

# GIVING KIRKBY A BAD NAME...

## Tempest home: more queries

FORMER council leader Dave Tempest has almost certainly lied about how he paid for the expensive extension on his house.

The extension was built by builder George Leatherbarrow using materials from Kirkby council's Tower Hill housing estate (see Free Press 19).

When we asked Tempest about it for our special report on Kirkby, he told us: "I had my extension built with a further mortgage from my building society. It's my business and not your business."

It now turns out that Dave Tempest OBE, JP, was lying like nobody's business.

Strenuous efforts to trace this second mortgage have drawn a blank. And an official search of the Land Charges Registry revealed that Tempest had not got a second mortgage from any other building society.

So just how did Tempest manage to pay for his £1,500 home improvements?

There are other interesting facts about Tempest's house on the private Mill Lane estate. Asked how much he paid for it by a BBC 'Nationwide' producer, Tempest told him £6,000.

The actual price, confirmed by the builders, was no more than £5,500.

Tempest seems to have got extremely good value, even at 1971 prices. After all, the Mill Lane estate is, according to the builders,

"Kirkby's stockbroker belt."

The house, at 7 Deerbolt Crescent, was built by DCD Construction (Merseyside) Ltd, one of several businesses run by brothers John, Francis and Kenneth Deary.

DCD Construction bought both the land for the Mill Lane estate and for the houses and shopping precinct at Glovers Brow from Kirkby Council.

The sale of 14 plots at Mill Lane to DCD is particularly interesting. DCD were the only firm to tender and the council accepted their offer of £14,250 in October 1969.

The lease to DCD prohibited them from selling off individual plots to make a quick profit. But it wasn't enough to stop the Deary brothers: They went ahead and sold four plots for a total of £9,000.

The council refused their offer of £600 compensation and asked the Department of the Environment for advice. The DoE said Kirkby Council had a case against DCD Construction for breach of contract, and could sue for damages.

But it didn't happen. A handful of Labour councillors decided to take no action against DCD at one of their unofficial policy-making meetings.

The chairman of the meeting spoke in favour of the decision. He was, of course, Councillor Dave Tempest.

At the next council meeting, in February 1973, it was agreed to drop the clause in the lease which DCD had broken.

Tempest's house



DO YOU THINK WE'LL REACH THE BOTTOM SAFELY, GEORGE?



KIRKBY SKI SLOPE!  
WILL ERIC AND GEORGE SURVIVE THIS ORDEAL? WATCH THIS SPACE!

OFFICIAL REPORT SAYS...

## Ski slope is a pile of rubbish

KIRKBY SKI-SLOPE is a pile of rubbish — and that's official.

Test bores carried out for Knowsley Council have found the slope contains wood, bricks, colliery waste, sand and ashes.

We asked an expert for his reaction: "Oh my God!" he said. "They've got real trouble." He thought subsidence

would make the slope unusable for years.

The slope was, of course, built by benevolent builder George Leatherbarrow. He advertised it as a free tip and then charged the people of Kirkby £64,388 for all the work involved.

A confidential report by top Knowsley Council officials reveals more interesting facts. It shows that suspended Borough Architect Eric Spencer Stevenson authorised thousands of pounds worth of work "on an informal basis."

The work went to the Norwest Construction Company, who were working on the Sports Centre nearby. But some of it was sub-let by Norwest to E.H. Williams Ltd, the landscape firm which featured in the "Corruption in Kirkby" report in our last issue.

The report also reveals that architect Stevenson apparently asked councillors for two lots of money to pay for the same work. In July 1974 he asked for, and got, an extra £22,000 for the ski-slope without giving details of the work involved.

Then, in January 1975, he asked for a further £7,225. It turned out later that £7,000 of this had already been included in the £22,000 — so Stevenson only got another £225.

The ski-slope has already cost £112,000. For some reason Knowsley Council leader Peter Longworth has been exaggerating this to £140,000. Longworth has also been saying it could cost a further £50,000 to put the slope right.

But so far neither Longworth nor any other councillor has said anything about how they are going to recover some of the money already thrown away.

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If you can help with any of the above, please write (give a phone number if possible) to Liverpool Free Press, 48 Manchester St., Liverpool 1, or phone 227 2514 (Tuesday—Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

## Firm make money with just the stroke of a pen

MR DAVID MITCHELL makes money... with the stroke of a pen. His firm, Mitchell Furnishings, of Mart Lane, Burscough, have found this the easiest way of carving out handsome profits from Government work.

It's all so easy. Every six weeks or so, his workers are called into the office and told to fill in time-sheets.

They are told what hours they are supposed to have worked and what jobs they are supposed to have done.

Of course, these workers have already filled in weekly time-sheets and been paid.

But these time-sheets are extra special. These go to the Department of the Environment in Preston.

The reason for the second lot of time-sheets is simple.

Mitchell Furnishings are on the DoE's list of contracting firms and

they receive many Government jobs, such as furnishing the Crown Court in Preston.

The firm are paid for every hour each man spends on the work, plus 40—50% to cover administration, overheads, etc.

So Mr Mitchell and Mr D Tarte, the managing director, have realised that the more hours they claim their men have worked... the more money they receive.

Naturally the firm have prospered. The men had to book down on the

Advertisement

DoE's time-sheet overtime hours they haven't worked, and even record Government jobs they haven't been near.

One driver was staggered when he was told to put down in the time-sheet one particular week when he hadn't even been working.

Recently, however, the firm's money-making scheme has come a cropper. The men have rebelled. They have refused to make more money for their bosses, when they don't get a penny extra for themselves.

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