

19th August 2009

I am told that the preliminary bid for the 2018 World Cup has to be submitted by 25th August and I hope that in this short time scale it may be possible to stop the preposterous notion that a new £100 Million plus development can take place on the Green Belt. Nottingham already has more Stadiums that could be developed than any comparable sized City and other brown field sites within the actual City crying out for such development. I also do not understand why a bid to develop a Stadium in Rushcliffe is being let by the City Council or how they can possibly think that the residents of Lady Bay will lie down and accept such a proposal. The time scale is so tight that they must know that the inevitable mass local objections will de-rail the whole thing and embarrass the whole of Greater Nottingham.

One fundamental question is how can this possibility be afforded in this or even an improved economic climate? As partners what will the County and Rushcliffe's contribution be and how will I be expected to pay for it? I fully support a World Cup bid, but Forest or County do not need a 50,000 capacity Stadium on an on going basis and I doubt if Paraguay versus North Korea in an opening round would require it either. For 3 or 4 qualifying matches it seems a ridiculous commitment to make. Mention of river transport , bridges and the tram have been made but as far as I understand it there is no proposed tram to Holme Pierrepont, no-one can seriously expect to get agreement to another river crossing , and notions of river transport as a serious sustainable transport initiative are frankly embarrassing. Better sites exist at East side or even at the racecourse.

However, can you try to persuade the City Council that the only way Nottingham can compete, in the time allowed, with Leicester and Derby, where the two new Stadiums can be easily expanded with additional tiers is to re-develop one of the two present football Stadiums. I am told by the City Council that there are planning restrictions on the City ground? This can be the only explanation as to why such a well sited facility would be overlooked and are these with Rushcliffe? I thought that Forest owned lots of the houses in Colwick Road? The present capacity is just under 30,000 and a much needed expansion of the Main stand with the addition of both Trent End corners being filled in and the re-building of the Main stand/ Bridgford end corner to full height could easily add the necessary 16,000 additional seats. I appreciate that the Trent End supports may make this technically difficult but it would surely cost a fraction of the proposed cost of a new Stadium. Alternatively, it would be a shame but the Brian Clough Stand could be demolished, the pitch turned 90 degrees and the ground expanded onto the Car Park towards the canal and Environment Agency.

Whilst Forest have no money, surely County with their new rich owners offer more potential so why is Meadow Lane ignored in all this? The present 20,300 capacity could be expanded by the closure of County road with Cattle Market road being straightened to give direct access to Lady Bay Bridge across the dilapidated market site. Cardiff showed the way in this regard by having a City Centre Stadium that brought trade to the City not one stuck out in the middle of nowhere will poor transport and no facilities.

Many more areas of objection about transport, congestion, flooding, and my Council tax Bill but I have said enough for now. Really don't think the present bid is thought through and the sooner a proper bid is put in the better chance there is of success. Please talk to the City.

A Lady Bay resident