



A. B. PRODUCE PLC

PRESS RELEASE

Further to recent speculation in the local media regarding AB Produce and its food manufacturing business at Measham, the company feels compelled to respond.

It is of great concern to the company that the positive working relationships developed over the last 11 years between AB Produce and the local community including the Parish Council and various local charitable initiatives are now being undermined by certain individuals who seem determined to exploit what is a sensitive local issue for political reasons and to attack a shareholder of the company who takes no part in the management of the business. The company finds this practice deplorable and a complete disservice to both the local community in Measham and the employees of AB Produce.

The facts are that the current processing procedures involve the temporary storage of used water in a series of settling lagoons designed and approved for that purpose. In certain climatic conditions, the combination of temperature and wind direction can result in an apparent airborne odour. Based on independent reports from Environmental Health and the Health Protection Agency, the public can be assured that there is no risk to health given several factors including: the source of the odour; the isolated location of the lagoons and the intermittent nature of the issue.

The company has over a number of years invested heavily in an attempt to address the situation which the company recognises can be a genuine problem for some local residents. The last major improvement program at the site in 2012 cost in excess of £300k and we are delighted to note that this action resulted in a 70% reduction in the number of complaints according to statistics produced by a local campaign group.

AB Produce has been attempting to find a sustainable solution to eradicate the issues with support from the District Council and various water treatment specialists but the legislation in this area, which is under the jurisdiction of the Environment Agency, is frustratingly complex. We are sure that local residents will understand that any further developments have to be compliant and sanctioned by the Environment Agency.

Further meetings are scheduled for the end of April and we are hopeful that their support will be forthcoming in order that the company can finally implement its proposed water treatment project. Once this significant new investment which will be designed and operated by an external water treatment company has been sanctioned by the Environment Agency, we will then be able to request their further approval and associated permits to empty the existing lagoon network.

In the meantime, the company continues to undertake all activities within its control to minimise any impact on those residents who appear more prone to the problem due to their proximity to the site and/or the prevailing weather patterns. The company has tremendous sympathy for those specific members of the community affected and like them, looks forward to decisive and sustainable progress being made this year subject to statutory approval.

END

Date: 23rd April 2014