

BOROUGHBRIDGE MAYOR'S DIARY
Councillor Geoff Craggs's Weekly Diary

24 September 2010

We live in one of the loveliest parts of Yorkshire, so why is it that some people and organisations seem hell-bent on destroying communities and countryside which have been lovingly cherished and nurtured for generations. What, you may ask, brought this on?

On Thursday last I represented Boroughbridge Town Council at the quarterly meeting of the area's Joint Parish Councils where we learnt of yet another attempt to inflict a Motorway Services Area at Kirby Hill on to us- this despite the already established one at Wetherby and the proposed additional sites further North on the A1 where facilities existed before the upgrading of the A1 to motorway standard. There will be a meeting in the Coronation Hall for all residents on October 26th; this has been called by "RAMS" and will be in preparation for the opening of the public inquiry on 2nd. November. For your diaries, two very important meetings in January which we can all attend as members of the public - the 10th. January at the Crown Hotel Boroughbridge and the 11th. January in Ripon. Both meetings have been called by H.M. Inspector as part of the inquiry process, so if you want to show your opposition to Motorway Services at Kirby Hill....be there!

The other major environmental issue is of course the proposed Waste Treatment site at Allerton Park; I still feel we do not know enough about the impact this will have on all our communities, and there could be an opportunity to find out more by looking in on the exhibition by Amey Cespa at the Marton cum Grafton village hall tomorrow, Saturday 25th. September from 9 am to 6 pm. There will already have been a meeting at the Old Swan in Harrogate on Wednesday 22nd. September and I hope to be able to attend. We must NOT descend to "Nimbyism" over this proposal; grounds for concern are environmental and financial- chiefly the need for such a large unit and its long term viability.

Moving to a happier event, Betty and I attended the Air Force Ball at Menwith Hill last Saturday and had a very enjoyable evening, meeting old friends and making new ones. It was very appropriate that this event was held during Battle of Britain Week and the guest speaker Brig. General Cary C. Chun made it quite clear how important winning the Battle by "The Few" was to the future of civilisation as we know it and the ultimate victory against Fascism. He also paid tribute to our own Service men and women who are working alongside his fellow countrymen to bring peace - particularly in Afghanistan. Amen to that, and also to a resolution of the manifold problems in that war-torn country and all the other places where our Forces are committed