

Towcester dog owner fined for allowing his dogs to bark excessively

Last week (Tuesday 11 March) at Northampton Magistrates Court Mr Robert Liddington (aged 76), of Norton Crescent, Towcester pleaded guilty to an offence of failing to comply with an abatement notice to prevent his dogs from causing a nuisance to his neighbours.

After pleading guilty Mr Liddington was fined £500 and in addition ordered to pay South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) £2,469.31 costs.

Environmental health officers from SNC originally served the notice on Mr Liddington, on 25 September 2012. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 this required him to stop the nuisance and prevent it happening again.

Further complaints about the dog barking noise were received and contraventions of the notices were substantiated. Initially Mr Liddington pleaded 'not guilty' at the pre-trial hearing but subsequently changed his plea to guilty and also accepted full responsibility for the dogs.

The Court heard that SNC had given Mr Liddington plenty of opportunity to work with them to reduce the noise made by 12 greyhound dogs at the property.

Councillor Dermot Bambridge, portfolio holder for environmental services, said: "The majority of dog owners control their pets in a responsible way with consideration for their neighbours. Wherever possible we try and resolve any issues amicably.

"However, in cases where someone chooses to ignore the law, as was the case here, we will take them to court."

