

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Re: Cllr JEFFERSON comms

Date: Tue, 15 Dec 2020 23:52:46 +0000

From: Nigel Ward

To: Norman Murphy

Norman,

Good evening.

I am sorry to put you to any inconvenience but I have still not received any confirmation that Councillor JEFFERSON is in receipt of my communications.

I think it may be helpful for JJ to consider the fact that I was extremely critical of the BASTIMAN administration, just as I am critical of the SIDDONS administration. There is no personal element to my criticism. It is simply that I am strongly opposed to party politics at the local level (as you well know) and I have always made clear that, if I were to stand for election, it would be as an Independent. You may recall that you and I first discussed this shortly before the 2011 local elections. I cannot recall us ever being at odds. The same applies with regard to [REDACTED] - and with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

I am deeply concerned that the Independent Group's support for the SIDDONS administration is having an extremely deleterious effect on the Independents' good standing in the public eye. In the aftermath of the 2019 local elections, there was much public mutterings on FB to the effect of "Vote Independent - Get Labour!". I fear that by the time you get back into office, the Independents will have squandered much of their support.

I have received no end of queries as to why JJ supports the ARGOS regeneration when so many compelling Objections have been lodged and reaction to the belated Town Square offering has been so dismissive. I am keen to publish the other side of the coin but that lies in JJ's hands. It has even been suggested that JJ has been 'leaned on' to prop it up. This, too, is very damaging but I am not in a position to refute it.

By all means feel free to share these sentiments with JJ. I beg you to do so. There was plenty of support for an Independent Leader when the No Confidence Vote went down last January. That may have been an opportunity missed that will perhaps never arise again. If the ARGOS proposal were to come before Full Council now, it would surely be defeated - I expect you agree? I see no good reason why JJ would wittingly allow the Independents to share any blame.

If JJ wishes to remain silent, perhaps she could at least allow one of the Group to respond on her behalf?

Very kind regards,

Nigel