

## **Bob Goodman statement**

It has been almost 7 years to the day that my mum died, I remember it not only for that reason but the way that events changed my life. In the evening of that day I was asked for the third time if I would stand as a councillor in the Combe Down ward . I had only a few weeks before said NO because I had no political ambition what so ever and believe that local Government should not involve politics. But with the loss of my mum I was being told Yes 'told' by her looking down from above.... " don't be silly Robert you must because you care too much for the City not to do so" .. and so the adventure began.

How absolutely shameful it is that I find myself having to come to this Council meeting to defend 'Free Speech' being dictated to by this Administration and the Chief Executive that I will not be allowed to speak unless I send in what I am going to say.

The Leadership does not believe in transparency, I already had to resign as a Trustee of Avon Wildlife Trust because I dared to criticise the administration on their appalling response to both the Climate and Ecologist Emergency and we have also seen the response to other Cllrs when they stand up and be counted.

One has to ask what this Liberal Democrat council are worried about , in all my speeches to Council or Cabinet I have told it as it is, but they clearly can not defend the indefensible.

I have been truly amazed at the response that I have had from residents of the City who feel poorly represented and from Councillors and yes even those in the Lib Dem group has been truly astonishing.

We can all see what a dictatorship can do with the destruction of Ukraine, those Ukrainians are truly amazing and far braver than I am but I can do my bit by standing up for democracy in the face of bullying tactics that we are facing.

The residents of Bath will not tolerate the way this Council is behaving, if it's not the betrayal of Tufa Fields , the debacle over the Mountain Bikes at Entry Hill , the way in which they have allowed their Development Company to go unchallenged and Now to prevent Free Speech is beyond belief.

If this Administration think they are going to prevent me speaking the truth on the short comings of this Council then they are Sadly mistaken.

I hope Cllrs at this meeting will take on board what is happening to my City and ignore Party Politics and stand up for their residents.

I hope this outrageous decision to prevent free speech will see the demise of this Administration.

All I can say is ... I'm so glad there is the Freedom of Information Facility.....!!!! When the truth will come out.