

A fly-plan for Avonmouth



From Cllrs Matt Melias, Campaigner Henry Michallat and Prospective MP Mark Weston

For the last four years residents of Avonmouth have been dreading the onset of warmer weather due to the explosion in the local fly population. As you will know these reported incidents started in 2015 near the industrial estate due to poor containment processes involved with the storage or transporting organic waste.

“Now that spring is here residents are dreading the next wave of these flying pests,” argues Cllr Matt Melias. “The anger and distrust of authorities on this issue is already very high.

“People need to have their confidence restored that this problem is being treated seriously. Prevention and eradication of fly infestations is not rocket science, all that is lacking is the political will to commit funding towards tackling it properly.

“I have now submitted my draft management plan which I believe would offer a permanent solution to this menace if applied properly.

“Now that waste treatment/transfer contracts have been renewed, it is a perfect time to put in place some safeguards for all those who happen to live near to these energy from waste processing plants.

“We don’t want any more platitudes from Bristol City Council on this matter but are looking for effective action. We are calling on the Mayor and his Cabinet colleagues to take this issue seriously by implement our comprehensive plan outlined below. **It is time for the Council to act!**”



THE COUNCIL NEEDS AN AVONMOUTH FLY MANAGEMENT PLAN

- There needs to be an immediate ‘spring’ clean of the area, including clearance of all private lanes which have been subject to fly-tipping.
- The new litter enforcement contractors 3GS should patrol this part of the city.
- All ‘Houses of Multiple Occupancy’ need to be targeted with a clean-up campaign to ensure the occupants behave responsibly in how they dispose of food waste.
- Regular inspections of storage and processing facilities to maintain the highest standards in handling all organic materials. This should be a legal and contractual requirement.
- Strict time limits should be imposed on how long waste can be stored for.
- Bristol City Council should have its own permanent monitoring station/equipment sited at the main industrial estate.
- The creation of a standing joint working group – comprising of environmental protection officers, local councillors and representatives from recognised local residents’ groups - to monitor and identify any additional measures required.
- A clear protocol of responsibility - including a first response point of contact - to avoid the problem being passed from pillar to post.
- In the event of an outbreak, all households within a set radius of waste processing plants to be assisted in dealing with the infestation.
- Establish and enforce a minimum safe distances between commercial waste processing/transfer stations and residential properties. These should be made a condition in all future planning applications and rigorously enforced.
- The permitted concentration of such facilities within a given geographic radius should be limited and strictly controlled in local plans.
- The plan would have to be annually reviewed and revised where necessary to keep it current.