

Address to Council from William Clark

Blackbird Leys Park

You have removed our trees, you have removed our grass and you have removed the soil but you have not removed the problem, no not me, the need to improve the infrastructure and the concerns of the residents on Blackbird Leys

What is it we have to do in order to get some ones attention namely the councillor who is responsible for leisure in the City? Last time I was here I asked if he would at least consider talking to us, but the negative response we received was not what we deserved, although it was expected.

There are action groups springing up all over the city so you have to ask yourself why? Well the answer is quite simple you don't listen, or if you do you ignore it completely and do your own sweet thing hoping your plans will go through the planning committee and once through tuff luck you can't protect it because it has been forced through by your party block vote and you can't protect it with a town green application because there is a trigger point which does not allow them that facility.

The definition of a PARK:- a publicly owned area of land, usually with grass, trees, paths, sports fields, playgrounds, picnic areas and other features for recreation and relaxation.

Okay that's what it's supposed to be but let's look at what could be reality. A white elephant of a swimming pool designed for the swimming club. If the princes trust plans are implemented houses could be constructed to the east of the college facility. A pavilion is also being discussed behind the leisure centre. And obviously all these amenities will require vehicular access so will demand parking spaces over and above that currently being provided for the leisure centre. So where is our grass?

We have told everyone just what our intentions were, namely to protect the green space for all to enjoy. You on the other hand have repeatedly misinformed the public by saying they won't be able to do this, we are doing this for the good of the community and other like phrases but you have never listened to us and headed our concerns. You are about to destroy the heart of our community.

The football lobby which was set against us have also been duped as their pitches could be removed in order for you to get your grand scheme implemented and who will they then turn on? Oh yes you the council. So much for the nice green flag that has been issued to Blackbird Leys Park left to you it will just about cover what is left of the grass

Right from the start we have urged you repeatedly to look at what you are creating and consider alternatives as what you intended does not work. Had you listened to us and located the swimming pool to the rear of the leisure centre you would have been able to solve the parking issue with very little funding but now you are embarking on the project in a location not suited to rectification you are backing

yourselves into a corner from which there is no escape except at the expense of the residents.

Recently I attended the Blackbird Leys Fair and set about informing locals of the potential of losing their green space to which they were horrified and to be honest with you I even approached members of this chamber and to her credit Councillor Smith did stop and try to placate me but the fact of the matter is there is an issue which needs to be rectified before the swimming pool is constructed.

So in closing I will ask two simple questions, how much more of our green space will you be destroying? And what do you intend to construct?