

# Disappointed To Be A Target – Again

As an elected 'volunteer' (because I want to do it) – some if not all Councillors – Politicians are subjected to not only verbal and physical abused and in the extreme cases being killed.

I have suffered for some 15 years of verbal abuse, I am used to it and take it on the 'chin' – I can not and don't expect to please everyone.

So we come to the 'Goldfish' story.....

This week on the 8<sup>th</sup> occasion, I have received the same word – for – word, email...

## ***Pet's aren't prizes: this needs to end***

(The e-mail below)

On the first occasion – I took it in, and replied to the sender a comprehensive reply of my love for all animals/fish/reptiles/trees and all and researched at length that certainly here in Fenland no such Goldfish or animals have been given as prizes for many, many years.

The e-mail has since been sent to me on a further 7 occasions, and I acknowledged every one (fool I maybe) – I should have checked further.....

I found that the article word – for – word is 'AI' written (artificial intelligence) and the links contained were subject to Malware (malicious/phishing sites), one link contained a virus (**note as I always advise never click on unknown links**).

Fortunately my Firewall/Anti-Virus and Malware Checker, did not allow these dangerous links to do me any harm.

When I researched further each one of the senders are registered electors in the Whittlesey South Ward?

**So may I respectfully ask NO MORE Goldfish e-mail please.**

Below the contents of the e-mail – no links can be accessed for safety reasons.

Another give away – spelling and grammatical errors.....

*Dear Councillor Gerstner,*

*As a concerned constituent and animal lover, I am writing to you today about the outdated practice of giving away pets - particularly goldfish - as prizes.*

*Winning pets should be a thing of the past, but I was saddened to find out that this is still all too commonplace. In fact, according to a recent Savanta poll conducted by the RSPCA, 91% of UK adults were shocked to discover it's still legal to give pets away as prizes, with 79% of people agreeing that local authorities should take action.*

*Across England each year, swathes of goldfish are sadly left hanging in unsuitable plastic bags at fairgrounds and fetes. Many of them are won by children or their parents, who are unprepared to take on a pet, simply as the result of winning a game. I'm sure you'll agree that pet ownership is a huge responsibility, and not one that should ever be prized off to the public.*

*As an animal lover, I deeply believe that more needs to be done to protect their welfare. This ongoing practice often leads to severe stress and suffering for goldfish. Sadly, fish that are won as*

*prizes suffer miserably from shock, oxygen starvation or from changes in water temperature. Many die shortly after being won - a fate that is both tragic and preventable.*

*Now summer is in full swing and more fairs are taking place, I'm worried about pets being given away on council owned land. This is where you can help.*

*Local authorities have the opportunity to make meaningful changes by implementing a ban on this out-dated practice on council-owned land. By banning pets as prizes, you can set an example for other councils, promote responsible pet ownership and prevent unnecessary suffering of animals.*

*The RSPCA supports measures taken by local authorities to end this practice on council-owned land; which will ensure their welfare and raise public awareness of the issue. I write to ask you to please work with the RSPCA who have drafted some suggested text for a motion. This will form the basis of a proposal to the local authority to take more action on this issue and encourage your fellow councillors to pass a motion similar to this to improve animal welfare in this area.*

*The RSPCA launched a public campaign in 2021, with thousands of supporters taking action. So far, a total of 70 local authorities in England and all 22 local authorities in Wales have secured a ban. Will you please join them and lead the way for a better future for animals?*

*If a ban has been implemented and you have received this email, please notify [campaigns@rspca.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@rspca.org.uk).*

*Further information regarding this campaign can be found in the RSPCA's briefing document for elected representatives [here](#).*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Ms XXXXX*

*One of the replies I sent back....*

*Thank you for your e-mail, Ms Stoneman,*

*I have been lobbied previously by constituents on several occasions.*

*I researched and asked questions of both Whittlesey Town Council and Fenland District Council and have been assured that the practice of allowing animals Birds or fish to given away has been banned for many years.*

*FYI I am a fully paid-up member of the Wildlife Trust and The Woodland Trust and would hope you also support these initiatives.*

*I rescued 2 tortoises some 45+ years ago and still look after their welfare today.*

*With regards,*

*Roy Gerstner*