

I refer to Councillor Coombes' comments in the Express dated 16th March and would take heart from his comments if only they were based on fact. Unfortunately, as we see all too often, they are misleading and inaccurate and the usual spin we are used to getting from this administration. I make the following comments to put the record straight.

Market Town Initiative has been worked on by rural residents, businesses, schools and officers. Of the £30,000. funding £20,000. was provided by Lancashire County Council, less than £10,000. came from Fylde Borough Council. The **Town Centre Plan** was created as a result of the Market Town Initiative and the funding for this came from the Local Strategic Partnership, not Fylde Borough Council.

Memorial Gardens Essential works are to be done to the gardens as a result of health and safety issues being raised by Kirkham councillors, paths had to be closed in November because they were unsafe, work will soon start to make the gardens safe again. I researched funding streams and discovered a new Lottery Grant available for parks and gardens, I am presently working with officers to submit a bid for between £1-2 million to bring the gardens back to their former glory and provide up-to-date leisure facilities, the Conservative administration can take no credit for this.

Car Parking Charges were looked at by officers with a recommendation that no charges should be introduced in Kirkham because of the adverse effect they could have on the economy. It was Councillor Coombes and his colleagues who suggested charges should be imposed and it was as a result of pressure from businesses and residents that no charges were levied but the Conservative administration have stated that this is for the present time.

Community Safety is funded by the Community Safety Partnership not Fylde Borough Council. The CCTV cameras and lighting have been provided in partnership with police, the Community Safety Partnership and the Town Council.

Youth Facilities and Activities There are some youth facilities in Kirkham but they have been mainly provided by Lancashire County Council, the Community Safety Partnership, the Town Council, the Police and voluntary bodies.

Leisure Facilities One of the very few leisure facilities provided by Fylde Borough Council in Kirkham is the Swimming Baths and Councillor Coombes is on record as saying that Kirkham Baths will close. £20,000. were put into the 2005-06 budgets to replace the wiring but no work was done, why? It was as a result of people power that Kirkham Baths re-opened. Councillor Coombes has said that he would like to see modern leisure facilities in rural Fylde, where will they be? What standard will they be? Will new baths be of the same size and quality as the existing baths? Very little is being said on this subject and Kirkham councillors are being excluded from meetings which are discussing these issues.