

CASE A

HILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR PETER CITRINE

Summary

It was alleged that Councillor Peter Citrine published a political leaflet on behalf of the local Liberal Democrats suggesting that people should boycott the shops in the high street belonging to Councillor Leo Hall, the Conservative council leader. This was in response to the council's decision to introduce car-parking charges in the town centre, which the Liberal Democrats were campaigning against. The complainant is an employee of Councillor Hall. She works in a pet shop and alleges that Councillor Citrine is jeopardising her livelihood by effectively encouraging people to patronise another pet shop 200 yards away.

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Miss Marjorie Dawes
76 Ferry Lane
Hilton
HT2 6KJ

6th January 2005

Dear sirs,

I wish to complain about an article that has appeared in a political newsletter that has been distributed to thousands of homes in *Hilton* in December 2004 under the name of Cllr. Peter *Citrine* of *Hilton Borough Council* and *Hilton Liberal Democrats*.

The article in question refers to car parking charges and tells people which shops to boycott owned by Mr. *Hall*. I am employed by Mr. *Hall* and I believe to encourage people to boycott his shops will disadvantage me and the other members of staff who work for him. I have already had people speak to me to say they have boycotted the shop as they have been told not to use the shop. It is my very livelihood Cllr. *Citrine* has put in jeopardy.

Having researched your website and looked up the terms of reference it clearly states that "A member must not in his official capacity, or any other circumstance, use his position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for himself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage." As there is another pet shop (*Pampurred Pets*) in *Hilton High Street* only 200 yards from the shop I work in (*Pets Paradise*) it is abundantly clear that Cllr. *Citrine* by his actions is seeking to advantage my rivals as well as seeking a political advantage for him and to the disadvantage of all of us who work there.

Your terms of reference under (2) also states that "A member must (a) treat others with respect." I think the way Cllr. *Citrine* has used and named the businesses has an affect on my livelihood and is not treating me or my work colleagues fairly or with respect.

What he has done has caused a great deal of harm with the potential to cause job losses for his own political gain and to the financial advantage of our local competitors.

I, nor any of the staff employed by Mr. *Hall* are members of any political party, are not active in supporting any political party, nor stood in any elections. We are not political people. All we want to do is to protect our jobs. The newsletter seeks to put in jeopardy the livelihood of me and my work colleagues. If this is how you allow Councillors to conduct themselves then there is little wonder the general public hold them in scant regard.

Surely this type of newsletter brings not only Cllr. *Citrine* into disrepute but also the authority he represents.

As the Standards Board for England has been set up to deal with this type of complaint I would ask you to investigate this matter as I believe I have been discriminated against, treated disrespectfully, had ~~Hilton~~ Borough councils' reputation tarnished by the actions of Cllr. *Citrine* who has used his position improperly to forward his own political advantage and to seek a financial advantage for our local competitors to the disadvantage of me and my work colleagues.

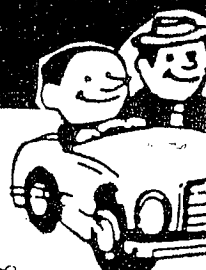
Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, I enclose a copy of the offending newsletter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Dawes".

Miss Marjorie Dawes

Where you can still park for free in **Hilton** town centre:



Parking charges only apply in Council-run car parks. On-street parking is still free. You can park for free on any stretch of road not covered by yellow lines. Some roads have a maximum stay of one or two hours. In some roads you can park all day for free. Check the roadside signs for time limits.

You can also park for free in the small car park behind the Town Hall at weekends. Parking charges do not apply to this car park at weekends. There is no ticket machine in this car park. You do not need to buy a ticket if parking here at weekends.



You may wish to protest about car parking charges by boycotting the High Street shops run by Conservative Council Leader **Leo Hall ELJ Furnishings & Pets Paradise between the Town Hall and Post Office. But please don't boycott other town centre shops. It's not their fault that parking charges are in place. They need your continued custom. Please support our local **Hilton** shops and help their staff keep their jobs.**



Parking is still free in small car park behind Town Hall at weekends



It's not too late to make **YOUR** views known

If you've yet to fill in one of our Car Park Charges Survey forms, please do so today. The more people who make their views known, the better our chances of getting things change

Car Park Charges - **YOUR** chance to have **YOUR** say



- * Do you agree with car parking charges for borough residents? YES / NO
- * Would you support charges for non-residents who commute across the Harbour? YES / NO
- * Do you think the £480 charge for a **Hilton** Residents Parking Pass is: TOO HIGH / TOO LOW / ABOUT RIGHT
- * Do you think it right that Conservative Council Leader **Leo Hall** and top Town Hall officers should continue to get free Town Hall parking when everyone else has to pay? YES / NO

Name: Address:

Postcode: Email address (if you have one):

Please return to Councillor Peter C Irvine, **Hilton** Liberal Democrats,

If you know of any other local issue or problem which Councillor Peter C and the Liberal Democrats may be able to help with, please let us have the details. Write to Councillor Peter C Irvine at Hilton Town Hall, HT4 1AA. As a local Borough and County Councillor, he's here working for us all-year-round

FOCUS

Local News
and Action

Xmas Trade down 30% as Car Park Charges take effect

Parking Fees hit Hilton Trade



Town Centre Traders fear a gloomy Christmas as Car Park charges hit *Hilton* shops and market stalls. Some shops report trade down by 30 per cent. Three stores are closing their doors and more are expected to follow as the Conservative Car Park Charge drives shoppers away. Now Liberal Democrat councillors want the scheme changed before *Hilton* becomes a ghost town

**Lib. Dems. call for changes
"before it's too late"**



Liberal Democrat councillors want:

- * A return to free parking in short-stay shoppers car parks to help *Hilton* traders & shoppers.
- * A much-reduced season ticket for *borough* residents using long-stay car parks - £50 has been suggested.
- * An end to free parking for top Town Hall officers and councillors - it's wrong that Conservative councillors including *Leo Hall* and *Peter Lowry* can still park for free when everyone else has to pay.

Most residents say they support the Liberal Democrat proposals.

CAR PARK SURVEY RESULTS

**Residents oppose
Conservative
Car Park Tax**

A survey of over 10,000 households has shown overwhelming opposition to the Conservative Car Park Tax. Over 95 per cent of those surveyed opposed charges for *Hilton* residents. 98 per cent believed the annual £480 charge for residents is far too high. 99 per cent said it is wrong that Tory councillors and Town Hall bosses can still park for free.

**Residents support
Liberal Democrat
alternative**

Liberal Democrat Councillor *Peter Citrine* thanked everyone who took part in the survey. "It was important to give local people a say", said Peter. Now the Council should listen to *Hilton* residents and amend the scheme to bring back free parking for residents in short-stay car parks and give local residents a much cheaper season ticket for the long-stay car parks."

**Conservative double standards -
What they say and what they do:**

- * Why did Conservative Leader *Leo Hall* tell 'The News' that councillors should pay for parking... and then allow Conservative councillors to continue using the Town Hall car park for free?
- * Why did Conservative Councillor *Peter Lowry* say he was "extremely disappointed that car park charges are to be introduced" just days before he voted FOR their introduction?



Conservative Council Leader *Leo Hall* can still park his 4x4 at the Town Hall for free

Overleaf - Where YOU can still park for free