

Sauchie Budget Consultation 15/01/18

(This was recorded so it is a more accurate reflection)

'I'm interested to know why Clackmannanshire is in a much worse state than other local authorities, if you take Glasgow City Council with 10 times the population of this size are expected to have a funding gap of £33million if they were the equivalent to Clackmannanshire they would be expected to make savings of over £100million and also why is Sauchie in this document appear to be targeted, much more than any other area, you are talking about cutting funding to Sauchie Active 8, losing our hall, losing our Access Point and still expecting our students to work, so why is Clackmannanshire worse than any other local authority in Scotland and why is Sauchie targeted much more than any other area in Clackmannanshire?'

'I have a real concern about the public toilet closures, what about older people, what about people with disabilities? I really hope that the council will rethink this proposal.'

'As a member and president of the Woman's Guild for over 40 years, and this hall has been used by our mothers and grandmothers before us, that's 107 years of us using this hall, and as there is no other hall in Sauchie our Guild would close and for some it is the only time they are out of the house, some of our members go to the keep-fit class on a Tuesday which is run by Active 8, Active 8 also help keep teenagers off the street, they also give the seniors a great day out at Christmas and not forgetting the Sauchie Gala day and the foodbank that Active 8 do for the people, Active 8 do great work in this village and it would be missed by young and old, they have even shut the library in Sauchie, so the people of Active 8 do a great job for Sauchie people as does the Resource Centre, Sauchie would become a ghost town without these places, we need to keep the Hall open as it is used by many people, for example, dances, bingo, parties, weddings and even funerals now.'

'Can you not look at the prices for Sauchie Hall?'

'I would like to know where you get these figures from? Cause I run the bingo 3 nights a week and this hall is used every single day, I won't agree with the gentleman there, I think the prices are fair but I would like to see some openness and honesty here tonight, cause this hall is well used, if it was to close, where are the bairns going to go? Where are the old folk going to go?'

'I would like to ask you a question Stewart, you have it down that we get £32,000 from you, of that £32,000 you get £16,000-£23,000 back right and that's not including lets. Then we have our community courses which is another £5,000, so basically you are getting £28,000 back, we are in the deprivation area as well and we work with kids and vulnerable people so how are we not in the same category as the rest?'

'Car parking costs are not realistic.'

'Most of the car parking in the Town Centre is used by the Staff at Kilncraigs'

'Too many chiefs and not enough Indians'

'I work with accounts and I was looking over yours and there is a mistake in the 2015/16 accounts of £316,000.'

'I want to ask, we seem to be in the same position for the last 5/6 years, just before Christmas the Council send round an email, guess what, no Happy Christmas and gave a nice new year, by the way you might not have a job come after Christmas, how come we are in the same position every year, year in, year out, who's to blame for this, cause see if I'm not doing my job right I've got to answer to somebody, so how is nobody answering for this?'

'We are a small council, yet we seem to have a Chief Executive, 2 deputies and the 2 deputies have about 6/7 deputies, and the Chief Executive got a pay rise of £12,000, that £12,000 could have kept someone in a job for a year.'

'The Chief Executive should be here'

'There are a few things that I have concerns over, the breakfast club, lunch time clubs, after school clubs and all the Active Start clubs, this is very important for our children as it affects their health and well-being if you cut all of these things or reduce them that's going to have a huge impact on their future and also your proposal to reduce the amount of learning assistants by 1/5 does that mean taking away the learning assistants that are already in the schools or is it just not employing anymore, if you reduce that number it will have an impact on attainment and attainment is a huge issue here in Clackmannanshire'

'Is it necessary to stop all of these things altogether?'

'I would like to ask how many teachers are you going to get rid of, because Deerpark and Craigbank are in a bad enough state as it is.'

'You have here to reduce Secondary school subject choices and save £352,000 – so what subjects are you going to reduce on?'

'We are here to give our bairn and grand-bairns the best education we can, it's the same with the buses you trying to stop the bairns getting to school, because you won't put on a bus, I think it's ridiculous'

'My point is, we want to give children in Clackmannanshire the best possible start in life, we know that children in Clackmannanshire are very vulnerable and that number is growing year on year. On a personal note my kids live 2.8 miles away from the school, so they will have to walk there and back, and the quickest way is through the

woods, and 2.8 miles for a child will take more than an hour to walk, and they will have to do that before school and after school, and I think my worry is that this will drive people away from Clackmannanshire and that will only make the school full of more vulnerable children.'

'I stay up the main street and they put the homeless into these house and they destroy them and then when they get another house out of it, the council have to pay to redo it all again and furnish it and all the rest of it and we are sitting watching it.'

'The reason that the breakfast club was started was to give the children something in there tummy to give them the best start to life and it did work, but I want to say to Nikki, about spending money on things we don't need for instance Social Work's new IT system is going to cost a few thousand, do you really need that? Also the cost of the new Council Chambers when there were perfectly good ones already there, why did you need to spend money on that? It's a pure waste of money, the council staff did lose an hour, it didn't just affect their wages it also affected their pension, staff have given you a lot of things, and you are still looking for more. Last year the council voted on changing the management structure, that's not happened yet and we are here a year later, why has it not been done, cause that's a saving, I'm not saying managers aren't doing their job, but so are the workers, everyone is giving 100%'

'Its embarrassing the impact that some of these things will have on our children, this should be the last thing that's cut cause the children are the future, what you are talking about here is what you legally have to do, really? This is children we are talking about, why is it always cutting? Why can't you invest? Let's invest in children, let's get the halls running properly and invest in the future!'

'Can I just ask a question about the rental of the hall? A friend was looking into renting this hall on a long term lease for a club and he got the distinct impression that he was being put off even considering it, and another thing education looks very bleak, you are talking about deprivation, you're going to make it an even more deprived area, you have all these organisations that have given up there time and their energy and all they want is the welfare of the community and yet you are slashing all these things, you are offering no hope to children at all, maybe not just for Sauchie but for the whole of Clackmannanshire, you are going to be isolating older people if you stop all these clubs.'

'If the hall couldn't be saved what will happen to it?'

'There are different pots of money for different things, I believe there was a pot of money for doing up Sauchie Hall, do we know what happened to that pot of money?'

'So where has the money went?'

'So when we ask for stuff to be done in the hall, not just in here but upstairs, which is near enough derelict now, why has nothing been done? If we ask for something to be done with that money we are told no! This has been since last year, we have asked and asked for stuff to be done in the hall and we are constantly told no, so where is all our money that we were told we could have?'

'Have you approached the Scottish Office for increasing the amount of money that Clackmannanshire gets? Have you had the conversation yet about these proposals?'

'My concern is that you are saying that you are going to stop transport for kids 3 miles out, that means that my kids have to walk through the woods which is unsafe!'

'Lots of these children don't get anything other than these activities, this is a consultation you should be providing answers here! You need to start looking internally first about where you will save money! I just don't think this is fair, I don't think it represents what you are trying to do!'

'There are some people that work for the council that have had their hours cut, so they get less money, if I was to tell you that someone from the council has to use a foodbank what would you say to that?'

'How many of you are actually from Clackmannanshire? So your kids won't be affected by the closure of these halls etc?'

Would someone like to explain the money that was spent of the shared services project?'

'You want to stop garden waste, so what have people to do with it? Also salt, what is happening with that? I phoned the council about my empty salt bin that was empty and the council came and filled it with 4 members of staff on the lorry, do you really need that many people working, I think you need to look at that.'

'Can I just ask of the proposal of Sauchie Hall goes through, when will the hall close?'