

Borough Councillor's Missive November 2010

The Diary.

This Missive now enters its third year and I am going to make some changes, first of all the editors are concerned about volume in the Village Newsletters whereas I am concerned about having to condense the information, a real dichotomy!

So in January I will have a web site with access to all relevant papers supporting the Missive this will improve "transparency" and openness. Readers will also have the opportunity to make comments on both my notes and the relevant papers.

Yohey another new acronym which stands for Young People of the Year, I represented the Mayor at the award for the first Northamptonshire Yohey Award at Rockingham Raceway this month. Many have problems with the youth of today but that of course was said when "we" were young was it not? This award was made on judging the best young role model. Most of the contestants had significant "difficulties" when they were younger indeed the joint winners Joe Dilley (21) and Stephen Shippey (18) had upbringings that would make most cringe. Both had been down and out but, with plenty of guts had lifted themselves from the gutter and were now doing great work in youth projects "giving something back".

West Northants Joint Planning Committee

The workshop this month discussed education and the town's shops and retail "offer". I was surprised that the Reception classes in the Borough area schools are oversubscribed when most rural areas are in fact below rolls. The Education paper is full of interesting information to some. If you would like a copy please e-mail me.

In the last Missive I noted that the development plans for west of Overstone towards Round Spinney was still in the strategy I now know it to forecast around 2,500 plus plus. If you require further details please e-mail me.

Planning

This month at Planning I represented a senior citizen of Mears Ashby and the Parish Council in respect of another planning application for 12 Earls Barton Rd. This time the architect had decided to apply for amended roof lights, solar panels and an extension to the front of the new garage. I have no problems with either the roof lights or the solar panels but the garage extension was in my view a step too far. The committee agreed with me and the extension was removed from the application. I know of one elderly citizen who had a good night's rest that night. We still have the vexed question of the planning application for 78 High St, Ecton but we will have to wait for the next episode. There may be a flaw in the planning process, currently being investigated

Other Local Matters

Highways: I am frequently asked about repair activity on the local roads if you want to know what is happening and have access to the internet go to:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/transport/roads/pages/roadworks.aspx>.

If not contact me.

Over the past few months I have been working with the residents of Glebe Rd Mears Ashby addressing the problem of HGVs using the single track road for delivery and rat-run purposes and speeding cars. The problem is undoubtedly acute and I have witnessed 35 tonne trucks going at great speed down the road. Much of the HGV traffic was going to or from Beckworths, they have written to all their delivery company's asking them not to use Glebe Rd. The response has been pretty good and the numbers are now reduced significantly. We are also working to reduce the speed limit from the current national 60mph limit to 30 mph for the whole length of the road. So if you regularly use the road do take care as there are young children and walkers often on the road.

Police

This month I have spent some time with our local Police team covering a range of matters. One such issue was that of the numerous accidents between Wood Lodge Farm and Moonshine Gap, the Police have agreed that there is a serious problem caused mainly by drivers not travelling at the correct speed for the prevailing conditions. The Press Release issued from Police Headquarters has this stark message.

Police warn drivers to take care along dangerous stretch of road

The full press release is available via e-mail or of course in the local papers. We will also be reviewing with Highways the improvement and renewal of many of the bend signs in this section of the road.

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

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

www.mearsashbyparishcouncil.com