

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

## **The Diary.**

What an amazing election result!! If you live in the West Ward of BCW and supported me a massive thank you and also to those who helped during the campaign. It was memorable for a number of reasons. Firstly I determined to try to visit every household in the West Ward, I did not quite succeed but very nearly! If you were one of the lucky (or unlucky ones, as the case maybe) whom I did not get to see then I apologize. Secondly with the exception of just one or two people the response I got was fantastic and this is undoubtedly borne out by the result. My majority went from ~60% to 81%. Of course there are always going to be emotive issues even at this level of politics but I did not legislate for the real rollicking I got from one member of the community. I knocked at the door and suddenly an upstairs window was flung open, I stepped back into the road thinking "oh no not the potty dump (again). Not so, I was informed that I had the vote of everybody he knew just as long as I left him in peace now to get ready to go to watch the Saints play at Milton Keynes!! Thinking I had "escaped with my life" I plodded onto the next door only to find the same issue but this person was loading his car with all sorts of goodies when I asked if he was going away he replied "no just to watch the Saints at MK, I ventured to ask if he was taking the whole village with him and he responded... "quite a few"! I was pleased that Saints won that match or maybe there would have been a contract out on me!!

I also had great fun meeting so many different people in the Ward. Unfortunately in Ecton I lost a vote or two for being unable to change the speed limit on the A4500 near the Worlds End Hotel! I gained support from some in Overstone, unfortunately they cannot vote for me. Just think if they could I might have got a majority in excess of 100%. This was my last election as it will be time for younger bodies to take over next time.

The election returned a Conservative majority of 27 seats out of 36 this meant we lost four seats to Labour with no Independents or others.

So now it is down to the real business and I make no apologies for the analysis of the canvass, many people feel that Blades should no longer be here in Sywell, a view I have some empathy with. The noise of the aircraft seriously affects those people in the villages during the daytime but recently I have received many complaints not only in relation to the noise of these aircraft but also reports of multiple simultaneous take-offs. I have also witnessed and photographed a pilot carrying out aerobatics over the residential area. He was reported to the CAA. Please continue to inform me of these antics and for the purposes of clarity an "aerobatic manoeuvre" is any activity which would not occur in normal flight. I do not think you will see three aircraft taking off together in normal flight mode, neither would aircraft do banked turns in excess of 45° as this angle of bank is uncomfortable to most people. It is a breach of Air Law 15 to make any aerobatic manoeuvres over residential areas (there are also other locations where aerobatics must not be flown). If you have any doubts then please contact me.

The concerns over the aerodrome were paramount in all of the villages during the canvass and even my love of flying will not allow me to ignore those issues. I will be addressing them all at the highest level over the next few weeks.

## **New Council**

The new Council year starts at the end of May. Already the Conservative Group has voted in a new Leader, Councillor Paul Bell from Swanspool Ward. I felt it was time for a complete change. In this term of office I hope to devote the vast majority of my efforts to Ward issues and of course the West Northants program.

On the subject of Councils we are currently short of Councillors to sit on the Parish Councils in the ward. If you feel you can spare a little time each month to help make a difference please let the clerks know or let me know and I will forward your details. It is an unfortunate fact that there were no Parish Council elections in either, Ecton, Sywell or Mears Ashby this time.

### **Local Bus Service**

Despite being informed that the service would be continued by another company for a three month viability check, Stagecoach are still here albeit with a reduced service. There is an issue with the service to Mears Ashby as it is impossible currently to get back after the 13:50 bus leaves Northampton. I have asked NCC Officers to review and let me have their comments. As far as the rest of the service is concerned we will be testing it over the next few weeks. I hope the service fully reflects the requirements of the villages if you have any issues please let me know.

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)