

# Amenity issues briefing - October 2024

## Introduction

The Environment Agency and Warwick District Council (WDC) have been working in partnership to investigate reports of flies and odour in the Heathcote and Whitnash area. We have been providing joint monthly briefings to keep residents informed. This process will be changing going forward, please see further details within our communication section below.

## Environment Agency update

In our July briefing we referenced a site inspection conducted at Plasgran Limited (PL) on 25 July 2024. We identified no permit breaches on this occasion.

We have continued to conduct site inspections at permitted sites and assess off-site odour in the area throughout August and September, to ensure compliance with environmental permits, and that appropriate measures are being taken to control odour and flies. We did not identify any odour pollution linked to a permitted site and no permit breaches were identified.

## Meeting with residents

On 26 September 2024 the Environment Agency and WDC met with representatives from the RAPID (Residents Against Pollution and Industrial Damage) group and the local MP, Matt Western. It was an opportunity for the RAPID representatives to explain the impacts they were experiencing from odours and flies and for officers from the Environment Agency and WDC to explain the work they had undertaken to try and resolve the issues being reported and their findings.

The input from representatives that attended was both informative and useful, as the Environment Agency continues to regulate the permitted sites, ensuring that operators are taking the necessary measures to control odours and flies.

## Reports received

We have seen a decrease in the number of flies, odour and noise reports we have received throughout August, September and October.

We continue to investigate reports we receive.

## Incident reporting

We recognise odour and fly issues are a notoriously difficult issue to quantify and address on regulated sites, so we urge residents to please continue reporting any odour and fly issues being experienced, providing as much detail as possible. For example, the approximate number of flies that are impacting you, any photographs, description of the odour and why you believe it is coming from a regulated site.

You can report any fly issues, odour, or noise linked to Environment Agency permitted sites to the 24-hour Environment Agency incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60. We encourage you to report any issues as soon as practically possible.

## Fly monitoring

We have conducted fly monitoring at one resident's home since 29 July 2024, this has now stopped due to low fly activity. The purpose of the monitoring was to help us gather data on the species and fly activity in the local area.

We provided data collected from the residential monitoring to an independent entomologist, which was reviewed alongside fly monitoring data provided by PL. In addition, we also asked the entomologist to review photographs of flies in external fly traps that have been sent to us by residents. The entomologist concluded that:

- During the monitoring period of 29 July to 10 September 2024, no significant flying insect activity has occurred indoors at the domestic property or at the Plasgran waste handling facility. Very low fly counts had been recorded.
- Photographs provided showed greenbottles and cluster flies both of which occur naturally in gardens. The photographs showed a lack of housefly dispersal from any site.

## Warwick District Council update

### Reports received

Warwick District Council (WDC) has continued to receive and investigate reports of flies, odour and noise. The number of reports decreased during September and continues to be low into October.

### WDC visits

12 visits were carried out during August and September - this included both reactive and proactive visits, concentrated around Tachbrook Road, Montgomery Road and the surrounding areas.

Where any issues were identified these were found to be below the threshold to trigger any statutory action by the council under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Feedback has been provided to the Environment Agency to assist with its investigation and monitoring of permit compliance.

### Incident reporting

WDC are currently assisting residents and the Environment Agency by providing a reactive witnessing response service. If the problem is happening now, and it is during WDCs normal working hours (Monday-Friday 09:00-16:30hrs), please call us on 01926 456741. If an officer is available a visit will be carried out. We will need to visit you either at your home or your workplace and witness the issue and how it is impacting you. Reports can then be sent to the Environment Agency for its further consideration, if considered to be potentially linked to a permitted site.

You are also advised to keep a [nuisance diary](#) and return any completed logs to the Council every few weeks. The diary will be reviewed and compared with the logs from other residents, taking into consideration where residents live, wind direction, duration, and time of occurrence. If a pattern can be established this will be considered further and shared with the Environment Agency, if considered to be linked to an Environment Agency permitted site.

## Communication

We will no longer be providing joint monthly briefings. Information on where you can find updates from the Environment Agency and WDC is below.

### Environment Agency

You can find information about the action taken by the Environment Agency here <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/leamington-spa-fly-issues/>

We will next update this online page in December 2024.

We will also be adding some frequently asked questions (FAQs) to this online page shortly.

### WDC

The latest updates and information from WDC can currently be found here [https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20467/pests\\_and\\_nuisance](https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20467/pests_and_nuisance)

We will soon be publishing a dedicated area on our website. This will include a number of FAQs where residents can check whether there is already an answer to a question. Once this is available a link will be provided on the above webpage.