

## MP's business causes a stink

The site of Andrew Bridgen's Midlands veg firm AB Produce is causing a smell so 'caustic', it makes eyes water

**M**P Andrew Bridgen says action is being taken to stop the "stinky" odour caused by his family's vegetable processing business.

Campaign Against The Smell (CATS) told *BBC News* odour from AB Produce in Leicestershire is strong enough to make eyes water and throats sore.

The smell is caused by waste water from the vegetable preparation process, and AB Produce is now investing £2.2 million in equipment to treat the water so it does not smell.

Bridgen, MP for North West Leicestershire and a director and non-executive chairman of the firm, told *BBC News*: "The company has got plans in to sort the whole issue out. This is a plan the company has been working on for over a year."

Michael Williams, campaign coordinator for CATS, said the smell can be "really quite caustic" at times.

"It's down the back of the throat, it makes people nauseous. Eyes can water. It really is a pretty nasty experience," he told *BBC News*.

Paul Bridgen, managing director of the company, which was formed by him and his politician brother, said: "I really do want to move the company forward and do more work and employ more people, but over the last two years I've actually reduced the amount of work we are doing to help the situation."

He hopes the equipment will be running by the end of the year, and is meeting the Environment Agency on 28 April to discuss getting a permit for it.