

Filthy restaurant and shop both closed after rodent infestations, RAT POO and cockroaches found by health inspectors

4TH SEPTEMBER 2017

A restaurant and shop in Aldershot were briefly forced to close after health inspectors found pest infestations, Rushmoor Borough Council (RBC) has revealed. Momo Station, in Station Road, closed voluntarily after an inspection by RBC officers on July 3 found a storage building at the back of the property was infested with rats. They also discovered “low-level cockroach activity” in the kitchen, which was in a dirty condition and posed a risk to food safety. Following improvement work, the business was allowed to re-open within a week

RBC environmental health officer Julie Burke said: “Where standards of food hygiene are found to be below acceptable levels, we will take immediate and appropriate action to make sure food is safe and customers are not put at risk. “Owners of food businesses have a duty to carry out basic checks for pests and to take effective action where they find problems. “They should not rely on our visits to discover they have an infestation or that an area needs to be cleaned.”



Fresh rat droppings at Momo Station restaurant in Station Road, Aldershot, which was cautioned for four food safety offences by Rushmoor Borough Council after officers found a storage building at the back of the property was infested with rats (Image: Rushmoor Borough Council)

Amit Gurung, director of Momo Station, accepted a caution for four food safety offences last Wednesday (August 30). “I acknowledge the problem and have fixed it straight away,” Mr Gurung said. “We are working very closely with a pest control company and the environmental health team. “Hygiene is the number one priority for my business. I can assure you that this will not happen again in the future.”

Following a similar inspection on June 7, Buddha Convenience Store, in Station Road, closed after council officers discovered a rodent infestation in the shop. Following improvements to “pest-proofing”, the store re-opened a few days later. RBC’s principal food safety officer, Oliver Robinson, said: “It is not acceptable for shops serving food to have rodents in their premises. “Adequate proofing and procedures should be in place to ensure effective pest control. Where problems are found, we will take swift action to ensure food safety.”

Sushil Gurung, director of Buddha Convenience Store, accepted a caution for three food safety offences on Thursday (August 31). “We had measures in place, but they were inadequate,” Mr Gurung said. “We have made improvements on our shortcomings and we are confident these offences will not be repeated.” Councillor Ken Muschamp, RBC’s cabinet member for business safety and regulation, said: “These cases show that the council is committed to protecting the public.



A gnawed rat hole in the wall of Buddha Convenience Store in Station Road, Aldershot, which was caution for three food safety offences by Rushmoor Borough Council after officers found a rodent infestation in the shop (Image: Rushmoor Borough Council)

“It is unacceptable for food businesses to disregard their duty to protect the safety of food for their customers. “I fully support our officers who are doing a great job as they carry out extensive investigations to establish the sources of infestations such as these.”

When *Get Surrey* called, Mr Gurung of Momo Station declined to comment, as did Mr Gurung of Buddha Convenience Store.

Hygiene ratings for all businesses selling food can be viewed on the Food Standards Agency website at ratings.food.gov.uk.