

Address to Council from Jane Alexander

The last time I spoke at a Full Council meeting in December I asked why there was no recycling bins at Temple Cowley Pools and that the blue collection box I had provided some years earlier had been removed and the staff were now telling me that not only did they not do any recycling now, that they had never done recycling at that site!

The recycling bins are clearly available at other Fusion Lifestyle run sites so why not at Temple Cowley?

Councillor Tanner answered that he would immediately get on and find out what had gone wrong. To me the word immediately means right away or very soon but almost three months have passed and I still see staff at TCP emptying all waste including recyclables into black PLASTIC bags and throwing them into the green 'non-recyclable' waste.

I have had no feedback from Cllr Tanner and it would seem that he has done nothing to rectify this.

I am also concerned to see that the regular care of the building is not being well carried out at Temple Cowley Pools. It is the responsibility of the council to ensure that the money they give to Fusion Lifestyle to run the centre is well spent and that all cleaning and regular maintenance is carried out fully.

Despite these things the numbers of users at TCP are still well up and new people are joining every day. Something to do with the location being so accessible!

When the time comes to replace TCP and that shouldn't be for at least 25 years from now according to the council's own condition survey, then there is a site which suits everyone much better than Blackbird Leys.

The swimming club have said they "don't mind where it is, people have cars so location doesn't matter". "We just want to be able to hold more Galas and Meets each weekend in good, well maintained pool". "If they open a 50 metre at Didcot we would probably go there".

Blackbird Leys people need to know that the Club have held at least ten events where the whole TCPools are closed to the public all days in the last three months and these are always at weekends.

If the council is so set on building a new pool for the people who at present use TCP then why not build it at the Council's own Cowley Marsh Site (which is soon to be vacated) adjacent to Cowley Marsh Recreation Park. This would mean it is still accessible to many and convenient for buses with space for parking.

Building a new wet and dry site at Cowley Marsh, with competition pool with all timing equipment etc and full competition seating, training pool with moveable floor, with environmental rigid covers, 6 tennis courts, two squash courts, exercise/dance studios, **80** station gym, sauna and steam rooms, crèche, cafe PLUS improving the facilities at the present Blackbird Leys Pool

improved disabled facilities, improved changing rooms, training pool and water slide/flume, enlarged entrance area with cafe, could all be built for less than the amount this council proposes to spend on just one swimming pool, one training pool and a 'splash area' at Blackbird Leys, by employing the right high-standard Pool Construction Consultant Company suggested by the ASA.

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It is now time to stop this present proposal and meet with those of us who are in touch with the people of Oxford including many at Blackbird Leys and construct a plan which will be acceptable to the majority.

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