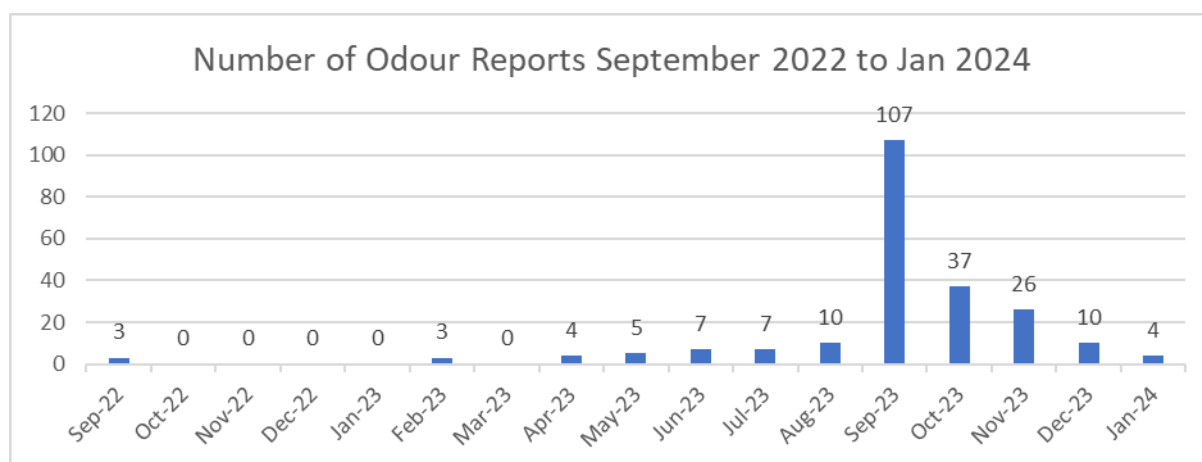


## Sutton Courtenay Community Liaison Meeting – Environment Agency update January 2024

### Odour reports and investigation in October, November, and December 2023

Our last briefing note sent to the community liaison meeting group in November included an update on how we continued to receive odour complaints going into October and November. The graph below shows the reports we have received over the last year including the most recent in January 2024.



Many of the reports received in October and November, residents described a landfill gas, methane or rotten egg smell. We conducted odour surveys on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct, 30<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 6<sup>th</sup> Nov and 15<sup>th</sup> Nov. On one occasion a strong landfill gas odour was detected. On one occasion a faint landfill gas odour was detected, and on two occasions a faint compost odour was detected.

It appears work to install gas extraction wells and repairs to a damaged horizontal gas pipe at the end of October coincided with this extended period of odour complaints. During an unannounced site inspection on 6<sup>th</sup> November, a strong landfill gas odour was detected at the operational area of the landfill.

We undertook a landfill gas management audit on 15<sup>th</sup> November. This involved meeting senior members of Infinis to inspect the gas utilisation compound and audit their systems and records. No breaches of the permit were found during this audit. Infinis demonstrated that their control centre in Northampton provides 24hr monitoring of the gas infrastructure, and there are robust back-up systems in place in the event of, for example, engine failure or power outages. One outcome of the audit includes an improvement to gas well inspection records where more detail about repairs can be recorded. We have also arranged a visit to Infinis's control centre in Northampton to learn more about their operation, and how they manage landfill gas across different sites.

The operational cell and gas infrastructure was inspected. FCC confirmed that they were planning to use soil/clay as temporary cover on the flank of cell 18 and to add additional fines as cover to the top. They confirmed that a full temporary cap would be installed over cell 18 in the Spring 2024.

While no specific permit breaches have been recorded during our investigations, we have required FCC to consider putting in additional containment and control to prevent odorous emissions. The number of odour reports has been unusually high compared to this time last year. Improvements to the gas infrastructure, the additional capping and increased extraction at the landfill appear to be controlling odour more effectively. We will continue to monitor the situation.

## Additional Agency Actions

As part of a wider Environment Agency initiative, a waste acceptance audit was conducted on 12<sup>th</sup> December. The purpose of this audit was to assess the operators waste acceptance procedures (WAP) to ensure that waste deposited at the landfill is correctly classified (as hazardous, non-hazardous or inert) and meets the relevant waste acceptance criteria (WAC). No non-compliances were observed during the audit and assessment work is still ongoing. During this audit we observed that works to add temporary clay capping to the flank of cell 18 had been completed.

Please feel free to share this update with residents and encourage them to continue to report odours to our pollution hotline 0800 807060.

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