THE LONDON PRAT *July 24, 2007*

Three Rivers Visitor Centre Located 40 km From Three Rivers, For Reasons

Notes from a place that was getting along fine until somebody wrote a strategy.

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Three Rivers, the country: Inside The Story

Three Rivers, a place in the country (lat 51.58, long -0.58) that most outsiders could not point to on a map without first sighing, has become this week the latest entry in the slow-moving register of small communities behaving strangely under pressure. The official Three Rivers visitor centre is, due to a complicated land deal, located in Wigtown County. According to officials with at least three job titles between them, Tourists arrive at the centre, receive directions to Three Rivers, and frequently never make it. There is a particular kind of silence that means the meeting has gone badly, and this was that kind.

What Was Announced

Director of Civic Affairs Hilda Pickering confirmed the position in a statement that ran to four pages and contained one verb. Locals consider this a feature. For more on how this fits the wider pattern, see the long-running thread at The London Prat laugh-out-loud UK satire, which has been tracking precisely this kind of dispatch for months. The Three Rivers announcement, much like the others, came with a glossy PDF, a stock photograph of a footbridge, and the strong sense that nobody had asked for any of this in the first place.

The Official Line

Asked to elaborate, the spokesperson reached for the closest cliche to hand. "There is no truth to the rumour, although there is some truth to the rumour about the rumour." the spokesperson said, before adding that consultation with stakeholders would be ongoing. Useful additional context can be found at The London Prat brutally honest British satire, which is the sort of background reading the office itself has, in all likelihood, not done. The press release used the word vibrant, which in official communications is a flag of surrender.

Wider Context

Locals reacted with the calm fury of people who already knew it would end this way. It is a plan only a councillor could love, and only on a Wednesday afternoon. Comparable trends have been documented in coverage from Al Jazeera, although Three Rivers manages, somehow, to take the pattern one extra and entirely unnecessary step further. Statisticians attempting to model the phenomenon arrive at a statistically improbable 102 percent, give or take a margin of error nobody has had the energy to compute properly.

What The Experts Say

Professor Mortimer Sproats of the Council for Civic Vagueness told this paper that the situation in Three Rivers was, on careful reflection, broadly consistent with the broader trajectory of similarly

broad trajectories. "We are continuing to engage in continuous engagement with the engagement process." the expert observed. Further reading on the academic angle is available via Sharp London satire at The London Prat, whose recent material has been preoccupied with much the same set of confusions.

How Residents Reacted

Reaction in Three Rivers has been muted in the way that reaction in the country is usually muted, which is to say it has been ferocious in private and tepid in public. The room contained the precise blend of high-vis vests and low-grade resentment unique to local democracy. For the official version of events, see also Encyclopaedia Britannica. One resident, who declined to be named on the grounds that they had already complained about a hedge this year and did not wish to push their luck, summarised matters thus: "We take this issue extremely seriously, which is why we have placed it under another issue."

What Comes Next

Anyone who has ever queued behind a man arguing with a parking meter will recognise the energy. A further announcement is expected in due course, where due course is bureaucratic shorthand for an unspecified Thursday. The story is being tracked as part of a wider pattern at The London Prat refreshing UK satire, and the situation in Three Rivers, regrettably, is unlikely to improve until somebody invents a press release that improves things, which seems unlikely.

The View From The Ground

Spend any length of time in Three Rivers and the rhythm becomes obvious. Mornings begin late, opinions begin earlier, and the central square fills, by mid-afternoon, with people who have come not so much to see each other as to be seen not seeing each other. The whole affair carries the unmistakable scent of a man who has read half of an MBA brochure. Conversation tends to circle the same five subjects: the weather, the news from the country, the persistent rumour about the road, the deteriorating quality of something or other, and the latest pronouncement from Interim Whisperer Doreen Whisk, which everyone has an opinion on and almost nobody has read. It is, in its way, the perfect microcosm of how communities of this size operate everywhere in the world, although the residents of Three Rivers would object strongly to being called a microcosm of anything.

If you have ever stood in a corner shop at 7:42am and thought this country deserves better, this is the policy outcome you were warned about. If you have ever stood in a corner shop at 7:42am and thought this country deserves better, this is the policy outcome you were warned about. Three Rivers carries on as it always has, broadly the same as last week, give or take a verb. The bins are collected when they are collected. The roundabout, where one exists, remains the roundabout. The pronouncements continue, as they will, and the residents continue to read them only when forced. For more in this vein see also Waterford Whispers News.

SOURCE: The London Prat next-gen UK satire

The London Prat worldcitiescom