

PUBLIC ADDRESSES AND QUESTIONS THAT DO NOT RELATE TO MATTERS FOR DECISION AT THE COUNCIL MEETING.

Part 1: Public Addresses.

1 The MND Charter – Mark Stone

Thank you very much for allowing me to speak to you about how Oxford City Council can demonstrate its support for Oxfordshire residents who are living with Motor Neurone Disease by signing the MND Charter.

MND is a rapidly progressive and terminal condition. It can affect any adult at any time - it attacks the motor neurones that send messages from the brain to the muscles, leaving people unable to walk, talk or feed themselves. In Victorian times, it was known as 'creeping paralysis' and that still serves as a good description of what happens.

The cause of the disease is unknown and there is no known cure. Around 5,000 people in the UK have MND at any one time, with half of people with the disease dying within 14 months of diagnosis. It kills five people every day in the UK.

I was diagnosed with MND in January of last year at the John Radcliffe Hospital, after going to my GP about a slight limp in my right foot. As I am sure you can imagine, the diagnosis was an unexpected – and a totally devastating piece of news.

I have lived in Oxford for more than 20 years – originally in Jericho, but now in East Oxford, off the Cowley Road. My wife is a professional cellist and we have two daughters, Emma and Isabel, both of whom were born at the JR & both of whom are at local schools.

Since my diagnosis, I have had the honour of being elected as a Trustee of the MND Association, the national charity, whose vision is a world free of MND.

The Association funds and promotes research to understand what causes MND, how to diagnose it and, most importantly, how to treat it so that it no longer devastates lives. It provides support and care for people living with MND, their families and their carers, both nationally – and locally, through its branch network of volunteers.

I come here supported by

- Rachael Marsden, a specialist nurse and Care Co-ordinator of the Oxford MND Care and Research Centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital
- Lynda Wigley, volunteer and chair of the Oxfordshire Branch of the MND Association
- Moira McIver, person living with MND, who has lived in Oxford for more

than 20 years, first in East Oxford and now in Cumnor.

The Charter is a simple five-point document, created by the Association, to ensure that people with MND receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

Since its publication in May last year, the Charter has won widespread support including from:

- **national organisations** like the Royal College of GPs, the Royal College of Nursing, Rare Diseases UK, the British Association of Occupational Therapists and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services
- **local organisations** like Gloucestershire Care Services, Wiltshire Council, South Warwickshire NHS Trust and Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Trust
- **prominent individuals** like Professor Stephen Hawking, Terrence Higgins, Baroness Susan Greenfield and Lord Antony Giddens.

Last month I attended a workshop at the Royal Society, hosted by HRH Princess Anne, which focused specifically on the MND Charter.

At the event, leaders from the Royal College of GPs, the Royal College of Nursing, the National Council for Palliative Care, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Carers Trust all spoke about the importance of the Charter – and how they supported its adoption both nationally and locally. Indeed the representative from ADASS spoke of how he would like to see the Charter adopted by every council in the country.

Here in Oxford, it has been signed by Oxford University Hospitals Trust, the Bishop of Oxford John Pritchard, Sir Roger Bannister, Professor Colin Blakemore and Oxford MPs Andrew Smith & Nicola Blackwood. Indeed more than a dozen of you here have signed the Charter, representing all three parties in the City Council.

With its internationally renowned MND Care and Research Centre, Oxford is recognized as a centre of excellence for both MND care and for MND research. Its team of specialists, including Rachael Marsden, who is supporting me here – is almost unparalleled. I know that some of you went to the inaugural lecture by Professor Kevin Talbot in Nov 2011 – who has the first Professorship of Motor Neuron Biology in the UK.

In March 2012, the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee produced a devastating report on Services for People with Neurological Conditions. Introducing the report, the Chair, Margaret Hodge MP, said: “individual care is often poorly coordinated and the quality of services received depends on where you live.”

With the structural changes in the last 2 years to public services – and particularly to the NHS - local authorities like Oxford City Council have an increasingly important role to play, alongside the NHS, in the support and care of people with long-term and neurological conditions like MND.

The MND Charter is an important tool for raising awareness of MND across both the general public and those in the health and social care professions. It helps raise standards and demonstrates publicly an organisation's support for those living with MND, their families and their carers.

Each of its 5 points addresses specific issues. For example, 'People with MND have the right to early diagnosis and information' speaks to the difficulty of diagnosing MND and the lack of accurate information & awareness, particularly amongst those providing care and support.

Diagnosis can take months or even years, with inappropriate referrals common (as happened to myself) – and it is common to find care professionals who have no realization of the seriousness of the condition and speed of progression. When life expectancy after diagnosis can be measured in months, any delay in providing essential support or equipment is not merely an inconvenience – but may have a devastating impact on somebody's last few months.

For all the above reasons, I hope you will agree that it is entirely appropriate that the City of Oxford should sign the MND Charter in support of its citizens living with Motor Neurone Disease.

I would therefore like to propose, with the support of a number of Councillors, including Councillors Bob Price, Bev Clack, Graham Jones and Elise Benjamin, that:

“Oxford City Council shows its support for people living with Motor Neurone Disease by affirming the five principles of the MND Charter:

- 1. People with MND have the right to an early diagnosis and information**
- 2. People with MND have the right to access quality care and treatments**
- 3. People with MND have the right to be treated as individuals and with dignity and respect**
- 4. People with MND have the right to maximise their quality of life**
- 5. Carers of people with MND have the right to be valued, respected, listened to and well-supported.**

The City Council demonstrates its affirmation for the above principles by signing the MND Charter on behalf of the City of

Oxford."

On behalf of all of us living with this devastating condition, I hope that you will support this proposal.

Thank you.

2. Building Community Led Homes in Oxford – Fran Ryan, Oxford Co-Housing

INTRODUCTION

Would you like to live where you know all your neighbours, where your children can play outside safely and where there's always someone to watch out for you as you get older? Where you have the privacy of your own home and also access to shared facilities such as gardens, dining room, workshops? This is cohousing. We are a group of Oxford residents who believe that by pooling our resources we can build such a community. It won't just be for ourselves, but to invite others to join.

We will each have our own front door but we will support each other and share our skills. Crucially we will reduce our carbon footprint and our demands on public services.

We know it can be done. There are long established cohousing developments in Dorset and Gloucestershire, and in the last twelve months two new ones in Lancaster and Leeds.

Here in Oxford we face great challenges, but with your help we can succeed.

SO WHO ARE WE?

We are a diverse group but most of us have houses to sell to fund the project. We started planning about three years ago. We have set up a Company Ltd by Guarantee and we have local support from both councillors and Oxford residents. We have been looking for land within the ring road to build 20-40 homes including the usual quota of affordable ones. But we're having to compete with developers who have deeper pockets than ours. So we're finding it really hard.

WHY WOULD COHOUSING BE GOOD FOR OXFORD?

Lots of benefits with cohousing: energy efficient homes with small gardens and shared green space. Car sharing, so we'll need less land for parking. Bulk purchase of food will ensure high quality even for people on £53 a week.

Cooperating with each other and being good neighbours helps meet our social needs. We already have several members with a disability and that is a critical strand in our thinking as some of us are feeling our age. All can be involved in joint activities such as cooking and shared meals. We know that such cooperatively run housing reduces demand on local services, and leads to greater wellbeing, citizenship and happiness.

Our scheme will be a good place for children to play together or join in with adults, such as when they are gardening and maintaining the site. Everyone in a cohousing community feels more secure.

We could say much more now but instead invite you to read more by looking at the attached leaflet or visiting us via our website (see end).

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We invite you to join us but even more to support our enterprise. You could make Oxford City a leading edge council in supporting community-led housing projects.

There are three specific things we'd like you to do:

1. LAND: Help us find land: We need 1½ acres or so within the ring road. But most of all we need some kind of preferred bidder status because we can't raise money as quickly as the big developers. For example having some extra time between contract and completion would help us raise the cash to pay for land. If we buy at a below-market price we will lock in the benefit to keep the homes permanently affordable.

2. POLICY: Enable this project by being flexible with your policies.

2.1 Planning: It may be that the only suitable land is not currently designated for housing. We may need flexibility around parking (we'd want fewer cars than is usual). We may want higher density homes to keep land for gardens.

2.2 Nominations: We will need flexibility around nominations. We want a mixed community. If nearly half our residents are going to come from the Housing Needs Register we need to think about how best to do this so as not to compromise the social viability of the project. We want people who will commit to our cooperative way of working and put time into our project. So we need to find them early to **participate** in our planning process. Several officers and councillors have already shown openness to this. We need a firm agreement in principle now, pending formalizing it in the planning legal agreement. There needs to be a double hurdle for access to the cohousing social rented homes: people being nominated for social homes must show not just evidence of housing need but also commitment to the project.

2.3 Local lettings: We want to benefit people from our immediate area: if we build in Wolvercote we would want some social rented homes to go to people with a Wolvercote connection. Your current policy doesn't allow this.

2.4: Existing council tenants: We want members who already live in social rented homes to be able to move into cohousing. Currently there is no provision for that without downsizing.

3. PROJECT WORKER: Take the lead and joint-fund a project worker with us to support community-led homes including cohousing. No other city has done this.

We have some cash to fund a project worker. Meet us half way and help us to do this.

AND FINALLY...

Picture a future in which you have enabled us to set up several supportive mixed tenure communities in the city. And a model for others to follow across the UK.

(Contact: Fran Ryan, Oxford Cohousing, June 14th 2013 07889 209448 fran@peopleincharge.co.uk)

3 The Consultation Process - William Clark

I was heartened by the last meeting to hear the encouraging words coming from the opposition benches on the topic of consulting with groups who are opposed to the new swimming pool on Blackbird Leys. However the councillor on this side said it would be a clear waste of his time and effort. Well let me refer him to a national statesman who lies only a few miles north of Oxford in Bladon and he stated "it is better to jaw jaw than to war war" and he should know as he endured both activities.

It does make me wonder just what the Labour group are all about! I thought "naively" it was to support all members of a parish/district not just those who voted them into office.

I can see the Liberal Democrats, Greens and Independents have a system which allows for a free vote whatever the topic, unless I'm missing something" As for the Labour group I am ashamed to say your idea of democracy leaves a lot to be desired. I have been attending this place for a good few meetings and witnessed a fair few votes taken and it strikes me that if the leader puts his hand up they all do just like good little puppies. Well let me tell you something for free you are creating the perfect storm scenario, you have alienated countless residents and groups across the city and as my grandmother used to say, [wise old lady she was] "as you sow the wind so you reap the whirlwind" which will come sooner rather than latter which will see large chunks of this chamber turned to other colours other than red. And what about the Conservative party they own all areas outside Oxford City but there is not one representative on this council, so who will support the Tory voter if not you, where is their voice in this chamber.

It's my view you don't care about the voter who put you here, you don't care about the lives you have blighted with accommodation blocks or swimming pools. Let's just examine the last statement again, "who is affected most by the closure of the Blackbird Leys swimming pool – the elderly and the young – why because it is a nice warm pool suitable for their bodies. Who will be affected most by the creation of your white elephant – the elderly and the young – why the population facing the green space is predominantly pensionable age who only want a quiet life not this noisy thing they will get, and the young – why at the moment the other residents living along Pegasus Road want their children to play safe and the park opposite offers that choice, after all said and done they can't play on the green outside their house because you have erected signs saying no ballgames so it has to be across the road and into the playing field. I do think there is more than a touch of discrimination in this chamber as you only appear to be looking after yourselves and always toe the party line.

But what do I know I am only one of the ageing population who had to earn respect the hard way by doing what is right and treating people fairly which brings me right back to the councillor responsible for leisure why won't you talk with us, is it too much of an effort to fit into your busy schedule or have I been speaking the truth all along and you are afraid your leader will use the whip on you?

4 Openness and Transparency – Nigel Gibson.

At the last Full Council Meeting on the 22nd of April, I gave an address introducing the latest petition from the Save Temple Cowley Pools Campaign. Over 1,500 people had signed the petition, asking you to explain openly and transparently, in complete contrast to how you have responded before, your reasons for removing a leisure centre from Temple Cowley, the focus of so many communities across East Oxford and beyond, and key to many thousands of people maintaining their fitness and quality of life. We were extremely disappointed that the then Labour CEB Member for Leisure Services refused to engage, and we were all left wondering, as articulated by Green Councillor Benjamin, “What have you got to hide?”

The lack of transparency was only underlined by the reference to the minutes of the meeting between the Campaign and the MACE architects. I have clearly demonstrated, it seems endlessly, that all the information from the Council concerning the proposed new swimming pool and the close of Temple Cowley Pools is a combination of misleading, inaccurate, incomplete and untrue, and the minutes of this meeting are an exemplar. The meeting between the Campaign and the MACE architect was authorised by one of your Executive Directors, Tim Sadler, at the public meeting in August 2010 when MACE presented their plans for the proposed new swimming pool in Blackbird Leys. It seems a long time ago, but it is the only meeting that we have had with council representatives. The minutes, as you like to call them, were taken without reference to the Campaign, we have never been asked to check or validate them, and they completely misrepresent what actually happened. They were incorrectly used in Planning meetings, and were again incorrectly referenced at the last Council Meeting.

This lack of openness and transparency in the Council’s dealing with the public has been a theme running through the Campaign over nearly four years, and is becoming increasingly pervasive in your dealings with other campaigns as well, where members of the public quite rightly expect their council to properly explain what is going on.

In my address at the last meeting, I explained that any local authority has a public law obligation to review its decisions if circumstances change. I further explained that circumstances had changed significantly in relation to your decision to close Temple Cowley Pools, taken back in July 2011. I expected that the Council would respond, but I heard nothing. So I then wrote to our Chief Executive, Peter Sloman, and asked him, very clearly, to provide the Council’s position on two points:

- Does Oxford City Council acknowledge that there is an obligation on local authorities to review their decisions, and if so,

- Will Oxford City Council review its decision to close Temple Cowley Pools given that circumstances have changed?

These were not trick questions, just very simply trying to find out the Council's position. Bizarrely, Mr Sloman's response was firstly to not answer the question and secondly to dismiss my enquiry as vexatious. Now, I have many better things to do with my time than try and annoy a Council Chief Executive.

And this refusal to deal with the public is becoming a very worrying trend within Oxford City Council. When I challenged Cllr Rowley, the new CEB Member for Leisure Services, with evidence that his interviews were misleading the public, he also refused to respond. And we learn recently that your legal department's advice to councillors, which apparently you have to follow, is not to meet with members of the Campaign. Is it any Campaign, or just this one, we wonder?

No explanation. No openness. No transparency. What have you got to hide?

Well, we're going to try again to find out. There are several stages to a Judicial Review. The first is to try and resolve things without going to law. I've done that, and Mr Sloman, for reasons that are unclear and in a response that will be seen in an unfavourable light by a court, has refused to respond positively. The next stage is a pre-action protocol – this is where I formally set out why I think the Council should be reviewing its decision to close Temple Cowley Pools. The Council can then respond, and if I am satisfied with the answer, the matter goes no further.

The final stage is then moving formally to an application for a Judicial Review. You have a choice. If you commit funds while this process is going on, in the knowledge that you may lose a Judicial Review, then you are not only wasting public funds but are also guilty of maladministration. Or, you have the opportunity to resolve matters now, by stopping any more work on the proposed new pool, while establishing clearly, openly and transparently why you won't review your decision.

The choice is yours.

Response

In July 2011 CEB delegated authority to the Executive Director Community Services, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, to award a contract for the build of the new pool. That report recognised that legal challenges may mean that the contract would not "go live" for some time. After a procurement exercise was completed the contract was let in March 2012 to Willmott Dixon. Due to legal challenges and anticipating further delays that contract contained two conditions

precedent relating to the dismissal or withdrawal of two legal challenges - the request for Judicial Review of the Council's decision making process by Nigel Gibson and the a request for Judicial Review by Mrs Zani of the County Council's decision to reject an application to have Blackbird Leys Park declared a Town Green.

On satisfaction of these two conditions precedent, the contract by definition became unconditional, and therefore active.

Mr Gibson applied for Judicial Review of the CEB's July 2011 decision in regard to closing the Temple Cowley pool, but after twice failing to obtain consent from the Administrative Court, he finally discontinued his application in March 2013.

Mrs. Zani's application to have the County's decision judicially reviewed has now been withdrawn and therefore the County Council's decision not to register the land as a Town Green stands.

From the above you will see that the conditions precedent in the contract have been met, and as a consequence the contract is now active. There has been no material change in the relevant circumstances concerning the need for the facility or the Council's ability to pay for it, and preparations to commence on site are therefore now well advanced.

5 Oxford University Students Union Charities and Community – Daniel Tomlinson and Sarah Santhosham

Thank you for allowing us to address you today. My name is Sarah Santhosham and I am the outgoing Vice President for Charities and Community at Oxford University Student Union. A year ago I came along to Full Council to introduce myself and outline my vision for the year by working with you to achieve a stronger community. I'm here today to outline what we have achieved by working in partnership and to introduce my successor, Daniel Tomlinson, whom I hope you will work with over the year ahead to continue the progress we have made.

Over the last year we have made a lot of progress in a number of areas, through our new initiatives and projects, the representation of students in the community and through our charitable fundraising. The permanent establishment of our Community Warden scheme has made a lot of difference to the relationship between students and residents on the ground; the wardens visit households to foster good relations and spread useful information, and they are well equipped to deal with the new intake of students next term. Another project I have been pleased to work on is a scheme to foster partnerships between local primary schools and College sports grounds; we have worked with a number of local organisations, including the Council's Leisure and Parks Department, to lay the groundwork and I am confident that this will translate into actual schemes next year. I am particularly grateful to City Councillors for part funding the first Oxford Volunteering Showcase earlier this year; the event attracted 47 stall holders and provided a good opportunity for students and permanent residents to interact around shared activities, from community volunteering, to environmental work, and educational volunteering in the City.

On the representation front, the Oxford Student Community Partnership Group, a group which brings together stakeholders from across the city to discuss matters affecting students as residents, has been going strong, and I am grateful to the Councillors who have made a valuable contribution to this group over the year. We have also continued to represent students through area forums, NAGs and police groups. One of the highlights of my year has been the ability to work with and direct Oxford RAG, the main student fundraising groups in the University. Since April 2012 we have raised around £109,000 for a range of charities, including the local charities Jacari, Helen & Douglas House, Crisis Skylight Oxford and the Oxford Food Bank; hearing how this money will be used for the benefit of the local community has been a real privilege and Oxford RAG is in a good place to be able to raise even larger amounts next year.

It has been a pleasure to work with students at the University to effect change, and in particular with the City Council and individual Councillors this year. This year has taught me how much can be achieved when organisations work together on issues that affect us all

and I hope that the partnership we have as a student union with Councillors and the City Council will remain strong in the future.

(Daniel Tomlinson)

I will be taking on Sarah's role as Vice-President for Charities and Community at the Oxford University Student Union for the next academic year.

I plan on continuing many of the projects that Sarah, and yourselves, have worked on up to this point. Notably, in the 'community' part of my role I will continue to work on:-

- The Community Wardens Scheme
- The project to open up Oxford Colleges Playing Fields to Local Schools
- The Living Wage Campaign

I also want to thank you for assisting with funding the Oxford Volunteering Showcase and hope that we will be able to work together in similar ways over the next year.

Further to the projects that Sarah, and OUSU, already work on I hope that we will be able to work together on 3 further issues:-

- Increasing student engagement with the issue of homelessness in our city
- Increasing cycle safety and reducing cycle theft
- Making the University and its buildings more accessible to the local community

If you would like to contact me you should be able to find my contact details in the agenda. Over the summer I plan to meet with a large number of partners such as yourselves and I look forwards to working with you over the next year.

Daniel Tomlinson, Vice President (Charities & Community), Oxford University Student Union (charities@ousu.org)

6 Full Circle and Charity Mentors – Rowen Smith

About Full Circle

Full Circle is a charitable organisation which began working in Oxfordshire in 2000. Currently based in primary and secondary schools, it brings children and older people together on a weekly basis, with the aim of nurturing friendship and understanding between generations.

About Charity Mentors

Charity Mentors supports charity and social enterprise managers to improve the all round performance of services. It provides mentors who can help clarify goals, consider options and plan outcomes. The mentoring is free. All the mentors have had senior leadership roles and experience, in the voluntary sector.

What we can do – the innovation of the project and how it can benefit Councillors?

Part 2: Public Questions

Q1 Question to the Board Member for Leisure (Councillor Mike Rowley) from Andrew Brough

It is very important that children living in the vicinity of rivers and waterways are able to learn to swim and have proper swimming pool facilities near to where they live, to avoid the tragedies that have happened in recent years. When there is only one pool in Blackbird Leys, instead of the existing two pools in Blackbird Leys and Temple Cowley, how will the Council make sure that children still have the same amount of time for learning to swim?

When Temple Cowley Pool was completely rebuilt in 1987, the Oxford branch of the British sub-aqua club was unable to regain their training session slots on Wednesday and Friday evenings. The existing Blackbird Leys Pool has many small group users. Examples have included canoe safety training and aqua aerobics. How will all these groups be accommodated when the two pools in Blackbird Leys and Temple Cowley are replaced by one in Blackbird Leys?

Reply

The new pool has a teaching pool, splash water and an eight lane 25 meter pool. The eight-lane pool also has a moveable floor that enables greatly improved programming for both swimming lessons and mobility water sessions. We have also continued to offer free swimming and targeted free swimming lessons to young people in the city.

Q2 Question to the Board Member for Leisure (Councillor Mike Rowley) from Sue Brough

Could you please give full details (dates, names of people present, points discussed, any outcomes or action points, etc.) of the public consultation meeting(s) which took place before the City Council decided to spend £9.2 million building one new 25m pool in Blackbird Leys, closing the two existing pools and selling off the Temple Cowley site; and has the decision been reviewed since the latest Census Data from 2011 became available?

Reply

While we would not provide names, the council's web pages contain the detailed consultation information.

Q3 Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Cathy Wheeler, Oxford Voice.

I am increasingly concerned at how Oxford City Council is Profiting from Selling or donating land and retreating from providing Services, particularly in East Oxford; this is bewildering to the hard-pressed Council Tax payers of Oxford.

It is imperative for the open and transparent local Authority Democracy at Oxford City to be able to effectively hold our elected councillors and the overly financially rewarded Executive Officers to account for their decisions, and that the governance structure is properly understood.

Can you please explain the Legal and Corporate Status of Oxford City Council: for example, is Oxford City Council a for profit Corporation? If Oxford City Council is a Corporation, what is the Trading Name, and what happens to the Profits? Is Oxford City Council a Co operative? Is Oxford City Council a Public Limited Company?

Or is Oxford City Council Company limited by Shares?

If Oxford City Council has shareholders, who are these Shareholders?

Reply

Oxford City Council is a local authority with powers regulated by the various Local Government Acts. All financial and other monitoring information about the Council's policies and services to the people of the City can be found on the Council's website.

Q4 Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Sietske Boeles

Regarding the *potential risk to public health and the environment* posed by the Castle Mill development, could the Leader confirm:-

- (i) that the Council has allowed this development to go ahead on land which it knew to be contaminated with highly toxic pollutants such as asbestos and polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), which are linked to birth defects and cancer; and elevated levels of metals such as lead with are linked to brain abnormalities in children;
- (ii) that the Council's environmental health officer identified in December 2012 that adjacent allotments may be at risk and requested further surveys to assess risk on surrounding sites;
- (iii) that surveys submitted recently on behalf of the developers have shown that groundwater is contaminated with PAHs, that these

are well above safe levels, and that the Environment Agency has required further surveys.

In view of the above, what reassurances can the leader offer the people of Oxford that this development has not posed, and does not continue to pose, a risk to public health and the environment ?

Specifically, can the leader confirm:-

- (i) that no contaminants, including contaminated dust, has spread outside the development site;
- (ii) that it is safe for people to visit Cripsey Meadow allotments, and consume the food produced there;
- (iii) that an assessment has been carried out to determine whether any damage has been caused, or is being caused by the development to Port Meadow, which is both a SAC and SSSI.

If the leader cannot offer the above reassurances, will the Council issue an immediate stop notice or explain why it does not believe that this is necessary.

Reply

The Planning Committee imposed a condition as part of the planning permission for the development which required the developer to undertake tests and produce data and reports which would indicate whether any significant risk exists and what, if any, steps might be taken to address that risk..

That condition has not yet been discharged.

Interim results were received and this led the Council, working in conjunction with Environment Agency (EA), to require a detailed quantitative risk assessment (DQRA) in accordance with model procedures. This has just been completed and the results are now being analysed by the EA and the Council.

There are no data or reports that demonstrate an unacceptable risk exists to public health on the allotments. Site investigations were carried out between 2008 and 2011 and levels of contaminants were below the threshold for determining the site as contaminated land. Precautionary advice was given to allotment holders which included washing hands before eating and washing/peeling vegetables grown on the site before consumption. This advice remains sound today.

No assessment has been made to determine whether any damage has been caused or is being caused by potential contamination on the land of the Castle Mill development. This is because such an assessment has not been requested by Natural England or the Environment

Agency as the Statutory Consultees and because Port Meadow is separated from the development site by the allotments and the Castle Mill Stream.

Q5 Question to the Board Member for Leisure Services (Councillor Mike Rowley) from Jane Alexander

The Oxford City Council Summer 2013 'Your Oxford Paper' had a small article within it which headlined 'Better Access to leisure facilities'. Does Oxford City Council accept this as an oxymoron because:-

1. You are actually closing two swimming pools and replacing them with one and removing a gym which is open from 6am until 10pm and replacing it with a gym that cannot be open to the general public in school hours;
2. Individuals with the concessions membership scheme will be unable to use this facility;
3. Without canvassing those who already regularly use the Temple Cowley pool and fitness centre it is unclear how many people will want to attend a school to use the gym, especially one that will be open for a much shorter period and that will be busy in terms of mechanical and pedestrian traffic at very particular times (excluding some morning use if it was offered) and that is in a poorly lit area at night.

And how will the council either remedy this inaccurate article or actually improve in real terms access to leisure facilities inside the ring road in East Oxford, for example by keeping Temple Cowley Pools open?

Reply

The article is entirely accurate. The new pool is a city-wide facility and when it opens the East of Oxford will for the first time have a top-quality, modern, integrated leisure centre to compare with what North Oxford has in Ferry Leisure Centre. The partnership with Oxford Spires Academy will help to ensure that Temple Cowley continues to have a good local leisure offer.

Our approach to leisure is detailed in the city's leisure strategy, and it is a continuing success. Since 2006 the city has had the third highest increase in activity nationally with 27.8% of adults now doing at least 3 x 30 minute sessions of exercise each week. This puts Oxford City Council in the top 20 Councils in England for leisure participation.

Q6 Question to the Board Member for City Development (Councillor Colin Cook) from Adrian Arbib

Re: Red line photo montages, dated December 21, 2011 and now available on the planning portal, regarding the Roger Dudman Way development.

Can the portfolio holder confirm that these photo montages, including the red line, were submitted by the developer and if so when? And when were they made available to (a) the public and (b) councillors? Were they submitted with the wirelines?

There are 13 of them in total and presumably they were all loaded at the same time?

Were these photo montages available to councillors when they determined the planning application in February 2012?

Reply

The photographs including the 'red line' plan or wireline were submitted by the Applicant, the University.

The photographs from Port Meadow indicating the location of the development were received and uploaded to the website on 21st December 2011. They were available to be viewed by the public and councillors from this date.

The red and white wirelines were mounted up on the website at a later date, on 8th February 2012, having been received a day or two earlier. The committee met on 15th February 2012 and all these images were available to Councillors when they met.