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Companies blamed for village stench

JAMES BRINDLE

A FOUL stench described as 'smelling like cat urine' is continuing to cause misery to residents of two villages, it is claimed.

The smell has become worse than ever, according to residents of Measham and Oakthorpe, more than a year after it was first brought to the attention of environmental health officials at North West Leicestershire District Council.

Complaints have already been registered against a vegetable processing plant but residents believe the smell may have intensified since a plastic products factory moved onto the Westminster Industrial Estate, off Huntington Way, in Measham.

Les Tomlinson, of Dysons Close, Measham, told The Mail that there were 'terrible odours' coming from the factories.

He said: "One smell is like sulphur, the other like 'cat wee' and another smells like farm manure. It has been around ever since the Plastic Omnium works have been here. It depends on the way the wind blows who gets it, but everybody around gets it at some point."

Mr Tomlinson's daughter, Claire Poxon, of Oakthorpe, said: "It really makes my eyes sore and even wakes you up at night it is that bad."

Measham Parish Council clerk Dawn Roach told The Mail that the smell appeared to be an ongoing problem.

She said: "We have been contacted on several occasions over the last couple of years about smells in the village. It is similar to a 'cat wee' smell.

"It has been quite bad over the last few weeks, particularly over the Bank Holiday. A few villagers have really had enough and one parishioner in the village has written to Plastic Omnium."

North West Leicestershire District Council says it has had 12 complaints since January about smells in the Measham and Oakthorpe areas.

Spokesman Kiran Roopra said: "These complaints have been attributed by the people complaining to three local companies - six against Plastics Omnium, five against AB Produce and one against the sewage works.

"Severn Trent has resolved the problem at the sewage works and so the smell is either originating from AB Produce or Plastics Omnium. Environmental health officers have been working with both companies to resolve the issue."

Plastics Omnium is replacing and upgrading its filtration system at a cost of £25,000 and says it should be in place in the next few months.

AB Produce, owned by the area's Tory election hopeful Andrew Bridgen, has already installed a new filtration system to prevent solids going into its lagoons.

Ms Roopra said: "It is hoped the installation of the appropriate filtration systems at both companies will get rid of the smell and nuisance this is causing residents."

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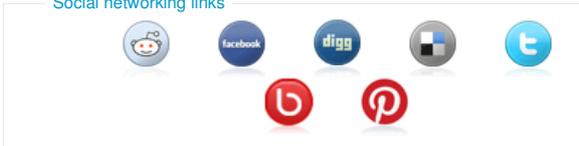
Michael Williams

Hi James, following on from your article of 2006 we still have the problem in the village, there have been two further articles in the Leicster Mercury and another in Coalville Times. Any thoughts about running another article seeing as it has been 6 years and the problem persists. We have some excellent material from AB Produce, NWLDC, DEFRA, Environmental Agency etc. We are on Twitter @MeashamCATS (Campaign Against The Smell)

03/08/2012 09:03

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