# Flies swarm Leamington Spa homes as recycling plant sparks public health alarm



Residents of Leamington Spa are enduring what can only be described as a summertime nightmare, besieged by swarms of flies that have turned their homes into makeshift prisons. The Heathcote area in particular has become synonymous with this distressing situation, where mothers are compelled to drape fly nets over cots to protect their vulnerable infants and residents have resorted to extreme measures like sealing off their windows and doors to fend off the incessant unruly invaders.

Homeowners have reported that the infestation, which began approximately three years ago, has escalated to intolerable levels. Many now find themselves trapped indoors, battling the swarms that invade their gardens, kitchens, and even their mouths. The most alarming accounts suggest that infants in their cots are not just finding themselves covered in flies but are actually at risk of choking if the conditions remain unaddressed. The local MP, Matt Western, has articulated these concerns in Parliament, labelling the ongoing crisis a "public health risk" affecting around 10,000 residents.

Local families have expressed their dismay at the impact on their daily lives. “It’s been really nightmarish,” said Richard Manly, a local welder, describing the distressing scene as children and adults alike choke as flies swarm their food. It’s not just a matter of annoyance; reports indicate that businesses in the area, including pubs and restaurants, are also suffering from the fallout, with some patrons abandoning their meals due to the unpleasant presence of the flies.

The epicentre of this crisis appears to be linked to a nearby recycling plant owned by Berry Circular Polymers, a facility that has come under scrutiny. Many residents believe that the operations at this site, which some allege involve the handling of dirty plastic waste, are attracting the flies and generating accompanying foul odours, described variably as resembling rotten food or even raw sewage. Although Berry Circular Polymers claims to adhere to environmental regulations and denies a causal link between its operations and the plague of flies, the local community remains sceptical.

The Environment Agency has conducted several inspections of the facility but, as recently revealed, has not identified any major breaches of compliance. However, the situation remains fluid, with residents expressing frustration over what they see as a lack of decisive action. Some even view the inspections as merely a formality rather than a genuine attempt to address the pressing issues.

In light of their plight, local community group RAPID has launched a fundraising campaign aimed at supporting affected residents. The funds are intended to facilitate awareness campaigns and potentially legal action against the recycling plant, illustrating the depths of frustration and desperation among those impacted.

Public meetings have served as platforms for residents to express their outrage, and Western has made it clear that the urgency of this situation should not be overlooked. He described in Parliament the distress caused by not being able to prepare food in a clean environment without the fear of swarming flies and the ever-present foul odour that accompanies them.

Set against the backdrop of a once-idyllic Regency town, this summer's invasion of flies in Leamington Spa serves as a stark reminder of how quickly circumstances can deteriorate and how the intersection of industry and daily life can catalyse widespread public health concerns. While local authorities and environmental regulators continue to grapple with the issue, residents are left with little recourse but to hope for a resolution that would return their homes and lives to some semblance of normality.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14775145/posh-town-invaded-flies-scared-babies-choke-death.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-66799637)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14775145/posh-town-invaded-flies-scared-babies-choke-death.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.warwickshireworld.com/news/environment/fundraising-campaign-set-up-to-help-leamington-residents-who-are-still-suffering-from-rancid-smells-and-swarms-of-flies-5081966), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-66068313)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce7rpewyn47o), [[6]](https://leamingtonobserver.co.uk/news/mp-matt-western-takes-residents-fly-concerns-to-parliament/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.warwickshireworld.com/news/environment/fundraising-campaign-set-up-to-help-leamington-residents-who-are-still-suffering-from-rancid-smells-and-swarms-of-flies-5081966), [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce7rpewyn47o), [[7]](https://www.warwickshireworld.com/news/people/environment-agency-investigating-fly-infestation-in-heathcote-after-complaints-from-residents-and-businesses-4274904)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://leamingtonobserver.co.uk/news/mp-matt-western-takes-residents-fly-concerns-to-parliament/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14775145/posh-town-invaded-flies-scared-babies-choke-death.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.warwickshireworld.com/news/environment/fundraising-campaign-set-up-to-help-leamington-residents-who-are-still-suffering-from-rancid-smells-and-swarms-of-flies-5081966> - Residents in Leamington Spa and Whitnash have been plagued by swarms of flies and foul odours for over two years. A local community group, RAPID, has initiated a fundraising campaign to support affected residents. The funds aim to cover materials for awareness campaigns and potential legal action. Many residents attribute the issues to a nearby recycling plant, Berry Circular Polymers, which denies causing the problems and asserts compliance with regulations. The Environment Agency has conducted inspections but found no significant breaches. Residents continue to face challenges, with some considering moving due to the persistent issues.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce7rpewyn47o> - Residents in parts of Warwickshire, particularly Leamington Spa, have reported persistent 'rancid' odours and fly infestations since June 2023. Descriptions of the smell range from 'rotting bin' to 'decaying things'. A local plastic recycling firm, Berry Circular Polymers, claims to operate in compliance with regulators, and the Environment Agency has found no significant odour incidents. Warwick District Council has conducted numerous visits but has yet to confirm a statutory nuisance from the site. Residents express frustration over the lack of progress in addressing the issues.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-66799637> - An influx of flies in parts of Warwickshire, including Heathcote, Whitnash, and the Warwick Gates estate, has been discussed at a public meeting. Residents and business owners reported problems with swarms of flies since June. Local resident Nick Scriven described the situation as 'almost like living in a prison' due to the need to keep all doors and windows closed. The Environment Agency stated it takes the issue 'very seriously', and the owner of a nearby plastic recycler, Berry Circular Polymers, expressed willingness to address any contributions to the problem.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-66068313> - Residents in parts of Warwick, particularly on Tachbrook Road in Heathcote, have reported swarms of flies infesting their homes for the past six to eight weeks. One resident noted about 30 flies in each room, regardless of cleanliness. Warwick District Council is investigating the issue, with an officer assigned to visit the affected area. Residents have resorted to keeping doors and windows closed and using nets to prevent flies from entering their homes.
6. <https://leamingtonobserver.co.uk/news/mp-matt-western-takes-residents-fly-concerns-to-parliament/> - Warwick and Leamington MP Matt Western has raised residents' concerns about a fly infestation in South Leamington and Whitnash in Parliament. He questioned the Minister for Rural Affairs on the issue, seeking a meeting with the Environment Agency to resolve the problem. Hundreds of residents have been affected, reporting difficulties such as flies landing on food and children being unable to sleep due to the number of flies in their rooms.
7. <https://www.warwickshireworld.com/news/people/environment-agency-investigating-fly-infestation-in-heathcote-after-complaints-from-residents-and-businesses-4274904> - The Environment Agency is investigating swarms of flies in the Heathcote area of Leamington Spa following complaints from residents and businesses. Warwick and Leamington MP Matt Western has been involved, visiting local pubs to understand the impact on businesses and hearing from residents about the severity of the situation. The Environment Agency has conducted inspections but found no significant evidence linking the fly infestation to activities at a nearby waste recycling facility.