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Firm set to win planning battle

JOHN ROBERTS

A SOUTH Derbyshire firm looks set to win a five-year battle to relocate its business to a new £5 million factory, creating 50 new jobs.

Vegetable prepaper and packer AB Produce wants to move from Woolstitch Farm, Netherseal, across the border to create a larger building in Measham. The company has submitted a plan to North West Leicestershire Council which is recommended for approval.

The move will mean the firm can expand its workforce from 90 to 140 and allow a four-fold increase in its capacity.

AB Produce's managing director, Andrew Brigden, said delays from central [government](#) and planners had cost the firm millions.

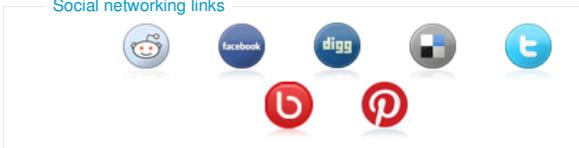
The move to Leicestershire was going to be financed by building 11 luxury homes on its Netherseal site. In April, 2000, the firm received planning permission from South Derbyshire and North West Leicestershire councils for the homes and factory. However, the move had to be abandoned when the Government called in the decision to allow a housing development at Woolstitch Farm.

A planning inspectorate overturned the decision at a public inquiry because the development conflicted with Derbyshire County Council's structure plan.

Last year AB Produce secured planning permission to use its Netherseal site for five executive-style houses and now the move is back on.

North West Leicestershire councillors are being asked to approve plans for the factory at Westminster Industrial Estate, Measham, at a meeting on Wednesday, July 3.

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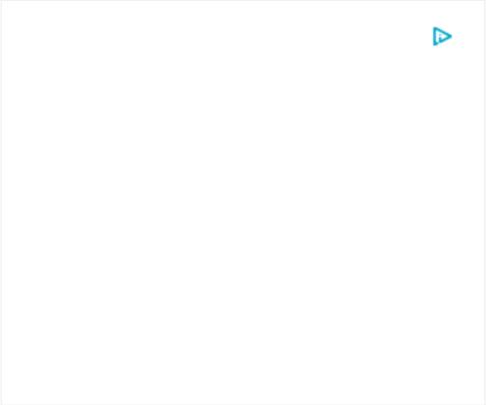
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