

## STATEMENT

Details My name is Terry Davies

I believe that facts in this document is true

### **1. My Background**

I live in 87 Tyisha Road Llanelli. The Tyisha ward of Carmarthenshire County Council

I was born in a close rural Welsh community of Pemberton Road and moved to Tyisha in Llanelli when I was eleven and was brought up in the medium of Welsh, I found it difficult at first to speak English in Tyisha however over the years it is now more or less my first language as Tyisha is predominantly English speaking. Having lived in this community for the last sixty years English is spoken with a Welsh dialect and we have many different people from Europe and further afield who have moved here and fitted in. Many have embraced the Welsh culture and made this their home.

I have got to know my community of Tyisha and Glan Y Mor and Llanelli Town intimately in those years as not only being brought up in the community but in addition in working in most of the houses here and in Llanelli. I initially was working with British Gas. I then set up my own company GSN and with over four thousand customers in the Llanelli catchment alone I worked in most of their homes.

Working in these homes on an annual basis for decades many of the customer became friends and my company became in effect a social contact point for advice and help, where we looked after our clients on a personal and social service basis with their challenges. GSN my company was used very much as a hub to get things done and we operated with customer service in mind.

### **2. Tyisha Area**

It is with sadness I feel I need to record the decline of Tyisha and Glan Y Mor over these years for both my home wards to become the most deprived wards in Carmarthenshire and Llanelli in the top twenty of the UK, this has come about through decades of poor social planning by the labour led Carmarthenshire County Council. Although I worked close with the local labour councillor Kerry Thomas on the challenges of Tyisha, we both could see the decisions made in the new then Carmarthen Chamber adversely affecting our ward. We both used the term "people dropped into the Tyisha ward" when discussing newcomers to the ward, as they were often shifted from their home areas because they are difficult tenants, being troublesome, and often involved with antisocial crime and drug dealing. Problem solving for them and dealing with these issues was a major problem for Tyisha.

This social planning caused the chain reaction for Tyisha with people moving out because of antisocial neighbour's drug dealing and violence, causing property values to drastically drop and opening up the ward with cheap properties for Landlord portfolios.

My client base in Tyisha started to change from annual servicing services for owner properties to annual inspections for Landlord owned properties, with many landlords from outside of Wales the standards of the properties not being maintained by them only attracting cheap rent and more antisocial tenants compounding the problem.

No matter what Tyisha residents did and tried to stop the decline they were met with ignorance by County. It was clear to me that Tyisha and Glan Y Mor became the dumping ground for antisocial tenants.

The Tyisha ward with a community leader Vanessa Marsh started the Tyisha and Glan Y Mor Safer Communities Action Group who worked tirelessly to highlight the deprivation and crime in the area and the injustice caused to both during that administration leadership.

After decades of seeing the abuse in my ward, many of my customers received stress and anxiety from undesirables that had been moved into their streets. People from all walks of life were being moved into the Tyisha and I felt it was becoming a powder keg of problems. I resolved to work politically to do something about it. Three councillors helped me one Labour and two Plaid. Councillor Winston Lemon and Jeff Owen Plaid and Kerry Thomas Labour demanded with a proposal that Tyisha to be put into special measures. That proposal was not acted on until the leadership of Carmarthenshire County Council Changed to Plaid with Independent changing their allegiance from Labour. This major upset in the County Council caused an implosion internally with in my view the Labour started bullying their own members which caused 9 of their Llanelli members to cease their labour membership here.

That decision changed the political climate in Llanelli and Carmarthenshire and since then there has been a dirty campaign led by some of the Current Labour group (five) in total in Llanelli targeting the opposition, me being one of those opposition members (being Plaid) in a key controlling targeted ward.

Cllr Jeff Owen a close friend and living in the community here in Tyisha (also fellow engineer) managed to get the new Plaid administration to place Tyisha in special measures and form the Transforming County Council Tyisha team with a £9.3 million grant investment. Jeff asked me to help by standing as a County and town councillor for which I agreed to work on this project alongside him, I decided to retire and give my company to the employees to enable me to focus on Tyisha. Sadly, Jeff failed to secure his seat in the following election and lost to Suzy Curry and Andre McPherson, with whom I did not have such a good relationship as I did with Jeff Owen. However, I managed to get a seat on the Town Council.

However, I did not expect the dirty political targeted bullying after being elected and I did not expect to see such a vendetta against me, possibly because of the administration I belonged to (Plaid) were leading the County Council.

### **3. Political Bullying and Conflict.**

My first encounter of bullying was from then the Councillor John Prosser at a community called meeting in Glan Y Mor and because Cllr Winston Lemon could not attend, he asked me to engage for him at the meeting with intelligence given to me. Cllr Lemon was off sick having cancer treatment. When I walked into that meeting Cllr Prosser (now Cllr Curry's husband) started shouting at me and demanding me to get out shouting I had no right to be there as it was not my ward and I had no right to speak in that meeting. He put stress and pressure on the Chairperson who at the time was Amanda Carter who was a resident and a community leader. I suggested to her that I would stay on behalf of now late councillor Winston Lemon to provide and get information and I agreed not to speak. Cllr Prosser was furious with that decision and carried on loudly voicing his opinion for me being there in front of resident's, councillors and Nia Griffiths MP. I was disappointed that she did not intervene with her colleague and try and calm down Cllr Prosser's temper. Shortly after Cllr Prosser contacted Cllr Curry, she arrived, stating that I should not be there which reinforced councillors Prosser's outburst again, stating it was not my ward and commentated she was entitled to be there as her role was being the MP's employee personal assistant and was only there to take notes.

All of this was witnessed by Amanda Carter who has provided a statement and Cllr Louvain Roberts and Cllr Sean Rees who also asked me to attend that meeting. I was told there was no point making a complaint as to the fact complaining was like taking the complaint to the teacher when the bullies are the teachers' pets.

From the onset of me being a Town Councillor I feel I have been in their sights for repeated bullying and publication of lies by them on social media and in County meetings that I attended as a resident of Tyisha as well as a Town Councillor. I feel that the Labour Councillors Cllr Curry, Cllr McPherson and Cllr Prosser have done everything in their power to undermine my position as a Town Councillor and where I have dedicated my life to Tyisha and Llanelli, they have seen it fit to see me as fair game. One point in fact was the reaction when Cllr Suzy Curry as a County Councillor stated in the £9.3 million Tyisha steering group meeting, when I proposed inviting the Safer Communities action group to come on board as community members. Councillor Curry was seen to be clearly angry and demanded as the County Councillor of Tyisha with Councillor McPherson that this group should not come on board and if anything she had decent people instead of them. This outburst I felt was an opposition attack on my proposal. The decision went against Cllr Curry and McPherson and they both left the Zoom meeting. From that meeting to the following meeting, I expressed my disappointment in them representing us and not willing to engage with us as residents.

#### **4. Damaging press articles.**

Cllr Curry with Cllr McPherson and Cllr Prosser in my view placed last year a load of lies on their Labour run social group Tyisha positive action group and food bank face book pages, publishing a main article with my image stating I was against the Children of the town receiving Christmas parcels from the County and town toy appeal. This bullying action through editorial for some reason came about when I asked in council chamber Delyth Jones our Community Development Officer on her report about the Christmas toy appeal if the children were receiving food parcels as well as the toy parcels. This labour group singled me out from the other councillors that were in that meeting telling lies that caused untold stress with me and my family receiving phone calls from residents in Llanelli and bad Facebook media comments supporting their editorial. I felt this placed me in bad light. I can only think that they were targeting me again with the oncoming election in mind.

From that editorial I phoned Delyth to see if my question came across incorrectly and she confirmed that my question was clear that I was concern about the children not having food. *(Copy of the Llanelli Labour run media Tyisha positive action and food bank group post submitted in evidence)*

They then placed my image on their page which was copied and shared by many of their group including Cllr Prosser and the now Mayor Cllr Phillip Warlow with the MP's Nia Griffiths image on their social image page in effect adding weight to the editorial. Not only did they broadcast this, but they also had the gall to steal an image of me that they had no copywrite to publish.

I was upset by this and then I had to go to the Town Council to make a complaint to the Clerk and I was told to contact them directly to take it down and don't make matters worse for me and don't retaliate on Facebook. Cllr Warlow did take the post down, but Cllr Prosser did not, and the Tyisha Positive action group and food bank did not. After taking legal advice I sent Cllr Prosser a letter stating if he did not take the post down, I would take legal action. He ignored that and following legal advice I sent him an invoice for publishing an image of mine without copywrite permission. This action worked and the post eventually was taken down but after being informed by the Town Council he was not well, and for that reason I did not pursue the action. That image has now been sent to the press Llanelli online with false facts pertaining to this ombudsman's complaint as this was

on Cllr Prosser's page, I can only surmise it was sent by Cllr Prosser. I feel all these actions were a part of a campaign against me.

### **5. The Day in Question**

On that day, 9<sup>th</sup> February I went to Tyisha children's park to meet a resident, and whilst I was there, I noticed the contractor, who I know to be Andrew Wood, who was alone in the park. He worked on the project for Cllr Suzy Curry and Cllr Andre McPherson. I approached Mr Wood in order to pass on a complaint that a child had a potential serious incident in the park, because of the ground undulation, and other faults. In conversation with Mr Wood, I explained to him what had happened with the child in falling in front of the swings, establishing the undulation which we discussed was under his feet may have been the problem. I was not happy with his reply, as he stated, "you get what you pay for and why wasn't the mother looking after the child"?

I was civil to Mr Wood, and I did say, in my experience with my company I welcomed complaints and on that point I left. Following this in my capacity of chair I did make an official complaint to the Town Council which resulted in action for a remedial work meeting with the County to be investigated before the Town Council Asset transfer from the County. Whilst I was there with Mr Wood, Mr Lewis, a resident living opposite the park approached me to discuss the antisocial behaviour against him by youths at the park. After leaving Mr Wood, I walked back to my van with Mr Lewis to discuss his complaint away from everyone. We were 60 yards away from the park in an open space next to my van in conversation about the antisocial he had experienced. Cllr Curry and Cllr Prosser arrived in a car and parked at the rear of my van and opened the window and appeared to be listening to my conversation with Mr Lewis regarding antisocial behaviour and the attack on him and my agreement that the park was built in the wrong place.

In my view this must have angered both Councillors as they felt it was their project and part of their election campaign.

At that point my conversation with Mr Lewis finished and I went to get into my van. Cllr Curry got out of her car from the driver side and Cllr McPherson came from behind the van to join Cllr Curry at my side, as he had arrived in another vehicle.

Cllr Curry said to me "You are nothing but an evil and nasty person." My reply after a barrage of verbal abuse from her was, "why are you saying I am a Nasty Evil person"? The reply was from both was, "what you have put on Facebook". I stated at the time, what I had put on Facebook was the truth and facts, My reply clearly angered Cllr Curry and she went into a temper, with that there were many comments from both and in my defence on the bullying towards me by the two councillors, I did tell them they didn't understand the challenges in the ward and the community and I called them "drop in councillors" which was said in the heat of the moment and a response to the attacks on me. Around that point in the verbal attack on me Cllr Curry walked off. I was then verbally abused by Cllr McPherson, for which I did not see a point to engage with him further. I then turned to get into my van, and he walked off. At no time did I use bad language at him or considered I was being discriminatory towards him or anybody. I closed the van door and drove off quietly but upset. I noticed Cllr Prosser was sitting in the passenger seat of Cllr Curry's car at the rear of my van when I drove off.

### **6. After the Event**

The next I heard approximately two weeks after the bullying, on me the Town Clerk said to me in conversation that I had been reported to the Ombudsman. I was shocked and could not understand

as to why this had come about, and I could not see the reason why they reported me. I can only conclude there was a political motive.

After this complaint I was asked to attend by a resident a meeting regarding further antisocial behaviour at the park with youths targeting them. I attended despite my fear of meeting Cllr Curry, Councillor McPherson and Cllr Prosser. As I would be on my own again, I asked Cllr Louvain Roberts to accompany me just in case another lone engagement would take place with them placing me in a no defence situation. They did not see Cllr Roberts as due to the rain she had her hood up, but it was not long before Cllr Curry was stating to the residents that I should not be there, and they were not to engage with me as I was under a serious investigation with the Ombudsman. This information was confidential as a condition by the Ombudsman, but Councillor Suzy Curry broke that confidentiality by telling residents. I feel this was done with intent to undermine my standing as a councillor with the election on the horizon, I felt that this was a further bullying attack by this group. There is a statement with Cllr Louvain Roberts witnessing this behaviour.

## **7. Response to the alleged breaches of code**

### **Paragraph 4A- discriminatory language.**

I consider that I am quiet in nature but firm and fair to people, I hate confrontation and offer dialogue to resolve matters. Failing that I will agree to disagree. As for the allegation that calling people English is discriminatory, I will not bow to Cllr Andre McPherson's comment that I was discriminatory towards him. Calling someone English is not in my view racist as I will gladly be called Welsh and we are a country of nations and respect and protect our culture and be proud of our identity and respect that we are called English, Welsh and Scottish and Irish. My wife's mother and her family are from England, and one of my closest friends, a couple called Jan and Bill Savage moved from the midlands seven years ago to Tyisha who will vouch for me in respect to my views on my support to multi-cultural in the wards. They are now living and being a part of a Welsh Tyisha Llanelli community. This comment was made as part of the conversation with Cllr Andre's McPhersons and his disagreement with me.

### **Paragraph - 4 B- Failure to show respect and consideration**

I strongly disagree that I did not fail to show respect and consideration. I spoke firmly but from long held beliefs and regarding the subject of our disagreement I felt related to the political environment in Tyisha and would expect a political opponent to be able to engage in such a dialogue. I would point out that there were two councillors against me and that in fact I was the one who felt intimidated and undermined.

### **Paragraph 4C – Not use bullying behaviour or harassment**

I would state once again the points made above that this whole incident was a robust political debate between one councillor and initially two political opponents. I do not consider that my words or actions amounted to bullying in any way, and I would state that whilst I was shaken after the incident, I nevertheless accepted it as part of life and moved on.

**Finally, regarding the allegations of bullying, I would comment that** Cllr Prosser was in a vehicle, and he stated that he did not see me verbally tell Cllr McPherson to F off but heard it after Councillor McPherson walked off. With Cllr Prosser in the passenger side of the car and given his position he was in no way able to see Cllr McPherson walk off or see me getting into my van.

The Town Council clerk Arfon Davies stated in his statement he was in the park, he also stated that he did not hear any comment or shouting by me. At the time he was with and next to Cllr Curry in the park. Furthermore, Councillor McPherson was wearing hearing aids and we were one to one in dialogue and away from the public. I fail to see how he and Councillor Prosser, who was in the car, seemingly clear recollect their version of events, I will again state that at no time did I bully Councillor McPherson.

**Paragraph 61A- Bringing myself and the authority into disrepute.**

I do not consider my actions brought my office or the authority into disrepute, I was merely defending myself against attacks from political opponents whose words and actions themselves were robust and damaging to me and which could indeed could also be construed as bringing themselves and their authority into disrepute.

**General comments on the incident.**

My principles are, "I would rather stand with the underdog that is being bullied than stand with the bully in fear of being bullied "I stand currently with Ukraine on that matter and looking to house some within the ward but safely away from the antisocial we have here.

I would state that regarding the allegations made, I did not swear at Cllr McPherson, and no one heard me swear, even Cllr McPherson has stated I think he said it.

No public person heard the private dialogue at the van as we were to far away from anyone.

The van was 60 Yards away well out of ear shot. Sadly, this fact cannot be experienced as you have decided not to have site visit to understand and experience the local terrain and acoustics to make judgements and appreciate the distance and even confirm the facts as to how far my vehicle was from the park.

I was on my own with these three Councillors and in my view, they have colluded in this statement for maximum political gain with a view to the forth coming election.

This is not the first time they have bullied me, and it was not the last in their campaign.

**Conclusion**

This whole incident took place with a background of considerable stress and unrest surrounding events at Tyisha, some of which directly impacted on me.

For example, previously I was attacked in Llanelli and my wife who had a panic attack during the incident caused by the altercation by two well-known men, originally from England by the original name of B\*\*D brothers now changed to R\*\*\*\*ts who are now back living in Tyisha. The Police were called and took action. I have a witness statement to support this did happen.

I found out that one of the brothers had not passed away as I was told. They are still active in the drug delivering network here in the Tyisha ward and drug dealing has escalated again with "outsiders dropped in "now it's called cuckooing and county lines.

I did place on social media my encounter with the two drug dealers the comment "English and drop in" for which I felt Councillor Curry used against me to support this claim.

Many of the electorate in the Tyisha ward knows the truth and supported me at the last election and stood by me at the polling station, and I feel vindicated in my conduct by being elected to the County Council.

In Conclusion in all my years on the district in people's homes I have not lowered my guard to bullies in my ward and as you can gather, I will defend my good name and always act fairly.

I have at all times acted in the best interest of my constituents and fought to maintain my political reputation. I feel I have been subjected to an unwarranted political attack for merely standing up for what is right. The whole incident in my view has been blown out of all proportions and I sincerely hope that the standards committee will view it as the concocted political attack it clearly is.

I have support from the following Councillors and ex Councillors. Who have witnessed the long-standing bullying from this group.

Cllr Louvain Roberts.

Cllr Amanda Carter

Cllr Mike Cranham.JP

Cllr Sean Rees

I have support from independent Cllrs who I have worked closely cross party with over my term as a Town Councillor

X Cllr Jeff Edmunds

x Cllr Chris Griffiths

X Councillor Shahana Nadjmi

X Cllr Sara Griffiths

All I ask if that you as a committee is, base your findings on the balance of probability and that you look at the statements of independent witnesses and the character references and witness letters to evidence the bullying I have received.

My Ombudsman interview was an honest recollection of the incident for the benefit of the investigation and much said to me was part of a strong barrage of bullying.

I will state again that I acted fairly and honestly in the interests of the area and that f off was definitely not used in that debate and these allegations have played on my mind for nearly two years. The fact is no other Councillor or member of the public has heard me using foul language against others. In reflection I have used the term "Oh get off leave me alone" when attacked but that would have been to the person's face and not to their backs.

In my view they came to me and bullied me verbally in private on the day. Due to the distance involved the public did not hear that or my defence to that attack. The whole incident was politically motivated, the three Councillors said they were going to a meeting, then why stop and listen to my conversation with Mr Lewis sixty yards away from an important meeting, if so, this was clearly an opportunity to capitalise on, to get me on my own.

I am firmly of the view that this incident was an attack to discredit me before the oncoming election.

All I ask is for a fair hearing and that the committee are made aware of the long bullying campaign that these Councillors have conducted against me from the onset as a Town Councillor and targeted me as an individual in all possible ways for political gain.

Councillor Terry Davies