

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There does not appear to be any publicly available official record from the [coroner's inquest](#) itself, so details contained in the [Express](#) Newspaper have been used to produce the below timeline. The details from the Express are in *italic font* as they cannot be verified, the details provided by Housing Options or YMCA are in **bold font**.

March 2021

- *The Winters could no longer pay the rent on their home in Oak Street, Burton so they left most of their belongings behind and moved in with Mr Winter's family.*

June 2021

- **1st – Rough Sleeper Sweep conducted by the Outreach Team.**
- *1st - Family disagreements lead to the Winters moving out. They then started living in a tent in and around Burton upon Trent, relying on food banks to eat.*
- **15th – Rough Sleeper Sweep conducted by the Outreach Team.**
- *20th - The Winters try to return to living with Mr Winter's family, but are not allowed back.*
- **22nd – Response to report of possible rough sleepers in Branston (email and outcome attached).**
- *24th - Everything comes to a head when struggling to sleep, and Mr Winter says his wife "exploded", telling him she had had enough of their living arrangements. Mrs Winter then walked off carrying two bags.*
- **29th – Rough Sleeper Sweep conducted by the Outreach Team.**
- *29th - Mr Winter found his wife dead in a wooded copse near a children's playground at The Washlands area.*

July 2021

- *2nd – Mr Winter walked to Burton Police Station to report his wife's death. Mr Winter was arrested on suspicion of murder, but later cleared of any wrongdoing.*
- **5th – Call from the Police to source temporary accommodation on Mr Winter's release from custody. There had been no prior contact to the Housing Options Team either from or about the Winters. Accommodation was provided and Mr Winter was successfully moved on in short order.**

Possible Concerns Identified

The couple were not found on the 'sweeps' conducted by the Rough Sleeper Outreach Team.

- The sweep attends hotspots and areas where they have been recent reports (as indicated by the response to a sighting in the email dated 22nd June). It is possible that people who are well concealed, or are making an effort not to be found will not be located. Mr Winter is reported as stating that the couple moved their tent periodically, 'in and around' Burton which would make them more difficult to locate. It should be noted that the location where Mrs Winter was found has not been identified as an area where they camped, either once or at all.

Mr Winter said the couple relied on food banks.

- The YMCA record the names of people using the food bank and requests ID where possible in order to monitor usage and offer assistance where necessary. There is no record of the Winters. There are of course a number of [alternative 'food bank' type establishments](#) in Burton which the Winters may have been utilising.

Mr Winter is reported as stating that the couple had often been asked to leave the areas they were camping.

- This statement is difficult to understand. The Police do not move people on in general, they would call Housing Options including the Out of Hours Service. Individual land owners may ask someone occupying their land to depart, but this would certainly not be commonplace.
- The Open Spaces Team do not systematically record contact with rough sleepers / sightings to tents, but there is a strong collaboration with Housing Options and a long established practice of reporting such contacts appropriately to secure assistance for the individuals affected. This collaboration applied in the same way to Civil Enforcement who report into the Housing Options Team as necessary.

From: REDACTED
Sent: 02 March 2022 13:05
To: REDACTED
Subject: FW: Homeless in Branston

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Hi REDACTED

As discussed re outreach June 2021.

REDACTED

Address: Northside House, Northside Business Park, Hawkins Lane, Burton, Staffordshire DE14 1DB



YMCA BURTON UPON TRENT AND DISTRICT



Charity number: 1077798

Company registration number: 3646202

Registered address: YMCA Burton, Northside House, Northside Business Park, Hawkins Lane, Burton, Staffordshire, DE14 1DB

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From: REDACTED
Sent: 02 March 2022 12:24
To: REDACTED
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: FW: Homeless in Branston

Hi REDCATED

Please see email below.

Many thanks

REDACTED

Address: Reconnect, James Street, Burton on Trent. DE14 1EP



YMCA BURTON UPON TRENT AND DISTRICT



Charity number: 1077798

Company registration number: 3646202

Registered address: YMCA Burton, Northside House, Northside Business Park, Hawkins Lane, Burton, Staffordshire, DE14 1DB

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From: REDACTED
Sent: 22 June 2021 11:02
To: REDACTED
Subject: RE: Homeless in Branston

Hi All

Myself and REDACTED have been out on the outreach and have found no one, there was no signs of anyone sleeping rough or looked like anyone had been sleeping there, I will add it to our outreach route for the next month to see if anyone returns..

Many thanks

REDACTED

Address: Reconnect, James Street, Burton on Trent. DE14 1EP



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From: REDACTED
Sent: 22 June 2021 09:45
To: REDACTED
Subject: FW: Homeless in Branston

Good Morning

Would you be able to investigate this for us please?

Kind regards

REDACTED

From: REDACTED

Sent: 21 June 2021 18:31

To: Housing Options <HousingOptions@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk>

Subject: Homeless in Branston

Good afternoon

I have had a report from Branston Parish Council that residents believe that 2 homeless people are using the underpass under the A38 at the end of Court Farm Lane.

I would be grateful if you would investigate this

Best wishes

REDACTED