

Dear Local Resident,

We are writing to you to provide an update regarding land known as “part of Doddlespool Farm” and Elms Farm both located in Betley, Crewe.

In July this year the Environment Agency successfully prosecuted Mark Oulton, RJC Regeneration Limited and Joseph Frizell. They entered guilty pleas to environmental offences relating to waste at land known as “part of Doddlespool Farm” and Elms Farm at Chester Crown Court.

In September, Mr Oulton was sentenced to 9 months custody suspended for 18 months, 130 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay £27,000 costs for the storage of the baled waste on his land. He was also fined £5,000 for the inert landfill at Elms Farm. Mr Oulton has been made subject to a court order requiring him to remove the baled waste at Doddlespool Farm by 8 September 2024.

Joseph Frizell and RJC Regeneration Limited are being sentenced for the waste activities at Elms Farm only, which is taking place at Shrewsbury Crown Court in March 2024. Mr Frizell’s sentencing is being dealt with separately due to further offences to an unconnected site located in Staffordshire. We will provide a further update when this sentencing has taken place.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Betley for their continued co-operation and support while this lengthy investigation has taken place. We could not have brought this case to court without the information that you had reported to us through our incident hotline. We would also like to thank residents for their patience as we were limited in the information that we could provide in our correspondence due to it being a live matter.

However, going forward should you observe any more potential illegal waste activity or operations on site then please call our 24-hour incident hotline which is free to call on **0800 80 70 60** as soon as possible. Should you wish to report the information anonymously you can also contact Crime Stoppers on **0800 555 111**.

Yours faithfully,

**Enforcement Team** at the Environment Agency  
Richard Fairclough House, Knutsford Road, Warrington, WA4 1HT



Further information about the Environment Agency and waste crime:

### **Our regulation**

We regulate waste sites to ensure they are complying with the law and are operating in compliance with their permit.

### **Our prevention, disruption and enforcement**

We use our intelligence and that shared by our partners to proactively disrupt and prevent waste crime.

We will investigate reports of illegal waste activity, including hazardous waste and large scale illegal dumping.

### **Impacts of waste crime**

We are working to protect and enhance the environment in your local community by preventing and disrupting waste crime.

Waste crime damages the environment and harms human health. It blights communities by affecting property prices and ruins valuable community spaces. It costs legitimate businesses and taxpayers millions of pounds each year. Illegal operators undercut legitimate businesses and harm their reputation, undermining those who operate within the law.

### **Householder Waste Duty of Care**

We all create waste, and we all have a responsibility to ensure our waste is handled correctly. You must make sure you know where your waste goes so it doesn't end up in the hands of operators who break the law.

### **'Duty of Care' Needs to Know**

Householder waste includes anything that you are disposing of from your home, including furniture, old appliances and mattresses.

It's important that you take steps to:

- only pass your waste on to a registered waste carrier. Your local authority is an authorised waste carrier.
- check online to see if the people handling your waste are registered waste carriers at: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>
- ensure the people handling your waste are complying with their own duty of care responsibilities and where appropriate report any suspect activity.

customer service line  
03708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
0845 988 1188

[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)