

## STATEMENT TO TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

NORTHEND, SEPT 12, 2018

### IN THE MATTER OF TURVILLE BARN RESTAURANT AND MR ROBIN HARMON

The Council had the matter put on the AGENDA earlier this year but it was removed because – the Clerk informed me – Mr HARMAN had not put in for PLANNING PERMISSION and thus there was (apparently) ‘nothing to discuss’. I am advised that an application for planning permission is not a *sine qua non* of a matter being adjudicated. It was a pity it was not reviewed, and a pity that the last meeting was unquorate (when the Chair stood down having declared a conflict of interest). A pity because we now have almost a *fait accompli*.

Our house is next door to the development. We, along with our neighbours (Mrs Ford in Turville Grange, and her caretakers nearer the Barn) are assailed every weekend and some weekdays by noise and smells - and hundreds of people. Cars and bikes are everywhere. Two weekends ago cars ignored signs and a phalanx clogged the private road to the Grange. People wander into our property and we have thus installed CCTV – and planted a VERY EXPENSIVE hedge to try and hide the mess in the abutting yard.

The Clerk was good enough to see me and suggested that a) Mr HARMAN had the right to do what he wants in his property (I dispute that); and b) that it was essentially a neighbour’s dispute. It is not. We are not NIMBYS. I will support the supportable – like his new cottage extension. The effect on the Heath and environment – and safety (Mrs Ford just had her stone pineapples nicked) – is serious, and is paramount. I have a photo of a typical day in which picnickers are camped on the heath and sitting on the logs Mr Harman plonked outside our house. If councillors would like to live next door to this bustle they can buy our house – currently unsold because (according to our agent) ‘the majority [of viewers] have been put off...by the noise...and smells’ next door.

So, yes, we are blighted and personally affected. But that was to be expected after Mr Harman said he would do everything to ‘obstruct the sale of’ our house, when he learnt that we might query any extension of his business. But what his business (centred on a Grade 1 LISTED BARN) does to the Heath itself,

and to the peace of an AONB, is much more important for councillors to consider than our material loss.

Mr Harman responded to a demand from the Heath's owner (CHARLES HOARE NAIRN) to remove his tables and chairs from the Heath. But the Heath is still not the pleasant place it was.

Turville Parish Council objects to the WINDMILL COTTAGE, Turville, change of use application, because 'it is an unsuitable building to contain any noise generated...There is insufficient parking space...[and] it will lead to an increase in traffic and parking which will spoil the character of the area in the AONB...' Substitute *Windmill Cottage* for *Turville Barn* and you have the same problem but many times worse. Our neighbours are doing no more than you. Preserving what is best. The plethora of buildings erected as part of the Barn development constitute what one architect called an 'affront'.

What is the solution? Ideally, the business be moved to a licensed property elsewhere. Perhaps a compromise *could* be reached; the Grade 1 Barn vacated; plus the courtyard. And travellers fed, within more modest approved structures, within his field. But numbers are the problem, the Heath simply cannot cope. Mr. Cowell of Wycombe Planning has served notice that a planning application be submitted by October 5.

The present situation, if allowed to proceed, invites others to compete. My lawyer said we should open an eaterie next door, perhaps dispensing rock music and free food. Whatever. But his (perhaps) facetious suggestion illustrates the danger of doing nothing – traffic will proliferate, a precedent will be established; and we shall see the end of what Pevsner called 'the most secluded and perhaps the most beautiful part of the Chilterns.'

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Nicky Bird, Sept 12, 2018