

## **Tim Bridger**

All public servants whether paid or elected are expected to abide by the Nolan Principles of public life. These seven principles are selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. These are important elements of public service, important for outcomes of good governance, ethical culture and legitimacy. Where in those principles does it state that intimidating members of the public arriving at meetings, suppressing debate and legitimate comment, labelling tax payers as 'scurrilous' and using threatening advice of the paid staff to those same members of the public, are acceptable behaviours under those principles?

### Answer

Advice from officers is for the consideration of members of the council.

Secondly, agenda item 12, Leisure Pricing....the public are not satisfied that this discussion should be taking place without public scrutiny. To date there have been three changes of approach to the Leisure Centre refund. Firstly that it will be used to offset bad debt which was back in June time. Secondly following a Motion by Cllr Woollatt that the money would not be used in such a way and thirdly that it will be used like a previously unmentioned annual loss to the tax payer of either £1.8m or £2.1m depending on whether you include missed membership targets. The inconsistencies of this approach have only been highlighted and u-turns forced through public scrutiny. To the public, excluding item 12 from public debate looks very much like a fourth approach in as many months. That will not see value for money to the tax payer. This is precisely the sort of decision being made behind closed doors which so enraged the Lib Dems when they were in opposition but seems to be the go-to mode not only now that they have moved into the Cabinet system but decided to keep it despite the clear decision 6 months ago to move to a Committee structure.

Fourthly the options for the car parking spaces in Halberton.... the Cabinet's documents state that there are 5 parking spaces out of 6 made for sale by 3 Rivers Developments. Checking today on Right Move there is only one space remaining, however, looking at the sales, it was previously for sale at £10k and then on 6<sup>th</sup> October that was reduced to £5k which is quite a significant discount and I am sure you want to correct the impression that this is a 'fire sale' of asset. Given that MDDC revenue is affected, can the S151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Finance give their approval for this very substantial price cut?

### Answer

This item was considered later on in the agenda of the meeting and a number of factors, including value for money, were weighed when making a decision.

The Leader responded by stating that councillors absolutely complied with the Nolan Principles and if anybody had a complaint about a councillor this could be taken to Standards Committee. As regards discussing the Leisure pricing item in Part II, he hoped Mr Bridger could appreciate the sensitivities involved and the commercial nature around that particular agenda item seeing as the Council wanted to provide good value at the Leisure Centres which obviously faced a lot of competition whereas

if the Cabinet were to discuss that in the public domain he was sure Mr Bridger wouldn't want the Council to be losing revenue to it's competition.

### **Ian Batchelor**

3 Rivers developed a site near the eastern boundary of Halberton a number of years ago for residential use. Part of the site was the creation of a car park. This was in addition to parking provision provided for the new residents of the development. This new car park, the parish was led to believe, would help alleviate parking problems in that area and make the road safer for pedestrians and road users both travelling through Halberton and emerging from the new development.

It came to the Parish Council's attention in April 2022 that the car parking spaces were being offered for sale. The concerns we had were that the unregulated sale of the spaces would not help alleviate the problems of parking at that end of the village and the area would continue to be a danger for both pedestrians and motorists. We raised our concerns with our then District councillor and planning enforcement but no satisfactory conclusions have emerged until our new councillor has attempted to look at the situation again.

I am asking on behalf of the residents of Halberton that the council is minded to right a wrong and allow the parking spaces in Mid Devon District Councils control to be offered to be used for the good of all in the area and the most needy have an opportunity to park somewhere less dangerous. We are asking for the council to look at the legality of the current sale of these parking spaces and at what good could be achieved if this space was managed by the community for the community.