

15 July 2026

Dear Mr Mayor, *Lawrence*

I am resigning from Silsden Town Council.

I joined Silsden Town Council because I thought the council aimed to look after the interests and the well-being of Silsden residents. To make Silsden a better place to live in –

I was wrong.

The council has become impotent and the stooge of Bradford (BMDC); it does not fight for the well-being of the residents, but agrees with Bradford for a quiet life. Any decisions made by the council tend to be drawn out to the point of 'death of the proposal'. A simple proposal, which should take a couple of months to implement, can take years to conclude, and it is probably changed out of all recognition from the initial requirement because of Bradford control.

Projects that are implemented are criticised for having minor infringements of the rules.

If it's not on the agenda, it can't be discussed. Fair enough, but it can't be discussed informally as a way to be put on the next agenda either. This means that an important matter that requires prompt discussion is forgotten or delayed. Any items that do get onto the agenda are controlled by vetting.

#### **Silsden Pavilion Refurbishment:**

3 years ago, the Pavilion Refurbishment Group started as a working group of STC (5 councillors), but we were cast aside and eventually informed that we had become an "independent group". However, as councillors, we could not vote during STC meetings on any subsequent discussion on the pavilion.

Over the 3 years, Silsden Pavilion Community Group (SPCG) put in many hours with meetings with Bradford and kept STC abreast of developments. We carried out a survey to find out what the residents of Silsden required of their pavilion and obtained planning permission for the refurbishment to meet these requirements. All to no avail!

Bradford required STC to "own" the S106 money and to run the project (this was not the agreement SPCG had negotiated, but a requirement of Bradford's legal department). The SPCG agreement with Bradford was to obtain builders' quotes and for STC to be able to "passport" the S106 money through to the approved builder. The legal agreement was unacceptable, but STC, instead of disputing it, rolled over and granted Bradford the landowners' permission to refurbish the pavilion. The SPCG members who were also councillors were not allowed to speak or vote on this matter. In fact, we were told **it was illegal for us to say anything during the debate.**

This decision, made by Silsden Town Council, left SPCG without the landowners' permission, unable to obtain CIO status and culminated with a statement from BMDC to do the bare minimum to refurbish the pavilion, i.e., a makeover. Without the changes required by the planning permission SPCG obtained, this does not meet the requirements of Silsden residents, as they told us they were required. A makeover is a waste of money. The result will be a building for use by a few, and not for the many.

Yours sincerely,

*Peter J Ford*

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