

## QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE COUNCIL ON 22 FEBRUARY 2023

### 1. Mr M

"It is with much dismay that I and others became aware of the removal of the name "Cramphorn" from the exterior of the Cramphorn Studio Theatre beneath this very chamber. Not only has this name been removed from the Theatre wall but also from the council's website and other areas of the Councils archives available to online search engines. I ask why has this whitewash by the administration taken place?

I have been contacted by members of the Cramphorn family and members of the public who are very concerned, and I understand that the administration proposes to rename Chelmsford's Cramphorn Studio, remove the original sign and add a small Blue plaque and interior panel as a peace offering. I have been pleased to help the Council and the family with the wording of these though I think that this is little compensation for the removal of the family name from the studio in its entirety.

Thomas Cramphorn was an example to this City. He was an Alderman, six times Mayor of Chelmsford, Justice of the Peace, a philanthropist, an entrepreneur and a tireless supporter of local causes. The streets of Chelmsford were lined with supporters at his funeral in 1912 and the notice of his death covered almost an entire page in the local broadsheet – a rare tribute as the list of attendees at the funeral reads like the directory of the great and the good of Essex. Indeed, I understand, some of the descendants in this list are members of the City Council and the County Council. Here is an example of someone who added to the foundations of the culture of this City. Someone's example we would want our children to follow, he is part of the culture of this City. He left us the funds that helped to build the Cramphorn Studio Theatre.

Indeed this City has a deep and wide cultural history, and it is important. I and many others, feel that this is the backbone of any cultural strategy. It is therefore with some dismay that I note that the current draft cultural strategy by this administration, recently circulated, pays little notice of this and if the example of the cultural whitewash of the Cramphorn name is an indicator then I do not have much hope for a cultural future that ignores the past.

I am shocked and dismayed at the comprehensive removal of the Cramphorn name and the side lining of a rich and vibrant "living museum of technology" at Sanford Mill and other places. – I call upon the Council to reinstate the name of Cramphorn and to direct its Cultural Strategy to build on the legacy of past generations - to excite, enrich and educate future citizens. What can be done to reverse this?"

## **2. Mrs S**

I have a question for Full Council in February relating to housing.

Would the responsible cabinet member please advise the levels of affordable housing that are currently being delivered across the various development sites in our City.

Is the City Council achieving its stated objectives, or if not, what is being done to achieve those objectives?

Thank you.