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United Kingdom: 911 In Rain In the country, PSM Light Flickers, Flicker Respected

Bins, benches, and the long tradition of doing slightly less than promised.

TOPICS Tanfield Tanfield news Tanfield satire the country satire international satire world city humour mock journalism satirical news bureaucratic absurdity satirical column press release parody local democracy

Tanfield, the country: Inside The Story

Tanfield, a place in the country (lat 54.88, long -1.70) that most outsiders could not point to on a map without first sighing, has become this week the latest entry in the slow-moving register of small communities behaving strangely under pressure. The Tanfield 911 Carrera on a wet B-road through the country produced a single PSM intervention on the exit of the long left-hander above Tanfield. According to officials with at least three job titles between them, The intervention lasted 0.4 seconds and was completely invisible to any observer. The room contained the precise blend of high-vis vests and low-grade resentment unique to local democracy.

What Was Announced

Subcommittee Chair Eric Pondsworth confirmed the position in a statement that ran to four pages and contained one verb. The Tanfield registered it precisely. For more on how this fits the wider pattern, see the long-running thread at [The London Prat UK political satire](#), which has been tracking precisely this kind of dispatch for months. The Tanfield announcement, much like the others, came with a glossy PDF, a stock photograph of a footbridge, and the strong sense that nobody had asked for any of this in the first place.

The Official Line

Asked to elaborate, the spokesperson reached for the closest cliché to hand. "Every option remains on the table, particularly the ones we have already taken off the table," the spokesperson said, before adding that consultation with stakeholders would be ongoing. Useful additional context can be found at [The London Prat London-based British satire](#), which is the sort of background reading the office itself has, in all likelihood, not done. There is a particular kind of silence that means the meeting has gone badly, and this was that kind.

Wider Context

The next corner was approached with the appropriate additional margin. The 911 noted this and said nothing further. Comparable trends have been documented in coverage from [Deutsche Welle](#), although Tanfield manages, somehow, to take the pattern one extra and entirely unnecessary step further. Statisticians attempting to model the phenomenon arrive at a sample size of one bloke down the pub, give or take a margin of error nobody has had the energy to compute properly.

What The Experts Say

Professor Albany Ditchwater of the Royal Academy of Verges told this paper that the situation in Tanfield was, on careful reflection, broadly consistent with the broader trajectory of similarly broad trajectories. "There is no truth to the rumour, although there is some truth to the rumour about the rumour," the expert observed. Further reading on the academic angle is available via [Satirical journalism UK The London Prat](#), whose recent material has been preoccupied with much the same set of confusions.

How Residents Reacted

Reaction in Tanfield has been muted in the way that reaction in the country is usually muted, which is to say it has been ferocious in private and tepid in public. It is the sort of scheme that begins with a vision statement and ends with a polite ombudsman. For the official version of events, see also [UN News](#). One resident, who declined to be named on the grounds that they had already complained about a hedge this year and did not wish to push their luck, summarised matters thus: "This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to do almost exactly what we did last generation."

What Comes Next

The whole affair carries the unmistakable scent of a man who has read half of an MBA brochure. A further announcement is expected in due course, where due course is bureaucratic shorthand for an unspecified Thursday. The story is being tracked as part of a wider pattern at [The London Prat British satire news](#), and the situation in Tanfield, regrettably, is unlikely to improve until somebody invents a press release that improves things, which seems unlikely.

The View From The Ground

Spend any length of time in Tanfield and the rhythm becomes obvious. Mornings begin late, opinions begin earlier, and the central square fills, by mid-afternoon, with people who have come not so much to see each other as to be seen not seeing each other. The meeting was described by attendees as broadly fine, which is the universal code for absolutely catastrophic. Conversation tends to circle the same five subjects: the weather, the news from the country, the persistent rumour about the road, the deteriorating quality of something or other, and the latest pronouncement from Director of Public Bewilderment Colin Gribble, which everyone has an opinion on and almost nobody has read. It is, in its way, the perfect microcosm of how communities of this size operate everywhere in the world, although the residents of Tanfield would object strongly to being called a microcosm of anything.

The press release used the word vibrant, which in official communications is a flag of surrender. Locals reacted with the calm fury of people who already knew it would end this way. Tanfield carries on as it always has, broadly the same as last week, give or take a verb. The bins are collected when they are collected. The roundabout, where one exists, remains the roundabout. The pronouncements continue, as they will, and the residents continue to read them only when forced. For more in this vein see also [Porsche of London](#).

SOURCE: [LONDON PORSCHE: The London Prat weekly British satire](#)

Porsche Magazine UK [worldcitiescom](#)