

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select

4 March 2020

David Fisher – Air Pollution – Royal Wootton Bassett

To – Chairman of Environment Select Committee

I request that your Committee does all in its power, on behalf of its residents living in the vicinity of Crapper & Sons Landfill Site Park Grounds, Brinkworth Rd, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 8DW, to ensure that actions are taken to eliminate the gas odours emanating from the Landfill site.

I have previously spoken with the Council's Environmental Health Officers, who advised me that the site is regulated by the EA and that residents should address their concerns directly to the EA and to Landfill company. We are doing this, and I am pleased to say that our plight is now being covered by the media and James Gray. However, I also believe that the Council has a duty of care to its residents to ensure that the EA and Crapper & Sons take all necessary, and timely, actions to resolve the situation.

I have received an email from the EA confirming that the smell is due to hydrogen sulphide gas emanating from the site, which has a similar odour to mercaptan gas purposely added to natural gas supplies so that householders can smell gas leaks. Hopefully this gives the Committee an idea of the conditions being suffered by the residents. Can you imagine having a smell of a gas leak both inside and outside of your home such that you can't open a window to let the smell out as it will just let more in?

There is also the possible risk that a real gas leak may go unreported if residents believe it to be odours from the site with devastating consequences.

I am concerned that the EA and the Landfill company are only concentrating on corrective actions to stop the gas emanating from the current cell which is now full and ready to be capped, however, they were unable to provide any assurance that we will not experience the same situation when the waste in the new cell begins to decompose in 6 months' time.

I request that your Committee add this as an ongoing agenda item for future Committee meetings until you have tangible evidence from the EA and the Landfill company that the situation is resolved, and actions are in place to prevent its recurrence.

Yours Sincerely

David Fisher