

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

24 FEBRUARY 2015

ITEM 6 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR J GEARY TO COUNCILLOR A V SMITH MBE

Anaerobic Digested Material Lagoons at Piper Lane Ravenstone.

Three anaerobic material lagoons have been constructed on land belonging to Hall Farm at Piper Lane Ravenstone. These lagoons take waste from anaerobic treatment plants and other liquid organic waste which is then stored in the open lagoons until required for agricultural use. The County Council, as the Waste Disposal Authority have deemed that the lagoons are Agricultural Permitted Development and do not require Planning Permission. The Environment Agency has granted temporary waste storage licences for the site.

The lagoons now radiate strong smells and odours resulting in many complaints from residents in the current Snibston, Hugglescote, Ravenstone/Packington and Valley Wards.

As an affected resident, I ask what is this Council doing to insist that the owner of these lagoons takes steps to mitigate and eradicate the smell under its Environmental Health Controls.

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR A V SMITH MBE

The Council is aware of the construction of the Ravenstone lagoons and following complaints of odour nuisance has been in regular liaison with the Environment Agency (EA).

The EA have agreed a permit for the land spreading of specified waste for agricultural benefit for specific fields in the local area. The permit allows for the import of specified waste and temporary storage of this waste in the lagoons prior to spreading at the appropriate times. This permit lasts for a year and expires on 10 September 2015.

The permit holder who undertakes the spreading of the waste has a generic odour management plan which mainly relates to minimising odours produced at the time of spreading.

However, as the storage of waste in the lagoons has started to prompt reports of odours in the local area, they have been asked by the EA to produce a site specific odour management plan.

The EA are the primary Authority for the site and as such all complaints are being reported to or re-directed by NWLDC to the EA and there is an incident hotline number for such complaints which is 0800 807060.

The District Council however does have powers under statutory nuisance and is currently logging all complaints received, compiling evidential reports and liaising with complainants to assess the extent of the problems. The District Council cannot exercise its power in relation to statutory nuisance without the approval of the Secretary of State and has previously requested a joint meeting with Leicestershire County Council and the Environment Agency to ensure a considered and joined up approach to any proposed action on this matter. Once that meeting has taken place I would be happy to update Councillor Geary.