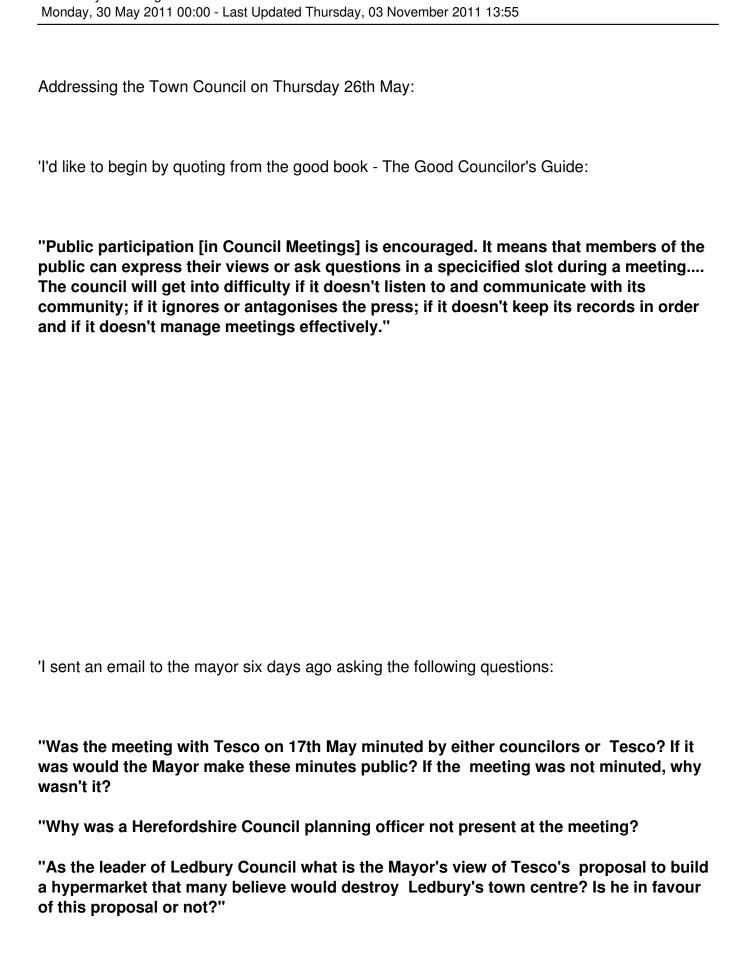
## Town Council: Why Bother? Written by John Eager



## **Town Council: Why Bother?**

Written by John Eager Monday, 30 May 2011 00:00 - Last Updated Thursday, 03 November 2011 13:55

'I have not received a reply from the Mayor - Is the mayor capable of answering emails? Is he spending too much time in church? Is he discouraging public participation? Is he getting into difficulty with the media?

'He will not answer questions about his secret meeting with Tesco.

'I have since learned that those present at the secret meeting were sworn to confidentiality. By whom? Why?

'Councilor Peter Watts told us last week that the secret meeting merely gave the same information as we have just seen from Tesco over the last few days at the Market Theatre - so why the secrecy?

'Back to the 'good' book - I quote:

"Council meetings must be open to the public except for any parts that deals with sensitive information.... Exceptions are when sensitive issues are discussed (such as legal, contractual or staffing matters) and then the council can agree to exclude the press and public for just that item of business."

'In what way Mr Mayor was your council's secret meeting with Tesco either a legal, contractual or staffing matter?'

Chairman Yeoman refused to allow the Mayor to answer my questions stating that this was a private matter between him and me.

The mayor has still not answered these questions regarding his secret meeting with Tesco.

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What is the point of a member of the public attending a council meeting, asking serious questions about council procedure and percieved irregularities only to met by a determined wall of silence?

Why bother?