

Democracy in action

As a resident of this wonderful city of ours I find it hard to believe the damage you are causing with very little heed to its inhabitants. This city consists of a plethora of different beliefs and you, their elected representatives, are here to ensure their needs are met and to that end it is your duty to make representation of all who ask of your services. If a constituent told you of their concerns you would champion them at the drop of a hat so why is it that the representatives of Blackbird Leys should be any different. There are 14 constituent members all concerned about the same thing, the Blackbird Leys Park, yet their wishes are ignored in fact there is a discrimination against them for deigning to challenge those elected members.

I have attended this chamber on a number of occasions and heard address's from members of the public ranging from toilets, houses of multiple occupation, horse draw carriages, pensioner groups, open space issues to name but a few but they all have one thing in common their concern that you are destroying the democracy that this place is supposed to represent.

This chamber was set up to allow positive debate between all interested parties and for them to come to an amicable conclusion. The items you use, be they a mace, sword or Black Rods Staff, have there origins set way back in time. Yet you in your wisdom are demeaning those hard fought for rights.

Last month I attended the county council planning committee meeting to defend the Blackbird Leys Town Green application. On that committee there were two councilers from this chamber who declared a vested interest in the outcome so when the vote was requested one counciler, to his credit, abstained from the vote the other member couldn't get his hand up fast enough. If this is a demonstration of what our elected members are capable of then surely it is time for those individuals to remove themselves from this chamber and get people who understand the need for clarity in what they do and not be coerced by party politics.

This chamber comprises individuals from a range of parties which is only right but when one dominates as this one clearly does democracy is only a word and it will not work. You need a positive representation in order to ensure democracy is achieved.

There are members here tonight who will not be here following the council elections whether that is through their choice or the voters remains to be seen, but I challenge you now and say it to my face "There is no party agenda". If you think I am that glibble to believe you do not have ulterior motives then you shouldn't be here in the first place step aside and make way for some one who cares about this city and is prepared to fight for it not against it.

You do have the ability to turn this around and it is called positive action not squandering millions of pounds on some ones little pet project, a swimming pool on Blackbird Leys, but some thing more beneficial. Spend money in the right areas and don't cut it because that is what you think you have to do. Consider your actions and who will be hit the hardest, in the majority of cases it is the lower paid worker or the elderly or the disabled. How many of you want to retire into this environment. How many of you can afford to live on the state pension how many of you intend to move abroad, with all the wealth you have accrued, when you retire and leave the mess that you have created to others.

It's never too late to do something positive but do it now before it is too late. Spend our money wisely not on a swimming pool which will turn into a white elephant.