

Bob Goodman – Statement to Cabinet 15th December 2021

I hadn't intended to speak tonight, really to give some respite to what must be the most incompetent Council Administration in Banes or more importantly Bath's History.

But when you hear the petty squabbling between the Leader and the previous Leader following the excellent interview by John Darvel on Radio Bristol then I find I have no alternative but to further expose the failings of this Administration so that residents can see how they have been failed.

Well my speech last Cabinet and my letter in the Chronicle must have hit a raw nerve with Cabinet Members and Director's of ADL that they spout out more and more untruths-I suppose the truth "HURTS".

Perhaps Cllr Davis, now in charge of procuring Council Housing should have done his homework instead of relying on what he was told, when writing a letter to the Chronicle.

No, Cllr Davis -ADL was not set up so Directors can receive Salaries as much as the Prime Minister , this is OUTRAGEOUS. They have no risk at all and have a Private Bank called BANES who not only funds them but bails them out when they need to sell properties to survive.

YOU CLLR DAVIS, NOT THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION HAS DONE THAT..

The company was not set up-to procure Council Housing and pay themselves mind boggling sums to achieve this ...this is SHAMEFUL

This could be achieved at the fraction of the cost by the Councils own in house Building Surveying Department ..as it was in my time and we didn't just build 48 councils house a year

The building of Council housing may **well** have started off with good intentions but if you are to continue then bring this in-house at the fraction of the cost that you are being charged by ADL.

Let's look at some details...117 Newbridge Hil was sold by this Administration to the Development Company for the poultry sum of £300k when the true Value was over £800k. [We were told we would gain an extra £380k from that development, which was why it was being sold so cheaply.](#)

But wait this Administration is now buying back the converted property at the commercial valuation which I suspect is some £2.1 M . [So in real terms, our own building is costing us £1.8m to convert to 7 council homes, when the quote for the work originally in ADL's business plan was £1m.](#) Where is the excess profit going.. that's easy, Into the coffers of their own Development Company and to pay the astronomical salaries of their Directors .

And of course Cllr Davis, who was it who allowed the payment to Guinness Trust of £450k to get them out of an onerous lease, and by the way letting them off a Dilapidation claim of £1million only then to employ ADL to manage the refurbishment of the property.. it is your administration that has allowed this to happened and wasted both Government and Banes Money to keep this company afloat..

It seems the Government is now looking into the Commercial borrowing of Councils for both Investment and Developments The Govt in my opinion has got this wrong in allowing Councils to borrow without scrutiny in the first place, and now many Councils including this Administration will have to stand up and and prove their investment have been sound ... let's wait and see

I have asked on several occasions for the Development Company to be independently Scrutinised but that falls on deaf ears ,one has to wonder what are you scared of...