



## Resident complains of 'rat infestation' in Heywood

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A HOME OWNER man has called for action claiming his street is infested with rats.

Bryan Brown, 62, has lived on Peel Lane, in Heywood, for 20 years.

He claims that a number of residents on the road have spotted vermin and some have heard scratching in their attics.

He believes that the rats nests could have been disturbed by construction work being carried out by developers Seddon nearby on the junction of Ash Street and Peel Lane, although the firm says that only field mice have been discovered on the site.

Seddon says that they are monitoring the situation and that all pest control and site safety measures have been carried out.

Mr Brown said: "They started before Christmas, then we started to get a run of rats about.

"A lady who lives across from me ran across the road to tell me that there was a rat in her kitchen.

"I have also spoken to quite a few neighbours who have heard scratching in their attics.

"I have also found rat faeces in my backyard, and my dogs caught one and brought it to me."

Mr Brown also said that although he has spoken to Seddon, he has not received a response. However Seddon say they have been in touch with him twice.

He said: "I spoke to Seddon, and they said they would look into it.

"I rang them again and no-one got in touch with me.

"I have had no correspondence from Seddon.

"I have given them every opportunity to do something."

Mr Brown's house is one of the only privately-owned houses on the street, with others being managed by RBH.

He added: "It is down to all the building and no-one is doing anything about it.

"We have seen them running about on the estate - it needs sorting out.

"They are dirty horrible things.

"I have lived here for 20 years - we have had them in the past when building work was going on but that was over 10 years ago.

"We had an estate clean-up and that seemed to solve the problem.

"Nobody has had a problem again until recently."

However, Seddon say despite traps being laid, no rats have been caught.

Jeff Hook, construction director at Seddon, said: "We have had contact with the resident regarding his concerns on two occasions to date.

"Prior to work commencing on site for Rochdale Boroughwide Housing, we hired Rentokil to ensure the empty property adjacent to the site, which we are using as a site office, was safe.

"Rentokil laid rat traps and no rats have been caught so far.

"When we began work on the site, we began to strip it and remove the spoil. During this process we only found field mice.

"There is a landfill site behind the site, and it is also surrounded by allotments to the rear; plus, there are several other live construction sites in the vicinity.

"All pest control and site safety measures have been carried out on our site to our usual standards.

"Our client, Rochdale Boroughwide Housing, has advised that no other resident has raised concerns about rats.

"We will continue to monitor this situation and should any reasonable pest control issues on our site arise, we will manage them appropriately in accordance with our Environmental Management Plan."

RBH said they had nothing to add on to Seddon's statement.

Rochdale Borough Council have been contacted for comment.