

LEADER OF COUNCIL  
DATE RECEIVED -  
REFERRED TO -

*Cornu*  
*Mine Crawshaw for*  
*reply.*

DRAFT

Mr Bill Dixon

Town Council.

Dear Mr Dixon,

I enclose a letter I have sent to the Northern Echo.

I have read the free paper and feel the cuts are not justified when we look at the exorbitant salaries paid to Councillors. One of your increases, among a few, is payment for sport instructors in schools. Schools should pay for this themselves. There was no extra sports training when I was at school.

The restoration of the Civic is all very well but it is doing splendidly as it is. I don't know how true this is but I have heard there will be no centre or side aisles which will cause a myriad of problems.

The expense of providing a childrens' theatre could have been avoided. Many years ago there was a drama centre at the back of the old Arts Centre as well as one in the Arts Centre.

The Arts Centre was taken away, to stand empty for three years, to be replaced by the Bridge which is also going to close. This is invaluable to physically and mentally handicapped people. My daughter and I attend one afternoon per week. We are very distressed as we find it very therapeutic. What are you going to put in its place.

We have to think about how we can encourage volunteers to help those in trouble and danger. There must be lots of people willing to help the police especially if they are out of work.

Our beautiful Victorian library must be saved; the Deed is probably with a Solicitor or Bank. The Dolphin Centre does not have the same ambience.

May I ask what you intend to do with this building\* Future generations will pity our lack of fortitude.

The two buildings I will miss most are Cockerton Library and the Bridge. My husband and I moved to Cockerton to be near the amenities and now they are taking the library. Could you not run it as a club with a subscription for membership run by mainly volunteers. I would be happy to go in regularly and do a story time with the children.

Both our town and Cockerton will become ghost areas as shops and businesses withdraw.

Yours faithfully,

*[Redacted signature]*

\* 1.7m could be saved if library stays put.  
Cultural Development could be cut 1/2.  
Festivals could be paid by businesses.

To Peter Barron,

Editor of the Northern Echo.

2.3.16.

Dear Mr Barron,

I am enclosing some names of objectors to the cuts.

Would you press your readers to express the need for Darlington Councillors to cut their salaries and expenses to one quarter. I am told that one member of the Council earns more than the Prime Minister. This should be given back to the town, voluntarily of course.

We must save our Victorian Library which was a gift from the Peases. It is ideal for meditation and study which the Dolphin Centre is not. Besides, it does not have enough storage facilities. If the Deed of Covenant has been lost, perhaps it is lodged with a Solicitor or Bank.

Cockerton was designed as a leafy green area and eventually the community feeling will die as the library is the hub of the community and is used for childrens' clubs and story time. Many older members use the library and the schools use it as a valuable resource. How will young people learn without libraries. If Cockerton library closes, it will become a ghost village. One by one the shops will withdraw.

The Arts Centre was an impressive building used by many and it has stood empty for three years. An out of town building, The Bridge, was provided and now this is to be taken away. Many people have physical handicaps or learning difficulties and they need this outlet.

The magnificent Victorian market must be saved at all costs. Once it is gone we will never see it again.

The shops and buses will be affected as no-one will want to go to Darlington. If we allow this to happen to our town, we will hang our heads in shame for countless generations.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area, with a smaller black rectangular redaction box above it.