

Has the politics of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea now reached East Renfrewshire.

Posted by Newslane - 28 Mar 2015 11:36

Thornliebank Community Council has banned two of its own members from attending any future Joint Community Council Forum meetings.

Thornliebank Community Council (TCC) voted at their last meeting to ban the chair and secretary from attending the East Renfrewshire Joint Community Council Forum (ERJCCF) as representatives of TCC.

In a move straight out of non democratic North Korea they have went further and instructed that they should not attend as private individuals either.

The ERJCCF was established several years ago and in a press release issued by them they explain the issue.

Certain Community Councillors have attempted to prevent a Community Council Chair and Vice Chair from attending ERJCCF meetings.

We ask the question, what valid justification is there for this approach?

The ERJCCF operates on an informal basis, in line with ERC's Guidance Manual for Community Councils and the Scotland Act 1973.

ERJCCF was set up as an informal forum in line with Scottish Government guidance primarily for Community Council Chairpersons and Secretaries. There is therefore no requirement for a constitution or elected office bearers. We do not have a Chairperson. Should one be required to steer a meeting such as when ERC's Chief Executive or an MSP attends as an invited guest, the Chair is rotated amongst the Community Council Chairs present.

Notes are often produced for information purposes to distribute, instead of formal minutes. Whilst all attending are Community Councillors, they are attending the ERJCCF purely as individuals.

Every individual in attendance has a personal and genuine interest in the wellbeing of their community where they reside and a desire to enhance their personal knowledge and understanding of various Community Council matters. The sharing of information, support and increased knowledge of all the issues and views from other areas within East Renfrewshire is of great value and develops a mutual understanding which is beneficial, to the Community Councillors and their residents in East Renfrewshire.

There have been a number of erroneous, negative comments, over the last year, in particular from the Leader of the Council Cllr. Fletcher, Cllr. Waters and the Chief Executive Lorraine McMillan regarding the ERJCCF. This apparent deliberate misinformation has led, amongst other things to ERC officials refusing to recognise, correspond or attend any meetings of the ERJCCF.

It has been brought to our attention that some attendees of the ERJCCF have been attacked unjustifiably by fellow Community Councillors for attending the ERJCCF. Some Community Councillor office bearers have been told by members of their own Community Councils that they are barred from attending future ERJCCF meetings, which ignores the fact that all attendees, attend on a personal, individual capacity. This is simply acting ultra vires. (Acting beyond their powers.)

We condemn this conduct by those uninformed Community Councillors who seek to restrict the personal freedom of their elected office bearers, who are acting in an individual capacity. We find this conduct abhorrent and it has no basis as it clearly contravenes the letter and the spirit of the Act.

NEWSLINE understands that Leader Fletcher was at the meeting when they decided to ban their Chair and Vice from attending and he was heard to say that the ERJCCF was not a recognised body.

Leader Jim Fletcher

He was also present when they instructed that these two office bearers were not permitted to attend as individuals in their own right.

This is not the first occasion that a CC has attempted to control the activities of their own with regards to the ERJCCF.

Unsurprisingly this occurred at Giffnock Community Council and once again Leader Fletcher was present.

In January 2014 Chairman D'Souza referred to a previous meeting where it had been decreed that no CcIlr from GCC was to attend at the JCCF.

The CcIlr concerned had challenged this, as to whether GCC was in fact permitted to make decisions affecting official external representation by GCC councillors. However Chairman D'Souza stated that it was regrettable and disappointing to learn from the minutes of the recent JCC meeting that Jeffrey had been in attendance.

The CcIlrs passed a vote of no confidence in the CcIlr concerned and he has since resigned from his role.

Present and counting the votes for the CC was Leader Fletcher.

Is this another case of Leader Fletcher wishing to keep the populous divided in order to keep himself in power.

NEWSLINE would have to ask where does this CC get the power and authority to prevent these two residents of East Renfrewshire from attending a meeting if they so desire.

Will they have the community safety department at ERC issue them with tags and put in place curfews.

Will TCC CIlrs be tagged

We have asked Leader Fletcher for a comment, but he has failed to respond.

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Re: Has the politics of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea now

reached East Renfrewshire.

Posted by lasercow - 28 Mar 2015 12:31

In January 2014 Chairman D'Souza referred to a previous meeting where it had been decreed that no CcIlr from GCC was to attend at the JCCF.

I'm going to seek legal advice on this order to ensure that GCC is compliant with the Human Rights Act and Equality legislation...

..And no, it's not!

You have to wonder what these people are being told by their puppet masters, Fletcher and Vincent. Do they realise they are being manipulated to do the evil work of others? Some people seem to have a sycophancy when it comes to politicians, making it easy for them to get others to do their bidding.

Either that or there is something more underhand going on....

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Re: Has the politics of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea now reached East Renfrewshire.

Posted by Gerry - 29 Mar 2015 08:51

It has worked for years - divide and conquer. Fletcher and Vinny know that it works and they have a few pet poodles who will help them out for a few morsels from the table. 😊

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Re: Has the politics of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea now reached East Renfrewshire.

Posted by Sax - 29 Mar 2015 08:59

I think that the community councillors should also ban them from shopping outside of Thornliebank - no more shopping at Silverburn. 🐱

Re: Has the politics of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea now reached East Renfrewshire.

Posted by Gloria - 29 Mar 2015 09:15

Absolutely barking mad some people and they all seem to congregate around one particular area of East Ren. How about just put the two people under house arrest when the group meetings are on 🙄

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Re: Has the politics of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea now reached East Renfrewshire.

Posted by BJ67 - 29 Mar 2015 18:01

Surely, TCC have the right to do this as they have probably not passed a vote or motion on this since the last election so any previous decisions cant surely be held by new members.

How can the chair attend this forum as an individual, clue is in the name of the group.

Does this group publish minutes or allow other community councillor or members of the public to attend.

From discussion with a chair of a community council these meetings are sometimes booked by the a chair, are these bookings paid for out of community council funds or are they booked under free room hire at erc premises using the free hire available to them. If this is the case then they cant be there as individuals can they? If they represent a community council then surely if they vote for no support for this group then it is democracy at work contrary to the title of this topic.

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