

I note that there is an intention on next week's meeting to discuss the possibility of donating money to Ukraine and/or Gaza.

Whilst such donations are not ultra vires Lowestoft Town Council fulfils a local government function and the clue is in the name.

Funds raised from Lowestoft ratepayers are limited. There are many LOCAL charities which could benefit and rather than donate to funds which are fully supported by national governments.

I feel LOCAL people should benefit not those who will be supported by national governments and states.

As opposed to making a further donation to overseas funds the Council should be proactive and spend that money locally.

There are many experiencing severe hardship at this time in our Town.

Charity begins at home.

Looking at the agenda LTC finance and governance meeting dated 12th December 2023 I'm wondering why a council who's not supposed to be political is considering a donation to Ukraine and Gaza. I'm of the opinion this is not what they should be spending council tax payers money on.

116.4.To consider making donations to assist those affected by conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza I strongly feel this would be totally inappropriate and misuse of LTC funds.

Donations to these causes should be a personal choice to which I suspect many already give to or other causes they choose to support.

I'd like to make a "public comment" please about the agenda item 116.4 on the forthcoming F&G meeting on 12 December 2023, which has been the subject of social media discussion.

Making donations to those affected by conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza is not something appropriate for local parish and town councils to consider on behalf of their residents. We are all capable of making our own donations if we feel strongly enough about an issue. I think it is way too political and our hard-earned council tax payments should be going towards maintaining parks and toilets and not used for political point scoring.

Many thanks and best wishes