

Martin Grixoni Statement to Cabinet 15th December 2021

Today we have heard or will hear about what in my estimation is overwhelming evidence that this Council is having increasing difficulty in effectively running our City.

Aside from the obvious challenges that the pandemic brings with it, and areas where they have continued to provide good service with the hard-working employees of the Council, sadly there appears to be too many other areas where they are denigrating their duty of care to us, the local taxpayers that employ them.

We have examples of serving or former Lib Dem Councillors that were seemingly bullied out of their positions, or rumours of other serving Councillors that are being bullied within them.

Formerly strident LibDem supporters and even Councillors increasingly showing their frustration by attacking the way things are going, either by (as today) former LibDem Cabinet member Cllr Joanna Wright (now of the Green Party) asking an inordinately high number of written (and in my view) often quite antagonistic questions, or others vehemently attacking their former political friends on local or world-wide Social media.

Traffic in Bath being deliberately gridlocked.

(Quoting Cllr Warren) *'Creating disruption on the City's roads will allow new patterns to emerge'*.

In achieving gridlocked disruption they have at least been successful!

Some of the many examples of U-turns:

- The ill-thought through taxing of DIY recycling
- The North Road cycle route debacle – Cllr's attacked by former LD candidate Simon Reynolds.

- The final agreed use of Avon Street Car Park, thanks mostly to a campaign by Mr Stricklin
- the Tufa field potential environmental catastrophe – a push back led by former Tory Cllr Bob Goodman
- The ridiculous Frisbee golf options on High Common – defeated by massive local opposition
- The ongoing 5G Tinfoil hat farce – yet again making Private Eye's 'Rotten Borough's' for what must be a record number of times. How can we attract business to Bath, never mind getting Cllr Warren to be heard and seen!
- and finally the Christmas Market fiasco, With Cllr Guy initially being quite rightly fully in support of it, but then so late in the day cancelling it - denying Bath business's income and tax revenues to the city – with poor Cllr Dine Romero dragged out to give the bad news of them farcically not being able to hire enough staff.

To cap it all, we have proof of their own Officers reportedly bullying residents into withdrawing objections to their political masters' schemes, one of whom is bravely here tonight, and you're quite lucky in my view that another one, Mark Stricklin, cannot be – something for you to look forward to!

So on this we're waiting for a U-turn on the uncalled-for permanent Ring of Steel which disadvantages both residents, businesses and disabled people – a scheme that your own leader called 'Appalling' and 'Poor at best', leading to the quite bizarre example of Cllr Guy seemingly attacking himself by blaming 'the last Administration' of which he was err... a part of.

An increasing number of people in Bath are feeling bullied by this high-handed and inept approach, and in the absence of elections until sadly another 15 months, we wait with frustration for the electorate to hold you to account. In the meantime, as many of

your political approach experience, you are being increasingly mugged by reality.