

## Blackbird Leys Leisure Facilities

The Labour Party was formed as the result of hard work by working people, trade unionists and socialists united by the goal of changing Parliament to represent the interests of EVERYBODY.

Why is it that this group of councillors go against these basic rules of their own party? Why is it that they want to rule this city with a rod of iron just as the Tories and wigs did prior to their formation way back in 1900?

This Labour group are intent on not only going against their own doctrines but also the first principles of "Freedom of Speech".

During the last meeting here I chose to address this organisation and during that address I was interrupted by a certain member not once but twice. I could have ignored it but due to that member being asked to refrain and failing to do so I felt intimidated by that individual. Can I ask the Labour leader to control his members when members of the public are addressing this austere group of officials after all said and done it's not as if they are not aware of the contents of our speeches as they are there in the council agenda and for such a group to behave in such a manor smacks of collusion from senior members of the group.

Recently the "Princes Foundation" held consultation meetings with residents on Blackbird Leys and from those meetings they have formulated a master plan which involves vast amounts of money being lavished on the deprived area of Blackbird Leys. In light of this would it not be more sensible and beneficial to divert the funding for the swimming pool to this venture after all said and done the people have spoken and rather than a brand new state of the art 25 metre swimming pool have opted for other facilities across Blackbird Leys as not all members of the public will want or be allowed to use it at the times they might wish to.

Also with this master plan I couldn't help but notice that housing is to be constructed on the park to the east of the college facilities, if allowed to precede this will remove three football pitches so where will they go and play? It will also have a greater impact on the drainage from the site increasing the risk to the existing residents and it goes without saying the infrastructure will not be able to cope with this sort of development. During the heavy rainfall in November and early December I wandered over to the park and noticed all though it was extremely soggy the grassed area did manage to cope with the deluge but additional construction on this site will have a major impact on the ability to handle such downpours again.

I might add this is only if we are unsuccessful with our town green application which is **still ongoing**.

So the questions I have for you are:

- 1) Is it your intention to adopt the findings of the Princes Foundation in full and without further recourse to the residents of Blackbird Leys?
- 2) What is the long term objective for the Oxford Stadium site now you have successfully closed it? I refer to my last speech October 2012.

- 3) Is it your intention to upgrade the infrastructure for both the leisure centre and stadium sites and if yes will the public be involved with any additional measures you wish to put in place?
- 4) What is the envisaged time scale of all construction on Blackbird Leys?

Christmas is coming so why don't you give us all an early present and allow us to retain the amenities we have. It's never too late to do the right thing do it now while you can and not when you have to following judicial reviews and that will also save the tax payer money.

You have dared to poke a stick in to the nest of extremely angry residents and give it a good old stir so don't be surprised when they turn round and bite you. The storm is rising the residents of Blackbird Leys will have their say and will attend this place to voice their opinions. What you don't want is for all the Blackbird Leys action groups combining that could be, even for this labour group, just a little bit too much to handle but you are forcing their hands at every turn so who knows what the next meeting in this place will resemble!

It's your choice but for Blackbird Leys make it quick.