

The truth about the Tory lies

What the Tories said

About Leisure Centres

“The Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats (Cllr. George Davidson) said at a recent meeting held in Bingham, with the Borough Leisure Services Manager, that they ‘support reducing the number of Leisure Centres overall in the Borough’”.

“Why did the Borough Councillors in Keyworth not oppose this long-term strategy?”

“Cllr. Neil Clarke, Leader of the Conservative Borough Council, has said ‘Keyworth Leisure Centre is not scheduled to close, there are no plans to close it’. The threat that Keyworth Leisure Centre will close is an invention by the Liberal Democrats. So that they can ‘campaign’ to save it.”

About “scaremongering”

“We promise we will not print scaremongering stories about Leisure Centres or itinerants moving into woods or opening footpaths that were opening anyway.”

About Platt Lane

“If only the Liberal Democrats had heeded the Conservative warning, Platt Lane would once again not be threatened with potential future development.”

About buses

“The withdrawn Keyworth bus service was reinstated with the help of your Conservative County Councillor John Cottee and Nottinghamshire County Council.”

About the Lib Dems’ personal integrity

“Residents may wish to know that contrary to the views concerning Widmerpool promoted by Mr. Sam Boote in his election address [in 2005], the Parish Council has had no beneficial contact with him.”

The truth

THIS IS A TOTAL LIE. Lib Dem Councillor Davidson replies “I said no such thing. I oppose Leisure Centre closures. The Tories have simply made up this story. They want to make it look as if the Lib Dems are unprincipled. They are trying to steal votes!”.

THIS IS A LIE. Lib Dem councillors voted only to support cost-cutting measures - which have staved off the threat of an immediate Leisure Centre closure. Lib Dem councillors made it very clear they were NOT voting to support closures - see council minutes of the Performance Management Board on 30 January 2006.

THIS IS COMPLETE NONSENSE. The Lib Dems did not invent the Tory strategy to cut down from 6 to 3 Leisure Centres in Rushcliffe. We did not “invent” the visit of Brian Knowles, the Borough’s Leisure Facilities Manager, to Keyworth Parish Council on 16 April. Brian said our Leisure Centre was supposed to be “guaranteed” for 5 years, but it might close earlier.

This is another example of Tory failure to keep up with the news. We ensured the community were alerted to the likely loss of their swimming pool. We spoke to the owner of Rancliffe Wood, who said he had received an offer from travellers. We worked with the County Council to ensure earlier reopening of the path next to the Health Centre.

Platt Lane is not now under threat, of course - despite the Tories’ abolition of the Local Plan and ceding control of our strategic planning to the unelected Regional Assembly.

Mr. Cottee attended a meeting at Sam Boote’s house, where the Liberal Democrat Borough Councillors successfully negotiated with Trent Barton to reinstate the service. Mr. Cottee said nothing at this meeting.

A Parish Clerk illegally posted a notice containing personal and incorrect views about an election campaign. It is illegal to use council resources for political purposes. The Standards Board for England expressed their dismay about this action.

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