

19 March



Hereford Hack

Hello from Hereford Hack

First of all I would like to thank you for removing the posts on the WIHAHC Facebook; repeating my points about the Hereford Times' reluctance to cover the expenses scandal, which is well known in the case of Bill Wiggin, and still to emerge in terms of Herefordshire Council.

The posts did come up on Google Alert (which is something we do to track any news on the web with the name 'Herefordshire Council'), but the posts had gone by the time the Editor followed up the Alert (close escape).

I think she assumed that WIHAHC had made it up. Also we have to use Facebook from our home computers as the network traffic at Hereford Times is monitored. Most of the reporters are demoralised by the fact that most of our good stories are spiked. The Editor is too close to the Cabinet and the Chief Executive of the Council (although you will be pleased to know she can't stand the Leader for some reason, but that is academic now anyway).

The problem at the Council is that many in what is called the Joint Management Team and the Senior Management Team (which is about everyone earning over £50,000 a year) are claiming huge expense bills. A huge number of Consultants, who are on an exorbitant daily rate, are also on expenses and regularly run up eye-watering expenses bills at the Castle Hotel. The senior officers are supposed to check the expense claims of Councillors but they never do (after all this is small beer compared to the management expenses).

Interestingly Herefordshire Council claims that the Editors of the Hereford Times and the Hereford Journal approve the Councillors' Remuneration and Expenses Policies. This is false. Neither Fiona nor Colin while at the Journal had ever discussed this with the Council.

I don't think Fiona could afford to get involved with that. We know that some Cabinet members are notorious, including taking their wives on unnecessary overseas trips (sometimes paid for by Consultant Companies but usually by the Taxpayer). There was an independent report called the Crookall Report, which warned the Chief Executive Chris Bull to 'get a grip' on wasteful use of Consultants and expensive IT projects that never work. But the report was never followed up: it has been buried and taken off the web site (although you might be able to get it through an FOI, and you might get the other stuff about overseas trips through FOI too).

We were sent a good deal of information by Council employees who are sick and tired of public money being misspent when services are being cut, but they are frustrated that their leads are seldom followed up by the paper (the Editor does not want us to use FOI requests ourselves, which is frustrating because it is widely used by national press to extract the truth from public bodies).

Most journalists are hopeful that IT'S OUR COUNTY will shake up the Council following the Elections in May. But tragically it appears that the fledgling party has already been infiltrated by Conservative Candidates, arranged by the local group. Looking at WIHAHC it looks as if some people might already suspect this.

The Conservative Group strategy is for the 'sleeper' candidates to run a lacklustre campaign (if at all) where they are up against fairly strong official Conservative candidates (or to put it another way, throw the match). Where they are up against weak Conservative candidates, they will try and win the seat for IT'S OUT COUNTY and then 'cross the floor' to the Conservatives after the Election.

The Editor has been briefed that one of the current IT'S OUR COUNTY Councillors will defect to the Conservatives fairly soon and give us an exclusive, expressing 'revulsion for the way Councillor Hubbard runs the party and plans a dirty campaign'. We have been told to have the front page ready. We can guess which one is about to defect but I wouldn't want to get it wrong and unwittingly reinforce the Conservative plan (hold this information to yourself and see what happens). The strategy is quite cold-blooded, the idea is that when the defection happens, IT'S OUR COUNTY will suspect everyone and implode with its own paranoia, making it difficult to function effectively in the run up to May 5th.

I know this sounds crazy, but honestly you could not make it up. We are wide eyed and a little bit scared about how the Conservative group, with a few powerful members and the help of other agencies (especially the Council but also the Police), are able to manipulate almost everything in Herefordshire. It is horrifying that they can treat the Electorate with so little respect.

This is material we dare not submit as copy. Jobs here are under threat and to be truthful we are finding it difficult to find the courage of our convictions at the moment.

There is much more I could share with you, and perhaps you with us through the back door?

Please be careful how you use this information, hopefully you can do more good with it than we can.

Journalists work to ethics and standards (yes I know it is difficult to believe) but the most important unwritten rule is that we never reveal our sources (perhaps not out of altruism if I am honest, but because if we did, those sources would soon dry up). Can I ask you to observe too please the same unwritten rule?



20 March

Jim Miller

Before I received this from you, I had emailed Trevor Sallis of Newsquest that my info was that Fiona Phillips had declared Bill Wiggin's expenses "off limits". I wouldn't have done that in retrospect. However, I didn't say where I heard this, and I didn't mention either Facebook or Hereford Hack. So even if he does take it up (which I doubt) there is no paper trail back to you!

I will use yr new information wisely & in utter confidentiality. I am standing in May, purely on a platform about Cllrs expenses and Council Officers' salaries & expenses. My hope is to blow the whole thing wide open & anything you give me would be tremendously useful. If you ever need to email me, don't use my leominsterindependent address which is no longer secure since I reported a Govt Whip to the police. If you needed my secure email, I'd send it by text, my mobile is 07791 XXX XXX

Hoping we can work together; I'm not giving up on this scandal any time soon, Jim



23 March

Jim Miller

Your info about the IOC defection was of course impeccable. I told Mark Hubbard about it two days ago (no reference to where I got the lead of course) and he simply didn't believe me. Fiona Phillips may well be in a lot of trouble over this, although IOC are so feeble they may not pursue her properly. Hope you've noted the serious Cllr expenses allegations I am making. Am all ears for any fresh leads you wish to send me. PS: am standing for the Council on an expenses-busting ticket. Jim



02 April

Jim Miller

Just to keep you posted. As things stand, West Mercia Economic Crime Unit are still investigating NHCA & Bill Wiggin at the request of the Chief Constable. I don't personally think they will charge them, but they are taking a very long time NOT to charge them, which is in itself interesting (someone in West Mercia must be arguing that there is a case to answer).

On Cllrs' expenses: since the Auditor has now gone I'm going to ask Chris Bull some "answers now, please" questions this week. If he stalls at all, I'm making a police complaint about this too. My belief is that - according to the Rules Cllrs have to abide by - at least half of the 47K they took in "Travel" last year was wrongly paid out.

Jim



09 April

Hereford Hack

More Fear and Loathing from the Hereford Times

Just a few lines to explain why I have not been in touch for a while. It got really hot here after your email to Trevor Sallis. Fiona was forced to include something on Bill Wiggin's investigation despite herself. She hates anyone questioning her editorial judgement so there has been a bit of witch hunt here. I and everyone else here have been keeping our heads well down.

We were hoping to break the news of Lavender's defection but your tip off to Councillor Hubbard was a real spoiler. For some reason the Journal got the details as well and we forced to publicise it on the website on Wednesday (bit humiliating really). So Fiona was hopping mad. But I think we made a better story out of it and Councillor Hubbard has come out of this better than Lavender or the Tories (we quite like Mark H because he is a human being compared with the other politicians we have to deal with).

We are trying to spot the so called 'sleepers' in the ITS OUR COUNTY list and we are asking Councillor Lloyd Hayes to comment. That way it gives the Editor the chance to run with the line: "Marcelle denies she will defect to Tories". No one in the newsroom is convinced Marcelle plans to do this. She has a strong majority and the Conservatives are relying on a whispering campaign to split the opposition vote in Tupsley and throw doubt on other ITS OUR COUNTY candidates.

Really surprised that Mark H did not know about the defection. It was also all over Hereford that one of them would jump the week before we published. Councillor Jarvis and Councillor Blackshaw had been telling anyone who would listen about it.

The Cabinet Members themselves are surprisingly clumsy in their attempts to manipulate the media (the wise know not to even try). At the Times we knew a couple of months before Councillor Phillips knew that he was 'standing down' from the Leadership of the Party. Councillor Jarvis was gossiping about it, but this was 'off the record' and we were asked to hold off until Roger's official announcement in case it looked as if he was pushed: which he was.

The real 'mastermind' behind the Herefordshire Conservatives' campaign is Deputy Chairman and Campaign Director David Sheppard, who is contesting one of the Ross wards.

David Sheppard's PR set up is mentoring the Conservatives who are rehearsing their sound bites for the election. His career as a PR consultant is not going well by all accounts and his ambition is to move in to eventually lead the group once elected. He was instrumental in getting Roger Phillips to stand down, as he had the agreement of the local group that Roger had become 'a liability'. They

agreed to make up a health scare as the reason, which has had the benefit of neutralising political criticism of the outgoing Leader and to a great extent the Conservatives too (shrewd move really).

We are tracking WIHHC of course. The pages have great potential for copy but not all our ideas are accepted by Fiona. Your Chris Bull Petition actually got in last week's edition (amazingly). We do get a lot of letters about the largesse of the Council's management (we don't print most of them) and even Fiona does appreciate at least that there are papers to be sold if this story develops.

Interested to read about Inspector Knacker's investigation into the Case of the Poisoned Pen Letter (we received copies over a month ago). We have not been given any evidence for this and we are regarding this approach as classic smear at the moment. We would not publish this unless candidates are willing to be quoted on the record (unlikely).

The allegations are generally vague and unsubstantiated, although potentially serious for one candidate as it suggests benefits fraud, which the Editor wanted following up but it probably won't stick.

It is a very clumsy piece of smear. We got lots of calls from Councillors who had received copies. Calls from Tories (obviously) and the Lib Dems but not ITS OUR COUNTY and not the Independent Councillors who did not seem to receive copies (interestingly). The newsroom concludes the letters came from Bob Matthews who took a little drive up to Kington to post them. Uncle Bob has never forgiven the original Gang of Three for walking out on him and smearing his 'good name' on WIHHC. Justin Lavender was not part of that, and Bob Matthews had nothing on him as this was before Lavender jumped ship, so perhaps unfairly Lavender has been implicated.

The most adept are the Lib Dems when it comes to putting a story together for the media and this, together with a sharp manifesto, means they are likely to get a lot of coverage from us in the coming weeks. Terry James used to have the Hereford Journal sewn up but since the Council chief executive put pressure on the Tory-owned Star group, which resulted in the sack for Ozzy, the Journal has struggled for credibility. Ozzy and certain Times journalists used to swap info on the Council regularly (mostly on his train journeys home with one of our team). Ozzy loathed Chris Bull and Roger Phillips with a passion and would not have hesitated to use any of the material coming out of the Council now from all directions. To our eternal shame it was the Hereford Journal that took control of the ICT corruption scandal. It wasn't as if we didn't know, we just never got our act together.

Ozzy's departure has since now been much regretted by the Journal and his replacement has been downgraded for being too wet (wouldn't know a story if it bit him) so don't hold out much hope of the Journal coming too close to the issues.

As you know the leader column last week was all about you (you must be very flattered). Fiona and Bill Tanner tend to write this stuff, which bemuses everyone (we often get calls asking 'what the hell was all that about?'). It's alienating readers and reinforces the popular view that the Times is drifting out of touch unfortunately. Of course Fiona's view of you makes it difficult to get stories in on many of the leads we could pick up from WIHHC. You could try sending us more press releases because there are juicy headlines for us if the Editor could just focus on what sells newspapers. She is under

pressure because our circulation is still moving south.

We are trying to get something printed about the serial payoffs of Michael Hainge, Sean McLurg, Geoff Cole, Julie Holmes, Jane Jones and Neil Pringle, as some of them went with gagging orders in return for extra generous terms at taxpayers' expense (I've been talking to a contact at the South Wales Argus who tells me another Chief Executive in one of the Welsh Valley Local Authorities lost his job recently for doing exactly this, so this all could be the undoing of Herefordshire Council yet).

There was a time when we never really got calls from Council employees, now suddenly the place leaks like a sieve because people seem to have lost every vestige of faith in the management. The Council is outsourcing its internal audit, legal services, finance, benefits service, even HR, and there is going to be hundreds of redundancies we are told. The cuts to education and social services WILL hit the vulnerable there is no doubt and we suspect the Council is hiding the real effects until after the Elections.

Chris Bull is cutting back his directors and top managers to bring the pay bill down and save himself. He thinks this will be welcomed by tax papers. We think he will be forced to accept a pay cut after all to spare the humiliation of it being debated in the next Full Council meeting after the Election.

People are speculating that he won't last long under a new ruling group or a coalition anyway. Lots of tales of corruption with jobs and contracts being given to Consultants, without due tendering or processes being followed, and this is likely to keep the new Scrutiny Committees busy this summer. We might be running a few of these stories soon (I am hoping anyway). In the meantime, good luck with the Campaign. Your digging into Council expenses is spot on - there is definitely something very fishy going on there - and I am sure Fiona will not be able to avoid publishing something soon so I hope you keep at it, and I will keep you posted if I hear anything interesting.

☐



09 April

Jim Miller

Thank you - I'll digest it all and hopefully use it wisely.

Just for now, and in case you don't know, there was a second email to Trevor Sallis last week, explaining that I'm an Independent councillor and explaining that the financial link between the HT & the Council could well change after the election if the HT's political stance doesn't.

Not yet had a reply from him, although he did reply to my complaint about the Wiggin coverage.

Will be in touch again soon.

☐



10 April

Hereford Hack

This is such a frustration, in that the Hereford Times would and should be expected to be on top of the Bill Wiggin story but it seems that we only have confidence to cover political controversy after every other paper has covered it first. Honestly you are doing so well in uncovering this scandal that you should keep sparking the interest of the nationals if you can. I do know that if I passed the story to the Mirror then it could help my journalistic career nationally but certainly not locally. I will do what I can to throw a few leads on the matters that I think interest you.



10 April

Jim Miller

Perhaps you should send me the poisoned pen letter; I could publish it on my site with the names blacked out Parliament-style? It would at least show the public that the political atmosphere in the County is getting bad and needs to be cleaned up.



10 April

Hereford Hack

I will try and get hold of a copy in the week when I am in work and send a scan. I have seen some text on your website but unless that is a pastiche it is an entirely different letter to the one we have seen, which, if I recall, targets Councillors Hubbard, Woodward, Lloyd-Hayes and Dawes only. Will see what I can do but as you will know the contents are probably libellous.

10 April



Jim Miller

Putting out some feelers on the poison pen letter. See correspondence below (which is not yet for public consumption, so keep it under your hat, there may be further exchanges with Bob)

<http://www.yourconvenience.co.uk/BobM.pdf>

<http://www.yourconvenience.co.uk/BobM.pdf>

www.yourconvenience.co.uk

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11 April

Jim Miller

Someone sent me the letter today, so no need to purloin if from the HT! Thanks for offering, though.

Jim



25 April

Hereford Hack

Thanks for the tip off. Will keep it quiet of course.

'She who must be obeyed' has been out for a few days. This, with the Easter Break and the sunshine, is making everyone feel more positive about the chances of getting a few decent front pages out.

We are hopeful of covering the IOC press release on the Council's new HQ. But we know there will be pressure to hold off on this and a few other juicy items until after the Elections. The story is written for this week and we are hoping it isn't pulled. Such is the low level of confidence at the Hereford Times, that we seem afraid to cover anything that involves the slightest risk: unless other papers have covered it first and unless the Editor is 100% happy.

We saw the reference to the Alan Davies tweet on WIHAHC, which gives the Petition a whole new

angle (we are very impressed with your connections) but yet again the Editor might not want to cover it because the last story upset Chris Bull. It may be covered again if the signature numbers really keep moving and we get an idea of when the Petition will go to the Council. We still think he'll decide to take the cut himself rather than face a Full Council debate about it.

Bad luck with the FOI request on Councillors' expenses by the way. The Council hardly supports the spirit of the Act and concentrates on getting the legal department to bat any questions back unanswered. It might be worth complaining to the Ombudsman as the Council has a reputation for being opaque rather than transparent.

The Council will struggle to answer Councillor Hubbard's questions on EC Harris. I expect the Council is cursing the EC Harris presentation for blatantly spelling out the fact that it was putting back the planning application until after the Election. We haven't had any explanation yet from the Council (that I'm aware of anyway).

We had have calls that the official notification of the Election was originally fixed in early May but was put back, under pressure from the Hereford Futures Board and the Chief Executive until the last possible day (25th of March) to allow the Stanhope application to squeeze in on 23rd of March before start of the Purdah period. This was done in case IOC got in. And it also allowed IOC the minimum number of days to get their message across to the Electorate before 5th of May.

We are trying to make the story stick but Planners have also told us they got into trouble for originally recommending yes to the Sainsbury's application for an extension, café and 40 new jobs at their store in Hereford. The application was relatively straightforward and was due to be recommended for approval by the Planning Department under its Delegated Powers. Disturbingly the Planners were ordered to recommend against the application instead by the Chief Executive and Hereford Futures. This was because Hereford Futures did not want competition for Waitrose, who then were considering coming into the ESG retail development, and this was despite there being no issue or objections to speak of. So that's 40 jobs lost in Hereford.

There is also widespread consternation among Council officers about the fact that Hereford Futures is practically running several departments now and that their 'intervention in the planning process undermines its integrity and the objectivity of Officers, who were put under pressure to recommend refusal against all the evidence and policies'.

This is something you might want to pass on to IOC as they might be able to do something with this.

Planners have also told us that Councillor Harry Bramer, who holds the finance portfolio, tried for 16th of March to put in his Planning Application for garages and car parking at his development of six large detached houses on his land at Caradoc in Sellack. The development, within the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, is unpopular with local residents, and with the Planners and Conservation Officers too, who tried to recommend refusal for the latest application. Despite being announced, the Application was promptly withdrawn and will be submitted again after the Election, partly, we have been told, to avoid upsetting the locals in Councillor Bramer's ward before the Elections and to allow pressure to be put on the Council officers for a 'more helpful'

recommendation next time. Councillor Bramer is assured of re-Election we are told and probably will get his lucrative Planning Application through, with the help of his Conservative colleagues. We can't do anything with this just yet but we have been sent the original Application with Refusal and are waiting to see if the Recommendation has changed when it is re-submitted after the Election.

This might be coincidence but the manager of the Conservative Department, who was also a Union Rep, has gone (just like that) and in the last few weeks there have been several other redundancies in the Planning Department. That'll teach them to try and do their job properly at Herefordshire Council.

I think I said before, the Council and the Primary Care Trust are leaking like a sieve at the moment, with accusations of bullying in the PCT too. We are working on a few other shock horror stories at the moment and I just hope we will have the courage to print them.

All the best for now...



11 May

Jim Miller

Didn't take long for things to crawl out from under stones at Leo Council. I think this activity may actually break the law: <http://anexpensesaccount.blogspot.com/2011/05/it-didnt-take-long-did-it.html>



An Expenses Account: It didn't take long, did it?

anexpensesaccount.blogspot.com

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15 May

Hereford Hack

Interestingly Cllr Jarvis was telling us he had been appointed leader the Council even before Cllr Phillips officially announced he was stepping down. This reinforces your experience that there is little in the way of democratic process when it comes to elections for leadership within parties and town councils. It's good news for him that David Sheppard was not successful in the Elections otherwise he would have given him a run for his money (the less acceptable face of the right in Herefordshire). Cllr Jarvis has been very twitchy about what he described as 'dirty tricks' in his ward as his business dealings in Essex were being talked about on the doorsteps.

Also, it is as always v difficult to get stories published about goings on in Leo and Hereford town council (which are usually fairly clean compared to Kington and Ledbury). Sad to say you might be better off with a Letter to the Editor for the Journal and the Times. That way the issue is likely to get published if the letter is short and to the point and we get it by email or post by the end of the week for the next edition. Ashamed to say it but often the letters pages carry more hard political news than the rest of the paper.

We are looking forward to the debate on the salary of the Chief Executive at the Council. We get a lot of calls about this and there is no way the public are going to be happy without a significant gesture from Chris Bull.

Also had a couple of calls from senior employees from the Hospital saying he no longer has a management role for the Primary Care Trust and his salary should be cut by 50 per cent. This information has not been shared with the elected politicians at the Council and they should have been told months ago apparently. Can't get a straight answer to this one but I know there is a story here somewhere. If this comes out ahead of any debate on his salary it will not do him any good at all.

□



16 May

Jim Miller

Note the WIHAHC stuff coming up about Hainge being recalled by the Council as a consultant. If the Council paid him £137,000 as 'compensation for loss of office' that means he didn't want to go but the Council did want rid of him. But if the Council now hires him again it means that £137,000 was actually for him to go away, set up a consultancy firm, and come back to claim even more money from the Council. In other words, a small group of senior Execs working out amongst themselves how best to fleece the public purse. If Hainge comes back, you've surely got a big story?

On the PTC I've asked Chris Bull directly today what the position is regarding his control of it or otherwise. Will get back to you.



23 May

Jim Miller

Do you have the May 2nd email about John Jarvis sent to all party leaders & entitled "European Bank of Redevelopment"? If not, do you want it? Jim



23 May

Hereford Hack

I personally do not have a copy so yes please. As a matter of interest have you seen the recently published information about Councillor Allowances and Expenses, which might be opening up another possible stream of overclaiming. Elected members to get an extra 1k for computer equipment and £200 per quarter for computer expenses.

Group leader allowances are only applicable now if there are six members in the group, which means Cllr Terry James and Chris Chappell do not get the allowance but Mark Hubbard does.

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=28111>

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=28112>



23 May

Jim Miller

It's here, but not publicised so you did not get this document from me!
Not entirely incriminating re: Jarvis, but he sure as hell comes across as worried about these questions:

Share



24 May

Jim Miller

Don't know if you can get this story past Fiona P but tonight the Annual Town Meeting of Leominster (standing room only) voted for the Mayor to write to Chris Bull on behalf of the people of Leo asking that - in line with government policy - he takes a voluntary, 20% cut in his salary. To my great surprise the motion was carried without a single vote against! Leo Town Clerk can confirm...



28 May

Jim Miller

Surely you guys can get a story from Chris Bull's extraordinary claim that two temporary Council officers took the decision to give Michael Hainge £138,000 in hush money?



29 May

Hereford Hack

I am hopeful we can file a report on Compromise Agreements at Herefordshire Council but there is still a lot of work to do in uncovering the whole picture. The decision process is a real angle but the Michael Hainge payoff is just one of many.

You might be interested in the experiences of Paul Cardin, who is a national campaigner for open government. Despite receiving full responses from most local authorities to his FOIA request for information on gagging clauses, he has been so far brushed off by Herefordshire Council.

The information is certainly in the public interest as public money is involved, and most people would be appalled at the decisions made. The Compromise Agreements would require the support of the Legal Department (after all they are a legal document), yet the Legal Department and the Council as a whole, claim that it does not keep records of such agreements, despite the risk that the

agreements could be 'broken' or require legal attention at some time in the future. In fact, Local Authorities are required to keep such information as likely to be in the public interest in a readily accessible form.

Either the Council is incredibly lax with its legal records and its decision making on these agreements - or it is hiding something.

Paul Cardin asked for an internal review of the Council's handling of its FOIA response on Compromise Agreements but was again fobbed off: the Council claiming that it would have to look through every personnel file to manually check whether an individual had been subject to a Compromise Agreement.

I have found a record of his FOIA request and the responses:

http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/total_annual_figures_for_comprom_138#comment-17773

To get to the heart of the story an FOIA would have to name the individuals we know have benefited from a substantial payoff in terms of 'hush money'.

Michael Hainge you know about. You may know of others:

Alan McLaughlin, former Assistant Chief Executive of Legal and Democratic Services, who was connected with the mishandling of several Elections, including your experience in previously seeking office with Leominster Town Council

Julie Holmes, former Head of ICT, and at the centre of the notorious bullying allegations and the subsequent Crookhall Report

Geoff Cole, who took over the management of ICT when Julie Holmes was suspended but left with a Compromise Agreement to prevent him talking about the situation in the ICT Division

Sean McLurg, previous Head of Safeguarding Children, who left having signed a Non Disclosure on issues involving children in the authority's care just before the departure of Children's Services Director Sharon Menghini (who was at the centre of the infamous Schools Review)

The Editor is not keen on our putting in FOIA requests but we are working on it. There are details of the payoffs buried in the Council's Annual Report and Accounts for 2009/10. The Accounts for 2010/11 will be coming out in late summer I expect and will contain a few gems, but we don't want to have to wait too long.

As said before, the newsroom does monitor WIHAHC and does pick up on material and it is amazing what snippets are contributed.

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29 May

Jim Miller

Thanks - plenty for me to go to work with there!



31 May

Jim Miller

I will put in FOIA requests about those five compromise agreements you put me onto: will keep you closely informed as to what I get back from the Council.



07 June

Hereford Hack

Just seen your question about the Remuneration Committee. In fairness to Fiona she is seriously pissed off with Herefordshire Council who consistently say that the Editor of the Hereford Times and the Editor of the Hereford Journal sit on this Committee.

In truth neither of them do. Fiona has never attended a single meeting or participated in these decisions and has lost count of the number of times she has railed against their useless Democratic Services department for perpetuating this falsehood.

Quite rightly, Fiona feels any association with the Remuneration Committee would compromise her impartiality and integrity in reporting on these matters. Your posting will wind her up no end but at least she will be having a go at the Council (where relationships have got really spiky now we are taking them to task on a few things).





07 June

Jim Miller

I will publicise the fact that the Council's website is not telling the truth about this! Not a surprise really.



08 June

Jim Miller

We rebels find it incomprehensible that Fiona reserves her hatred for us - me in particular - when what we are doing is so obviously on the side of the angels. Perplexing.



09 June

Hereford Hack

You have forced her into a corner more than once and she really does not like that. Her attitude to you is 'I don't want to see that man's name in my paper'. Sorry. Also WIHHC is in competition in a way, in terms of setting the news agenda. She thinks that is the job of the Hereford Times and no one else. Since the Elections we have woken up a bit and actually biting on a few of the stories that you and others are waving in front of our noses (even if too many of the stories the newsroom writes up are spiked at the end of the day).