

William Clark – Address to Council

I have been told by certain people the only reason we are pursuing this case is to block the development of your state of the art swimming facility to ensure the survival of the Temple Cowley pool, well that's not true. Had you stuck with your original plan you would probably be swimming in it now but then you go and change the location so its facing Pegasus road, that's the reason we are opposing you and have continued to lay before you countless reason why this is a bad idea, but you still continue to heap more onto the ever growing cost by trying to defend your inability to get things right.

I read in the Oxford Mail the other day a letter from a member of this chamber who had a birthday and was looking forward to good news about the town green application to celebrate this momentous occasion. Well for your information it's just started to rain on your parade and by now you will be aware that the town green application has been granted a judicial review and even if you don't think so there is still a long way to go until you can dig up our green space.

May I advise the member if and when he has recourse to tell the public of his desires he must get his facts right and not feed the public with half truths made to confuse and not inform and as my grandmother used to say "never count your chickens until they are hatched"

On Tuesday 16th April the barrister representing the city council in the Royal Courts of Justice stated "we are running down certain swimming pools" was this intentional or was I just hearing things? Also I did notice in the local paper that the development of the Oxpens will not see the ice rink altered or moved, at this time. Can I please ask what your intention is for this structure as your legal team also referred to ice rink in his address, will we see this too placed on the valuable green space called Blackbird Leys Park?

We have not been idle and continue to pursue this action and at its present time scale could easily last until the New Year. Can you afford to wait that long, will your contractor loose his nerve and pull out or perhaps your finances will falter.

It's good news for us as we will do all we can to make you see sense and try to inform you, again, there are alternatives to the scheme you are proposing. Your budget of 13 million pounds could go even higher at this rate. Where is your financial cap which makes the structure unviable? Or perhaps we have already passed it and you are sticking it out in the hope you are successful and can persuade the public it was a great deal and they only need to pay for it for the next 25 years before it breaks even.

When will you see sense and yield to the inevitable will of the public and listen to what we are saying before you charge off like a bull at a gate with the same result, a headache.

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