

I understand the financial situation within which this review and consultation is taking place, and that this has been brought about by the austerity agenda pursued by the Government. However it is well documented that the Saffron Lane Estate is one of the most deprived areas in the City and they are already suffering with the cuts - in particular the welfare reform agenda. It is felt by members of the community that they are been hit in every direction and these proposals are just another blow.

I recognise the need to review the use of buildings and that the justification for stopping access to the main hall is due to the number of members of the community that currently use the Centre. However I understand that as part of the Community Services Review which has just been completed, the City Council has just recruited a Neighbourhood Development Manager and a number of Neighbourhood Co-ordinators. From what I have been told, their role is to support both existing and emerging community groups in engagement initiatives. With this in mind there is every possibility that the usage of the Linwood Centre will increase over the coming year and years.

Both I and local residents understand that community services cannot sustain the whole of the building, and that the majority of space needs to be filled by converting them into workshops. But in light of the above comments, we are asking that you reconsider which area within the Linwood is retained for community access.

Yours Sincerely,



Elly Cutkelvin
Freemen Ward Councillor

cc Sir Peter Soulsby – City Mayor
Councillor Bill Shelton
Saffron Neighbourhood Management Board
Linwood Community Association
Liz Blyth – Director, Neighbourhood Services
Adrian Wills – Head of Libraries & Information Services
Steve Goddard – Head of Community Services