

SAVE Leicester Adult Education College



Leicester Adult Education College (LAEC) has suffered job losses; staff being re-located; skilled people disappearing; restructuring, with staff having to do more than one job; people who've left not being replaced... is it clear that it's suffering.

The Incredible Shrinking College

We've seen courses being streamlined, other courses disappearing. We've already seen the closure and privatisation of the Creative Writing School. The Art Department is visibly shrinking with the loss of one of its three rooms, and now the loss of yet another.

Saatchi & Saatchi, it isn't!

Courses are not being advertised well; the website was down for ages; students were receiving prospectuses late; people have been turned away from art courses when spaces were available; removal of the art display in reception, with bizarre reasons for this given... the list goes on.

It's good to talk

Staff and college users have been kept in the dark about future plans. Chris Minter has said "There will be major changes in the use of the building and this is just the start" and that the plans "are not secret but not yet common knowledge". We've asked and he's not telling, so it's a secret! What have management got to hide?

As for public accountability...

LAEC is a public institution and a public building, belonging to Leicester City Council. It's partly financed by your Council Tax payments. Because of this, you'd expect a degree of public accountability. So, just who's been informed of what's happening at the college? Has there been any public, staff or student consultation? Have those trade unions party to recognition agreements been consulted? The answer's no! Are local councillors aware of what's happening? If they are, they've not said. So much for accountability.

So who's replaced the art room?

We have no argument with the new "partners" who are taking over the space, but we realise they are not involved in adult education. Minter tells us that this is "an exciting new opportunity to diversify the use of the college's facilities and income streams and will provide an excellent resource that fits well with our strategic priorities around employability." They are offering advice services and used to operate from a unit in the shires, they can go anywhere, don't actually need to be in a college and they're not using all the space.

Stop the rot!

Whatever the reasons for all these changes, it's clear to us that LAEC is suffering. We want adult education to remain at this landmark building on Wellington Street where the access and facilities are suitable for all.

Introducing Chris Minter...

Chris Minter lacks a certain amount of managerial skills. He has upset college users with his manner and lack of tact, has intimidated staff with regards to this campaign, provided a series of lies and contradictions when asked direct questions and has generally made a mockery of what it means to be "Head of Adult Skills & Learning". He is being paid by public money but then is disrespectful to the public. Do you really want your service to be run by someone who can't gain your trust?

The IWW union represents various workers at LAEC, who all say enough is enough. We have organised a public campaign to fight the problems at the college. We have the support of other IWW education branches, the Leicestershire general branch and the wider IWW, the Education Forum and the National Union of Teachers.

We call upon members of other trade unions, students and the general public to back us in saving non-vocational adult education courses and saving the college. So get involved, join the campaign!

Voice your concerns about the state of non-vocational courses, LAEC and Chris Minter's recent actions and behaviour: Tell them how vital non-vocational courses are, that they play an important role in the community and in helping people back to work/ begin new career paths. Tell them that you are unhappy that your service is being run by Chris Minter and you want proper consultation on how your adult services are going to change.

Complain about Chris Minter by writing/ringing:

Complaints, Resources Department, Leicester City Council, FREEPOST (LE985/33), New Walk Centre, Leicester LE1 7ZP, 0116 2527000

Write to Leicester Mercury: Letters, St George street, Leicester LE1 9FQ

Ring /write to/ e-mail the following:

Radio Leicester BBC Leicester, 9 St Nicholas Place, Leicester LE1 5LB Phone 0116 251 6688, Email: leicester@bbc.co.uk

Chris Minter, Head of Adult Skills & Learning 10 York Rd, 2nd Floor, Leicester LE1 5TS, Phone 0116 229 4381 Email: chris.minter@leicester.gov.uk and CC it to laec_campaign@iww.org.uk

Leicester's Chief Executive is Sheila Lock Her office is managed by Keith Murdoch, Acting Assistant Chief Executive, Corporate Management. B7 New Walk Centre, Welford Place, Leicester LE1 6ZG Phone: 0116 252 6001 E-mail: keith.murdoch@leicester.gov.uk

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Contact: IWW, Unit 107, Halford Street, Leicester LE1 1TQ

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Website: www.geocities.com/savelaec

SIGN THE ONLINE PETITION! Visit: www.ipetitions.com/petition/LAEC