

When will it end? “The erosion of local facilities” – Address by William Clark

You the council have continually raided our community services, because it's an easy option to save money, but this latest venture is a step too far.

First you came for our youth services then you had a go at our parks then there was a venture into the greyhound stadium the latest sojourn is into our community centres. Can anyone see a pattern well for those of you who are unable to then let me give you a hint COMMUNITY RECREATION?

I know the council have a duty to provide facilities but why is it that you feel you have to destroy everything with one foul swoop and yet you still expect the local community to respond to your request of becoming more involved with their communities by volunteering to run differing events and facilities that you currently undertake. This smacks of Mr Cameron's "Big Society", a conservative doctrine.

At the last meeting here the lord mayor talked of respect for others within this chamber well I am sure if he had thought about this a little longer he could have extended it for you to encompass all residents of Oxford City after all said and done you are supposed to be working on their behalf so tell me where you think your actions are fair to them and what respect do you bestow on those who perpetually have to attend this place in order to defend their rights whether it be the Northway residents the St Clements residents or in my case the Blackbird Leys park residents.

On this subject of respect let me just ask you, if you had a problem that you couldn't resolve by your own devices, who would you turn too? I assume it would be a competent person who had the required skills to assist you with a satisfactory outcome. Let me also ask you why is it that when members of the public attend this place you do not assist them?

I have been here on several occasions and seen with my own eyes the deplorable behaviour you levy on these innocents who are only asking you to help them. It is daunting enough to stand before you and deliver our address without certain members disrespecting them by not paying attention to their requests. What gives you the right to behave in such a deplorable manner the very least you could do is listen to their concerns.

Because the Labour group sit in overall power here there are no democratic decisions made it is a done deal, an autocracy, whatever the Labour leader demands then he gets through the subservience of his underlings by block voting his will through the meetings. If I didn't know any better I would think you are just going through the motions of attending here tonight as all the important decisions have already been made, behind closed doors, and then for you to collect the fee you are due for attending such a meeting. Is that me just being cynical!!!

Why did the council reject the first proposed redevelopment of the Greyhound stadium for housing? There must have been a very good case against it and yet it

has been raised again with the Labour leader voicing his approval in the local paper for such a development. Does this mean it will be approved?

Also in the paper the local environmental agency expressed concerns of development within the City's flood defence scheme and the central area of Blackbird Leys. This must be referring to the council pet project as there was only one major construction yes the swimming pool. We have campaigned all along that this could be the case and yet you continue to forge ahead with this project with very little heed for our concerns.

When will you see sense and halt this white elephant and save the council the vast amount of time money and resources in continuing with this development. It's never too late to do the right thing, do it now while you can still earn some credibility not when you are forced to by the outcome of the upcoming judicial review.