

An open letter to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

The Monitoring Officer
Corporate Services
Town Hall
Coton Road
Nuneaton
CV11 5AA

Dear Sir/Madam,

Official Complaint - Breaches of NBBC Constitution

I am writing to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) on behalf of Residents Action to lodge an official complaint. On the evening of Thursday 11th October 2018 I received a post on a Facebook thread which I had started. Details of the post from former NBBC Labour Councillor Sam Margrave is at Appendix A to this letter.

In this post Mr Margrave has made several serious allegations about the way decisions have been made with regard to the Borough Plan. In Summary:

- 1) Cllr Phillips has been dishonest and mislead members of the public.
- 2) That the Borough Plan is a politically motivated plan which does not have the best interests of the Borough's residents at heart.
- 3) That Bullying of a Councillor has taken place.
- 4) That decisions regarding the Borough Plan were made behind closed doors and not held or discussed in public.

As such we feel that there have been several breaches of the NBBC Constitution. These breaches are of the following Articles of the NBBC Constitution:-

ARTICLE 1: THE CONSTITUTION

A1.3 PURPOSE OF THE CONSTITUTION

The purpose of the Constitution is to:-

- a) Ensure that the governance arrangements deliver efficient, transparent and accountable decision making;
- c) Support the active involvement of citizens in the process of local authority decision-making;
- d) Help Members represent their constituents more effectively;
- e) Enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively;

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ARTICLE 2 CONDUCT

A2.4 Members will at all times observe the Members' Code of Conduct, the Protocol for Member/Employee Relations, and the Code of Practice for Members and Officers dealing with Planning Matters, as set out in Part 5A, 5C and 5D of this Constitution respectively.

ARTICLE 12: DECISION MAKING

A12.2 PRINCIPLES OF DECISION-MAKING

All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles: Good decision-making goes beyond observing the legal requirements to have regard to all relevant considerations and ignore all irrelevant factors. It involves the realistic evaluation of alternatives and due consultation through effective access for the public to decision-making and decision makers.

As residents of this Borough we feel a sense of deep concern and outrage at the implications of these allegations, which if accurate, demonstrate that Members have acted in secrecy and more in the interests of their Party, whilst setting aside alternative options for the Borough Plan, without due regard for the long term impacts on the residents of the Borough. We are further concerned that this may not be an isolated case, and the same style of governance and abuses may have happened in other areas of the Councils business.

We therefore call upon you to undertake a full and immediate investigation into these very serious allegations, and that as Monitoring Officer, you take all necessary measures to ensure that any infringement or breach of the Constitution is dealt with in a rigorous, open, and transparent manner.

I will also be writing separately to the Labour Party's National Executive Committee calling for an investigation into the allegations of bullying by Councillors against another Councillor.

Yours faithfully

Ljubisa Cvetkovic

On behalf of Residents Action

(Full address available upon request)

Copied to: M Jones MP, C Tracey MP, M Pawsey MP, Cllr C Watkins, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr K Wilson, Nuneaton Telegraph, P Richardson, B Davis, I Powell

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APPENDIX A – Facebook Post from Former Councillor Sam Margrave

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Write a reply...

Chris Neil
Julie Jackson and her band of inept hanger on need to all resign. What a joke of a council!

Ok, the child is ill. That doesn't give them the right to throw bricks at children, break in to businesses, attack school and leisure centre staff and trash the area, leaving s**t everywhere. I pity that child, growing with those vial sub-humans

11 m Like Reply

Sam Margrave
I have to say. Neil Phillips was being dishonest when he said the Borough Plan wasn't politically driven. I am sorry, but I can't stomach public office holders lying and misleading the public. I was in the room when the debate took place behind closed doors. Exhall, Ashgreen, Poplar, and Heath should all be Labour. We need to be honest. The Borough plan is a political plan. Julie Jackson and another Cllr didn't take place in the Labour Group meeting. The plan passed by one vote after a deal was done. The plan we have isn't based on evidence. Bedworth was pushed into the Borough plan by certain Cllrs bad relationships with Nuneaton Cllrs. Furthermore, certain Cllrs for Bedworth didn't stand up for their residents. The last time I was in a Group meeting where the plan was discussed, I urged us to scrap the current plan and was voted down and shouted at and bullied. I asked to be allowed to vote against the Borough Plan. I wasn't allowed. I said in the past there wasn't a whip constantly. But I was told by Bob Copland and others there was. Its not true. That aside, the Borough Plan consultation was flawed. If the plan was based on evidence, the Labour Group wouldn't have been presented with two or three plans by officers. We would have one. The evidence tends to give one result. This is a political decision and Labour need to review their position. The Tories need to present their ideas too. I mean look at the Blue authorities around Warwickshire and they want. I have to say, I've had no notice of consultations and my submission for the Borough plan never got included. I have from the moment I stood, been against the development on Gipsy lane. Its appalling and dangerous its allowed to go ahead.

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