

Cllr Brendan J McNamara  
Chair of Wentworth Parish  
Council  
Wentworth Parish Council  
The Mechanics Institute  
Main Street,  
Wentworth,  
Rotherham  
S62 7TL

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**FAO: CEO Sarah McLeod**

Wentworth Woodhouse  
Rotherham  
South Yorkshire  
S62 7TQ

**Subject: Formal Complaint Regarding Traffic Management at the Balloon Festival on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026.**

Dear Sarah,

As the Chair of Wentworth Parish Council, I am writing to formally complain about the severe traffic issues caused by the Balloon Festival Event held on the 6th June 2026 between 12.00pm and 10.30pm, at Wentworth Woodhouse.

While I understand the importance of hosting public events in the area, the traffic management plan implemented was highly inadequate and caused significant disruption to the Dailey life not only to the residents of Wentworth, but also the residents of Harly including local businesses.

Specifically, the traffic congestion resulted in:

Event attendees resorted to parking illegally, obstructive access to residents' driveways, obstructive carriageways, parking on double yellow lines within the village of Wentworth which also including grass verges, all causing major gridlock within both villages.

Lack of regulation: There was an absence of traffic marshals or clear signage at critical points, specifically around access to the event and leaving from the main gate onto Cortworth Lane at Wentworth.

Safety concerns: Emergency vehicles if access was required within the villages, was also compromised, by inconsiderate event attendees. Several vehicles that were parked illegally could have caused major access issues for Emergency vehicles trying to pass through in case of a serious incident both at the event and also within the villages.

Due to these unmanaged crowds and spillover from traffic, it was a total catastrophe.

As the Chair of Wentworth Parish Council, I want you to ensure that ALL future events do not negatively impact local residents in this manner.

To ensure that ALL future events do not negatively affect the surrounding community, I request that you as the organisers take the following actions:

1. Have a contingency plan in place in case there are issues with traffic management company.
2. Review and improve ALL future Traffic Management Plans before any future events take place.
3. Ensure adequate stewards and signage are placed.
4. Ensure proper resident access and egress including emergency services is going to be maintained during the entire event.
5. Implement better on-site marshalling and clearer signage.
6. Provide a response detailing how these traffic issues will be mitigated moving forward

As for the Authority Advisory Group, who actually attends, as the Parish Council are not invited.

In future, prior to major events taking place like this one, I thought that it would be more than sensible to involve the Parish Council in traffic decisions.

I look forward to your prompt response outlining how you plan to resolve this matter for ALL future event within 14 days.

With respect and regards.

Cllr *Brendan J McNamara* CMIOSH MIIRSM

Chair of Wentworth Parish Council

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