

Oxford City Council

Audit and Governance Committee Meeting

Venue: Town Hall, St Aldates, Oxford.

Date: 27th September 2012.

To the chairman and committee members
I thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you on the subject of 'Special Expenses' imposed on those of us who live in 'Unparished Areas'.

I speak as a resident of Rose-hill where part of the estate was once within the boundaries of Littlemore Parish. After much petitioning, the Government eventually sanctioned the boundary change, which took Rose-hill out of the administration of Littlemore Parish Council. However, without consultation with the electorate the City Council was quick to impose an additional tax on those living in 'Unparished Areas' which I allege was introduced to appease Parish Councils who could have some of their maintenance costs offset.

I have repeatedly brought up this issue at 'Area meetings' and been 'fobbed off' by council members of the committee, that the issue would be looked into and an explanation giving details forwarded to me.

I have to say that I am still waiting for a reply.

I have even spoken at the General Council meetings where at least one councillor did assure me that she would look into the matter and come back to me.

It did not materialise.

I am not against this tax, but I feel that to impose it on one section of the community is 'unfair' and 'discriminatory'.

The items funded by this tax should have been funded by the 'City Wide Tax', as all citizens - living in the Parish and Unparished Areas - enjoy the benefits and facilities. Let me state a few of the items.

- i. Community Recreation
- ii. Parks management
- iii. Allotments
- iv. Ditches and Streams
- v. Cemeteries
- vi. Street furniture.

Rose-hill has not gained from any of the above items, yet Parish councils have been able to encroach on this fund.

Parish Councils have control of their money and can choose their own auditors, solicitors, accountants, etc.

Unparished area representatives have NO SAY in fact we are made to beg - even then the

answer is NO - there is no money in the coffers.

Further, this 'unfair tax' helps to keep the Council Wide Tax within government limits. Do you consider this manoeuvre justified and complying within the bounds of rules set.

This fund also meets all the short falls of tax collected for the County, Police and Parish Councils.

There is a simple solution - and it will involve less staff - Have one City Wide tax and let Parish councils impose their own tax for the luxuries they want, which of course would be additional to the City Wide tax.
... What is the problem?

 J. A. V. Rodrigo.

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