
1. Request before Oxford City Council members on 30 September 2013

I am speaking on behalf of Cotteslowe Community Association Trustees to request that Oxford City Council take on the financial commitment for insurance, spare parts and inspection and maintenance from day one of the proposed 'Active Cotteslowe' outdoor gym and fitness trail project.

2. Background

In August 2013 WREN of Bridgham, Norfolk expressed interest in supporting Cotteslowe Community Association to the tune of £40,722 to help establish an outdoor gym and fitness suite in the local public park, a scheme named 'Active Cotteslowe'. The grant givers clarified they would not cover insurance or ongoing maintenance and spare parts for the gym and fitness suite. We have decided that the Community Association is unable to take on the unknown future financial responsibility for the insurance and maintenance of this equipment, as it feels as if we, as trustees, would be agreeing to sign a blank cheque.

3. Needs Analysis

The Cotteslowe estate is a pocket of deprivation that lies partly within Wolvercote and Summertown Wards. Built as a council estate in the early 1930s, it has a history of social exclusion, reinforced by the presence of the notorious Cotteslowe Walls which, until they were finally demolished in 1959, separated the council estate from the adjacent estate of privately owned homes. The Area of Benefit spans MLSOAs Oxford 002 and 001. Thirty-two percent of children aged 0-15 yrs are in income-deprived families; the seniors risk food poverty; families and employment are unstable; the teens have low educational attainment and young people aged 14-24, are at higher risk of offending, substance abuse, early unplanned pregnancy and dropping out of education and employment opportunities.

In 2012 the Cotteslowe Community Association, in collaboration with the Oxford City Council carried out an extensive Community Led Planning consultation which highlighted the need for more local exercise facilities. Of 400 households, more than 179 responded to the survey. 9.9% of the community survey respondents requested more spaces to meet others and 13.8% wanted to see more sports at the Community Center. The proposed 'Active Cotteslowe' facility would meet these needs by:

- (1) Providing exercise facilities to improve the health and well-being of adults and over-12s
- (2) Providing a wholesome activity, locally and free of charge, accessible to young people
- (3) Reinforcing the sense of community by providing community facilities.

The Outdoor Gym and Trim Trail will contribute to a new City Council initiative which aims to provide opportunities for people of all ages to engage in more and different kinds of sport and exercise, thus improving their general health and quality of life.

Results of consultation with local residents on proposed 'Active Cotteslowe'

9 (3%) residents responded to the paper questionnaire.
38 (31%) members responded to the email survey.

1. Are you in favour of having an outdoor gym on Sunnymead Park?

Yes 38, (92.7%) **No** 3 (7.3%)

2. Do you think it is a good idea to site the gym next to (to the south) of the fenced children's play area?

Yes 38, (90.5%) **No** 4, (9.5%)

We hope that the City Council will be able to support this request to enable us to obtain this valuable facility for Cotteslowe Community Association and local residents.

Sarah Scheele
Chair of Finance Committee
Cotteslowe Community Association

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