

ACCURACY is the cornerstone of our work at the *Southern Daily Echo*. We are committed to minimising errors.

Because the business of journalism is a public trust, we encourage readers to help us. If you see an error in the *Southern Daily Echo* please contact Your Advocate at the number listed below.

We also invite you to call with any questions or comments. Your Advocate is David Brine.

IF YOU FIND AN ERROR OR HAVE COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT HIM ON: 023 8042 4522
Independent Press Standards Organisation, c/o Halton House, 20-23 Holborn, London EC1N 2JD
Phone: 0300 123 2220
Complaints: complaints@ipso.co.uk
Inquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk



Thursday, December 28, 2017

Decembeard (Beating Bowel Cancer)
Feast of the Holy Innocents (Christian)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A GREAT MANY PEOPLE THINK THEY ARE THINKING WHEN THEY ARE REALLY REARRANGING THEIR PREJUDICES."

WILLIAM JAMES, US PHILOSOPHER AND PSYCHOLOGIST

Letters are welcome on any topic but preference will be given to subjects of local interest. Please limit letters to a maximum of 250 words. Letters may be published with "name and address supplied". All letters and emails must include the writer's name and full postal address. We do not publish anonymous submissions.

WRITE TO: SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO, Newspaper House, Test Lane, Redbridge, Southampton SO16 9JX

EMAIL: letters@dailyecho.co.uk

The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2016 was 62.8%.



Not so many amateurs protesting

I REFER to the letter from Martin Kyrle (December 20) in which he refers to the recent Local Plan meeting at the Ageas Hilton at which Eastleigh Borough Council voted in favour of a highly controversial proposal to support the council leadership in the development of some 5,000+ homes and a new road to the North of Bishopstoke that will traverse areas close to ancient woodland and across the highly protected Itchen Valley – a Special Area of Conservation protected at the highest level.

I am usually of the opinion that, at my age, 72, there is little to surprise me, but I truly believe Mr Kyrle

has succeeded in raising arrogance to a new level of prominence and adopting a view totally inappropriate for someone in his position.

He objects to criticism of his council colleagues when accused of "not listening", but listening is more than hearing the words, it is also having an open mind to absorb input from all sides and make objective decisions. In this regard the council certainly were not listening and the decision on the plan was in direct opposition to extensive, well-informed opinion based on sound professional knowledge and experience from a wide swathe of expertise wholly relevant to the subject.

Mr Kyrle refers to the "protesters" as amateurs and the council planning officers as "professionals" who, of course are therefore

omniscient and therefore able to make advice decisions impervious to challenge and in fact, before all relevant evidence is collated, which is certainly the case here!

Mr Kyrle would do well to check his facts before expounding on the competencies of substantive individuals whose views differ from his. There were some 33 public speakers at the meeting and objectors to the plan were very much in the majority – certainly over 30. Referring to these individuals as "amateurs" is dangerous stuff indeed Mr Kyrle! Among their number we find, amongst others, professional surveyors, architects, highway engineers, environmental specialists and the backing of noted legal counsel with deep planning expertise.

Objectors also included

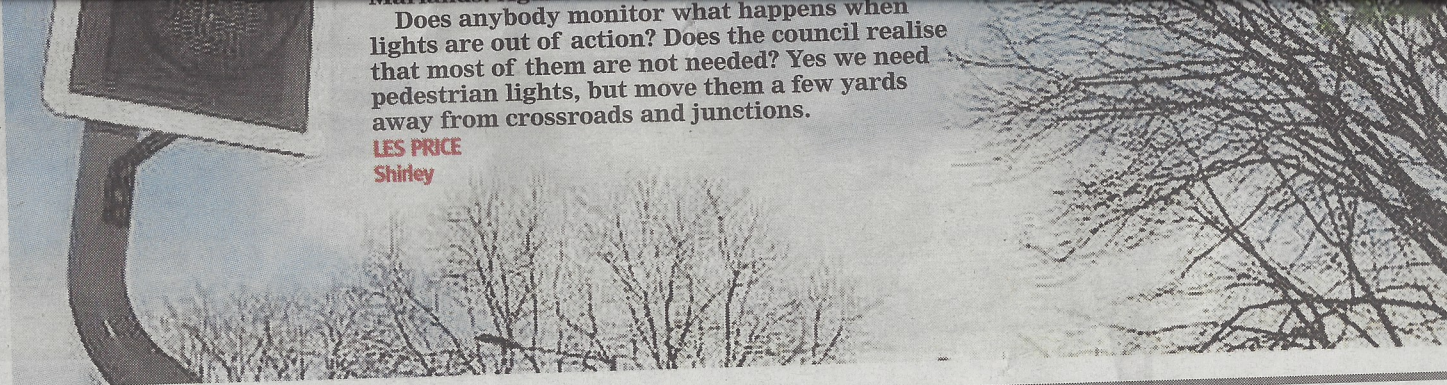
representatives from the Woodland Trust, Angling Trust and Campaign for the Protection of Rural England., amongst other notable organisations. The list also of professional qualifications extant within the group would do great credit to any similar number in local government or any branch of public service.

Amateurs? I think not Mr Kyrle and I believe you should spend some time extracting your foot from your mouth!

I am confident that many other objecting entities will be evident over the coming months in respect of the Local Plan and it is incumbent on local councillors to listen. This is one of, if not the most important planning decision to be made in Eastleigh for a generation. It is not a rehearsal and has to be made with the support of the

Does anybody monitor what happens when lights are out of action? Does the council realise that most of them are not needed? Yes we need pedestrian lights, but move them a few yards away from crossroads and junctions.

LES PRICE
Shirley



LETTERS

local community as a whole, not a council leadership with entrenched views and closed ears.

Eastleigh deserves better – much better!

DAVID J BETTS
Allbrook

Changing the blame

IT WAS with a feeling of consternation that I read of Conservative Southampton Itchen MP Royston Smith's comments regarding cyclists' safety in the city.

What leapt out at me about his comments was what if we changed the word cyclist to something like children, or women, or ethnic minorities?

If a series of roads weren't safe for women to walk down, would we say that it was best they walked somewhere else? That it was best if they used their judgement and avoided certain areas? That women may not like this but that something had to be done to make our streets safer?

We wouldn't.

We would recognise the fact that it was a utterly unacceptable situation that individuals were at risk for doing something they were

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Have you taken a photograph of a Hampshire scene that you would like to share with our other readers? Email it to picdesk@dailyecho.co.uk and we will pick the best. Find us on Twitter @EchoPics. Visit bit.ly/echophotos to join our Flickr group.

