



## THE SAFETY AND FAIRNESS ALLIANCE

January 2005

### Changes to Flying Circuits at RAF Linton-on-Ouse by Hambleton District Council

An action group has been established by residents from the villages of Newton-on-Ouse, Linton-on-Ouse and Tollerton. SAFA, the Safety And Fairness Alliance, is committed to the restoration of the previous safe visual flying circuits at RAF Linton-on-Ouse ie. to a situation of no detriment to other villages.

SAFA supports the work of the Parish Councils of Newton and Linton, and is supported by the same Parish Councils in its efforts to restore the previous flying circuits.

The reasons for the our joint action are:

#### ADVERSE IMPACT ON LOCAL RESIDENTS

- Villages directly overflown by the previous circuits = **zero**. (Source: RAF Linton-on-Ouse)
- Villages overflown by new trial circuits = **four** i.e. Newton-on-Ouse, Linton-on-Ouse, Tollerton and Great Ouseburn. (Source: RAF Linton on Ouse)
- Individual residents directly overflown under old circuits = **minimal**.
- Population directly overflown by the new trial circuits = **3000 approx**.
- Linton-on-Ouse Primary School is now overflown, resulting in serious disruption due to noise and visual distractions. (Source: School Governors)
- Tollerton has been subject to intensive over flying for many years including by heavy aircraft and fast jets making straight-in approaches and departures at RAF Linton. Whilst residents readily accept this historical level of disturbance, there is no justification for further increasing the impact on almost 1000 people.

#### THE ACTIONS OF HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

- The changes to circuits were introduced by Hambleton District Council without full and prior consultation with either the Parish Councils or local residents.
- There is no evidence forthcoming that a risk assessment was undertaken by Hambleton District Council prior to their decision to change the flying circuits in April 2004.
- On 23 November 2004 the Cabinet of Hambleton District Council failed to support a recommendation by their own Scrutiny Committee to return the flying circuits to the previous routes. They allowed the trial circuits to continue.

## THE FACTS FROM THE RAF

- The RAF's Visual Circuit Analysis dated September 2003, clearly shows that the new trial circuits have a far greater impact on local villages than the original circuits.
- The RAF's previous flight circuits did not overfly any of the villages around the airfield.
- The new trial circuits (introduced by Hambleton District Council) directly overfly the villages that are home to the vast majority of residents living around the airfield.
- With the original circuits, the aerodrome controllers in the control tower had a field of view that took in 100% of the circuits.
- With the new trial circuits there is a limited field of view from the control tower for two of the three new trial circuits, including those which fly over Newton and Linton villages. The control tower is also unable to clearly observe aircraft flying over Linton Primary School.

## IN ADDITION

- Anne McIntosh, MP for The Vale of York, personally assured us on 10 December 2004 that she has never endorsed a geographical spread of the flying circuits as claimed by the Aldwark Noise Group and used by Hambleton District Council. Indeed she has written to assure us that at no point has she taken sides or expressed a preference on this matter.
- The Ministry of Defence, in a letter to Anne McIntosh in May 2001, refer to the trial circuits and state clearly that the local council **“must ensure that any option was the most equitable solution for all residents living in the vicinity of the Station.”**
- The Human Rights Act states that all authorities must act proportionally when weighing the impact of their decisions on members of the public. It would appear that Hambleton District Council have so far failed to take this into account when weighing the disturbance and risk to over 3000 residents against the benefits enjoyed by just 150 other people.
- Common sense says that the risks of flying aeroplanes over populated areas **MUST** be greater than flying them over open countryside.

Visit [www.safaweb.co.uk](http://www.safaweb.co.uk) to get more information and video evidence.

