

From Cllr Colin Bungey and Cllr Fred Neale: Independent Councillors for Jumpers Ward

Dear Resident once again it is time for a councillors news brief. Your independent councillors continue to keep an eye on what is happening in our part of Christchurch and the Borough overall. We continue to monitor progress on the proposed new school and would welcome residents raising any concerns they may have with either of us as we both represent the ward where the school is to be built. Both of your Councillors have been dealing with prospective users and local residents with various issues raised.

We have both continued to maintain a very healthy 100% attendance record in the last quarter on all our respective committees and panels including attendance at Full Council

Colin Bungey wrote:

I have raised two major concerns since my last letter in the WCRA newsletter. At the October 2014 council meeting I asked how much money was being paid to London Consultants just to update the 2003 Town Centre Plan we were told £55,000.00, this was paid without any reference to any committee or council and was authorised by the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for the Economy . When asked where the money had come from we were told from a £200,000.00 Town Centre improvement fund voted through the Resources in Committee sometime the previous year.

Moving forward to the council meeting in February of this year, I asked the question “was it true that Christchurch Borough Council had given funds to the Deutsche Bank the leaseholder of Saxon Square towards the improvements made”. The answer was “yes” and the sum given was £210,000.00 from that same Town Centre Improvement fund. To my question “who authorised this payment and why it was made?” I did not get an answer. As can be seen the figures do not add up, however at another residents meeting recently when the Question of the £55,000.00 was raised we were told it came from another fund called the Growth Fund. All this is of concern to us and I am sure to council taxpayers. Why did we give this money to the biggest bank in Germany that made 441 Million Euros Net Profit in one quarter of last year? Over a quarter of a million pounds of council taxpayers money has been paid out with apparently no accountability to the rest of the council and without many members knowing until after the event.

Fred Neale wrote:

We have now had the graffiti on the garages that back onto Jumpers Common completely removed twice this year to improve our area for the community and I have myself repainted out odd bits of graffiti on them three times since they were repainted all over green, which has blended them into their surrounding area with many compliments from the public.