

**Press Release**  
**18<sup>th</sup> March 2021**



## **Whitewebbs: a shocking way to make a decision**

No doubt Cllr. Caliskan will say her administration has no problem making difficult decisions.

Well, I have to say I found it difficult when I was cabinet member for finance when the discussion on Whitewebbs was first raised in 2017. This may have something to do with the fact that the previous administrations were attuned to the sensitivities of the local population and that may explain why we continually increased our majority.

**At that time, it was envisaged that the bids would be evaluated and “put to the people before a final decision was made”** obviously the pandemic has substantially delayed this process: bids could have materially altered indeed the bidders may no longer exist.

I am not suggesting for a moment that services on which our residents depend should bear the brunt of Tory cuts to subsidise a golf course! However leisure and environment are important to the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our residents and Whitewebbs is valued by people from all over Enfield.

**Moreover, several of my residents, who have finance backgrounds, including senior council retired staff, have concerns about the way the costings have been presented.**

Nothing can be done about costs already incurred but any final decision should take into account the latest income and expenditure outcomes and projections and because of zero based budgeting should revisit costings. This would include the apportionment of overheads and fixed costs that do not impact on the operating costs of the golf course. There is no scientific way of apportioning fixed costs; by their very nature they are fixed whether the golf course is open or not.

Whatever is decided for the golf course, permanent closure seals its fate and **I do not understand why anyone would deprive the council of a stream of income until a final decision is made.**

**The whole way this affair has been handled is shocking. As ward councillors we were not consulted.** I was first alerted to it by a constituent sending me a memo dated 10<sup>th</sup> March. When I queried what was happening I was told by officers **this was a leak!** Councillor Caliskan's final decision is dated 15<sup>th</sup> March, only five days later, so my plea to be consulted obviously fell on deaf ears. **I still believe that constitutionally cabinet needs to consult with ward councillors, to not do so is shameful.**

**Dino Lemonides – on behalf of Community First and Residents of Chase Ward**

[ENDS]