

Borough Councillor's Missive October 2010

The Diary.

I write this Missive whilst on holiday in Delaware USA and in so doing I am reminded of a radio series called "Letter from America" written and read by Alistair Cooke, I would like to think that I could aspire to such abilities. Just before we left UK I had to attend the Chancery Court in Birmingham to defend my innocence in an ill thought out, ill considered court summons, created by the Managing Director of Sywell Aerodrome. In June the MD had been informed by the judge at the Wellingborough Court "to get yourself a lawyer". As many will recall he attempted to justify the company's position in the summer edition of the Aerodrome Magazine. Sywell Aerodrome Ltd had originally included Wellingborough Council in the action but subsequently withdrew the claim against them leaving me to defend my position. Prior to Hearing in the Chancery Court the company tried to defer the hearing, for what the judge determined were insignificant reasons and he rejected them. The judge in the Chancery Court Hearing then determined there was "no case". In conclusion Judge Gailey considered the "Discontinuance" of the case as most appropriate. "Discontinuance" is a legal statement meaning that one side (in this case the claimant) wishes to terminate the action. As the judge stated this now allows me to make a full claim for costs under Civil Procedures Rule 36, and I will.

West Northants Joint Planning Committee

With the new Government now being very active in elucidating its policies this committee is reviewing its position on the development issues in advance of any formal statements with regard to targets. It is important that we keep a very careful watching brief on what goes on at this committee and I will endeavour to attend as many meetings as possible. Already the potential to develop the area to the west of Overstone and adjacent to Round Spinney has been resurrected although the volume is significantly less than earlier figures suggested.

Resources

As the Chief Executive of the Borough Council considers his options on the streamlining of the Council and methods of cost saving he has forwarded to me the report of the Independent Review of the conduct of Officers into the Planning process etc on Sywell Aerodrome. This report cost the Council £12,500 so there was a potential saving of £12,500 as the report, in my view, is biased inaccurate and inconclusive. It is biased because the Review did not discuss any of the issues with the elected members and there is not one word of input from the Ward Councillor, it is also inaccurate because it failed to review all of the available documentation properly and it is inconclusive because it attempts to assuage that everything is fine when the truth is quite different. Fortunately the Resources committee refused to accept the report and it will now move to a stage of further scrutiny. Part of that scrutiny is to create a Working Group under the control of the Development Committee Chairman. This group will examine everything that has happened at the aerodrome since the Public Inquiry. I will, hopefully be very active in this group and I do hope that the Managing Director of Sywell Aerodrome will also engage in the process, an offer I made to him after the Resources Committee meeting, which he at the time unfortunately rejected.

Other Local Matters

In a slight change of emphasis many will have seen the new road works going on around the area and may be aware of the change in techniques. Rather than just patch up the holes the highway crews are in my view doing a great job by clearing and relaying a complete section of road and hopefully the policy will pay off.

As ever if you have any queries please contact me and remember, I cannot help you if I do not know of your problems.

Jim Bass

(Councillor for Sywell, Ecton and Mears Ashby, Wellingborough Borough Council)

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The full Missive can be seen on web sites: www.ectonvillage.co.uk

www.mearsashbyparishcouncil.com