

# **DEMOCRACY WITHOUT POLITICIANS**

## **THE FOURTH PILLAR.**

In the explosive novel '**It Could Just Happen**' a terrorist plot destroys not only a government but causes a reset of how citizens must learn how to govern themselves.

There are no political parties and no professional politicians.

County Councils and Parish Councils combine to produce communities.

Each community have a randomly selected governing group who use the Edward de Bono Six Hat procedure to find the answer to complex problems.

The Chairman, assisted by a diverse group of advisors, provide questions for each community to debate and find answers for.

As the author of that book, I have been asked to provide further details (by way of a blog) on each of the seven pillars of governance.

## **THE FOURTH PILLAR.**

### **CRIME AND PUNISHMENT.**

If the punishment for committing a crime is meant to reduce criminality it is demonstrably failing. In June 2022, in the United Kingdom, there were 85,800 prison inmates. Most of the prisons were overcrowded by at least 20% at a cost to the British taxpayer of £44,600 p.a. for each prisoner. Moreover, it is expected that 75% of present inmates will reoffend within nine years of completing their sentence, and 39% will reoffend within the first twelve months.

In October 2024, 1700, prisoners were let out of jail before their sentences had been completed because of serious overcrowding!

Investigations have indicated that up to 90% of prisoners have mental health problems, whilst 70% have addiction or personality disorders and

10-15% suffer from serious and enduring mental illness. Our present-day prisons are not designed or staffed to deal efficiently with these problems.

Our justice system is not geared to deal with poor education, learning disabilities, history of unemployment, addictions and substance abuse, poor life and social skills, debts, poor general health, past life trauma. Gowns and wigs together with learned council should be reserved for cases of serious crime, which I will deal with at length, later in this podcast.

Every region needs to have a screening and assessment centre where petty criminals that are presently blocking up our penal service can be assessed and held securely whilst they are treated, mentored, educated, and rehabilitated.

Serious career criminals, violent and sexual offenders, high level fraud and money laundering, people and weapon smuggling together with organised crime gangs should face the rigours of the new floating penal ships, anchored in the North Sea.

Each prisoner would enjoy a personalised cell with its own toilet facilities and shower. A bed (welded to the floor) and sufficient space to carry out calisthenics. A television screen with access to broadband. Contact with family is encouraged, as are all educational requirements. Any attempt to involve in criminal activity whilst carrying out the sentence will automatically result in a doubling of the original sentence.

There would be no human goalers or administrative staff the penal ship would be serviced entirely by robots. Fresh food and hygiene goods and medicines would be delivered by helicopter. Every aspect of the offshore community will be covered by CCTV, including all-round defence against boarding by outside forces.

Minor criminals will be able to witness day to day life of these career criminals as they serve a minimum sentence of five years. There will be no parole facility.

Reoffending will result in an immediate return to a penal ship for a further minimum of five years.

Much of our crime statistics, particularly concerning knife crime amongst adolescents, is predicated on drug crime. The so called 'War on Drugs' is being lost. For every major haul of illicit drugs taken from criminals even more seeps into the country.

In every country in the world prohibition has failed dismally to stop people from doing what they want to do. All that has been achieved has been to

make organised crime so wealthy that it can often buy politicians, judges, and the police. Whilst the addicts who need to find the money to indulge their habit, attack and steal from the innocent members of the public.

When something isn't working, it is madness to continue to keep doing the same thing. Every town needs a drug centre. A place where addicts can go for free drugs and clean needles. Drugs must be used on the premises. Large screen monitors will illustrate how you are bringing your life to a premature end. Counselling and treatment will be available to all who want to break their habit.

Drinking alcohol to excess and smoking all can prove to foreshorten life, but it is not government's job to legislate to stop people from damaging their health. Government's job is to safeguard the public and prevent organised crime from enriching itself through the suffering of others.

Our penal service is broken. One day we will look back and view it in the same way that we view how people used to deal with severe mental illness by putting them into a madhouse like Bedlam.

It is time to take a reforming view of crime and punishment.

Let us tell this story and wish peace and goodwill to all who have ears to hear.

Thank you for watching and listening.

The written script for this podcast has been published on [www.phoenixfilmandpublishing.co](http://www.phoenixfilmandpublishing.co). discuss it with friends and family and let's hope that one day we might see some of the required changes take place.

My next podcast will deal with 'National Health Service', some radical answers to some very pressing questions.