

Jane Alexander – Address to Council

£108 million for Oxford

BBC radio Oxford is telling of £108 million coming to Oxford from central government to be spent on various important causes.

Radio Ox is asking what we, the people of Oxford, want to see money spent on. Some of this money should be spent on making sure that the Save Temple Cowley Pools Community Interest Company can buy and take over the running of the facility for the good of all the people of Oxford.

The Council is not talking to SaveTCP CIC and only talking with their 'preferred bidder'.

How can SaveTCP CIC who have Asset of Community Value Status, prepare their bid on behalf of all of us, without vital information?

Anyone who wants to buy anything will ask the seller questions, about what they are thinking of buying and expect answers.

I believe Oxford City Council have given away other Oxford City land and premises to private developers, such as the Northway and Cowley Community Centres, and the massive land at Barton.

All of this land which belongs to Oxford residents has been given away for free. Yet the council wants to 'sell' TCP!

Why is the TCP site not yet being offered to the SaveTCP CIC for free on the same understanding, that social housing is provided too?

Of course as some of you know the 50% figure for social housing at Barton has now been dropped to 40% so yet more of these homes will be occupied, not by Oxford people but by others who want to live here increasing the population and not doing as much for the 1,800 Oxford people who do need social housing.

The SaveTCP CIC is working for the benefit of all the people of Oxford who need and want to use health and exercise facilities.

It is to the benefit of all that people take care of their health, indeed we are encouraged to do so yet in Cowley and Blackbird Leys, our facilities are being cut by half.

Some sites where people want to put housing are blocked from being granted planning permission on the grounds of not enough car parking space not being available.

Yet the Barns Road Community Centre was granted planning permission with NO CAR PARKING ALLOWED! On the grounds that this would be a car free site! (Apart from the one 'disabled' flat with its own parking space).

So 39 dwellings, half social and half private are expected NOT to have cars. And if they do have cars the council office advice given was "that they can park them in front of other houses in nearby roads"!

"Thanks very much" say the people of Cowley to whom the Council is not listening!

Let's have some openness and transparency in the City Council!

At the Carnival, people seeing both the SaveTCP mermaid and SaveTCP CIC stall, showed how much massive support there still is to save TCP!

Let's listen to the sensible, intelligent and deserving people of Cowley and Oxford and stop these hair brained schemes.

If possible, let's use just some of this money where the people want and need it to be spent.

£13 million on a new pool at Blackbird Leys which could have been beautifully built for £4 to 5 million with an ASA approved company.

2,500 signatures on an *online* petition to re-time Didcot Power station demolition.

Over 21,000 signatures on 'real paper' petition to Keep TCPools yet the Council has so far refused to listen.

Ask yourself, why?

Ask the people what they want, then listen and act on their behalf.

At the last council meeting there was a petition from the people asking that you work with us to facilitate our needs and aims. This has not been forthcoming.

I ask that you now honour your words and ensure that the council provide the information required in full, without further delay.

We want to keep our TCPools and Fitness Centre and be able to have a new replacement community centre on the site as proposed by the SaveTCP Community Interest Company.

Please do the right thing and make this happen.