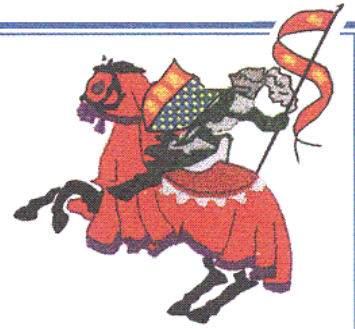


# *STAMFORD CHAMBER of TRADE and COMMERCE*

**PO Box 175 Stamford Lincolnshire PE9 1XN**



## **PRESS RELEASE - JUDICIAL REVIEW**

### **NON-SAVING OF RYHALL ROAD LINK PROTECTION CORRIDOR**

Our Chamber is disappointed with the Judgment given on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at the High Court of Justice.

The Judgment appears to suggest that a planning officer employed by a Council, acting alone, had the power to change the planning status of land.

This without consulting the Council's Planning Committee, statutory consultees, interested parties, or indeed any other stakeholder.

To become established and in this case long established, the planning policy to protect the corridor for a future Ryhall Road Link and thus the Stamford Eastern Relief Road negotiated the hurdles of public debate, public consultation, and Public Inquiry. It was voted for by elected councillors sitting in Full Council.

Although such a policy has been carefully, thoughtfully and democratically arrived at, according to this Judgment it can apparently now be overturned on the mere whim of a single employee of a Council.

If this is truly the case, then we are not living in a democratic Country. We find ourselves living in a dictatorship, where any planning officer is free to enforce his personal opinion. The rest of us are not asked, and have no say.

It seems that our English Justice System will not lift a finger against such behaviour. Nor has it acted in favour of our democratic system.

If this Judgment is correct, then we all should be fearful of future dictatorial decisions by a paid officer of a Council.

In this particular case, the Judgment has made more difficult the future relief of traffic from Stamford's town centre, its historic core and its Conservation Area.

Such relief can only result from the construction of the Ryhall Road Link, the Stamford Eastern Relief Road, and an eventual Stamford Ring Road. Our Chamber will continue to press for these essential highway improvements

Our Chamber is currently considering whether to appeal the Judgment.

9<sup>th</sup> April 2009

Questions to 01780 484888