

# **Borough Councillor's Missive March 2011**

## **The Diary.**

By any definition this will be the shortest missive of my current period as your Borough Councillor hopefully all of those in the West Ward of BCW will be aware that the local elections will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The result of the fact that this missive will appear in the first week of April means that councillors are then in what has been called purdah. An interesting word "purdah" according to the Concise Oxford Dictionary one meaning is *"the Hindu and Islamic custom of keeping women fully covered with clothing and apart from the rest of society"*. I am not sure how I personally relate to this definition as I am neither female, hindu or muslim! However the Conservative Councillors legal advice is as follows:

*"The document that should be looked at in this regard is the "Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity". This is currently being reviewed, but the current version gives enough of an indication of what is allowed.*

*The particular section relating to elections says:*

*"Timing of Publicity*

*43. Particular care should be taken when publicity is issued immediately prior to an election or by-election affecting the authority's area to ensure that this could not be perceived as seeking to influence public opinion, or to promote the public image of a particular candidate, or group of candidates. Between the time of publication of a notice of an election and polling day, publicity should not be issued which deals with controversial issues, or which reports views or policies in a way that identifies them with individual members or groups of members."*

So now we all understand that issue! Where does it leave us? Quite simply this missive will carry only news on issues that have been resolved in the Wellingborough Council area and any other abstract comments.

But all is not in vain, for those who were interested I finally qualified for my pilot's license a couple of weeks ago, thus confirming the adage *"to discuss a subject one must study it first"* JHB 2011!!

## **Planning**

The planning application in Ecton High St was refused by the full Planning Committee this month.

## **Development**

Our friends in Overstone are I understand mobilising action on the proposed development called Northampton North SUE. Wellingborough Council will be discussing this issue at the next meeting of the Development Committee. This development is currently slated for 2,000 homes, retail and business locations.

## **Local Bus Service**

I still need to hear from more of you in regard to the usage of the local bus service I have currently received comments from around 30 users. Based on the information and with the support of our MP we will see what can be done.

Don't forget to use your vote on May 5th

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 viewed on web sites: [www.ectonvillage.co.uk](http://www.ectonvillage.co.uk)

[www.mearsashbyparishcouncil.com](http://www.mearsashbyparishcouncil.com)