

CLOGGING FATS TRIAL SUCCESS

Restaurateurs have been supporting a successful trial launched to stop bins clogging up sewers beneath the streets.

Anglian Water, working on the trial, says that nationally blocked sewers cost local authorities millions of pounds to clear every year.

Since last year's trial in Chelmsford, there have been no recorded cases of sewage flooding or bad odours and borough council environmental health officers have noted a significant reduction in the area's vermin.

Keeping one road with its 21 restaurants and takeaways free of fat and grease has meant a saving to Anglian Water of £6,000 a year.

The trial has been hailed a success due to a combination of factors – raising awareness of the issues with restaurants and takeaways and working in partnership with them.

It has also educated the catering outlets to use better kitchen practices such as scraping plates into bins, and using innovative technology such as the program from Estex-based Environmental Biotech to complete the cleaning and protection process.

Paul Gibbs of Anglian Water, said: "This trial is a clear indication of what partnership working can achieve. All appreciate the risks posed to the environment by fat in sewers and the benefits gained by keeping it out. There is great potential for others to learn from the example set."

John Whittingdale MP for Maldon and Chelmsford, said: "The lessons learnt could result in nationwide savings of millions of pounds, reducing bills, while greatly cutting smells and vermin."



CLARE BRUNN, WITH HER HUSBAND (2ND FROM LEFT), ENVIRONMENTAL BIOTECH, STAFF, ANGLIAN WATER AND JOHN WHITTINGDALE MP WITH THE ACCOMPANIED CHEF IN CHELMSFORD