

A little empathy is required

Published: January 13, 2026, 12:47 pm

I have always presumed that most people are empathic and as a result capable of imagining themselves walking in another shoes. More than that, I presume that when necessary people do actually do just that: that is people do, when reflecting on an issue consider the interests of others as well as themselves.

It has been disappointing then to find so many people have over the last few days posted comments on this site, particularly in the context of what is happening in Greece, that have, to say the least, not only placed self interest at the heart of the commentator's concern, but have shown remarkably little consideration for the interests of others, including those Greek people who could have had no involvement in creating the dilemma their economy now faces.

Despite all the rumours put about by right wing libertarians I try to post as many of the comments presented for publication on this site as possible. Some commentators are blocked as a matter of course: their apparently mild initial comments almost invariably lead to aggressive or inappropriate comments as follow ups. Others are obvious fakes, or are straightforwardly abusive and they get deleted straight away.

But those that take time, and make my heart sink, are submitted by those who seem to know at least something about tax or accounting, and yet show a remarkable lack of consideration for others, particularly if they are less well off, for whatever reason.

I try to be tolerant but when on average day I read between 50 and 100 comments and on occasion I show my irritation. I do not apologise for that: if this blog is about anything it is about speaking truth to power, and sometimes that requires a certain bluntness.

If those receiving such a retort persist in making such comments thereafter I do delete their comments, with a heavy heart but without hesitation, whilst trying to make a quiet plea to those who are deleted to think a little more about the interests of others.

Those on question have been warned.

And for the record, before the inevitable comments are made, I do frequently consider the needs of the well off, but they already seem more than capable of looking after themselves at expense to everyone else so sympathy is not required.