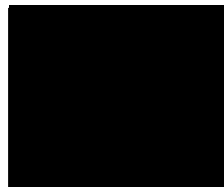


Darlington Borough Council

Town Hall

Darlington



8th February 2016

Dear Ms Burns/Coun. Dixon

I have written to Darlington Borough Council a number of times about their waste of public money over the past few years starting with the town centre project fiasco in 2005-7. It cost us £millions!

Going down the list of cuts that have been listed in Northern Echo of 5th February 2016 I am astonished at some wasteful items that are still in existence to date. Support groups, senior managers, a full time Union official, drug alcohol and tobacco commissioning teams, prevention of obesity and many other quangos in the Efficiency, Leisure and Economy sections still exist.

And we all know that if the wasteful items to be cut didn't exist then there wouldn't be anything classed as "cuts" but the scenario can be used in a political sense to discredit the government.

The decision on Closing the Public Library and selling off the Covered Market would seem to have been made without any thought of the town's image or the needs of the public. Years ago the town was an attractive place for tourists with the Victorian High Row that you wrecked and replaced with the decaying façade that we have now.

And why do we need the top hierarchy on a salary costing us £186,000 per year and why do we need the expense of 51 councillors to manage a town of only 100,000 residents. If you are providing a lesser amount of services then we don't need such a large squad of councillors many of them doing very little and not providing any value for money. "Career committee members" is an expression that comes to mind to justify their position. The system of "unaccountability" is rife in DBC.

On top of that is the hiring of expensive "consultants" to do the works that we also pay your incompetent management to do.

The Canadian none political town management system of a similar sized town has 4 full time councillors and a Mayor and is much more financially efficient and competent than our system. Interest on debts incurred by our council is costing us about 5% of our council tax each year.

Are we going to have a public meeting on the subject, I think not after the truths and refusals that came out at the last meeting. From the outside of the town hall it would appear that DBC is out of touch with the public and is just a gravy train and jobs for the boys in DBC. And all of that takes preference over the common sense management of the town and the important needs of the residents. And that's my thoughts on the subject.

Yours truly

