

Extract from Full Council 08 September 2020

Chairman: Councillor Nigel Smith, would you like to try again?

Cllr Smith: Hello Chairman, can you hear me?

Chairman: *Inaudible*

Cllr Smith: I take that as a yes. I just wanted to make a few comments, I'm not going to go through every point. I notice that the motion says "to save the High Streets". Now as somebody who has been involved in running a business on the High Street for many, many years, could I suggest that the Labour Group get together and have a go themselves at running a business then they'll just realise how difficult it is. I also point out that the Government invested more money in this pandemic than has ever been invested before in the history of this country. Then we look at the, another point I just want to bring up. "Drive job creation". Now we're told and I understand it's correct, that Riverway in Measham is one of the most deprived areas in North West Leicestershire and in fact in the Midlands. I therefore find it absolutely unbelievable that when one of this country's most important and most famous companies, Jaguar Land Rover, wanted to build their state of the art international distribution centre, everyone on the Labour Party voted against it. In fact, Measham Parish Council, I had a telephone call from their Chairman saying "take no notice of that lot. I'm a socialist, they don't know what they're talking about, we need the jobs and Jaguar Land Rover have agreed-

Cllr Legrys: Chair, I have a point of order with Councillor Smith's speech, Chair.

Chairman: Yes, please Cllr Smith, stick to the motion please.

Cllr Legrys: Chair, I-

Cllr Smith: The motion was referencing job creation. You only create jobs by creating businesses and to vote against creating businesses is completely wrong. Thank you.

Cllr Legrys: Chair, I have made a point of order and I would like to make that point of order please.

Chairman: Yes please.

Cllr Legrys: Thank you Chair. I'm deeply concerned that the Labour Members, the few Labour Members on the planning committee are- being- making public allegations that we are being whipped. Can I have a clarification please Chair?

Chairman: From who do you wish clarification, Councillor Legrys?

Cllr Legrys: I'd like a clarification from Councillor Smith, please, Chair.

Chairman: Would you like to respond Councillor Smith?

Cllr Smith: Yes, by all means Chairman. I at no time said that the Labour Group were being 'whipped'. What I said was that the Labour group, to a man voted against one of the most important, potentially largest job creating companies moving into this area. And I never ever said that they were whipped.

Chairman: Thank you Councillor Smith, we'll leave it at that and please get back to the motion. Could I bring in Councillor Carl Benfield?