


From: Kirsty Bell Kirsty.Bell@shropshire.gov.uk 
Subject: RE: 18/04604/PHGEN - Slurry Spreading
Date: 9 January 2019 at 13:50
To: Jon Allen jon.allen@allen-haynes.com



Good afternoon Mr Allen,

The local authority have a duty to investigate complaints of nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 – Statutory Nuisance (section 79). This is the duty for the Environmental Protection team and relates to nuisance in the legal sense of the term. It typically involves investigating noise, odour complaints etc. If a farmer was storing piles of manure or spreading on the fields and then not ploughing this into the soil in a timely manner, it may cause odour problems that could affect nearby residents and prevent them from opening their windows or hanging washing out etc. There is no formal action that we can take if there is no evidence of a statutory nuisance, but we do try to resolve matters informally by giving advice in these situations.

The question that you have asked doesn't indicate that there are any problems with odour however, and that the concern is solely risk to the watercourse. Issues regarding pollution to the watercourse fall within the Environment Agency remit so I am not sure why they have suggested otherwise. The only exemption to this would be private water supply, if somebody was using a well or borehole for their household water supply that was in close proximity. Sewage slurry is a permitted act by the Environment Agency, so if this is the case the public register can be checked to ensure that they have a permit in place. There is guidance for the agricultural practice called, "Protecting our Water, Soil and Air A Code of Good Agricultural Practice for farmers, growers and land managers". It highlights best practice for storage, spreading, land management etc. Most farmers are aware of the guidance, and whilst there is no specific number of times a farmer can fertilize the fields it highlights the problems that can arise from poor manure management plans.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/268691/pb13558-cogap-131223.pdf.

I hope this helps answer your query, but if you have any further questions please get in touch.

Kind regards

Kirsty

Kirsty Bell
Specialist Technical Officer
Environmental Protection
Regulatory Services
Public Health
Shropshire Council
Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

01743 251647
Kirsty.bell@shropshire.gov.uk

www.shropshire.gov.uk



From: Jon Allen <jon.allen@allen-haynes.com>
Sent: 03 January 2019 10:54
To: Kirsty Bell <Kirsty.Bell@shropshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: 18/04604/PHGEN - Slurry Spreading

Kirsty

Thanks very much for responding so promptly.

I had already contacted the Environment Agency and it was they who advised me that it was not a matter for them but one for the local authority Environmental Health Dept. Which is why I contacted you. Apparently the fields surrounding Hopton Woods are not an area deemed by the Environment Agency as a Nitrogen Sensitive Area and therefore their view is they have no remit in the matter - I've been back to them after receiving your email and got the same answer.

My concern is that for the past six weeks or so (for seven days a week) three to four large loads of slurry each day are being spread on a few fields above Hopton Woods and there is a real concern from local residents that, particularly following rain, there will be a significant impact on water quality. So we are seeking advice as to whether these concerns are justified and what action we should be taking. I've read the guidance notes you kindly attached to your email - but they don't seem to cover the situation we are faced with.

So in short, we are concerned that the activities of a landowner may be polluting the ground and water and need some advice.

Any further help will be gratefully received.

Regards

Jon

JON ALLEN
+ 44 (0) 7815870618

Chair - Hopton Castle Parish Meeting

On 2 Jan 2019, at 13:51, Kirsty Bell <Kirsty.Bell@shropshire.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Mr Allen,

I thank you for contacting Shropshire Council regarding your concern about slurry from a neighbouring farm. There are rules and regulations around the storage and spreading of slurry which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/storing-silage-slurry-and-agricultural-fuel-oil>

This is regulated by the Environment Agency and I would recommend that you contact them directly for advice. If farmers are spreading too frequently it may increase the risk of run-off from the fields polluting water courses, particularly in periods of wet weather.

You can contact the Environment Agency on the following details:

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
03708 506 506

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

Kirsty

Kirsty Bell
Specialist Technical Officer
Environmental Protection
Regulatory Services
Public Health
Shropshire Council
Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

01743 251647
Kirsty.bell@shropshire.gov.uk

www.shropshire.gov.uk

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