

to the

Evening Gazette Editor

I realise that it is an emotive subject but equally, I think it is time that the truth was told and the villain here is NOT Barry Falconer. A bad workman blames his tools!

The Mayor took his eye off the ball. He cannot blame anyone but himself, for not getting to grips with the problem of RAPIDLY DISAPPEARING Middlesbrough landmarks.

I will take the flack, if he does not like this letter because someone has to tell it like it is. Please do not censor it, though, just to curry favour with him!

J.

Sirs,

I refer to your leading article in last night's Gazette

(28th June 2006)

on the swift and shocking demolition of yet another of Middlesbrough's outstanding, older buildings, namely The Cleveland Scientific Institute on Corporation Road.

Over a year ago, Ray Mallon stated that he would draw up a list of the most important 100 buildings

and try to protect them. Notwithstanding this guarantee,

building after building has been reduced to a pile of rubble.

How can this happen without knowledge at the highest level?

If The Mayor has his finger on the pulse, which he prides himself that he has,

I find it hard to accept he was not kept informed of this latest fiasco!

Indeed the whole miserable saga would never have happened if Barry Falconer,

who time after time was knocked back on trying to gain a licence for The Institute,

had been allowed to proceed with his plans for the site.

Let's give praise where it is due. Barry has worked hard and spent a lot of his own money on restoring

The Empire to its former glory and I feel sure that had he been granted permission

to convert The Institute, it would have been done just as meticulously, tastefully and lovingly.

More to the point, the building would still be IN TACT.

The Mayor cannot blame Barry for eventually sickening of casting money into an infertile pot,

coming up with nothing and then being forced to sell the Institute to recover his losses.

Again, for years The Mayor has strung Barry along with the forelorn hope of purchasing The Empire,

which also came to nothing. It is neither right nor fair to treat people in this way

and then have the gall to turn round and accuse them of allowing The Institute to be destroyed.

It's no use crying crocodile tears over spilled milk.

It is quite obvious where the blame lies!

Councillor Jackie Elder,

Independent Councillor for Linthorpe Ward.