# Residents of Hertfordshire voice discontent over council decisions



Residents of Hertfordshire are expressing discontent following a series of controversial decisions made by local authorities that have led to widespread ridicule and disapproval across the United Kingdom. This outcry has positioned the county as a leading candidate for the title of the "wokest county in Britain," as reported by the Daily Mail.

Key incidents that have stirred local and national outrage include the cancellation of a Victory in Europe (VE) Day parade, which marked the end of the Second World War in Europe. Dacorum Borough Council announced that no military march would take place in Hemel Hempstead on May 8, citing concerns that hosting such an event could be considered "elitist." This decision was met with vehement criticism, particularly from prominent figures such as Colonel Philip Ingram, a former military intelligence officer. In an interview with the Daily Mail, Colonel Ingram remarked, "It's a strong contender for the wokest county in Britain... making sure people have the right housing and healthcare... rather than coming up with these pathetically stupid ideas."

The sentiment was echoed by local residents like 81-year-old Lana Templeton, whose father served in the Royal Air Force. She expressed her deep dissatisfaction, stating, "The council has no right to do that. It's absolute nonsense. I lost my father in the war,” emphasising the significance of commemorating those who served. Kevin Ridgers, 69, also condemned the decision, labelling it "disgusting" and stressing the importance of remembering those affected by the war.

Local politicians, such as Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy, have also weighed in on the controversial decision, calling it "ridiculous" and highlighting the public backlash that has arisen from the council's actions. In fact, a reported "civil war" is taking place within the council, with councillors blaming civil servants for the lack of funding that resulted in the event's cancellation.

In a separate incident that has further inflamed discord in Hertfordshire, a couple was arrested following comments made in a parents' WhatsApp group concerning a new headteacher recruitment process at their daughter's school. Maxie Allen and Rosalind Levine faced a five-week police investigation after what they described as a "trivial" dispute. While the police ultimately concluded that there was no case to answer, the couple's arrest has drawn comparisons to authoritarian regimes, with Allen stating, "It was hard to shake off the sense that I was living in a police state."

Moreover, the St Albans City and District Council recently stirred controversy by voting to ban prayers at the start of council meetings as part of an initiative aimed at promoting equality and inclusivity. Liberal Democrat councillor Sinéad Howland, who proposed the motion, claimed that traditional prayers could unintentionally exclude individuals of different faiths or those without religious beliefs.

The week also saw a senior estate agent winning a case against his employer after resigning due to feelings of demotion linked to being assigned a "low status" desk. Nicholas Walker, 53, claimed that sitting at a middle desk instead of the managerial back desk harmed his professional standing. The employment tribunal found merit in his grievance, signalling a shift in the workplace dynamics regarding status and authority.

As these incidents unfold, local residents remain frustrated with the changing attitudes within Hertfordshire. Many are hopeful that the tide might turn, particularly regarding the cancellation of the VE Day parade. Terry Yates, 80, and others have expressed confusion over the rationale behind classifying VE Day as "elitist," and they anticipate that complaints to the council could prompt a reversal of the decision.

Such is the level of public dissatisfaction that Sir Ed Davey, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, has promised a change in direction regarding the VE Day parade, stating, "The council wants that. It would be daft not to have one." This sentiment reflects the broader discontent with how local governance is being interpreted and enacted in response to community sentiments.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk> - This URL could potentially support claims about Hertfordshire being labeled the 'wokest county in Britain' and the cancellation of the Victory in Europe (VE) Day parade.
* <https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk> - Although not directly related to the VE Day parade or the controversy surrounding it, this URL provides context about controversies and legal issues involving Hertfordshire County Council.
* <https://www.itpro.com> - While not addressing the specific controversies mentioned, this URL does relate to Hertfordshire, focusing on a refused planning permission for a data center, which might reflect broader community or environmental concerns.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk> - As a reputable news source, the BBC might cover local and national issues in Hertfordshire, including controversies surrounding council decisions, which would support claims about public dissatisfaction.
* <https://www.libdems.org.uk> - This URL could provide information about Sir Ed Davey's statements on reversing controversial decisions in Hertfordshire, reflecting broader political views on local governance.