

Fury as sewage ravages garden

Resident hits out as pipes overflow in heavy rain

By Sarah Dunn

A FED-up resident has slammed Yorkshire Water after the manhole cover next to his house overflowed again - causing raw sewage to flood his garden and driveway.

Richard Smith, who lives in the last house in a cul-de-sac running parallel to Sheffield Road, Unstone, near Dronfield, said it had happened on at least three other occasions when heavy rain caused the pipes to overflow.

Since moving to the property in 2002, he and his wife Jane have been flooded with sewage in 2004, again on several occasions in last summer's downpours, and most recently in the heavy rains at the end of last month.

And Mr Smith, aged 58, said the company's attitude to clearing up the mess was adding insult to injury.

"We called up first thing in the morning to report it and yet it took until 8pm that night before the clean-up team came out.

"All the while we had raw sewage outside our back door.

"I've got no problem with the guys that came to do it, or the girls on the helpdesk that we had to repeatedly call up, but it's the management who don't seem to give a monkey's.

"They are getting paid vast amounts of money but they are not doing the job they are paid to do."

Mr Smith added he would like to see something done to ensure the leak doesn't happen again, rather than the mess just being cleaned up each time.

A Yorkshire Water spokeswoman said they were aware of the problem on Sheffield Road.

She added: "The company has been out on a number of occasions to the location to jet the sewers and insert CCTV cameras to carry out further investigations.

"The company has been in contact with Mr Smith about the ongoing issue and a technician is due to visit the area shortly to carry out more examinations.

"Yorkshire Water appreciates that incidents of this sort are not pleasant and would like to reassure the customer the company is investigating."



A hole lot of trouble: Richard Smith by the problem manhole

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