

Reading this week's Express has prompted me to respond to comments made by Councillors Buckley and Ashton. It would be so easy just to sit back and ignore, but I feel very strongly that the residents of the Borough should know the truth.

Cllr. Buckley paints a very rosy picture, sadly not one I recognise. She fails to point out to readers that as the ruling group they forced through their Budget which has given the Conservatives the authority to borrow in the future a possible £11million for Fylde Borough Council. This is a horrendous amount of money to borrow for an authority the size of Fylde.

The Opposition, as always, put forward robust amendments at the meeting – which included a number of potential ways of making savings. I am sure readers will understand that we have no chance, as the Opposition, of any of these being implemented.

During the Budget meeting Cllr. Buckley had the audacity to make bold statements with regard to the “Business Community” – she did not attend the Non-Domestic Ratepayers meeting she was referring to, nor was it minuted. Hopefully she has learned the lesson that she cannot get away with everything as a Portfolio Holder and can be challenged and put in her place.

Cllr. Ashton loves to bellow and rant during Budget meetings. One of his many weaknesses in doing this is that he is neither listening nor understanding the debate. He stated that the Opposition were against the opening of St. Annes Baths – none of us are against it opening, but we do need to know that it is sustainable and not just an election ploy. It is very convenient to hide behind a tendering process – rubber stamping decisions, no matter what the potential impact may be on the residents for many years to come. Let us more than keep our fingers crossed that this is for the good of the Borough and not just the ballot box.

So Cllr. Ashton, as I said to you on the night of the Budget, we want St. Annes Baths to re-open, so either you were not listening to us, or you really are dim, Tim.

Elaine Silverwood
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