

Borough Councillor's Missive November 2011

The Diary.

In this period I attended a total of fifteen meetings mostly in the evenings. I had my first meeting of the NCC Health & Social Care Scrutiny Committee as the representative of Wellingborough Council. As ever with the first meeting of any committee there was a mass of papers to read before the first session in order to "get up to speed". The role of any scrutiny group is to examine all of the issues both operational and strategic. The first thing to strike me was the quality of the presentations starting off with the Northampton General Hospital (NGH) Transformation Program by the Chief Executive of NGH and his Co-Directors. Clearly this program will need very careful and sensitive execution. The second presentation covered the subject of Planning for Winter Pressures. It is very impressive to see the preparations already in place and somewhat surprising to see new linkages to adjacent regions to provide mutual support in the event of a crisis. I will keep you updated as my involvement with this group matures.

Development

This month we had a presentation from Prologis. This company build large and small industrial facilities. Historically many have considered this company in a poor light, this is due in part to the large warehouse buildings or to quote some "big sheds", built by this company on the A45, to the east of Wellingborough. I sensed the company agreed with these thoughts! Warehouses are not traditionally significant employers and therefore do not achieve what we as a council consider the best use of local facilities, unfortunately these buildings are great big eyesores and look even worse from around 2,000ft! Nevertheless we are trained to never pre-judge (I have to say this is not always easy) presentations. Indeed I was pleasantly surprised how well the layout had been constructed but I am not convinced that we need much more warehouse space but the proposal included a whole raft of smaller units which could be used for "start-ups". That however is not the most significant consideration as this development is proposed for Appleby Lodge. For those who do not know where this is, it is on the right hand side of Mad Mile heading in towards Wellingborough. The traffic and infrastructure issues will be immense. Neither do I think we want much more traffic of any type on the stretch from there to Holcot Lane. How this problem would be overcome even if the development was to be given serious consideration will tax the logistics brains of the company.

Planning

Two Appeals had been outstanding, they have now been determined with both being rejected by the Inspectorate. In Sywell we can see the construction now advancing of the two houses at 59 Overstone Rd, with further development in the pipeline at 99 Overstone Rd. In fact the planning application is being finalised for two houses on this site also.

Billing Sewage Treatment Plant Liaison Working Group

I am pleased that the second meeting of this group that took place on 26th October at the AWA site. Was almost over attended, AWA came to the meeting with a very positive attitude. It was agreed at the first meeting I was to chair the group and after some interesting pre-meeting comments, that is precisely what happened. We were given a presentation by AWA Management which basically outlined the current status of the Biosolids Plant and also one on the Composting Facility. I make no apologies however for commenting on the terrible smell as we arrived on site and got out of our cars. It was truly obnoxious. The group are unified in the reality that there has to be very significant improvements within the next year. To that end, AWA have been tasked with a whole group of objectives to present to the next meeting in January. The Minutes for these meeting will be available on my web site once approved, so colleagues in Ecton watch this space.

Sywell Aerodrome Working Group

The second meeting of this group took place at the beginning of November. Presentations were given on the current location of the Runway and details of the Drainage System. The group was presented with a whole raft of evidence to show the position of the "existing" 03/21 runway. Photographs from the 1970s and early 1980s clearly identified the complete footprint of this runway. The Drainage System which was approved at a Public Hearing has not been installed. Evidence was produced to show that the system installed has not been fully approved by either BCW or the Environment Agency. Indeed claims that the system has been approved in writing identify correspondence pre-dating the so called "As Built" system. There is now however a far greater problem in terms of pollution and flood risk. The original system as approved at the Hearing included two Oil Interceptors one located at the end of the 03/21 runway and one just inside the aerodrome land, approximately halfway down the Wellingborough Rd towards Wood Farm. The first has been built as per the design but the second is now located adjacent to but just above the stream on the south side of the Wellingborough Rd. As was pointed out to me "what happens if the device fails to trap the oils etc as it is supposed to", a calculated guess suggests that the oil will get into the stream and thence into the reservoir!!

The Swales required to control the amount of run-off from the site have not been built. It is believed that the one missing from adjacent to the Holcot Lane will seriously affect the flood control at the junction of Holcot Lane and Wellingborough Rd

Brown Bin Collections

I have received many complaints over the past few weeks about the early cessation for the season, of the brown bins. I am as unhappy as all of the complainants and have asked the Leader of the Council if there is a possibility of one last collection before the winter. The local Parish Councils will be informed if / when this may happen.

Stop Press

As I write this Missive (in the middle of the month) I wanted to bring to your attention a significant number of accidents that have occurred on the Wellingborough Rd out of Sywell toward the Mad Mile. In one morning alone after the heavy rainfall some six vehicles were involved in accidents and I understand one person was taken to hospital. Do take extra precautions when driving on this section of road particularly when wet. It is used by a large number of HGVs and historically diesel fuel has been found on the surface, which if you have ever tried to drive at speed on it makes an ice rink look like a piece of sandpaper!

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

Or visit the web site and lodge your comments: <http://jamesbass.yourcllr.com/>

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

www.mearsashbyparishcouncil.com ,