

Mr Chairman, can we remind ourselves of the definition of **SCRUTINY**. The Oxford Dictionary, says, "*It is a critical observation or examination*" the original meaning coming from the Latin word *scrutinium*, meaning "*to search and sort rubbish*".

So, where are we?

I have read the report by **Simon Pugh**. It is abundantly clear he does not support the motion by Councillors Lemon and Light. I would suggest he is totally wrong. Ask yourself why does he not want a full-scale investigation? What does he fear might be exposed?

Mr Pugh **described the Stansted Airport application as a Major Planning matter**. This surely should have rung warning bells. It was complex and clearly not a matter that either the Officers or indeed Councillors **had experience of dealing with. Their training, experience and knowledge would have been inadequate**. A wise management team would have asked the Secretary of State to call the matter in. As we know this did not happen. Instead your colleagues on Planning were expected to read, digest and understand documents in excess of **7,000 pages**. Not something within the capabilities of most district councillors. Add to this they had to sit through many hours of discussion by interested parties and expert witnesses. Cross examination would be required, but again, how many district councillors have the skill to interrogate, more especially if they do not understand the subject. A government appointed Inspector would of course have all of those skills.

So tonight, I would urge you to override the views of **Mr Pugh**. This is a matter for you to make a decision to sort through the rubbish including the debacle at the hearing. Not you personally but for you to appoint an **Independent Scrutineer**, probably a Barrister.

As individuals please ignore the **PARTY WHIP**. Local politics has no place for playground "**bullies**" where threats are made to those who do not toe the line. Please support Councillor Lemon who ignored **the Whip**

because he realised something is wrong. Not to do so would be an opportunity lost.

Thank you.