

LETTERS OF INTENT FROM  
BUSINESSES SUPPORTING THE  
REBUILDING OF  
BRANDON STADIUM



improving communities, housing & homes

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Mannie Ketley  
Executive Director  
Rugby Borough Council  
Town Hall,  
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31 October 2022

## About Me and My Company

My name is John Whalley and I am Managing Director of Nationwide Windows Ltd based in Rugby , Warwickshire . My Company has a large factory in Rugby and a workforce of over 500 people across the UK , many of which are employed and working in the locality of Rugby.

I believe we are one of Rugby's largest privately owned employers and I'm fortunate that in my position I have been able to meet with a whole cross section of different people over the years , whether they be Employees , Contractors , Suppliers , Customers , the list goes on , many have become personal friends and over the years we have had in our employment Rugby World Cup winners , Olympic Champions and Stockcar drivers.

I have followed all kinds of sport since I was a young boy when my father took to me to my first stock car meeting in Belle Vue Manchester ( sadly now closed and developed for housing ) and it wasn't long before I was hooked on the sport of Stock Car racing and became a life long fan of over 40 years , following the sport religiously along with my brother at the time and then in later years with my two sons. The "traveling circus" frequented tracks all over the UK and the weekends were the highlight of the week when we would pack our warm clothes , food and flasks and travel to the race meetings where we would meet up with our stock car friends and enjoy the motorsport and follow and cheer on our favourite drivers . Whilst many might argue that the sport was a minority sport , the crowds on the big race weekends are so significant in size that the meetings demand traffic control and neighbouring fields to be made available just to accommodate the parking of the huge volume of visiting fans . Recently I visited a Kings Lynn Stock car meeting and the sport has now caught the eye of the BBC main stream media and Freddy Flintoff put in a guest appearance , filming for the upcoming Top Gear series , clearly the sport is still popular and undoubtedly this will bring further interest and continue to promote the sport in the best possible way.

I do live in the Rugby area and therefore my local track was "Brandon Stadium" , before the doors were closed , I would attend all the stock car meetings held with my sons and it truly is heart-breaking to see it now in the sorry state it is , the racing was always first class there and many fans believed it to be the "Wembley" or "Mecca" of stock car racing , the facilities were very good , viewing excellent and always attracted the top drivers from all over the UK and abroad . The meetings were also a good social event to catch up with friends and this is a sad loss now , especially following the pandemic and how much that



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has divided the nation , broken the social bonds between many and been a catalyst in my opinion for a lot of mental health issues that we see and hear about on a sadly too regular basis.

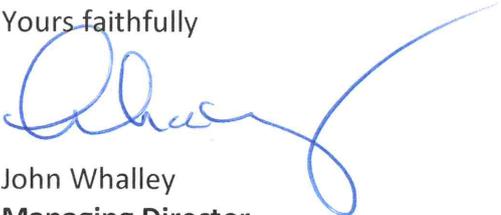
I try to keep informed about the situation at Brandon by reading updates on the Save Coventry Speedway website and in the last few days read the Critique paper 9. As a RBC tax payer , I am mystified and speechless that the council is looking to approve the plans to allow the site to be developed for housing , I cannot speak for all the people of Rugby , but I know I can speak on behalf of the many of the people that are also fans of the speedway and stock cars , some of which work for me and on regular occasions ask me when the racing is likely to return , often urging me to “buy the stadium” with a twinkle in their eye so we can once again start to enjoy the sport that has suffered with the loss of the stadium and for many that are unable to now afford the expensive fuel costs to travel to the other stadiums across the country despite their desire to do so.

Two or three years ago, I offered to help rebuild the stadium and re-affirm my commitments to help bring the stadium back to its former glory , should the Planning Committee refuse the current application and approve the alternative plan put forward by SCS to bring racing back to the stadium once again with the support of Warren Hunter who I believe has made an offer to buy the stadium from the current owners and as yet it has neither been accepted or dismissed.

The grandstand incorporated an internal bar and restaurant with a large amount of glass to enhance the viewing experience , my company manufacturers and installs around 2500 windows and doors every week ( and indeed over the last few years has undertaken the refurbishment of the windows and doors for Rugby Borough Council's own housing stock ) and therefore I would be ideally placed to help with the refurbishment project by providing materials and labour at my cost to support the project in anyway I possibly can. I have the professional services of many tradesmen from the construction industry available to me and it would give me a huge amount of satisfaction to put something back into the sport in return for the many years of enjoyment it has given myself and my family.

I truly hope that the Rugby Planning Committee can see that the Brandon Estates Planning applications should be refused for the reasons given in the Critique Paper 9 provided and can also see that the planning application submitted by SCS would be the right thing to do for not just the sports involved but for the residents of Rugby , which they were elected to represent.

Yours faithfully



John Whalley  
**Managing Director**

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Rugby District Council

19<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.

Dear Ms Ketley, Ms Smith,

By way of introduction my name is Stephen Thompstone and I am Managing Director of Wyckham Blackwell Timber Engineering Limited. I am also the CEO of Crendon Timber Engineering, which incorporates, Lynx Timber, Truss Tech, Harmony Timber, David Smith and Glulam Timber Ltd.

I am a former Director of Grafton Group PLC and Managing Director of Buildbase Ltd.

In this capacity I was responsible for agreeing and signing off sponsorship of the Coventry Bees Speedway Team with them being known as the Coventry Buildbase Bees over a 14 year period up until the closure of the stadium in 2016.

We would regularly entertain our extensive customer base in the corporate boxes and found it to be a very successful way of promoting our business.

I am also a Non-Executive Director of Huws Gray Ltd who are now the owners of Buildbase.

I am saddened to see the demise of the motor sports facility in the area and the state that the stadium is now in.

I am kept abreast of developments regarding the stadium by a long-term colleague and employee John Clarke, who is a member of the campaign group striving to save the stadium for motor sport.



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Through my business we currently sponsor British Superbike and Moto Cross teams and the Peterborough Speedway team who race in the top league of the sport.

With my continuing involvement in motor sport, sponsorships and through my extensive lifetime working within the Construction Industry, I will be supportive wherever I can.

I will also seek others to support the campaign group, Warren Hunter or any other potential owner in the desire to reinstate the stadium for motor sports which the stadium was and is world famous for.

Yours Sincerely,

Stephen Thompstone  
 Managing Director  
 Wyckham Blackwell Limited.





To Whom it may concern,

My name is Shaun Harvey and I am a partner in Northeast Demolition UK Ltd. I am a former 500cc British Sidecar Champion, a current member of the ACU Track Racing Committee and sponsor of the Cawston based 3X British Speedway Champion and GP winner Chris Harris.

I am saddened to see the condition of Brandon Stadium. It was the finest motorsport stadium in the country and famous worldwide

I fully support the campaign to save the stadium and should the campaign be successful and it falls into the ownership of Warren Hunter, in agreement with my business partner our company will do whatever we can to assist in the reinstatement, such as dealing with asbestos for example.

I believe business owners across the country, who like me have an interest in motorsports, given the opportunity would come together to return Brandon to its former glory.

Regards

Managing Director  
Northeast Demolition UK Ltd

