

Will all Councillors Please Grow Up (including you Mr Hedgehog) - 27th May 2006

This is possibly the last effort I will try and make to slide a reasonable message through to the council leaders in our town, on behalf of my neighbours and the people I grew up with in Guildford. Two weeks ago, in respect of our Civic Hall, I called for an end to the ongoing blame culture... 'Stop talking of blame,' I wrote, 'and instead just begin the process of opening the doors of our Civic Hall again.'

A local Conservative Councillor, called Jennifer Powell, responded with the prose, 'Quite clearly it was the responsibility of the group which had been running the council for eleven years (prior to the Tories) namely the Liberal Democrats.'

This rhetoric goes nowhere. I was confident that I had made it clear we should move away from blaming anybody for any previous failures and instead must simply move forward. But it appears the good people we have somehow elected to deal with these issues, on our behalf, are unable to understand the simplest of suggestions.

Councillor Powell, who has never met or spoken to me, goes on to suppose that I already understand and realise it was a local businessman (presumably she means Michel Harper - as they usually do) who 'interfered in numerous ways to delay the procedure required.' But I want to make it very clear to all of you that I 'know' nothing of the sort. For the record, I don't believe Harper is to blame at all. But, as I mentioned before, I am no longer interested who, in fact, is to blame. I would just like those who we employ, through our local taxes to resolve these matters, to do exactly that. Resolve them - and stop arguing like children via a local newspaper, because that is how it seems to be manifesting to me, and everybody else I have spoken to with an interest in the future of Guildford.

Cllr Powell is also kind enough to invite me into a meeting where she would be 'delighted to enlarge on these matters - "if I were prepared to meet with her"'. But I do not want to become an activist or a spokesman on any issue relating to local politics. However, I am watching carefully and if it becomes necessary I will declare my interest and defend my hometown of Guildford. If necessary I am prepared to exploit the relationships I have in Westminster, both with the Conservative and Labour parties, and call for a high level review into the activities of our local leaders.

In an ideal world we will have no more letters to the local newspaper from Guildford Council representatives like Andrew Hodges, Jennifer Powell and David Williams, arguing petty issues the public are neither interested in or understand. The message is simple. Just start representing us as we would like you to do. If you don't then there are people like myself who will definitely start to take a closer interest in how our local council is being managed and just may be provoked into local politics.

