

Mr Brett Bibby (5933) – Matter 8 Written Statement - Scraftoft

Ref; Harborough local plan 2011 – 2031

September 5th 2018

Dear Mr Bore

A whole lifetime I have spent around Scraftoft. I have been a part of the community in many ways as have many others also. I am not going to divert away from the issues at hand but cannot agree that the council's plans are sound. We live in a village on the outskirts of a town that is in turmoil with its finances and the leaders of Leicester city council now intend to make others suffer for their own mistakes. Leicester city council need money, not housing. They have their quota for another 2 years as I understand, they have plans now which have just been announced to build hundreds of houses on brownfield sites across the city that have stood dormant for many years.

They apparently own the land that has been made into a LNR and also land which Scraftoft golf course rent from them. My first worry is the golf course. This is one of the counties, indeed the country's toughest challenges in golf, so much so that some of the top players there are members of easier courses just to hold their handicaps. I was a member of this wonderful course for some years and was indeed a junior member in the 70s along with my late father. Members of this club are proud members, they do not want to leave it. The city council have really forced their hand by refusing to renew their lease on the land they own within it. Yes they have been promised a new course by Harborough council but many members are older, they have supported this club through thick and thin and have spent thousands of pounds on their passion over the years. They do not want to leave. This course is a beautiful piece of British countryside and a sports ground in its own right, another reason for an unsound proposal as I was under the impression that Sport England were not in favour of planning over sports venues. It is also a very popular course for youngsters learning the game. Simon Wood the professional has a long standing here and has many students, some very young, who even walk to the course with their kit to learn. How can any council even consider destroying this area and call it a sound idea ?.

This is prime Greenfield land as is the land that the council are allocating for the new course, why not build the houses there is a big question on residents lips in Scraftoft.

I think you have enough information and objections to the LNR proposal but would like to point out that the council only gave favour for representation to residents with a computer. People still do have lives without computers and I feel that with such a devastating proposal such as this that the village residents should have had ample information regarding this plan in paper form posted to every residents address in and around the proposed area, this includes Keyham, Beeby, Hungarton, Thurnby and all affected parts of Netherhall. People forget Netherhall yet this is the planned main route into the new site, taking in a route along a very busy road with a large secondary school/College and special school, multiple new housing estates and play areas where the local children play out on nearby to the carriageway itself. Any other route around this proposed development cannot sustain the amount of traffic this development will bring. From Syston to Scraftoft, Thurnby to Scraftoft, Leicester to Scraftoft, Billesdon to Scraftoft, Beeby to Scraftoft. These are all extremely congested routes, 4 of them at many points are only just wide enough to get

2 cars by each other and cannot take any more. I have seen all of this over the years increase every year for many years. You know of the amount of houses we have had put on us over the past 10 years, over 900 !! why Scraftoft every time? because harborough do not want it on their doorstep. They even had the Gaul to drop Scraftofts budget by 3% this financial year. People in this village work very hard to keep it nice but are struggling because the council are killing us as a community.

For the past 20 years I have kept an eye on nature in the field next door. I have collected rubbish, I have cleared it of ragwort, I have repaired fences, I helped put in the hedge by Beeby road, I have moved on poachers and have even been threatened with serious harm for calling police on people killing the rabbits, I have had my sheds broken into, my front lights on the house shot to pieces with air rifles, which the police said was teenagers possibly not being good shots !!!! Funnily enough the policeman knew the man doing the threatening and nothing more happened. We love this reserve, I have put up bat boxes, bird boxes for various breeds and pulled out many snares. The bellway site now being built was a large nesting site for Lapwings, every year they came, I told the council this and they just let the builders get on with it. When they started the birds were already returning to nest but the building frightened them off. myself and my wife watched these poor birds sitting in the shrubs in the reserve with nowhere to go. Never seen them again, and this is a caring council with eco and diversity at the forefront of their policies.

We had a traffic survey performed a little while back with the cables over the road. The cables were sited close to the golf course practice ground and on station lane. The former would not count vehicles coming out of the bellway estate nor in if they were not going to leicester. Scraftoft lane never had one. This proposal has been proposed by a speculative building company who are farmers themselves, how can that be when they propose to build on a nature reserve and war memorial site. I have to also mention about private de glopp of the American forces. You will have read about his heroics during the war years. In his hometown, long island new York they have just awarded the local council there 100,000 dollars to build a permanent memorial for this one man whose last known whereabouts under friendly situations was Beeby Road, Scraftoft.

Harborough council want everything done on the internet as it costs less, so my daughter commissioned an online survey for me so that local people could actually see and support or object to the plans and It has or should I say Scraftoft has to date 517 objections to this. You can view this at this address. www.change.org and search ' stop houses being built on a well loved nature reserve and history filled field '. People do care Mr Bore they just don't know how to go about it and who to go about it with. We have a great local council with Simon Galton as our representative. He fights for everything that is right for our borough, doesn't always win but does does on occasion prove that his lost efforts were found to be the right choice if only he was listened to in the first place. Liberal democrats asked harborough council at the de declaration hearing for the nature reserve why the council had not posted any, and I mean any information about this particular meeting on its notice board at the Symington building and were told the council's notice board was not equipped well enough for that information which I find truly amazing. None of the residents of Scraftoft heard of the meetings between the councils and the land developers until this year,. They met in 2016 I believe?

The farm traffic that uses the local routes as they are the only ones is never ending and some extremely large, the harvester takes up most of the road alone and that is regular come the mid summer. Parkers land strategies as they have called themselves have I understand bought or are in the process of obtaining stoneygate rugby club on covert lane, Scraftoft and are also pursuing aylestone st james rugby club for development. This I understand is all quiet at the moment so as not to muddy any waters and comes on the back of the new road system that has been proposed

around the villages which has gone on for more years than I have been around. They will not stop. Harborough council will not stop them, they are weak and greedy. They have a following from the villages that support conservative and funnily they hardly get a vote when it comes to housing. We have a lovely village, just, but not for long if all of this goes ahead. Please leave our golf course and especially the nature reserve as it is. We do not need 1200 houses in one area anywhere, not just Scraptoft.

I know you are a busy man, I know you have a job to do and we trust in people like yourself make the right decisions but this plan is so unsound, it has no thought for its surrounds, it is built on possibilities that could happen but cannot happen. We had a nature reserve put in place for a reason, to provide a place of peace, a place for nature and it's urban surroundings to come together, a place that is a rare occurrence in todays society. We do not have many areas like this, in fact with the golf club and reserve as one we have no other place like it in the county. The council's say it will leave a small green area for nature between the new development and our homes, it won't work. We have noise, damage, litter, unsocial behaviour all of which was not present before. The council will not adhere to its policies, it never has. That has already been shown by their own admissions of not looking good after the LNR as it promised. That was the best thing they have done in years to leave the reserve to mature and if you have visited the site you will agree I'm sure.

We are very passionate about our village and especially our last peice of countryside that is public and welcoming

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter

Kind Regards

Mr Brett Bibby