

Campaign Against The Smell (CATS) in Measham formed in 2010 following a growing number of complaints concerning the so called Mystery Stench. So called because after much research we found an article in the Burton Mail of 2007 which pin pointed the problem as being the lagoons at AB Produce in Measham. In the article a promised fix by no- other than Mr Andrew Bridgen as part of his "'good neighbour" policy',; in the same article he was banging on about others lack of green policies. This did not fix the problem and questions his own policies especially towards his neighbours.

Before we learnt of this article we were led to believe that indeed this was a mystery that only the skills of Sherlock Holmes could unravel. Several enquiries were made of North West Leicestershire District Council and in answer to each they were blissfully unaware of any problem.

Well back in the article of 2007 Lee Mansfield of the same organisation was involved following complaints from local residents. So what conclusion should you be led to about the conduct of the council officers? We are certainly confused.

This is kind of perplexing when you consider that we asked a straight question of NWLDC; admittedly personnel may have changed but record keeping? That should be in order.

In 2010 we asked the then manager Martin McQuaide and he came straight back to us identifying themselves as the problem. We again asked NWLDC and again they did not know. Why is it that every resident is so sure of the problem and the culprit? Not only is a stench coming from AB Produce but we have another coming hard and fast from NWLDC. They have tried to hide behind so called commercial confidentiality when everything they had to say was pretty much covered in the newspaper articles of 2007 and 2008. We have now raised two complaints with NWLDC but as yet to no avail.

Sure NWLDC attend public meetings and come along promising to back us, but are they? After all they refuse to raise the complaint as a statutory nuisance. Why? it has been going on in Measham since at least 2006 and in another place before.

Netherseal. in 1997 AB Produce was located at Woolstitch Farm and shortly after local residents starting complaining about their noisy and smelly neighbour. When the company tried to expand their planning application was blocked by local residents and they were forced to move in 2003. Their victory became our loss; not to blame Netherseal after all if you have had to deal with this evil caustic odour you would do everything to get it removed. We too have the noise originally from HGVs in weight restricted zones and now from tractors in a bid we believe to get around the weight restrictions.

We have had promises from Andrew Bridgen since 2007 and again recently via BBC Radio Leicester on the 17th April this year. This is the fourth time that he or AB produce have made promises with the other two in 2012 and 2013 following the harvest when they were going to dig out the lagoons subject to Environmental Agency approval. As yet the smell still exists and with the summer looming we are worried that we are going to suffer once again.

We are planning a media campaign to raise this issue far and wide and if they does not succeed quickly we will raise local petitions again and local protests.

Join us in our campaign, check out our twitter account @MEASHAMCats and our Facebook page 'meashamsmellcampaign' you can also drop us an email to 'meashamsmellcampaign@hotmail.co.uk'

Or if you prefer contact us via Measham Parish Council on line or on the high street.