



Kenley Airfield Friends Group

Newsletter 8a

Airfield Safety Barriers

We promised that we would update you after our meeting with Croydon Council's planners.

Background: The barriers not being fixed in any way can be classified as temporary structures. Previous Newsletters have related Croydon's opinion that if the barriers remain in place over a period of time they would become a permanent structure and so Planning Permission would be required.

Croydon subsequently wrote to MoD who quickly responded that the structures were on Crown Land and as a lawful development in connection with RAF activities; no planning permission was required. Croydon then sought advice from their legal beagles.

Outcome: The pronouncement from the legal team is that the barriers are a lawful development but only marginally so. MoD can claim the barriers to be a lawful development on Crown land because it is connected with airfield operations. We should point out that MoD asked for a lawful development for a pair of portacabins to be situated next to the hangar and which would form male and female dormitories. As this is a domestic issue, not an operational requirement, planning permission does have to be applied for.

Our View: Whilst it is a disappointment it draws a line under this affair for the time being at least; the gain we have is that we do not have fencing all around the airfield and the possibility of that ever happening now is remote. We should also take into consideration the benefits gained during the period that the Safety Working Group was meeting; we can now make a complete circuit of the airfield at any time and officially for instance.

As far as operations and the Health and Safety Executive is concerned the barriers are working effectively and there are now very few incursions recorded onto the airfield during operations.

We will continue to press for the principles of the conservation area to be upheld, but we do see problems of enforcement. Looking at the barriers themselves there is significant deterioration especially where they link together. Probably sooner rather than later they will have to be replaced and we can press for more suitable materials to be used in a more stable structure. What we say however, may not be suitable to all, to sink posts into the concrete may cause some to say that we are vandalising the heritage. It is possible that we can address this dilemma under the heritage lottery work should our claim be successful. Future Newsletters will keep you informed.

Chris Baguley

Can You Help At All?

We have booked stalls at Caterham Carnival on **Saturday 9th June** and Old Coulsdon Village Fair on **Saturday 7th July**

For these 2 events we need help to:

Put up the tent in the morning ... and take it down later
Help man our Information Tent in 1 and 2 hour time slots
(don't worry you won't be left on your own)

We also need help for our Kenley Heritage Day on **Saturday 23rd June**

For this event we need help to:

Put up the tent in the morning ... and take it down later
Help man our Information Tent in 1 and 2 hour time slots
Help man the Nature Walks Tent to register walkers
Be a Guide for the Heritage Nature Walks
Be on call for any very Basic First Aid need (if you are a registered first aider it would be good to know)

Saturday 23rd June **Noon to 4pm**
Portcullis Field, Victor Beamish Avenue, CR3 5FX

Kenley Heritage Day

A Family Heritage Event

Guided WWII Heritage and Nature Walks

Family Games BBQ Ice Cream

Getting Close to the Gliders

Plenty of Parking Bar Teas



Kenley Airfield Friends Group www.kafg.org.uk

Please contact either Mike Rodwell (email mike@triplar.co.uk or 020 8660 2658) or Lesley West (email lwest@oxted.surrey.sch.uk or 020 8660 3149). Just tell us the date and what time(s) you can help.

WE REALLY DO NEED YOU