

ITEM 9

DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 17 NOVEMBER 2010

1. Question from Karen Hillier to Councillor Poulter

Has the Council been aware, and if so for how long, of the unpleasant odours arising from the drains in the Nightingale Road area, which could be due to incompatible waste product disposal, and causing public health concerns amongst the community?

Reply by Councillor Poulter, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

The Council is aware of problems that have arisen in the past from the sewers in the Nightingale Road area.

In late 2007/early 2008, the council's environmental health team was contacted by the Osmaston Neighbourhood Manager following concerns raised at their forum meeting about odours. An investigation was undertaken and contact was made with Severn Trent Water (STW). This led to a number of actions being carried out. Improvements were made to certain inspection chamber covers in the area and a periodic programme of sewer cleansing was implemented. In addition to this, STW were also asked to check a local food manufacturers 'discharge consent' to ensure this was being adhered to.

The periodic sewer cleansing work has continued and has appeared to work well as no further complaints were received by the environmental health team.

Just recently however, more complaints have been received. In early July, one of our highways inspectors from Streetpride met with local residents and identified a problem with a number of road gullies in Tennyson Street and Mowbray Street leaking smells from the sewer. These have been replaced. In October, drainage engineers were contacted again and sought an update from STW. This revealed that the cleansing programme had been temporarily suspended in April/May whilst essential gas works were carried out in the carriageway. In order for STW to cleanse the system, they have to position the cleansing plant over appropriate inspection chambers. Because of the gas works, they were not able to do this.

The gas works were completed a couple of weeks ago and STW began the cleansing programme again last week. They have told us this will take two weeks to complete which means it should be finished by the end of this week.

The Council will continue to monitor the situation and have made arrangements to meet with STW representatives to discuss these issues.