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## MP's £2m pledge in bid to end row over smell from his company

Written by RICH GUTTRIDGE

AN MP is confident a solution has been found to end a long-running row over a foul smell caused by a company he runs which has blighted a village.

Residents in Measham have long complained about an 'eye-watering' odour emitting from vegetable processing firm AB Produce, in Repton Road, of which North West Leicestershire MP Andrew Bridgen is a director.

A campaign group was even set up calling for action over the stench, such was the strength of feeling in the village.

The smell, caused by waste water at the site, is said to have been strong enough at times to make eyes water and throats sore.

But in an attempt to solve the problem, which has dragged on for eight years, AB Produce has committed to investing £2.2 million in equipment to treat the water.

Mr Bridgen said: "The company has got plans in to sort the whole issue out.

"This is a plan the company has been working on for more

North West Leicestershire District Council has been accused of 'putting its hands' over the issue by campaigners but the authority said the smell is often dictated by weather conditions, and that it had long enough for it to be considered a statutory nuisance.

Despite the pledge from AB Produce, Measham parish councillor Michael Williams, who set up Campaign Against the Smell (CATS) in 2010, is unconvinced there will be a quick solution.

He said: "I believe it will take at least two years, which is post-next election, then if he gets in again I fear we will be stuck with another five years of this nonsense.

"Some people in Measham feel they have been mistreated and are resigned to the fact it is never going to go away.

"If I had a tank of stagnant water in my garden, the council would sort it straight away."



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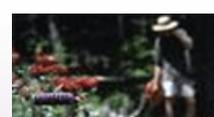
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