

Spitfire and Hurricane join VE Day peace party

A JOYOUS celebration took place in Sutton-in-Ashfield on Thursday, to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

The RAF made a special appearance, flying a Supermarine Spitfire and a Hawker Hurricane over Sutton Lawn, to the delight of schoolchildren from the area.

The VE Day peace party was organised by the Academy Transformation Trust Further Education (ATTFE) College, in Sutton-in-Ashfield, and was one of the only celebrations in the country to see the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight pass over.

The VE Day celebratory event saw a host of wartime vehicles and exhibits, performances from local schools, as well as a "Churchill speech" to entertain visitors.

Liz Barrett, principal at the ATTFE College, said, "We are so

lucky to have had the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight fly-past on Sutton Lawn.

It was such an amazing way for the local community to get together to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

"On behalf of ATTFE College, I would like to express my thanks to everyone involved and to the people of Sutton in Ashfield and the local community for attending this fantastic event"

The Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, Professor Veronica Pickering, said on Thursday: "This event in Ashfield, and many events taking place across Nottinghamshire today, give us all an opportunity to reflect and remember the sacrifices made for freedom, and the enduring power of peace and unity.

"We remember the past with gratitude and look to the future with hope."



The Hurricane (top) and Spitfire from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight flying over Sutton-in-Ashfield to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day

JOSEPH RAYNOR

Pub's beer garden should not have been built, planners rule

'HEARTBREAKING' DECISION COULD MEAN CLOSURE OF THE OLD VOL, WARNS BOSS

By **JOE LOCKER**

Local democracy reporter

RETROSPECTIVE plans for a pub's beer garden have been rejected, amid concerns some developments are "playing fast and loose" with planning rules.

The Old Volunteer, Caythorpe, run by the Reddington Pub Company, applied for back-dated planning permission for its beer garden, children's play area and miniature village, and a car park.

The beer garden of the pub – known as the Old Vol – is subject to planning enforcement because permission was not first granted.

Director of the pub company, Sean Reddington, has been further seeking permission for a new glazed structure in the beer garden.

However the plans were unanimously rejected by Newark and Sherwood District Council's planning committee on Thursday.

The authority acknowledged Mr Reddington had worked positively to solve problems relating to parking and the impact on the green belt, but said flooding concerns remained.

George Machin, the agent repre-



The outdoor area at the Old Vol at Caythorpe

senting the applicant, echoed previous comments from Mr Reddington that without the beer garden the pub would operate at a loss, and may be forced to close. About 90 people work at the business, and the plans would have created a further 15 jobs. After the decision, Mr Reddington told the Nottingham Post: "It's truly heartbreaking. I've never seen a process so behind the times in my life."

Mr Machin argued at the planning meeting that the impacts on business and employment outweigh the

limited harm to greenbelt, and it was further suggested £20,000 be donated to the Lowdham Flood Action Group.

Mr Machin said: "While the Environment Agency has raised concerns, I respectfully ask the committee. Both the applicant and local residents both confirm this site has never experienced flooding.

"The application has attracted 190 letters of support, which is powerful testament to the value this venue brings. The beer garden's position is

well contained and discreet. The report makes clear that without the beer garden the business would operate at a loss, would not be financially viable and would be forced to close."

However, there were 42 objections to the retrospective and newly-submitted plans.

Ivan Kerry, chairman of Caythorpe Parish Council, said there had been events in the past, including a 10-hour outdoor party, during which noise levels were "intrusive".

"We remain open to discussions regarding a fair and comprehensive compromise, and we truly believe one can be found," he said.

Councillor Keith Melton (Lib Dem) said: "I am concerned about the green belt issue. I am also concerned about this being retrospective.

"I am troubled by the number of retrospective applications that come

to us – it seems to be prevalent that we are getting people playing fast and loose with the rules, hoping to get away with it."

Committee chair Councillor Andy Freeman (Lab), added: "It would have been far better if there had been a process and a project plan, and then there wouldn't be the danger of people losing their jobs if we turned this down.

"It is not a really nice position for the planning committee to be put in, when we would naturally look at supporting businesses like this. But we are not going to be bludgeoned into supporting this in the way that has been approached.

"Sometimes retrospective planning applications are genuine, sometimes they are not. Very often they are not."

The committee suggested the applicant return with a better compromise, before rejecting the plans.

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Reddington Pub Company director Sean Reddington