

## Bagby Airfield Meeting

One of our readers from Bagby alerted us here at the Thirsk Weekly News that there will be a village meeting to view and discuss the latest plans for Bagby Airfield on Saturday 21st February, Bagby Church Hall, 1.30 p.m.

A note had been pushed through the Bagby residents' letterboxes to inform them of this meeting, but they also received another note from Action4 Refusal (which aims to stop all growth at Bagby airfield). Their leaflet made many spurious claims, among them that Bagby is a quiet rural environment. Strange how many military airfields were and are in use by the RAF; Topcliffe is part of the flying school and gets military aircraft Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. Unless you are someone over 80 years old, you will not be able to remember the Bagby area free of aircraft. People here have forgotten about Dalton, Skipton on Swale, Tholthorpe, Linton on Ouse, Leeming, Dishforth; all these impacted on the area. Peace and quiet is quite a myth in rural areas. We have agricultural noise from tractors, combines etc also from livestock and wild animals.

The last time it was quiet was during the Foot & Mouth crisis of 2001 when for the whole summer Bagby and surrounding area had a surreal quietness, one which I hope never occurs again.

On a personal note I had lunch at the Roebuck Inn one Saturday lunchtime

(marvellous lunch) before Christmas (on a particularly sunny day). As we drove into Bagby we noticed aircraft taking off and landing, but when we reached the pub and got out of the car we stood in the car park straining to hear all those noisy aeroplanes which were hardly audible. In fact the only noise we could really hear was a garden implement of some kind (leaf blower, strimmer etc).

As for killing off the local pub and hotels, many of the members of the flying club actually drink in the Roebuck Inn regularly throughout the week (how many of the Action4Refusal regularly drink in the pub?)

Local hotels prosper as people fly in for shooting parties in the local area and stay in hotels nearby.

As for commercial developments we are not getting Thirsk Industrial Park just a tidy up of what is already there.

Finally, to the other airfields in the area, Felixkirk is only suitable for microlights/helicopters, Baxby again only for microlights, Topcliffe is military and only for emergency use and Sutton Bank is for gliders only. Bagby airfield has been in use for over 30 years, and therefore prescriptive rights apply.

Could the real reason behind Action4 Refusal be to shut down Bagby airfield rather than object to planning applications?

If they succeed why don't we ban motorcycles, cutting the grass on a weekend, and then private car use?



commemorated the occasion in a book