

## **Cllr Apak's email to CWG members dated 01/10/20**

Dear CWG members

When we met on Wednesday 23rd, for members to reconsider the minutes of the CWG meeting I made some remarks about reconsidering my own position on the CWG.

To recap, the CWG decided to reopen and amend the minutes of a previous meeting which it had already approved as a true and accurate record. I explained that I had never experienced an occasion before now, where members of a group first approves the minutes of their meeting as true and accurate, then when challenged on it, they decide to revisit it to amend the agreed record, effectively disagreeing with their own decision to approving those minutes in the first place. I explained that to me this was dysfunctional.

Alas, members agreed to strike a sentence (from the already agreed and published minutes) and inserted a sentence purporting that a member was "misquoted". To misquote someone means "to incorrectly repeat the words they have said". In the previous meeting, I explained that I strongly disagreed with this, and Astrid repeated our disagreement on this in the second meeting on the 23rd. The member in question was not misquoted, and I told the meeting that I remembered hearing him say the word in question. However, members disagreed with me unanimously and while I must respect that fateful show of hands, as I explained during the meeting, to me this also exposed a lack of integrity of the group which I can no longer trust or work with. Moreover, the group is not working well in representing all residents across all five tower blocks in an open and transparent way, and I cannot be involved in meetings and discussions that may call into question my own integrity.

I am profoundly disappointed that it has come to this, but I have thought about it for over a week and I keep coming to the same conclusion. The CWG is an independent resident led group and it will decide its own destiny. But for me, this is my final email to you collectively as its members and I will no longer be engaging with you as a collective in this capacity. I will also not acknowledge the group as one, which the Council formally recognises and works with.

For clarity, officers and I will continue to work with the five TRAs and their representatives, either individually or as a collective, and we shall continue to engage and keep residents informed via newsletters and webinars.

For transparency, I will ask officers to append this email as a statement from me on the amended minutes, which will be published on the website, and will also append a copy to the next newsletter the council sends to all residents.

Kind regards

Meric

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The 'Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>' meeting mentioned above refers to the CWG meeting that took place on the 23/09/20. The 'previous meeting' refers to the CWG meeting that took place on 16/09/20. It must be noted that both meetings were called with the sole purpose to review and amend the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2020 and were therefore not minuted for publication.