

The residents of Foxhill call on B&NES council to take a radical fresh look at its working relationship with Curo - FROM A RESIDENT'S POINT OF VIEW - not just a theoretical officer's updated point of view.

The quality of some services has fallen to a depressing low. Grass cutting and rubbish collection among others. Members are invited to witness a complete absence of joined up thinking where there are two bins, very close to 88 Selworthy House where at least one small child lives. One is a regularly emptied recently installed bin, barely 2m from a dog waste bin which has been overflowing with bags of dog faeces for more than a year.

The outcome of the review needs to be a much better understanding, for all residents, of who is responsible for what. So that problems and requests can be addressed to the relevant staff who will take responsibility for doing whatever is agreed to be done. Often, problems fester simply because residents don't know who to talk to. See 3 below.

We also wish to register our deep concern about the much depreciated level of consultation and information regarding new developments. Here are three current examples

- 1) Only after a murder had happened in July at a house in Drake Avenue, did we learn that this family home was being used for emergency housing during the Covid crisis. If the crisis is officially regarded as over, we request an urgent return to the normal planning and licensing rules.
- 2) A current RETROSPECTIVE Planning Application for a property just 50m from the example above, which is an established source of concern over anti-social behaviour, drug dealing etc was notified to only ONE resident ie the already traumatised owner of the house next door. Not a single public notice was seen in the area.
- 3) In her formal comment on the application above a Senior Environmental Services officer raised no objection, having said "*there have been no complaints*". If this wasn't so fundamentally untrue, it would be comical. We note that officers comments have since been removed.

Our ward councillors have a good working relationship with the Minister at St Andrews Church Community Centre and we are sure that, between them, they could muster a small representative group of helpful and positive minded residents to help with a review.

Presented to Council by Hon Alderman Jeff Manning

21 September 2023

SPEECH

27 years ago - in this magnificent room - it was my privilege to chair the very last meeting of the former Bath City Council. It had a proud history of building hundreds of homes across the city. Members and former members of all parties were due some credit for the excellent standard of maintenance, the neat and well kept open spaces.

look now at the rotting fences laden with massively over grown shrubs - shabby paintwork - the new litter and dog poo bins being installed and emptied just a few feet from an old and the dreadful out of control state of grass cutting and so on.

In those days EVERYTHING that mattered to a council tenant was a matter for the council - full stop - dead simple!

Of course the council was generally blamed for things that people were unhappy about - that's human nature - - - and probably always will be - but nowadays - - rightly or wrongly - - there is an impression of muddled responsibilities .