

Agenda Item 9

Managing the family budget – Address by William Clark

We are currently experiencing the worst recession in British history and heading to even more misery with ever greater demands on the British public for their hard earned money.

The present government has imposed swinging cuts in a vain attempt to reduce this country's financial deficits and to what end. They pass on to you, local government, even further reductions in central funding so in order for you to meet the shortfalls you pass these demands on to the residents of Oxford in increased tax bills in order for you to ensure some of our services remain in some shape or form.

What I am getting to is the fact that there is only a limited amount of money you can squeeze out of the residents there comes a time when it just is not tenable to continue these demands from the loyal citizens and eventually they reject your claims stating the obvious "YOU CAN NOT GET BLOOD OUT OF A STONE". Who knows where the money for compensation will come from following the Port Meadow fiasco?

The proposed new swimming facility on Blackbird Leys you are endeavouring to construct will not be a viable proposition because of the ever increasing demand on our money and to decide whether to go swimming or heat the room will be a no brainer. The demand for such a facility will decrease to the point where it becomes untenable with the only users being schools and the swimming club.

At the moment we have two facilities that with a little love and attention and a fraction of the cost could be refurbished to continue the pleasures of the swimming public for some time to come, there is obviously support for them as they continue to get great support in the form of signatures in petitions, so why is it that you still intend to lavish vast quantities of funding on something that will fall foul of this recession.

We have managed to garner support for the aging Oxford Stadium so surely that must give hope for these two swimming pools, do the right thing and resist the need to line the pockets of contractors who are eagerly lining up to fleece the council for everything they can. Stop the new pool build and listen to what the public are saying.

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