

POST MEETING NOTE TO COUNCIL MINUTES OF 27 APRIL 2023

Cllr Sara Kinnell's statement:

"The decision not to stand for another term was a difficult one to make. It has been an absolute privilege to serve on this council and to be chosen to do so for 18 years by residents who have put their trust in me to protect their quality of life. And for that, I am truly humbled. I will miss, almost, all of my councillor colleagues and all the wonderful officers who have helped and supported me throughout my years on this council. I must give special thanks to the Environmental Health Team with whom it has been an absolute pleasure to have worked so closely with over the years.

But I cannot continue. I cannot continue to be part of an environment that deems that bullying, intimidation, humiliation, hypocrisy and misogyny are all considered to be acceptable when it comes to politics. I am not a politician! Politics doesn't belong in local government, and I am tired of the lies, the constant criticism, the negativity, the scaremongering and the self-promotion that has become common place by some.

I have been a member of both the Conservative and the Community Campaign Hart groups on this council and I have been struck by how markedly the Conservative's natural malice and bitterness contrasts with the Community Campaigns constructive, inclusive and supportive attitude. I cannot understand why those members of the Conservative group who I know have personal integrity can associate themselves with the destructive and deliberately malicious posts which some of their colleagues post in their collective name.

There are some in this room who are here purely to fuel their own ego and self-importance. We should be judged as councillors by how we conduct ourselves as we navigate through life, and whether our actions are genuinely for the benefit of others, and in the interests of the community one represents. I can honestly say that I will leave this council with my head held high in the knowledge that I have always acted in the best interest of the residents that I have represented, with integrity, honesty and a diligent drive to improve our collective quality of life".