

19

TO: THE SECRETARY  
SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

I hereby give formal notice of my intention at the next Meeting of Council on Thursday, 25th May, to propose the following motion:-

Gypsy Transit Camp adjoining A14, part of  
Bassingbourn Airfield

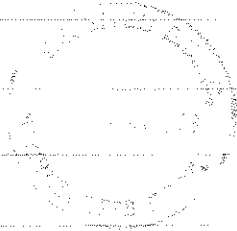
Notwithstanding the decision of the Development Control Sub-Committee at its meeting on the 1st March 1978 (Minute 8.06) and the recommendation of the Environmental Services & Health Committee in relation to formal consultation by the Cambridgeshire County Council, this Council recognises the statutory responsibility of the County Authority under Section 6 of the Caravan Sites Act 1968, and to enable it to carry out that duty formally records its support to the proposal for the establishment of a gypsy transit camp on part of the Bassingbourn Airfield adjacent to the A14 and urges the provision of the necessary facilities on that site at the earliest possible opportunity.

S. W. Hutcherson (Signature)



1741

Secretary  
S. Cawthra & Co



Dear Mr Hancock,

As to the substance  
of my complaints in notices N1 to 3  
(the latest "edition"!) one was being  
dealt with, one way or another, I feel  
the notices will be "out of date" by  
"Committee meeting, & ask therefore  
that they be not included in the Agenda  
of what I feel should be a "happy  
meeting" in saying goodbye to  
Mrs Gaskell & Mr Jeps!

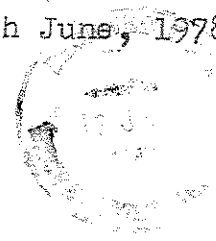
Yours sincerely

Peter King (Signature)



17th June, 1978.

The Secretary,  
South Cambs District Council,  
Great Eastern House, Cambridge.



Dear Mr. Hancock,

Local Government.

Thank you for your letter of the 13th instant which I received yesterday. Although I agree with little that you say, I had thought it worth while to attempt to draw attention to some elementary standards of conduct and debate, until I reflected upon the measure of the decisions of the council's ~~the~~ most important committee, Housing, on Thursday.

Reluctantly, I believe that ~~as~~ those decisions are to ~~be~~ be the sort that the Council will be making in the future - especially in the choice of its Committee Chairmen and the like - then further argument is a waste of time. I will therefore confine my future concern - in true "parish-pump" fashion so popular at your meetings - with matters brought to my notice in Cax-Crox-Bourn-Eltville, the first batch of which I now submit as Notices of Motion for the next Council meeting, and ask you to withdraw those in my letters of 8th and 15th instant.

Motion No. 1.

*ridge hme*  
That South Cambs District Council do something about the state of its property at No. 46. The Broadway, Bourn where hundreds of pounds of rent debt are being added to by the absence of occupants for months past, and where defeliciton and vandalism are in progress.

Motion No. 2.

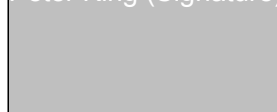
That South Cambridgeshire District Council do something about the state of its premises at No.28. The Broadway, Bourn, where car-storage on a growing scale is increasing and no agreed or acceptable entrance arrangements exist.

Motion No. 3.

That South Cambridgeshire District Council fell the dangerous tree to the front of Resident Name house in Personal Address, Bourn.

Yours sincerely,

Peter King (Signature)



The Secretary,  
South Cambridgeshire District Council,  
Tennis Road, Cambridge.

15th June, 1978.

Sir,

Notice of Motions:

No acknowledgements or replies having been received to my enquiries of 6th instant, and in view of my likely absence from the area I now give Notice of the following motions I request be put before the Council by me at their next Meeting, ~~being~~ subject to the Notice of Motion (No.7) submitted to you on 8th instant being thereby cancelled, ~~and now included~~ in the following :- *being in part*

Notice of Motion No. 1.

That the Council do something about the state of its property and premises at No. 46. The Broadway, Bourn, where hundreds of pounds of unpaid rent are being added to weekly by the absence of occupants *for months past* ~~ever some months~~, and where vandalism ~~is~~ *are* ~~in consequence~~ ~~if beginning~~ and dereliction ~~is~~ *are* in progress.

Notice of Motion No. 2.

That the Council do something about the state of its premises at No. 28. The Broadway, *Bourn,* in regard to ~~the~~ car-breaking-up and storage of vehicles at the rear of the premises in the absence of agreed or acceptable entrance arrangements.

Notice of Motion No. 3.

That the Council study and respond to the concern of a Committee Chairman that "people are cynical and fed up with the way that local government is run", and to that of the Chairman of a village Meeting of "a sad state when a small community is ignored because they are insufficient in numbers to organise any form of protest but have to rely on representatives who sell them down the river".

Notice of Motion No. 4.

That the Council rejects the criticism of public inquiries made by seven members at its last meeting, and affirms that the inspectorate of the Department of the Environment provides an important safeguard to small communities ~~which~~ *who* would otherwise ~~always~~ be overwhelmed by the selfish interests of larger villages.

Notice ~~xxxx~~ of Motion No. 5.

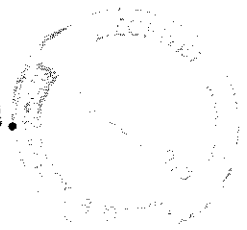
That Standing Orders be amended so that any infringement of them by Chairmen can be resisted or drawn attention to as they occur, and in particular require that the proposing, debating and voting on the suspension of standing orders are properly and impartially dealt with.

Peter King (Signature)

Motions 6 etc. to be included

James Truhy

Personal Address



8th June, 1978.

The Secretary,  
South Cambs District Council,  
Great Eastern House,  
Tenison Road,  
Cambridge.

Sir,

NOTICE OF MOTION (No.7)

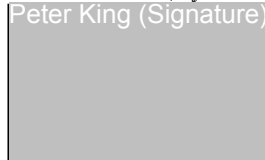
I give notice of the following Notice of Motion for the next meeting of the council :-

" THAT THE COUNCIL take note of Councillor R. Page's beliefs as expressed at the last meeting of the council, that ' people are cynical and fed up with the way local government is run ... and it is the person who is paying rates who is under pressure ' and that the Council having supported the proposed expenditure of £100,000 for a 3 year ~~site~~ usage of a site for 50 gypsy scrap-dealers now do something about No. 46 The Broadway, Bourn, where many hundreds of pounds are owing in rent and still increasing, while the premises have been unoccupied for months on the excuse of the Council that they have no power to recover the property. "

Motions No. 1 to 6 inclusive will be forward when replies have been received from you to my letter of *the 6th instant*.

*Withdrawn*

Yours truly,  
Peter King (Signature)



Copies :-

13th June 1978

Dear Councillor King,

Local Government in Cambridgeshire

Thank you for your letter of the 6th June 1978 and I have numbered the paragraphs of my reply to correspond with the numbered questions you have posed.

1. As I understand the proceedings it was Standing Order No.7(iii) that was suspended, and not Standing Orders in their entirety. This gave members the opportunity to fully discuss Councillor Hutcherson's Notice of Motion at the same time as Motion No.1. of the Environmental Services and Health Committee. No record was made of the votes cast for and against, as there appeared to be general acceptance of adopting this procedural step.  
  
Any member was at liberty, at that time to draw attention to Standing Order No.28. in an endeavour to challenge the decision. In the absence of such challenge, the clear implication is that members are happy to accept the majority decision (whether 75% or not).
2. Councillor Page's point of order was not over-ruled by the suspension of Standing Orders because as indicated in paragraph 1 above, only Standing Order No.7(iii) was suspended. However, Standing Order No.11.(v) allows some liberty regarding the length of speeches which can be exercised either by formal vote or Chairman's initiative, and it was the exercise of this initiative that over-ruled the point of order of Councillor Page.
3. Not applicable in view of answers to question 2.
4. The letter from Litlington Parish Council was dated 12th May 1978 and that from the resident, Resident Name, Resident Name, Personal Address, was dated 11th May 1978. As both these letters were addressed to the Chairman (I believe at his home address) they were not 'booked in' and I have no idea when they were received.
5. The letter from the County Council dealt in the main with the permanent site. The subject matter of the debate was deliberately restricted to the transit site.

contd./overleaf...

6. Yes; no figures were mentioned at the Environmental Services and Health Committee. Between the Environmental Services and Health Committee and Council, the County Treasurer asked Officers of this Council to work out some costs. This we did. The figure came to £26,000 and those were the details supplied to Councillor Rose and the County.

How the County used those details in arriving at a global sum is not known. Councillors Powles and Morris were recording their memories of the County debate. Details of what the County Members discussed at their meeting have not been made known to us. I am writing for this information.

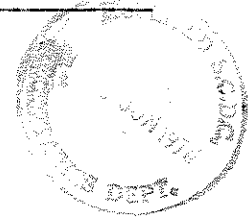
7. No.
8. I have noted the views of Councillor Page and also that you support them.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary

Councillor P.F.King, MBE TD MA.,

Personal Address  
[Redacted]



Sir,

Local Government in Cambridgeshire.

I refer to the debate on Item No 2. -'Provision for Gypsies in South Cambridgeshire- of the Report of the Environmental Services and Health Committee, Items 2.01 to 2.08 and Motion No.1. therein and Notice of Motion standing in the name of Coun. S.W. Hutcherson on the Agenda of the Annual Council Meeting of 25th May last.

1). Apropos Council Chairman requesting suspension of Standing Orders so that the Notice of Motion item could be debated with Item No. 2. referred to above, would you please inform me of the voting result on such suspension proposal, both for and against, and its relationship to the 75% requirement of Standing Order No.28?

2). Apropos the content of the debate after Councillor Hutcherson had said :-

" We had various objections .. I hope I am not outrunning my time, Mr. Chairman .. which were suggested for this site .. such foolish things as rats being on the site and other foolish things about the soil there .. is not suitable .. although the airfield has managed to survive for a long time.. also the fact that it is on this .. that it would spoil the avenue on the other side .."(interrupted)

Coun.R.Page: " On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, Councillor Hutcherson has been speaking for 8 minutes."

Coun.H.P.Holt:  
(Chairman). " Thank you, Councillor Page".

Coun.Mrs.Hatley : " Mr. Chairman, this is cheaper than a Public Inquiry".

Chairman: " It is indeed. We are doing very well. Thank you Councillor Hutcherson, please do carry on".

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would you please inform me whether the suspension of Standing Orders over-ruled the matter to which the attention of the Chairman was drawn by Councillor Page, concerning Standing Order No. 11 (v)?

3). If your answer to No.2. is in the affirmative, apropos my attempt to obtain the Chairman's agreement to a right of reply to many inaccuracies raised in the debate on my amendment, and his refusal to me of this as he pointed to Standing Order No. 12, and his decision that :- "Under Standing Order No. 12. Councillor Hutcherson as the mover of the original motion only has the right of replying before I take a vote on the amendment",  
../will you



will you explain why the Suspension of Standing Orders did not also apply in this case, and allow the mover of the amendment (which was then the subject of the debate) being given the opportunity to reply, if need be by application to other members of the council for a decision thereon?

4). With reference to the Chairman's remarks :-

" Before Councillor King gets on his feet ..

I have received two letters here, one from Littlington Parish Council supporting their District Councillors Hutcherson and Parker, and the other from a resident of that area who is disturbed that the Environmental Health Committee did not regard the opinion of the local elected representatives."

Would you please inform me of the dates of the letters, the dates received, and the name and address of the resident referred to?

5). With reference to the later remarks of the Chairman on Correspondence received, viz:-

" .. I have a letter here from the County Council dated the 24th of May, which is only yesterday, which says .. 'from the foregoing' .. .. this is a decision of their Policy and Resources Committee .. 'you will appreciate that no further action is being taken at present in relation to the proposed site at the end of Wimpole Avenue, Whaddon, and I am not taking any further steps for the time being in relation to the preparation of a draft for compulsory purchase order for the site' .."

could you please state why the whole of the letter - obviously of great importance - was not made available for proper study by members, either by display in the Council Chamber, or by circulation to them at the commencement of the meeting?

6). Can you confirm that the following is the total information available to the meeting in the matter of the cost of the project, for its construction and operating aspects :-

- (a). Coun. P. Powles : " .. the Army, quite rightly in my opinion, are insisting on a 3 metre fence with screening all round it, which as far as I know, my information is, that it will cost something in the nature of £30000. "
- (b). Chairman : " Before the next speaker may I make it abundantly clear that the £30,000 that Councillor Powles spoke of, and also the succeeding maintenance and supervision costs are borne completely by the County and not by this Council ...."
- (c). Coun. E. B. Rose : " Mr. Chairman, Mr. King did mention costs. I have a breakdown here of the costs. The site costs .. the site works will be £26,000, which is quite a lot of money for 3 years
- Chairman of the Environmental Services Cttee.

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- (c). Coun. E. B. Rose : " Mr. Chairman, Mr. King did mention costs. I have a breakdown here of the costs. The site costs .. the site works will be £26,000, which is quite a lot of money for 3 years I know. The sewage disposal will be to a cess-pit which will be pumped out. The running costs are estimated to be £1,940 per annum. "

Coun. P. F. King: "But how about the cost of warden-control Mr. Chairman? £1940 per annum for a warden-controlled transit site? "

- (d) Coun Rose : "The site is fencing .. a 5 metre boarded fence .. no a 3 metre one .. I'm sorry.."
- Coun Page : " Mr. Chairman, with due respect..."
- Chairman : " Could we listen to Mr. Rose .. "
- Coun. Rose : "The fencing costs are £34,000 .. that is .. £3,400 for chain-link fencing .. £12,850 for close-boarded fencing .. making £16,250 .. "
- Coun. Page : " But Mr. Chairman, Councillor Powles said the fence would cost £30,000."
- Chairman : " I wonder if Councillor Powles could explain what he said .. You said £30,000 for the ..?"
- Coun. Powles " We have been told that on the insistence of the Army, the height of this fence was to be such as to cost now up to £30,000 - it has to be 10 to 12 feet high - they wont accept the normal 5 to 6 feet.."
- (e). Coun D.H.Morris "I don't propose to speak one way or the other. I thought a little bit of information to supplement what Councillor Powles said about the fence. There are other costs involved apart from providing a fence. There is a certain amount of concreting, a cesspool and one thing and another, and a figure was given to me at the county Council, a figure of £100,000 would be the total cost which they would be providing."

Contd. from  
above Ref. Page 2.

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and that the above details are the total of the cost-information on which the debate in question took place ?

- 7). With regard to the critical or derogatory remarks levelled at the Public Inquiry system of the Department of the Environment (as instanced by remarks of Couns. Hutcherson, Miss. Hatley, Impey, Parker and Drs. Needham and O'Loughlin), as no correction, of, or challenge to, such denegration of an important arm of democratic local government was forthcoming from either the Chairman or senior member of the management team, will you please inform me if any future statement by either can be expected ?
- 8). In the belief that nothing less than a public scandal will be perpetrated by the Council agreeing to the expenditure of a tenth of a million pounds (or more) on a camping site for gypsies available for only 3 years and agreed on the scratchiest information available to them, may I remind you of the views express by Coun. Page :-
- " If an Inquiry causes a delay so that people can air their views and so that arguments can be weighed by those responsible, I would have thought that was entirely for the good and that it was one of the functions why we are here - to make sure that things are dealt with fairly - because whether we like it or not, people are cynical, and they're fed up with the way local government is run, and they're fed up with the way ordinary people are not heard in places like this. "

In total agreement with such beliefs I await your replies so that a detailed study on the nature and implications of this particular debate can be continued, and hopefully prove of value to the better conduct of local government in Cambridgeshire.

Yours truly,  
Peter King (Signature)

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Yours truly  
Peter King (Signature)

Copies 1 - 8.

- Coun. Page. (Amendment seconder).  
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-  
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The Secretary  
South Cambs District Council  
Tenison Road  
Cambridge

Dear Mr. Hancock,

Motion to Council  
Re Item 5, C.E.O's Report to Policy Committee - 25/10/78  
Cambridge Bypasses - Route Signing Proposals

Following discussions between us we would ask you to place on the Agenda of the next Council Meeting the following Resolution:

Bearing in mind that S. Cambs Resolution of 28/9/78 in respect of these Route Signing proposals could be construed by Cambridge City Council, that provided the villages on the A.604 south of the City were not affected, we did not mind where the traffic went.

We would wish to assure Cambridge City Council that the Resolution taken at the last Council Meeting merely reflected the comparative effect on routes in this District, and we would express the hope that the detailed proposals below will demonstrate our wish to ensure that through traffic does not pass through the City. We would, therefore, urge all Authorities in this area to press the Minister to approve the Route Signing detailed below:

Travelling in Southerly Direction

1. If the use of the A.45, A.1100, A.12 to Colchester and Harwich is now acceptable to the Ministry, the Route Signing prior to the Western Bypass must indicate that CAMBRIDGE, IPSWICH, COLCHESTER and HARWICH continue to the Northern Bypass where a further sign must indicate that all traffic for those last three towns, IPSWICH, COLCHESTER and HARWICH, are routed on the Northern Bypass.

2. If the permanent use of the route indicated under 1. is not acceptable to the Ministry in respect of Colchester and Harwich traffic, then in order to protect the A.604 south of the City with its poor through route to Colchester we would press for the following Route Signing after the construction of the Cambridge Western Bypass.

On approach to the Western Bypass, Straight on - CAMBRIDGE. IPSWICH, with a further sign prior to the Northern Bypass deflecting Ipswich traffic to the left.

On approach to the Western Bypass, fork right sign for LONDON. M11. COLCHESTER and HAVERHILL.

On approach to the Duxford Interchange, fork left signs NEWMARKET and HAVERHILL.

On approach to the Duxford Interchange, straight on signs for LONDON. M 11 and COLCHESTER. (This will ensure that the route Bishops Stortford, A.120 to Colchester, Harwich, is preferable to us rather than the A.604.

Our preferred routes are, however, COLCHESTER and HARWICH VIA Northern Bypass and A.45, with HAVERHILL ALONE on Western Bypass to the Duxford Interchange thence via A.505/A.11 to Four Went Way, Abington and thence to HAVERHILL.

Pamela Kenyon (Signature)

*Mrs Kenyon I shall be pleased to record this Resolution, if you wish.*

Donald Allen (Signature)

30/10/78