# Fly infestation in Leamington Spa escalates as residents demand urgent action against recycling plant



Residents of Leamington Spa, particularly those in the Heathcote and Whitnash areas, have become increasingly exasperated amid a persistent invasion of flies, which many describe as a living nightmare. The summer months have transformed their homes into battlegrounds against swarming insects, resulting in a situation locals assert makes life intolerable. Reports suggest that the infestations, which are significant enough to thwart outdoor activities and have driven some families to relocate, stem from a nearby recycling plant operated by Berry Circular Polymers.

Homeowners have shared distressing accounts of their daily struggles. Parents report draping fly nets over cots to protect their infants from bites and potential choking incidents, as flies invade homes at alarming rates. This situation has left many residents feeling trapped; they resort to using fly strips and zappers, but the overwhelming presence of these insects often renders their efforts futile.

Foster mother Maureen Kerr, who has lived in the area for three years, noted how the issue began shortly after the recycling facility opened. “We started off with fly spray not realising why we had so many,” she recalled, illustrating the panic that has taken hold. Like many in the area, her attempts to manage the influx of flies have led to mounting frustration, supported by troubling reports of residents falling ill from the swarm's sheer numbers.

The issue has not gone unnoticed at the governmental level. MP for Warwick and Leamington, Matt Western, has brought the matter to Parliament, labelling it a public health risk. He highlighted the mental and physical toll these conditions have had on his constituents, stating, “Imagine being in your own home and unable to eat with your family, unable to sleep… This is ruining people's lives.” With an estimated 10,000 residents affected, the urgency of the situation has received a spotlight, yet solutions remain elusive.

Despite ongoing investigations by the Environment Agency and Warwick District Council, residents have expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of substantive action. Reports indicate that while inspections have taken place, no conclusive evidence links the recycling plant to the fly problem or the accompanying foul odours that have been likened to "rotting bins," as described by local shopkeepers and diners. The Environment Agency’s inspections have revealed minor breaches at the site but have not definitively addressed the residents' health concerns.

Retired cleaning company owner Robert Horely echoed the sentiments of many when he stated, “It’s not pleasant, and it’s a health and safety issue. The council and environment agency keep playing ping pong.” In this cycle of accountability, residents feel caught in an unending quest for resolution, exacerbated by a palpable sense of frustration at local authorities’ perceived inaction.

As community efforts foment in response to the distressing circumstances, a group known as RAPID (Residents Against Pollution & Industrial Damage) has initiated a fundraising campaign to explore potential legal avenues regarding the situation. While the recycling plant maintains compliance with regulations, the ongoing disputes underline a critical gap between official oversight and local reality, emphasising the need for more rigorous and transparent management practices.

Ultimately, the plight of Leamington Spa’s residents serves as a stark reminder of the complexity of urban environmental issues. Until a more effective resolution can be found, families will continue to confront discomfort and health risks, highlighting the urgent need for a collaborative approach involving both local governance and effective regulation to protect community well-being.

### 📌 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), [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce7rpewyn47o)
* 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.bbc.com/news/articles/ce7rpewyn47o), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-66799637)
* Paragraph 3 – [[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), [[6]](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/leamington-spa-fly-issues/consult_view/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[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), [[3]](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), [[4]](https://www.warwickshireworld.com/news/people/environment-agency-investigating-fly-infestation-in-heathcote-after-complaints-from-residents-and-businesses-4274904)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-66799637), [[6]](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/leamington-spa-fly-issues/consult_view/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[3]](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), [[4]](https://www.warwickshireworld.com/news/people/environment-agency-investigating-fly-infestation-in-heathcote-after-complaints-from-residents-and-businesses-4274904), [[7]](https://warwick.nub.news/news/local-news/mp-matt-western-demands-environment-agency-intervention-over-worsening-fly-and-odour-crisis-in-heathcote-and-surrounding-areas-2-258842)
* Paragraph 7 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce7rpewyn47o), [[3]](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)
* Paragraph 8 – [[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), [[6]](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/leamington-spa-fly-issues/consult_view/)

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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.bbc.com/news/articles/ce7rpewyn47o> - Residents in Leamington Spa have reported ongoing issues with 'rancid' odours and fly infestations, particularly in the Heathcote and Whitnash areas. Despite investigations by the Environment Agency and Warwick District Council, no significant odour incidents have been substantiated. Local businesses and residents continue to express concerns, with some describing the smell as 'rotting bin' odour, 'but times a hundred'. The Environment Agency has increased its regulation, providing advice and requesting measures be taken by the operators to reduce the number of flies present, with the potential to impact local residents.
3. <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> - A fundraising campaign has been initiated to support Leamington Spa and Whitnash residents affected by persistent fly infestations and foul odours. The community group RAPID (Residents Against Pollution & Industrial Damage) aims to raise funds for materials and potential legal action. Many residents attribute the issues to Berry Circular Polymers, a nearby recycling plant, which denies the claims and states it operates in compliance with regulators. The Environment Agency has found no significant odour incidents during previous visits.
4. <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 reports of fly infestations in Leamington Spa's Heathcote area following complaints from residents and businesses. Warwick and Leamington MP Matt Western has been involved, expressing concerns over the impact on local establishments and residents. The Environment Agency has conducted inspections of nearby waste recycling facilities but has not found sufficient evidence to link the fly problem directly to these sites. They continue to monitor the situation and encourage residents to report any issues.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-66799637> - Residents and business owners in parts of Warwickshire, including Heathcote, Whitnash, and the Warwick Gates estate, have reported swarms of flies causing significant problems since June. Local MP Matt Western has been actively involved, visiting local pubs and hearing about the impact on businesses and residents. The Environment Agency has responded to these concerns, stating they are taking the issue 'very seriously' and are working to identify the source of the problem.
6. <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/leamington-spa-fly-issues/consult_view/> - The Environment Agency has been working with Warwick District Council to investigate fly infestations in Leamington Spa. They have conducted inspections of permitted sites in the area, including Plasgran Limited (also known as Berry Circular Polymers) and Fortress Recycling and Resource Management Limited. While flies were observed on-site, there was insufficient evidence to suggest a direct link to the local fly population. The Environment Agency continues to monitor the situation and encourages residents to report any concerns.
7. <https://warwick.nub.news/news/local-news/mp-matt-western-demands-environment-agency-intervention-over-worsening-fly-and-odour-crisis-in-heathcote-and-surrounding-areas-2-258842> - MP Matt Western has written to the Environment Agency demanding intervention over the worsening fly and odour issues in Heathcote and surrounding areas. Residents have reported an increase in flies and odours since Spring 2023, with many believing the problem originates from a site regulated by the Environment Agency. Mr. Western has held public meetings and raised the issue in Parliament, expressing frustration over the lack of action and the impact on residents' daily lives.