



Coventry City Council

Helen Lynch
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Councillor Glenn Williams

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Please contact Councillor G Williams
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Our Reference: GW/MS/
6 October 2016

Dear Helen

Response to Draft Investigation

With regards to para. 76 of the report, I am in agreement with you. With regards to para. 75 I am not in total agreement and would like to submit the following responses:

First, I believe that the term *xenophobic* has been mistaken for *patriotism*. Para. 24 iii) regarding not being a minority in your own country, is neither racist nor xenophobic. It is about being proud of your own country, accepting and welcoming those of other faiths and cultures, but recognising that it is necessary to control the numbers. It is solely to do with numbers and nothing to do with race.

Para. 24 v) I make it clear in the article that we respect everybody, regardless of where they are from. I also state that people who come here should respect their own identity and culture as well as teaching us new things. I cannot see how these comments are xenophobic.

Para. 21 vi) Your report already acknowledges that I am entitled to agree with Mr Powell and that by agreeing with his views I have not breached the code of conduct.

With reference to para. 24 iv) I can see that the phrase 'drain on resources' is quite a strong statement, which was repeated by the journalist direct from the transcript. This transcript has not been considered under the code of conduct. I was explaining the reason for saying what I had said in private: This is what we were being told by many people on the streets and I'm quite sure that those same people would also consider that there are a lot of British people who are equally a drain on resources, so I do not believe that residents or myself were specifically discriminating against immigrants.

With regards para. 39 I have always treated people with respect, regardless of nationality. I believe that everyone is equally important and I don't believe that I have shown prejudice to anyone from any race or nationality.

Para.46, 47, 48 refers to Community Cohesion. May I clarify that not only have I not personally received any negative correspondence from members of any ethnic community, but neither has this Council received any such complaint. In fact I have received many supportive comments. The few negative comments I have received were exclusively from British people who support the Labour Party or other left-wing groups. In addition to this, the publicity surrounding the articles in the press have helped me to learn more about the different cultures in the City and I have visited places that I would never have been to if this situation hadn't happened.

I have enclosed printed copies of one of my social media accounts which shows the places I have been to and I have publicly endorsed them. It also shows that I have been engaging with members of Bablake Ward ethnic minorities, something I had been doing in any event.

Para. 50 says that I was disrespectful to some parts of the community. I reject this statement because I have never shown discrimination towards any resident and nor would this ever be the case. I always treat people with respect. I had not intended to start a discussion on immigration and accept this was down to my naivety, however we do have freedom of speech in this country and it does more damage in my view to stifle people's opinions. To say nothing for fear of offending a group of people is more dangerous and can lead to people holding more extreme views. The fact that I was open (unintentionally) has actually had a more positive effect on myself and others; because it is always good to debate and learn new things. I have also enclosed a comment by the Prime Minister (front page of Daily Mail) which I think is extremely relevant.

I realise and accept that I have been very naïve in my actions and had I intended to have a proper debate on immigration then, as I do on other topics in Full Council, I would have thoroughly prepared a speech, redrafted it many times and ensured that my arguments were factually correct. This didn't happen because of the circumstances. I also believe that the referendum in June has created divisions between people; it has also engaged many in political discussion which is a good thing and healthy for our democracy.

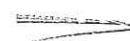
I hope that it is clear to other members and residents of our city that I have moved on from this event in a positive way and tried very hard to learn and embrace the many diverse cultures and faiths that we have in this city. Indeed, at the Council meeting of 6th September I made it clear that we should balance our resources between refugees and vulnerable Coventry residents.

I hope that this letter is useful to you in redrafted your investigation report.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Glenn V
Bablake Ward





WhitmorePark @whitmore_park · Sep 27
Look out for some Year 5 children on BBC Midlands Today tonight!
They had an exciting opportunity to go to the Festival of Imagineers!

← ↻ 2 ...

You Retweeted



Sabir Zazai @sabir_zazai · Sep 27
Thank you for being with us at #Wellbeing1st @Glenn_Williams1

← ↻ 1 2 ...



Glenn Williams @Glenn_Williams1 · Sep 27
Attending Refugees' Journey conference in #Coventry with @sabir_zazai and I'm learning a lot here today. #WellBeing1st



← ↻ 3 || ...



Glenn Williams @Glenn_Williams1 · Sep 27
@TheEdRuane Scotland committed to taking 2000 Syrian refugees. Learning this at the Refugee Journey conference in #Coventry #WellBeing1st

← ↻ || ...



Glenn Williams @Glenn_Williams1 · Sep 27
@sabir_zazai talking about his journey as a refugee & issues he faced. Really making me think hard. #WellBeing1st

← ↻ 1 || ...



Glenn Williams @Glenn_Williams1 · Sep 27
@timcoleman opening the conference on Refugee Wellbeing here in Coventry. #CityOfSanctuary

← ↻ || ...

← In reply to Sabir Zazai



Glenn Williams @Glenn_Williams1 · Sep 27
@sabir_zazai I will see you there.

← ↻ 1 || ...

← In reply to Liam A Whelan



Glenn Williams @Glenn_Williams1 · Sep 26
@LiamAWhelan @xtophercook judging by the hair and fashion, possibly a smidge before

I was the only councillor to attend the National Conference held here in Coventry - Also a positive reply from the director of the Coventry refugee and migrant centre.

1st ever kebab! @marcusiapsa @CouncilCoventry

This was for fun, but did earn £50 for charity!



← ↻ 2 2 || ⋮

You Retweeted



Allan Andrews @allanandrews · Sep 16

The travellers have now left the WMP. Officers are looking at improving the bollards in place - they were removed using a vehicle.

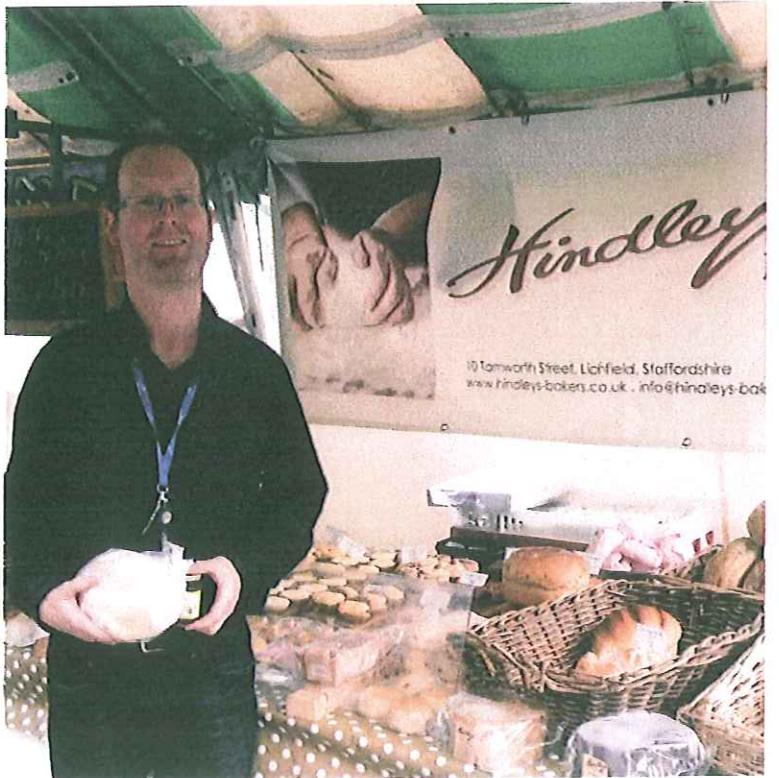
← ↻ 2 2 ⋮

In reply to Coventry City Centre



Glenn Williams @Glenn_Williams1 · Sep 16

@CovCityCentre no Pina Colada jam today!!! Got some nice bread and gooseberry jam instead!! 😊



← ↻ 1 1 || ⋮

In reply to Coventry City Centre



Glenn Williams @Glenn_Williams1 · Sep 16

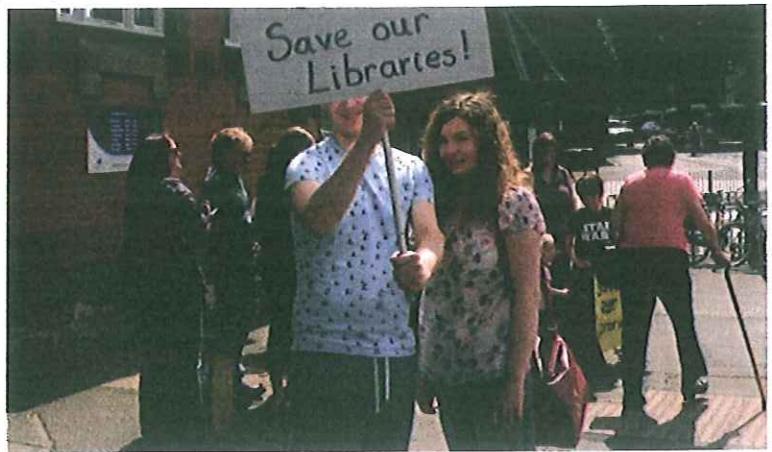
@CovCityCentre and hopefully some more Pina Colada jam. I'll be down shortly! 😊

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You Retweeted



Coventry City Centre @CovCityCentre · Sep 16



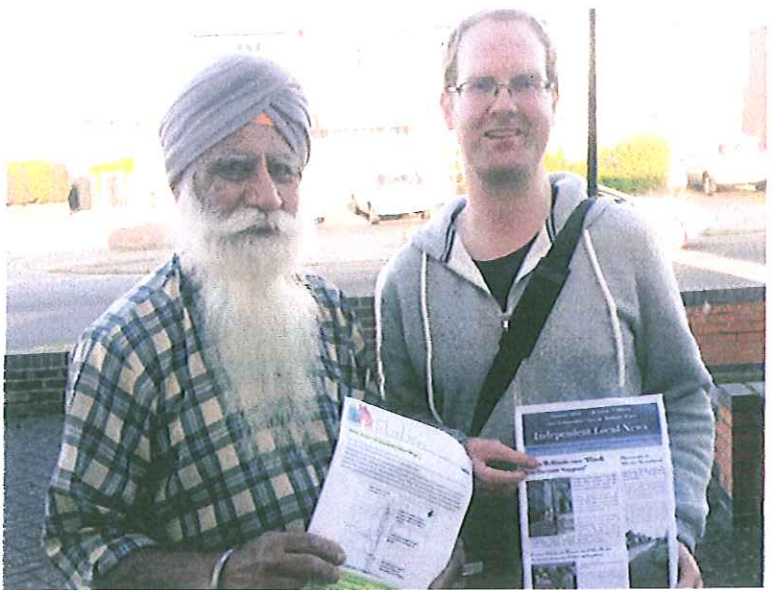
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This resident had read about me in the press and told me not to resign!



Glenn Williams @Glenn_Williams1 · Sep 5

Discussing local issues with supportive residents on Beake Ave tonight whilst delivering my leaflet!



1

You Retweeted



Save Cov Libraries @library_save · Sep 5

Great to have a councillor supporting libraries!

Glenn Williams @Glenn_Williams1

Tomorrow I'm at @coventrycc Full Council. Busy agenda & I'll be asking questions on libraries, flytipping & contributing to refugee debate.

1 2



Glenn Williams @Glenn_Williams1 · Sep 5

Tomorrow I'm at @coventrycc Full Council. Busy agenda & I'll be asking questions on libraries, flytipping & contributing to refugee debate.

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You Retweeted



Britain Elects @britainelects · Sep 5

Party with best approach to cutting the debt and deficit:
CON: 58%
LAB: 25%
UKIP: 8%

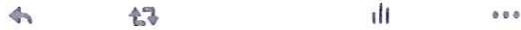
0



In reply to Mark Taylor



Glenn Williams @Glenn_Williams1 · Sep 2
[@MarkPhilTaylor](#) With a larger majority I believe.



In reply to CoventryCopsewoodFC



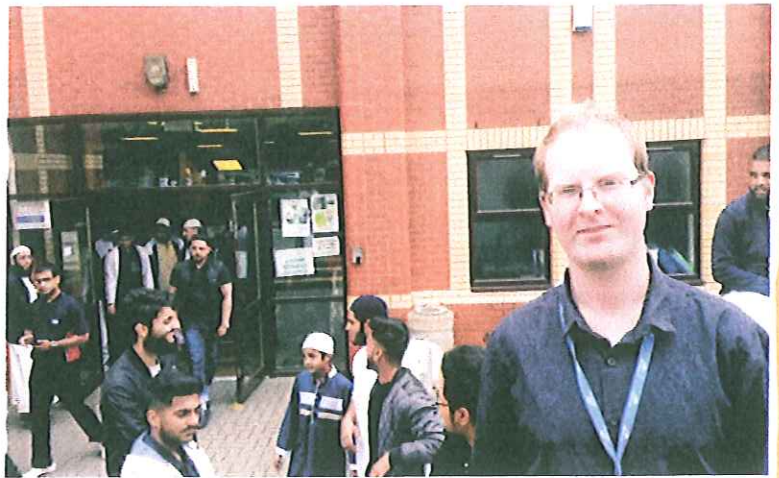
Glenn Williams @Glenn_Williams1 · Sep 2
[@CovCopsewoodFC](#) I will come for the first half, then I have work in Binley. Hope you get lots of support.



Attending a mosque with a muslim friend.



Glenn Williams @Glenn_Williams1 · Sep 2
1st ever visit to mosque. Fri prayers at Stoney Stanton Rd quite enlightening. [@MasudKhan1](#) explained a lot today!!



You Retweeted



Britain Elects @britainelects · Sep 2
Conservative GAIN Grangefield (Stockton-on-Tees) from Labour.



You Retweeted



Coventry Telegraph @covtelegraph · Aug 31
Coventry MP Geoffrey Robinson among politicians making most first-class train journeys

Coventry's Geoffrey Robinson among MPs most addicted to first-cl...

The member for Coventry North West was fifth on a list of MPs making the most first class journeys in 2015-16

coventrytelegraph.net



Cycle lane lunacy!

The new blight paralysing Britain

SEE PAGE 16

MAY SAVAGES LIBERAL ELITE



‘Listen to the way politicians and commentators talk about the public. They find their patriotism distasteful, concerns about immigration parochial, views about crime illiberal and the fact that 17 million voted to leave the EU bewildering’

– the PM in her speech today

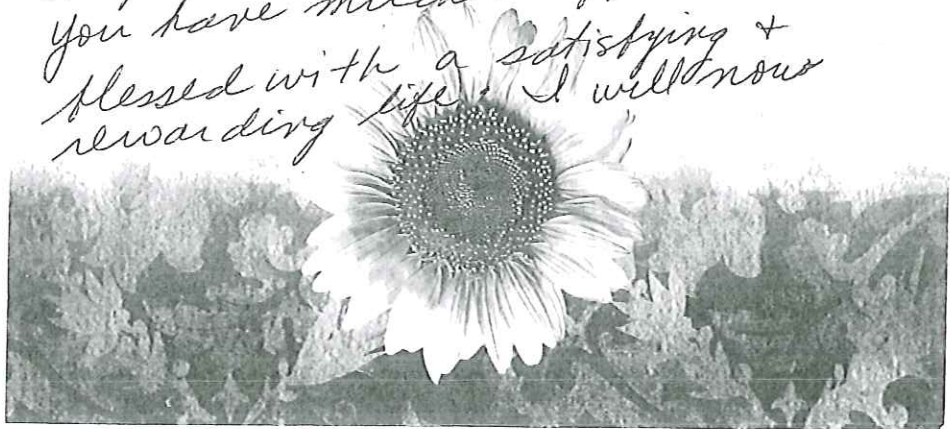
SEE PAGE TWO

September 7, 2016.

Dear Councillor Williams,

Glenn, I have not enough words to thank you for the wonderful experience you provided for me yesterday. You have created a wonderful memory for me for my visit back to Coventry. Your meeting you will be one of the highlights of my visit to Coventry. It was an absolute delight to meet you & your friend Martin. I feel like some higher power orchestrated that day just for me & sent you my way!

You truly are a man of great integrity & honesty with sincere ambitions - this energy flows easily from you. Continue in your endeavours in politics & service to others. You have much to offer & will be blessed with a satisfying & rewarding life. I will now



Follow you & the politico of
Coventry & Britain.

I forgot to give you this pin
last night - a pin from Windsor -
Essex County - your twin city!

If you ever are in Ontario or
Canada (you never know!) know
that you have a friend now in
Canada!

Take care, God bless you in
your work. And a million thanks!
You have left a handprint on
my heart with your goodness!

Regards,
Alexandra.