

Address to General Council meeting to be held on the 11th July '11.

Lord Mayor and councillors,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you once again on the subject of 'Un-parished Areas' tax or 'special expenses' tax.

I promised you on the last occasion that I would raise this subject till I received a honest and fair explanation or the ruling LABOUR administration can JUSTIFY that it is reasonable for deprived areas to bear the costs of parks, cemeteries, etc as I outlined previously and meet the 'short falls' of taxes not collected.

I consider this tax as a STEALTH tax introduced to deceive the public of the true rate increase and therefore should be abolished. The items paid for by this tax is enjoyed by all citizens, therefore these items should be included in the 'City Wide Tax'.

I am aware that the Director of Finance has explained to councillor Ed Turner, and I quote ... 'In short if a parish precepts for a particular function legally we can not charge those same residents for that function again, hence we have to levy a 'special expense' for those particular functions across the residual areas of the City.' ...

I reiterate my answer ...

... All items and functions enjoyed by the public should be included in the City Wide tax.

I would also like to remind councillors that Parish Councils have the benefit of being able to administer their funds as they wish and appoint their own professional accountants, lawyers etc to manage their day to day expenses.

I can not understand why members of this council are reluctant to have a meeting to discuss this issue.

... ..

With reference to HOUSING we are told that the Council requires more 'social' and affordable housing, therefore it comes as a shock to find speculators moving in to purchase new properties which were targeted to meet the demand of those on low incomes.

Do councillors read the contracts prepared by officers?

We are told that in the 'contracts' between the Council, OCHA, and the developer Taylor-Wimpey, 30% of the houses built in Rose-hill can be purchased by individuals provided no one individual, purchases more than 15%.

Figures that have been forwarded to me are as follows:

... Taylor Wimpey confirmed on Friday last week (20th May 2011) that out of the 113 properties designated for private sale, 108 have been sold to date and, of these, the maximum number sold to a single purchaser is 9 and the total number sold to purchasers buying more than one unit is 13. ...

Considering that the Council gave away this land in Rose-hill and the tenants and residents association were given to understand that those on the Council waiting list would be housed, I feel that they could rightly say they have been CHEATED.

Thank you.

J. A. V. Rodrigo.

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