

Friday 27 June 2014

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Hello again,
This a short email about two important matters.

Coroner finds failings by mental health teams and Notts police "allowed a vulnerable and dangerous man to be left at large" free to kill his grandfather.

The Coroner's Inquest into the death of Stapleford man, John McGrath, finished this morning. The Coroner gave her findings and we anticipate extensive local and national media coverage.

John was killed on July 24th 2009 by his grandson William Barnard who was profoundly mentally ill at the time; John's wife Mabel was also seriously injured.

Today the Coroner found that delays by those mental health teams who had a duty to look after and care for William, and Nottinghamshire Police who are charged with protecting us all, "allowed a vulnerable and dangerous man to be left at large". The Coroner concluded that there had been a series of delays between April 16 2009 and July 24th 2009 to assess Williams mental health. If an assessment had been made it was "likely William would have been detained." Equally, the Coroner stated that the police had delayed in arresting William for a serious offence involving a machete in May 2009. If the police had arrested William, the Coroner concluded, he was likely to be detained and therefore "not at liberty to kill his grandfather".

These were very serious failings by public bodies with tragic consequences. However, it was good to hear from the Coroner that Notts Health Care Trust has already made a number of important changes to the way their mental health teams work. Ensuring that no other family suffers again as John and William's have is what has motivated the family from the outset.

I would like to pay a public tribute to William's GP Dr Percival and her team who work at the Saxon Cross practice in Stapleford and to Carol Sharrat at the Burrowes and Close Pharmacy. They tried to help William and tragically many of their warnings were ignored.

There are a number of serious questions about this case which have yet to be answered. For example, the family were not told that William was due to be arrested by the police on the day he killed his grandfather until I unearthed a secret report in July 2012. I remain gravely concerned there was a police cover up of their failings. Over the weekend the family and I will consider the Coroner's findings and various other matters and decide how best to proceed. In the meantime I would like to thank the family's solicitor Paul Bacon and barrister Maureen Baker QC who have worked for nothing on this case having been refused Legal Aid - an outrageous decision which I have challenged.

Finally, my thanks, again, to this remarkable family who conducted themselves today, as they always have, with great dignity. It's taken almost five long years to reach today's findings and we are almost there in our quest to ensure that John did not die in vain.

Tram faces six month delay!

The City Council has confirmed that the tram line will not open on time. No date has been fixed but we are told it will be in "the first part of 2015". NET say the main works will be completed by the "end of the summer". Throughout this whole sorry story residents, businesses and I have had a string of broken promises on completion dates. We

still have no true idea when this line will be completed.

I have written to the Leader of the City Council as follows :

Dear Councillor Collins,

I request an urgent meeting with you and all relevant parties following the announcement that the tramline through my constituency will not be open on time.

I specifically want to discuss the following points please:

1. What exactly does, "the first part of 2015" mean?

2. My constituents – residents and businesses – have had a string of consistently broken promises as to completion dates on those sections of the tramworks that directly affect them. We now need to determine how we can best advance the completion of the tram project, working with residents and businesses.

3. Given the failure of this project to deliver on time, I understand that the constructors will be faced with penalty payments; I wish to know what those payments will be as I strongly believe that monies must be made available to compensate residents and businesses in my constituency that have been so adversely affected by the tramworks. As you will know, people on Lower and Fletcher Roads have been living in a construction site with all the attendant disruption, noise and dust for 18 months. Businesses throughout Beeston have suffered genuine financial loss because of the tramworks and they should and must be compensated as a priority.

The longer these works continue, the less the chance is that businesses will survive to take advantage of the benefits you have promised the tram will deliver.

There is genuine anger and disappointment at today's announcement. Planning Line 2 started 15 years ago. Warnings and concerns from people who have lived in Beeston and Chilwell for decades were largely ignored. It should not be the case that such a huge project only discovers the state of the utilities and services below the road surface once the work has started. There are serious lessons to be learnt and assurances to be given before we take one step beyond thinking about a tram line to Kimberley!

I will be sending out my normal email newsletter in the next few days,
Have a good weekend,

Anna

What's on tomorrow

Saturday 28 June

Annual Open Day - St Mary's Church - Greasley

10am till 4pm

Church Road, Greasley, NG16 2AB

There will be craft stalls, historical tours, ploughman's lunches, cream teas and children's games.

Coffee Morning

10am till 12.30pm

Greasley Sports and Community Centre

Coffee Morning in support of the Royal British Legion, with homemade cakes and coffee. Also featuring the launch of an exhibition commemorating WW1.

4th Attenborough Brownies Fundraising event

3pm till 4.50pm

Girl Guiding Headquarters, West End, Beeston, NG9 1GL

Fund raising afternoon to raise money to for the Brownies, there will be afternoon tea, sandwiches and a tombola raffle.

Summer Fayre - Queenswood

2pm till 4pm

Methodist Home, Cliffgrove Avenue, Beeston, NG9 4DP

Fund raising afternoon with refreshments, tombola, cakes, bric a brac and children's games.

Chilwell Christ Church Hall Pre School - Summer Fayre

2pm till 4pm

Lime Grove Avenue, Chilwell, NG9 4AS

There will be stalls, a bouncy castle, face painting, crafts and refreshments. Entry is 50p under 16's are free.

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