have this deadly product. This is in the UK I don't know if this is used in other countries as well.



----<ends>----

CHARFIELD PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk & RFO: Mrs. Paula Evans
Tel: 07704 732267
Address: PO Box 1947, Bristol, BS37 0BU
Email: clerk@charfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.charfieldparishcouncil.org.uk

In accordance with our Declaration of Ecological and Climate Emergency, Charfield Parish Council asks South Gloucestershire to investigate this turving technique with a view to banning it in any development applications, as well as providing advice against using it to developers and residents. Charfield Parish Council will oppose any development that seeks to make use of this turving technique.

Yours sincerely

PAULA J. EVANS (Mrs)
Clerk & Proper Officer
On behalf of Charfield Parish Council

DRAFT