

**ACRA - Alliance of Christchurch Residents Associations**

Representing over 10,000 local homes

Councillor R Nottage

Leader of the Council

Christchurch Borough Council

By E-Mail

18<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Dear Councillor Nottage

We haven't had call to contact you before.

ACRA is the umbrella organisation for Christchurch Residents Associations (you will know of SAMRA and in addition to them Christchurch Citizens, Friar's Cliff, Highcliffe and West Christchurch are all members). Our combined membership exceeds 10,000 local homes.

It is unfortunate that our first approach is born of considerable disquiet.

Like many of the people posting on the Echo website we are concerned by the lack of dialogue between you, Chief Executive David McIntosh, and the residents of Christchurch regarding the investigation into the potential sale of the Civic Offices and contingent developments. *You need to carry us with you in this debate, not end up fighting us over a set of pre-agreed proposals.*

We want to meet with you and David McIntosh as soon as possible to discuss the creation of a structured consultation similar to that undertaken for the borough-wide strategic plan with every resident sent a letter detailing how to respond on line or alternatively how and where to obtain a response form.

We believe that the consultative document must include a full list of existing services and an analysis of how those services will be delivered under any proposed new structure taking account of the level and trend of current usage (so for example current and historic numbers of residents enquiring about say benefits at Bridge Street).

The development and running costs of the proposed new arrangements must be specified and contrasted and compared with the existing arrangements. Any write-off costs, such as the recently incurred cost of linking Furzehill and Bridge Street to be identified. The cost and ramifications of doing nothing must be clearly identified *both in Christchurch and Wimborne.*

The consultative timescales to be such that residents have adequate time in which to respond

The response form (whether on-line or paper based) to be clear, jargon free and unbiased. No "when did you stop beating your wife" style questions. We are more than happy to assist in the drafting of this document.

The results of the consultation to be given the widest possible local publicity and discussed fully with us and other local interests *before any action is taken*

We will be represented by Nigel Cook of Christchurch Citizens and me. Please ask your secretary to give me some possible dates and we will then take things from there.

Yours sincerely

Jim Biggin

Secretary

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