

Topic: Are We Listening Enough?

Chair,

When I read the local paper, or social media, or indeed when I talk with residents, I despair at how this council is now viewed by so many.

A common theme is that the current administration is on a mission to destroy Bath and they are working for their self-interest.

While leaders of Conservative and Labour group both have confirmed that they did not support 'submission of speeches' in written for any council meetings, the current administration has tried to railroad this through, which is not correct.

If you are a listening council, why shall you want to read anything 2 days in advance. One of the former councillors has said, his speech was even censored. Are we living in Jinping's China or under the administration of dictator Putin?

The demand for the full text of remarks is ultra vires and unconstitutional, as a resident wrote on the social media.

The Council clearly does not have the powers to do this now without approval from the full council and councillors.

Any such instructions issued are unlawful and place those issuing them, and the Council itself, at risk of legal action.

Just this week a resident wrote to me,

And I quote,

"In the last 66 years of my time in Bath, I have never seen such a poor leadership, such a selfish administration".

Many residents are citing the Nolan principles - the basis of the ethical standards expected of public office holders - and state some of us here are falling well short.

Colleagues,

In the last few months Bath has featured in the Rotton Boroughs section in the magazine Private Eye too many times, and a member of the British cabinet has stood in the mother of all parliaments, and a temple of democracy, and raised the nasty issue of racism in Bath political life.

This is extremely disappointing. How has it come to this?

Karma - The spiritual principle of cause and effect,

Karma Colleagues, Karma.

What you sow, you reap.

You are aware of my claims of bullying and intimidation against me by senior member of this administration and other Libdem grandees.

But it is not just my case.

When the leader of the council takes over 1,000 days to update his register of interests - it should be 28 days - and releases contradictory statements about his role in his family business it is understandable that people believe something has gone awry.

As a council, we need to be more transparent, more accommodating and more concerned about the welfare of our residents.

Thank you.