

# Central Bedfordshire Public Hearing 29th/30th September 2014

## Witness Statement

In support of Councillor D.I. Robinson, Northhill Parish Council.

I am a resident of Northhill Parish and have been involved, reasonably closely, in Parish affairs since residing in the village of Upper Caldecote. Before moving to the parish I lived in a small town where I regularly attended Council Meetings from the age of 17 years. Therefore I consider that I am equipped to be aware of rules and procedures of Council meetings

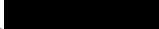
Briefly, my understanding is, that one of the duties of councillors is to listen to the problems and concerns of residents, then where possible bring forward those views and concerns, whether he/she is personally interested or otherwise, to the attention of the Parish Council. This may be at a Parish Council meeting where residents are present, and can therefore participate, or in day to day contact with other Councillors.

Residents of Pound Close in Upper Caldecote had very particular concerns regarding the very long period of maintenance neglect to the 'children's play area', or amenity area. They also were very concerned regarding the danger of the speed of traffic passing the entrance to the small Close. Councillor Robinson helped to bring these concerns to the attention of Northhill Parish Council on behalf of the residents.

Councillor Robinson is also active in other committees in the village/parish, including our Neighbourhood Plan, and is always ready to give his time and energy to these projects.

I consider that any allegations that may have been made against Councillor Ian Robinson being dishonest, not declaring pecuniary interest, lacking integrity or breaking the rules of Councillors Code of Conduct are incorrect. He can sometimes be a little vociferous, he is outspoken and enthusiastic by nature, and has a will to 'get things done'. At Council Meetings I have never heard him be offensive or rude, perhaps sometimes a little persistent in his argument. I could offer the opinion that if he were to be given straight answers to his questions, immediately, this current situation may not have arisen.

I was Secretary to a village group where Councillor Robinson agreed to be the Publicity Officer. I confirm that his articles for the local press were always vetted by the members of the Committee, and I believe on one occasion a small error was overlooked. This was amended the following week.

Jill Parker,  Upper Caldecote.

Signed ..  ..

Date.....

17.9.2014.