

Dear Mr Gray,

There is an underlying, perhaps unrecognised theme with regard to the proposal that you have advertised in the Wiltshire Gazette & Herald.

Rudloe Estate, through the auspices of Calne & Chippenham Rural District Council, was constructed in the early 60s and completed in 1964.

For thirty-five years or so, Rudloe Estate pursued a happy existence with a social club housed in a large pre-war building located in the centre of the estate. That club was successful with a bar, lounge bar, snooker room, TV room and a large hall where significant events were held such as grand dinners with famous after-dinner speakers (one such being Emlyn Hughes, the Liverpool and England captain). A significant event for me was the reception for 1972's wedding of the year - that of my parents.

During this time, in the mid-70s, a further development of 20-odd homes by the newly-formed North Wilts District Council, came about in the central part of the estate. It is these homes that the GreenSquare organisation now proposes to demolish.

At the turn of the century, North Wilts District Council (NWDC) contrived a plan to demolish the building housing the successful club and build a new £800k 'club' known as Rudloe Community Centre. At the same time a terrace of houses, known as Club Row was constructed; these houses in design and materials were completely out-of-keeping with the original estate.

Just a few years later, Wiltshire Council determined that the new Rudloe Community Centre was "not fit for purpose".

Now, the current authority (Wiltshire Council) proposes to place the central part of the estate in the hands of a housing association which itself proposes to demolish the (less than) 20-year-old Rudloe Community Centre, build homes on the open space, which has been part of the fabric of the estate since wartime, and demolish the 1970s homes built by NWDC.

Now Mr Gray, I would ask you if you detect a theme here. I guess that you have but just in case, I will elucidate ... Every intervention by the prevailing administration for the last 45 years has had calamitous consequences for the people of Rudloe (and Wiltshire ratepayers). Why couldn't these authorities just leave well alone? I suppose that NWDC and Wiltshire Council have to justify their existence by being seen to be 'doing something' but I would beg now not to make matters worse than you (NWDC and WC) already have.

I still have family and friends at Rudloe who appreciate Rudloe Green; they were among the many who supported the recent village green application. Through that application, it may be seen that the vast majority of people at Rudloe want their Green (and Community Centre) to remain. I would implore Wiltshire Council not to dispose of Rudloe Green (and other assets at Rudloe) for development.

Richard Turner
(formerly of Rudloe)