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Monday, 24th September 2012

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## Calls to find the cause of stench



Thursday, June 30, 2011



[Leicester Mercury](#)

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Villagers are urging a council to identify the source of a mysterious smell which plagues them every summer.

People living in Measham said the foul odour has been making their lives a misery for the past five years.

They are angry that, despite repeated assurances by North West Leicestershire District Council, the problem was being investigated, the smell returned each year.

Residents have formed an action group – Campaign Against the Smell (Cats) to demand the problem is dealt with once and for all.

Michael Williams, 46, of The Croft, who helped set up the group, said: "The smell is very strong. It's almost more than a smell because it gets you right at the back of the throat.

"It's like an agricultural smell, but worse. This makes you feel physically sick."

He said concerns were also growing about the foul odour's affect on air quality and health.

"Environmental officers need to get to grips with this," he said.

Measham district councillor Sean Sheahan is backing the residents' campaign.

He said: "We need to find out where this smell is coming from and take steps to eradicate it for good."

The council said it had received three complaints about odour so far this year.

A spokesman said: "We can assure residents we are aware of these recent odour complaints and we are in the early stages of investigation – along with the Environment Agency.

"We try to identify the source then work with the resident, landowner or business to develop an action plan or, where practicable, a series of improvements to reduce or prevent these occurrences."

Residents believe the smell is coming from the direction of Westminster Industrial Estate, off Huntington Way.

In September 2008, the Mercury reported there had been six complaints that year about smells from the Plastic Omnium works on the industrial estate, which makes parts for the automotive industry.

The district council said the company was spending £25,000 to replace and upgrade its filtration system and employed consultants to look into what could be causing a smell.

No one at Plastic Omnium was available to comment.

In November 2007, potato processor AB Produce thought it could be responsible for bad smells in the area. It invested £400,000 on updating equipment used in the production process.

A spokesman for AB Produce said: "We will continue to invest in our water recycling and waste management processes.

"We will investigate any complaints."

There is no suggestion at this stage either is responsible for the latest smell.

The issue will be raised at the meeting of Measham Parish Council, on July 14, in the boardroom at Cemetery Lodge, Bosworth Road, at 7pm.

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by Taboola

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