

## COUNCIL

Monday 30 September 2013

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillors Sinclair (Lord Mayor), Abbasi (Sheriff), Brett (Deputy Lord Mayor), Altaf-Khan, Baxter, Benjamin, Brown, Campbell, Canning, Clack, Clarkson, Cook, Coulter, Curran, Fooks, Goddard, Gotch, Haines, Humberstone, Jones, Kennedy, Khan, Lloyd-Shogbesan, Lygo, Malik, McCready, Mills, O'Hara, Paule, Pressel, Price, Rowley, Royce, Rundle, Sanders, Seamons, Simmons, Tanner, Turner, Upton, Van Nooijen, Wilkinson, Williams and Wolff.

### **30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roy Darke, James Fry, Sam Hollick and Val Smith.

### **31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Mohammed Niaz Abbasi, Mohammed Altaf-Khan, Shah Jahan Khan and Sajjid Malik declared pecuniary interests in the following agenda items as they were all holders of a Taxi Driver Licence:

Agenda item 12 – Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles: Age Limits and Euro Emissions (minute 41 refers).

Agenda item 13 – Policy on Hackney Carriage Quantity Control (minute 42 refers).

### **32. MINUTES**

Council agreed to approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

### **33. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

Council agreed:

- (1) To appoint Councillor Louise Upton to the Scrutiny Committee, replacing Councillor Michelle Paule;
- (2) To appoint Councillor Helen O'Hara to the East Area Planning Committee, replacing Councillor Steve Curran;
- (3) To appoint Councillors Bev Clark and Susanna Pressel to the Disciplinary Committee for Directors and Heads of Services replacing two Liberal Democrat Members (for political balance purposes following the North Ward By-election)

- (4) That the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group informs the Head of Law and Governance of Liberal Democrat appointments to the Planning Review Committee and the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee, replacing the former Councillor for North Ward and which two Liberal Democratic Councillors will no longer serve on the Disciplinary Committee for Directors and Heads of Service.
- (5) To note that Councillor Steven Curran would replace Bev Clack on the City Executive Board as Board Member for Youth and Communities.

#### **34. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Lord Mayor made the following announcements:

- (1) Councillor Louise Upton was welcomed to her first Council meeting, following the North Ward By-election, results of which were submitted by the Returning Officer (previously circulated, now appended);
- (2) Congratulated Rev. Bob Wilkes for being instituted as Vicar of St. Michaels at the North Gate;
- (3) The City Council had won the Regional Britain in Bloom award and a Silver Gilt in the City category;
- (4) That the City Council had won a bowls competition against Abingdon Town Council.

#### **35. PUBLIC ADDRESSES AND QUESTIONS THAT RELATE TO MATTERS FOR DECISION AT THIS MEETING**

Anneliese Dodds addressed Council on the Living Wage and Zero Hour Contracts. The full text of her address is appended to these minutes.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11.10(g) the address was considered with agenda item 23(6) Motions on Notice – The Living Wage.

#### **36. PAVILIONS PROGRAMME - PROJECT APPROVAL**

Council had before it the following (previously circulated, now appended):

- (1) Report of the Head of Leisure, Parks and Communities which was submitted to the City Executive Board on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013. The report presented the Pavilions Programme and sought Project Approval;
- (2) Extract from the minutes of the City Executive Board held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

Councillor Mark Lygo moved and spoke to the report.

Following a debate, Council agreed to approve an increase to the project budget of £3.143 million subject to securing external funding, and the Capital and Asset Management Group agreeing the virements noted in Appendix 1 of the report.

### **37. HOMELESS ACCOMMODATION SUPPLY**

Council had before it the following (previously circulated, now appended):

- (1) Report of the Head of Housing and Property Services which was also submitted to the City Executive Board on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The report detailed recommendations to improve the supply of suitable temporary accommodation in order to meet the Council's duties to homeless households;
- (2) Extract from the minutes of the City Executive Board held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Councillor Scott Seamons moved and spoke to the report.

Council agreed:

- (a) To approve that the 2013/14 General Fund Capital Budget be updated with the inclusion of a new scheme, namely "Homeless Property Acquisitions", estimated at £5 million, funded from borrowing, and to include a further £5 million budget in 2014/15;
- (b) To approve an increase in the General Fund external borrowing of up to £10 million to finance capital expenditure.

### **38. ALLOCATIONS REVIEW AND CHANGES TO THE ALLOCATIONS SCHEME**

Council had before it the following (previously circulated, now appended):

- (1) Report of the Head of Housing and Property Services which was submitted to the City Executive Board on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The report sought approval for the proposed new Allocations Scheme;
- (2) Extract from the minutes of the City Executive Board held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Councillor Scott Seamons moved and spoke to the report.

Following a debate, Council agreed to adopt the new Allocations Scheme as amended by the City Executive Board, with one further amendment as follows:

- (a) That the word "false" be deleted and replaced with the word "fraudulent" in the final bullet point of section 15 of the Appendix 1 of the report.

### **39. TRANSFER OF CASH AND ASSETS BETWEEN THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) AND THE GENERAL FUND**

Council had before it the following (previously circulated, now appended):

- (1) Report of the Head of Finance which was submitted to the City Executive Board on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The report sought approval to transfer assets from the HRA to the General Fund, together with a proportion of HRA cash balances;
- (2) Extract from the minutes of the City Executive Board held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Councillor Ed Turner moved and spoke to the report.

Following a debate, Council agreed:

- (a) To approve the transfer of non-dwelling assets identified in Appendix B of the report with a net book value of around £18 million from the HRA to the General Fund;
- (b) To approve the transfer with immediate effect, of cash balances of £7 million from the HRA to the General Fund in order to fund future projects that achieve on-going General Fund savings.

#### **40. STATEMENT OF GAMBLING AND LICENSING POLICY**

Council had before it the following (previously circulated, now appended):

- (1) Report of the Head of Environmental Development which was submitted to the City Executive Board on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The report sought approval of the recommendation from the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee that the draft revised Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy be adopted;
- (2) Extract from the minutes of the City Executive Board held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Council agreed:

- (a) To adopt the draft revised Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy;
- (b) To approve the re-adoption of a “no casino” policy.

#### **41. HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES: AGE LIMITS AND EURO EMISSIONS**

Council had before it the following (previously circulated, now appended):

- (1) Report of the Head of Environmental Development which was submitted to the City Executive Board on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The report asked Council to consider the recommendation of the General Purposes Licensing Committee of 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013 in relation to the proposed

amendments to the “Conditions of Fitness” applicable to the licensing of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles;

- (2) Extract from the minutes of the City Executive Board held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Councillors Mohammed Niaz Abbasi, Mohammed Altaf-Khan, Shah Jahan Khan and Sajjid Malik declared pecuniary interests as they were all holders of a Taxi Driver Licence and left the Chamber while the item was debated and voted upon.

Councillor Craig Simmons, seconded by Councillor David Williams moved an amendment to the recommendation to add the following words:

“subject to further guidance being drafted by Officers which allow for exemptions to be made for low carbon vehicles (for example, certain electric, hybrid and re-engined vehicles) which meet other quality criteria”.

Following a debate, Council voted and the amendment was not adopted.

Following a further debate, Council agreed to adopt the following age limits for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles:

- New Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles – 5 years
- Existing Hackney Carriage Vehicles – 12 years
- Existing Private Hire Vehicles – 10 years

#### **42. POLICY ON HACKNEY CARRIAGE QUANTITY CONTROL**

Council had before it the following (previously circulated, now appended):

- (1) Report of the Head of Environmental Development which was submitted to the City Executive Board on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The report asked Council to consider the recommendation of the General Purposes Licensing Committee of 21<sup>st</sup> May 2013 in relation to the Policy on Hackney Carriage Quantity Control;
- (2) Extract from the minutes of the City Executive Board held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Councillors Mohammed Niaz Abbasi, Mohammed Altaf-Khan, Shah Jahan Khan and Sajjid Malik declared pecuniary interests they were all holders of a Taxi Driver Licence and left the Chamber while the item was debated and voted upon.

Following a debate, Council agreed:

- (a) To adopt the recommendation of the General Purposes Licensing Committee that the conclusions of the hackney carriage “Unmet Demand” survey report prepared by Halcrow Group Limited, that there is currently no significant unmet demand for hackney carriage vehicles, be accepted;
- (b) To accept that there is currently no significant demand for the services of hackney carriage vehicles which is unmet and therefore resolved to

maintain the Council's policy of quantity control on the number of hackney carriage vehicle licences;

- (c) That a further unmet demand survey be commissioned in 2015, subject to any future changes to legislation.

#### **43. PARTNERSHIP REPORTING TO COUNCIL**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which addressed a request of the Leader at the June 2013 Council meeting that a proposal be brought forward as to how Council Procedure Rule 11.14 might pro-actively be used to highlight the work of significant partnerships.

Councillor Bob Price moved the report and spoke.

Council agreed to approve the procedures for partnership reporting to ordinary meetings of Council, and the consequent amendment to Council Procedure Rule 11.14. in the Constitution.

#### **44. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) - APPROVAL**

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which sought approval to: the CIL Charging Schedule, the date on which the CIL would come into effect, and the revised CIL instalments policy.

Councillor Bob Price moved the report and spoke.

Following a debate, Council agreed:

- (a) To approve the CIL Charging Schedule in line with the recommendation of the independent examiner;
- (b) To approve the revised CIL Instalments Policy;
- (c) To approve the date of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013 for the CIL to come into effect.

#### **45. GOVERNANCE REVIEW - PROTOCOLS**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which presented an updated Code on Councillor-Officer Relations and Publicity as part of the Governance Review which was considered by Council at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013. A draft Councillor Call for Action Protocol was also submitted.

Councillor Bob Price moved the report and spoke.

Councillor Craig Simmons, seconded by Councillor David Williams moved an amendment as follows:

In Appendix 2, Section 23.13 – Media releases and publicity

In point (d) Content of media releases

**Delete the words** "Ward Councillors may be quoted on matters that they have significantly influenced"

**Replace with the words** "Ward Councillors SHOULD be quoted on matters that they have significantly influenced".

In point (e) Notification of media releases:

**Delete the words** "All Members will receive notification of all press releases made on behalf of the Council the Communications Team. Media releases which are embargoed will be sent to all Members at the time that the embargo is lifted"

**Replace with the words** "All Members will receive immediate notification of all press releases made on behalf of the Council (including embargoed releases) by the Communications Team. Members will respect any embargo."

Following a debate, Council voted on the amendment which was not adopted

Following a further debate, Council agreed:

- (a) To approve and adopt the revised Code of Councillor-Officer Relations and Publicity;
- (b) To approve the draft Councillor Call for Action Protocol subject to any amendments required by the Scrutiny Committee;
- (c) To authorise the Head of Law and Governance to make the necessary changes to the Constitution.

## **46. CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES**

Council had before it minutes of the City Executive Board as follows:

- (a) 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013
- (b) 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013
- (c) 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013

### City Executive Board – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013

- (a) Minute 27 – Low Emission Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan – Councillor Graham Jones asked if the City Executive Board had now considered the Low Emission Strategy. In response Councillor John Tanner confirmed that it had at a special meeting of the City Executive Board held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013.
- (b) Minute 28 – Neighbourhood Planning Areas – Designation – Councillor Jean Fooks felt that the boundaries should be on based on communities and not on political boundaries. In response Councillor Ed Turner

observed that Officers had achieved a good balance on the boundaries. He added that there were many ways in which residents could become involved and he would be happy to discuss this further with Councillor Fooks.

#### City Executive Board – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013

- (a) Minute 56 – Finance, Performance and Risk – Quarter 1 Progress – Councillor Jean Fooks raised concerns on the target for invoices to be paid which was not being met and how this affected business, especially small businesses in the City. In response Councillor Ed Turner said that the situation would continue to be monitored.

#### **47. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

- (1) Question to the Board Member, Youth and Communities (Councillor Bev Clack) from Councillor David Williams**

##### Local Child Poverty Commission

Given that the number of children living in poverty in Oxford has increased and is predicted to continue rising, and that we in Oxford are lucky to be well-placed for people and organisations both able and keen to help, does the Portfolio holder consider that the Council would be willing to join forces with a cross-party, cross-community commission to enquire into local child poverty and to suggest positive actions ?

**Response:** The levels of child poverty in the United Kingdom and in Oxford are indeed shocking, and have of course been increasing steadily since the election of the Coalition Government and their successive reductions in social security spending. Addressing poverty lies at the heart of Labour's mission, as was highlighted in Ed Miliband's conference speech, and I am glad that other parties share our commitment to the creation of a more equal society in which no child is condemned to suffer the indignities of poor housing, clothing and nutrition. A very large programme of work has been undertaken since 2007 in the city to tackle child poverty under the auspices of the OSP's Tackling the Cycle of Deprivation programme, and substantial funding from the Labour Government's LAA allocations. A large amount of information is already available and can be accessed through data bank held by Mark Fransham. I think that this would be a good moment for the Scrutiny Committee to undertake an enquiry into the causes and consequences of child poverty as it is experienced in Oxford, using the data and the evidence from the many colleagues in the City, County and NHS, who have been involved in the Tackling the Cycle programme.

Councillor Williams in a supplementary question asked if the Board Member would agree that the City Council should fall in line with other local authorities into setting up a Commission and that this should be a separate body and not via scrutiny.

Councillor Curran in response said that child poverty levels in Oxford were appalling, but that scrutiny was the right approach at this moment in time.



He added that there was a need to be consulting with a much wider consult than we currently did and agreed to look at other charities in the future. He further added that he felt that the County Council had not done nearly enough in order to address the problems of child poverty.

**(2) Question to the Board Member, City Development (Councillor Colin Cook) from Dick Wolff**

Discontinuance Notice – Roger Dudman Way

In the light of the past 12 months of revelations regarding the planning process for the Roger Dudman Way buildings which are intrusively blocking heritage and 'protected' views from Port Meadow, including:

- The lack of an Environmental Impact Assessment (which would have included light pollution, heritage views and soil contamination)
- The impossibility of meaningful 'mitigation' of the damage caused
- The unresolved soil contamination issues
- The inaccurate and misleading wording of the Oxford University proposal 'will not be visible from the majority of Port Meadow'
- The ignoring of the City Council Heritage Officer's report stating 'There is no justification for this harm'.
- The plans that were amended by officers taking the small pinnacle off the top point of the roofs, as an unofficial response to this so that the report above could be left out of papers seen by Councillors -The intrusion of the buildings into the 'protected' view cone
- The lack of proper informing and meaningful consultation for this major development
- The fact that no other developer has been allowed to build thus intrusively next Port Meadow even though Berkeley Homes would have liked to (but was prevented quite rightly by this same City Council)

Can Council confirm if and when they will issue a discontinuance notice on the buildings?

**Response:** No. The Council has taken expert legal opinion and is advised that there should be no consideration given to discontinuance until it has received the University's voluntary Environmental Impact Assessment. To consider discontinuance now would be prejudicial to a fair consideration of that Assessment

Councillor Wolff in a supplementary question asked if the Board Member had any evidence to offer the public that might counter the suggestion that we are actually exercising our responsibilities without fear or favour.

Councillor Cook in response said that all Councillors acted without fear or favour and always had.

**(3) Question to the Board Member, City Development (Councillor Colin Cook) from Councillor Jim Campbell**

## Gloucester Green Market - consultation

How were the Gloucester Green traders consulted about the proposed change of management?

**Response:** Councillor Cook apologised and said that he was awaiting information from Officers and when he received this he would be in a position to provide a full response.

Councillor Campbell in a supplementary question welcomed the many elements of the deal for the Gloucester Green Market, and asked if the Board Member would consider a similar outsourcing arrangement for the Covered Market.

Councillor Cook in response said that he awaited the report from the Scrutiny Committee which was looking at the issue of the Covered Market.

### **(4) Question to the Board Member, City Development (Councillor Colin Cook) from Councillor Graham Jones**

#### Diamond Place Car Park – Electric Car Line marking

When will the promised white lines marking the electric car charging point in Diamond Place car park be painted?

**Response:** The white lines marking in this car park will be completed by 11<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

Councillor Jones in a supplementary question asked how many charging points did the City have and were they all protected by white lines.

Councillor Tanner in response said that each Park and Ride site including those of the County Council had charging points and he believed that 4 other City Council car parks also had them, but he would confirm this with Officers and inform Councillor Jones.

### **(5) Question to the Board Member, City Development (Councillor Colin Cook) from Councillor Graham Jones**

#### 15 St Clements Street

What is the present state of discussions regarding the painting of the ground-floor frontage of 15 St Clements Street?

**Response:** A Planning Enforcement Officer met with the owner last week and his artist. It was agreed that he would paint all the pillars and surrounds a cream colour by Fri 27<sup>th</sup>. He will then come up with a new design which he will show to the officer before proceeding. He is looking at an Oxford architectural theme but that may change. We will need to determine whether the new design is an advert or just painting.

Councillor Jones in a supplementary question asked if Councillor Cook would join him in congratulating Officers for their swift response to his

constituents concerns. He asked if he would also accept that it had taken a little time for conservation area rules to kick in and that this Administration did not rank conservation as high as it should.

Councillor Cook in response said he totally disagreed with the sentiments expressed by Councillor Jones. He said the rules were there to be used. There were pressures on Officers and they did the work as soon as they could. There were also other pressures but they continued to do good work for the authority despite the constraints they had to work under.

**(6) Question to the Board Member, Parks and Sports (Councillor Mark Lygo) from Councillor David Williams**

Fighting Ash Tree Disease

Last year a commitment was given that the Council would stage a series of briefings regarding their operational policy to local conservation and wildlife groups with regard to 'Ash Tree Die Back' (*Chalara Fraxinea*) prior to the disease entering Oxfordshire. Now the disease is here in the County could the portfolio holder give an indication how many of these consultative briefings have been held with the numerous nature conservation and protection groups that exist in the City?

**Response:** We said that the Council would follow national guidance and promote the relevant information and guidance on our website. This was done and we are continuing to do this. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chalara-management-plan>

We have also established a Green Spaces Network with the County Council, Oxford Preservation Trust, Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust and the Campaign to Protect Rural England to share information on the control and incidence of Ash Die Back.

Councillor Williams in a supplementary question asked if the Board Member would go in a proactive way to the various wildlife groups and brief them on what the Council would do when the disease reached Oxford.

Councillor Lygo in response said that the Head of Service had offered to meet with Councillor Williams on this issue and he encouraged Councillor Williams to accept this invitation from the Head of Service and himself.

**(7) Question to the Board Member, Parks and Sports (Councillor Mark Lygo) from Councillor Sam Hollick**

Events in Bonn Square

The Bonn Square Events Protocol clearly states that the first step of the events application process is as follows:

Step 1=WHAT (What Events are Permitted in Bonn Square)

- The event should be beneficial to the community and help promote the city through the creative use of public space

- The event must fall into at least one of the following categories:
  - (1) Arts and Cultural –an event that incorporates at least one of the following: music, dance, visual art, theatre, film, concert, educational display, educational workshop, pantomime
  - (2) Historic –an event that has some reference to heritage or historic significance in terms of people, space or place
  - (3) Charitable- an event that involves increasing awareness or fundraising for an authorised charity organisation

However, there has recently been a large number of applications for commercial events that do not meet these criteria, yet have been given approval.

Could the board member:

- (i) justify why decisions have been made against the publicly available protocol?
- (ii) guarantee that future decisions will be made in line with the protocol?
- (iii) any changes to the protocol will go through full public consultation?

**Response:** The current protocol does state temporary commercial events will be allowed but unfortunately the previous protocol remains online.

I have asked Officers to update the website to reflect current practice which is that we will trial occasional commercial events in agreement with the New Road Baptist Church with whom we have a joint agreement.

The extant protocol states the following:

- (4) *Temporary commercial activities - will only be permitted where deemed appropriate for the space such as e.g. small funfair rides and specialist trade activities taking place as part of a larger city centre festivals or events. Each temporary commercial activity will be considered on an individual basis. No long-term commercial activity will be allowed under any circumstances*

These events bring in additional revenue both for the Church and the City Council which the Church reinvests in the fabric of its building and the City Council reinvests in the provision of other events in the City.

**(8) Question to the Board Member, Parks and Sports (Councillor Mark Lygo) from Councillor Jean Fooks.**

Cotteslowe Community Association – Outdoor Gym

Cotteslowe Community Association has prepared an application to Wren for an outdoor gym, which is eagerly awaited in the area. Can Councillor Lygo assure them that all subsequent costs of maintenance, repair and insurance will not fall on the Community Association, whose funding was very stretched?

**Response:** The Leisure, Parks and Communities team are working with the community association and have provided a letter of support for the bid. A positive meeting has taken place between Parks Services and the Association to seek a way forward that can be managed effectively within current budgets. The costs of future basic maintenance have been clarified with the community association and the Parks Services are committed to funding this. Any complex or intensive maintenance will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. However, this is expected to be minimal as there is a low level of anti-social behaviour on the site at the moment.

Councillor Jean Fooks in a supplementary question said that there currently was no equipment to be vandalised. What the Cutteslowe Community Association wanted was some assurance that there would be total support from the Council should the equipment once installed be vandalised.

Councillor Lygo in response said that the Council would be supporting the Cutteslowe Community Association on a needs basis depending on that the issues were.

**(9) Question to the Board Member, Housing (Councillor Scott Seamons) from Councillor David Williams**

Scandinavian Style Shared Co-Housing Scheme

'With a vibrant Cooperative Group willing to fund a Scandinavian style shared Co Housing Scheme. Could the portfolio holder for housing be more helpful than dismissing the project by stating the Council would not make land available for such a project. Would he not be better talking through all the options and identifying possible sites that may become possible locations for such a proposal? Is the portfolio holder a supporter of co-housing projects as one method of meeting the City's housing needs?

**Response:** The Council is supportive of co-housing, and recognises that there is an active local group trying to pursue this housing option. Land is at a premium in the City however. The Council has prepared a Sites and Housing Plan to assist developers and social housing providers with identifying land, but the expectation is that such organisations will secure land themselves. Any site suitable for residential use has the potential to be suitable for co-housing, as long as all other policy requirements are met including affordable housing requirements, balance of dwellings and the efficient use of land. The Council has, and can continue to advise on this, but can be of greater assistance to the group if and when they have a viable proposition to discuss.

**(10) Question to the Board Member, Housing (Councillor Scott Seamons) from Councillor Stuart McCready**

Enforcement of parking restrictions at the rear of flats 410-448 Banbury Road

Tenants of the Council flats at 410-448 Banbury Road are offered permits to park on the service road behind the flats. It is an attractive parking place for those wanting to avoid the restrictions on surrounding roads. For some time there has been no enforcement so that vehicles are parked there without permits, causing problems for those who have permits.

When will the Council take responsibility for keeping this road available for those with permits only?

**Response:** Where we have parking problems on HRA land on our estates, we have introduced residents' parking permit schemes, subject to consultation with residents. The scheme is managed by the Tenancy Services Team and there are approximately 300 parking spaces covered by the schemes, generally in small residential car parks and courts. Residents are issued with an annual permit plus a number of visitor permits. There is no charge to residents currently.

Up until August, we were using contractors called Conkai to carry out the enforcement on an informal basis however they have just sold their business to new owners. The new owners, in turn, following changes to licensing and standards for parking management agencies, they are unable to undertake any work without a formal contract.

There are many agencies that provide a parking solution for private landlords and public sector organisations. The types of solution include:

- a full car park service similar to that run by the Council's in-house team
- a patrol and 'ticketing' service
- an arms-length administration service where the client is responsible for issuing electronic notices and they initiate the recovery process

We are currently assessing the options as part of our review of parking, parking permits and garages. In the interim, we have agreed a short term contract with Vehicle Control Services Ltd, who purchased Conkai, to carry out the enforcement function. They will be resuming the enforcement activities in the next few weeks.

**(11) Question to the Board Member, Housing (Councillor Scott Seamons) from Councillor Stuart McCready**

Replacement of paving slabs with tarmac

Why were tenants not informed, let alone consulted, on the recent decision to replace paving stones round their front doors with plain black tarmac?

Response: Officers have asked the member for more information regarding the location. Once the location has been identified and the problem investigated, officers will work with tenants and the local member to find an acceptable solution.

Councillor McCready apologised for not being specific on the location, however he said that his question covered properties in Hawksmoor Road

and Pennywell Drive, but that there was a general issue across the City. He asked in a supplementary question if the Board Member would give some strategic thought about the rush to spend money at the end of the financial year on works that tenants did not want.

Councillor Seamons in response said that he fully expected tenants to be informed of any works affecting their homes as the Council did not want to spend funds on works that the tenants did not want.

**(12) Question to the Board Member, Cleaner Greener Oxford (Councillor John Tanner) from Councillor Graham Jones.**

Air Quality Action Plan - Responses

How many responses were received in the consultation on the Air Quality Action Plan, and how many in each week of the consultation?

The consultation for the Air Quality Action Plan ended on 17 September 2013. The total number of responses was 220.

The breakdown by weeks is as follows:

Week 1	16
Week 2	89
Week 3	12
Week 4	10
Week 5	7
Week 6	7
Week 7	27
Week 8	31
Week 9	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>

Councillor Jones in a supplementary question asked if the Board Member could say how many additional comments were made in the space provided on the forms. What useful ideas were suggested that could be assessed by Officers and added that people did not know when their ideas had been taken up and tested and whether it was worth taking part in the consultation.

Councillor Tanner in response said that it had been an excellent return rate and there had been some good ideas which were being looked at. He added that there was a great concern amongst the public on breathing clean air and that the public of Oxford supported what the Council was doing.

**(13) Question to the Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Ed Turner) from Councillor Graham Jones.**

Business Tenants and rent reviews

Is it normal for the city's business tenants to bear the responsibility for initiating negotiations over upcoming rent reviews, rather than receiving prior notice?

**Response:** Both landlord and tenant have responsibility for agreeing a rent review and the process (if any) will be set out in the lease. Our current form of lease, based on best modern practice, avoids formal processes, with joint onus on the parties to reach an agreement, with mechanisms for dealing if that does not occur. Notwithstanding that, it is more usual for the landlord to initiate negotiations by the service of a rent proposal, and this is generally what tends to happen, but there may be circumstances where the landlord delays instigating a review e.g. because it is awaiting the completion of other transactions which will provide rental evidence. The Council does not deal any differently in this regard to any other private landlord and there is no reason why a tenant should not initiate discussions if it is concerned about delay.

Councillor Graham Jones in a supplementary question asked for assurance that when a tenant initiated a discussion, the response would not be delayed until after the review had taken place and the rent increased. He added that a constituent had said to him that he had been kept waiting for 3 months and that he had to make someone redundant, when he was convinced that this could have been avoided if the discussion had taken place.

Councillor Turner in response said that he encouraged all Members not to wait till the Council meeting to raise issues as he was happy to respond and to help wherever possible.

**(14) Question to the Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Ed Turner) from Councillor Jim Campbell**

Temporary parking for the Westgate development

Why have we still not had the promised report on how much of the £3,300k underspend will be spent on temporary parking for the Westgate development, and what it will be spent on?

**Response:** We anticipate a report going to City Executive Board in October on this matter - it is obviously a complex issue and it is important to get it right

Councillor Campbell in a supplementary question said that this was a significant sum and asked why this had not been factored into the original report. In response Councillor Turner said that Officers had looked at the detail to see if the Westgate Alliance could shoulder more of the responsibility. If the Council had said that they would do it from the beginning then the Council would not have achieved the present result and would have been left with a greater liability.

**(15) Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor Jean Fooks**

Opening of private mail



I have recently found a letter personally addressed to me at the Town Hall had been opened and stamped by the City Council. I am told that this dates back to a security alert many years ago. Could Councillor Price tell Council when the opening of private letters was sanctioned, who was told and why all councillors were not informed?

**Response:** Private mail (i.e. mail marked private and confidential) is not opened by the post room. All other incoming post is opened (with one or two exceptions such as mail for the Fraud Team). The letter in question was not marked private & confidential. The Head of HR & Facilities will ensure that with immediate effect, all Councillor's mail is left unopened regardless of how it is marked.

Councillor Jean Fooks in a supplementary question asked if Councillor Price thought it right that any mail addressed to a Councillor should have been opened. How long had it been the practice to open all incoming mail except mail marked private and confidential. She added that members of the public writing to their Councillor at the Town Hall would not expect the letter to be opened other than by their Councillor.

Councillor Price in response said that Councillors mail would not be opened and would be left as it was.

**(16) Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor Ruth Wilkinson**

Disabled transport

Has the Council yet decided how to use the £50,000 set aside for disabled transport in the city?

There have been discussions with the County Council about their future plans for special transport provision, and members will be kept in touch with developments.

Councillor Wilkinson in a supplementary question asked if there was an indication of a timescale. In response Councillor Price said no. The County Council was in the process of having to wrestle with their £61 million in cuts and that the City Council may have to decide for itself whether or not to go forward with this.

**(17) Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor Jean Fooks.**

Municipal Bonds

Would the Leader of the Council join me in welcoming the positive noises coming from government concerning municipal bonds?

**Response:** A municipal bond is a bond issued by local government to raise funds directly from the market, creating an alternative source of funding to the Public Works Loans Board.

The Local Government Association (LGA) is encouraging Councils to support the establishment of an agency to issue such bonds. The LGA is seeking a commitment from local authorities to take part in the development of the business case into a practical proposition, and to be in on the ground floor as founding members and shareholders. The project will only proceed if the business case is credible to potential lenders.

However:

- PWLB rates are currently very low. Local authorities can borrow for 5 years at around 2.4% and for up to 50 years at around 4.5%. It is unlikely that bond rates would be as low, and there will be set up costs involved.
- PWLB borrowing is very straight forward; the authority simply phones the Board and the cash is with you in two days. If at any point you wish to repay a loan before it matures, this can be done at a premium or at a discount. It is highly unlikely a Municipal Bond will be as flexible

At this point in time municipal bonds are not a very attractive option. However the current market environment may change over time, and this could happen when the Quantitative Easing programme is reversed, as this will increase gilt yields and therefore PWLB rates. We could reconsider support for the LGA initiative in different conditions if the current low borrowing rate environment comes to an end.

Councillor Fooks in a supplementary question said should the Council not be investigating this. In response Councillor Price said that if there was a financial advantage to the Council, then this would be investigated.

**(18) Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor Elise Benjamin**

Sale of the Electoral Register

How many times in the last six years has the City Council sold the electoral register to companies and individuals, and can the Leader provide me with a list of dates, recipients, and how much the City received for each sale?

**Response:** Distribution and sales of the electoral register and what it can be used for are strictly controlled by legislation (various regulations in the Representation of the People Regulations 2001)

There are two versions of the register: full and edited. The full register contains the names of all electors. The edited contains the names of those who haven't exercised the right to opt out of it. In Oxford around 40% of electors opt-out of the edited register.

The full register is used for elections and can only be given or sold to specific organisations (i.e. political parties, government bodies [police, HMRC, etc.] and credit reference agencies). They may only use the full register for particular purposes, also defined in the Regulations.

The edited register is available for any person or organisation to buy and they may use it for any lawful purpose. The fees chargeable are set in the Regulations and combine a set transaction charge (£20) plus a per thousand electors fee. The level of the fee depends on whether the person wants the register on paper (£5 per thousand) or in data format (£1.50 per thousand). All the purchases made during the period above were for data versions.

People may buy the whole edited register or parts of it (down to polling district level).

### Sales of Oxford's edited register – 2007-2013

2007/08

Name	Whole/part	Charge (£)
Mrs Ahmed	Part	25.50
Mr Koenig	Part	20.00

2008/09

Name	Whole/part	Charge (£)
Ms Gilbey-Redfearn	Part	23.00
Fitzgerald Associates	Part	25.00
Mr Jefkins	Whole	177.00
i-CD	Part	180.00

2009/10

Name	Whole/part	Charge (£)
None		

2010/11

Name	Whole/part	Charge (£)
Mr Jefkins	Whole	177.00

2011/12

Name	Whole/part	Charge (£)
Mr Roberts	Part	173.00
White Walls	Part	122.00

2012/13

Name	Whole/part	Charge (£)
Connells	Part	100.00
Mr Koenig	Part	30.00
White Walls	Part	127.50
Mr Comley	Part	125.00

2013/14 (so far)

Name	Whole/part	Charge (£)
Sun Hotels	Part	125.50
Ms Lomas	Whole	177.00

Total sales of the edited register during the period: £1607.50

**(19) Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor Ruth Wilkinson**

Sale of Electoral Register

How many companies over the last five years have City Council sold voter information to, and how much income has it derived from this?

**Response:** See response to question 18

Councillor Wilkinson in a supplementary question asked if the Board Member was happy that the companies listed were not loan sharks or payday loan companies. In response Councillor Price said no.

**(20) Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor David Williams**

Badger Cull

Could the Portfolio Holder give the Council any information as to if the City council has been approached by DfRA Officials with regard to conducting a badger cull on Oxford City land?

**Response:** I am not aware of any such request; if one were received it would be refused

Councillor Williams in a supplementary question asked if the Board Member would give an assurance that if DfRA came to the Council, he would inform Councillors. In response Councillor Price was happy to do this.

**(21) Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor Graham Jones**

Broadband coverage

What is the date by which residents and small businesses can expect to have faster Broadband and will coverage extend uniformly to all areas of the City?

**Response:** A full report on the Super Connected Cities project will be submitted to the next meeting of the City Executive Board. In summary, the Government has turned the scheme into a voucher arrangement through which businesses can buy access to super connectivity. A sum of £3.1 million is available and the scheme is planned to run throughout the

2014/15 financial year. In parallel, a wireless concession has been funded at £1.5 million to cover as much of the city as possible, but certainly all the key business centres.

Councillor Jones in a supplementary question asked if the Leader would press for “hotspots” across the City.

Councillor Price in response agreed to this as it was very important for businesses to be able to have faster broadband coverage.

**(22) Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor Graham Jones.**

Uppsala delegates

Have you been briefed on the outcomes of the visit by delegates from Uppsala?

**Response:** I’m afraid not.

Councillor Graham Jones in a supplementary question asked if Councillor Price would join him in thanking Sebastian Johnson for responding to a late invitation from the County LEP to meet with 24 Councillors and Officers. Would he also ask that the many contacts established be maintained?

Councillor Price in response said that there were always benefits in exchanging knowledge for example there had been enormous benefits from our contacts with our twin cities. He added that the difficulty was that there were potentially so many links that keeping them up could be difficult. He further added that a report would be coming to the next LEP meeting which he would circulate to Members.

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

The following public addresses and questions that did not relate to matters for decision at the meeting were made and asked at Council. The texts of the addresses are appended to these minutes. Responses where applicable to the addresses from Board Members and responses to questions are set out below.

**Addresses**

**(1) William Clark – Blackbird Leys Park**

Following the address, Councillor Mike Rowley, Board Member, Leisure, said that he was pleased that the new competition pool was being built in Blackbird Leys and he continued to work with the Leys Football Team. Councillor Mark Lygo, Board Member, Parks and Sport added that no green spaces had or were being destroyed and that green trails were being created and play areas refurbished.

**(2) Nigel Gibson – Temple Cowley Pools**

Following the address, Councillor Scott Seamons, Board Member, Housing said that waiting lists did change and that accommodation was allocated to people in Band 5 on the list. Councillor Mike Rowley, Board Member, Leisure Services, said that Officers did have to advise in some cases that in the short term people should seek accommodation in the private rented sector. He was not satisfied with this situation and that was why the Council wanted to build more homes. He added that Oxford was expanding and it was right to upgrade its leisure facilities to meet this expansion.

**(3) Mark Pitt – Development issues on Oxford**

No comments were made by Board Members.

**(4) Sarah Scheele – Cutteslowe Community Association – Active Cutteslowe Outdoor Gym and Fitness Trail Project**

Following the address, Councillor Mark Lygo, Board Member, Parks and Sports said that he would continue to work with the Community Association, the Trustees and the Ward Councillors on this issue.

**Questions**

**(1) Question to the Board Member, City Development (Councillor Colin Cook) from Sean Feeney**

Board Member, City Development – Councillor Colin Cook

- (1) Executive Board Member for City Development Cllr Colin Cook, whose interests do you serve:
  - (a) those of your employer the University of Oxford,
  - (b) or those of your constituents who you were elected to represent?
  
- (2) As Executive Board Member for City Development you have a constitutional role to “Provide political leadership and accountability” so will you:
  - (a) expressly disclose and register the fact (which you have confirmed to me in a telephone conversation) that your employer is the University of Oxford;
  - (b) be open and honest about the failings of yourself, the officers who you lead, and for whose actions you are accountable, by (as I currently believe you should):
    - giving a public statement admitting all failings by this Council known to you, and
    - acting with integrity and leadership by

1. resigning as Executive Board Member for City Development, and
2. resigning as Councillor for this ward?

**Response:** Councillor Cook, Board Member city Development said that “in my work as the Chief Technician at the Medical Sciences Teaching Centre, I work in the interests of my employer, Oxford University. In my work as a Councillor I carry out my duties to the best of my judgement and ability without fear or favour in the interests of all citizens of this City, not just the ones I represent as a Ward Councillor.

My employment is a matter of public record and I have followed all advice on when I should declare pecuniary interests. But if you don't want to take my word for it, take the word of Deputy High Court Judge, Her Honour Judge Alice Robinson, who dealt with the recent application for Judicial Review of the Council's planning decision on the University application for the Blavatnik School of Government Building. In refusing permission for review she said, and I quote: “*There is no evidence any of the Councillors had a disclosable pecuniary interest for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011 and no arguable case that the test for apparent bias was met*”.

I will not be resigning from the city Executive Board and I will not be resigning as a Councillor”.

**(2) Question to the Leader of the Council, (Councillor Bob Price) from Sarah Lasenby**

Member's interests

In the interest of transparency can you please tell me which Oxford City Councillors, either directly or through close family, have an affiliation (membership or other relationship) with the City of Oxford Swimming Club, and which of these councillors are or have been members of committees involved in the decision making for the new swimming pool at Blackbird Leys and the closure of Temple Cowley Pools?

Council noted that Sarah Lasenby was unable to attend the meeting to ask her question, however Councillor Price did give a response.

**Response:** One Councillor.

**49. PETITIONS**

No petitions had been previously submitted for consideration at this meeting.

**50. OUTSIDE ORGANISATION REPORTS AND QUESTIONS**

(a) Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

The Head of Policy, Culture and Communications submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which informed Council of the work of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

The following additional information was also submitted:

### **LEP support to the Oxford Super Connected Cities Project**

In September 2012 the LEP committed £300k capital grant and £25k revenue from the Growing Places Fund to support the Oxford Super Connected Cities Project. The capital grant was to be used towards fixed ultrafast broadband infrastructure build (fibre).

However, due to state aid challenges the focus of the Super Connected Cities project has been changed to a voucher scheme for SMEs to support ultrafast broadband connection costs. There is no longer any infrastructure build.

Oxford City Council and its partners on the Super Connected Cities Project are keen to help the LEP to find a way to continue supporting the Super Connected Cities Project and have suggested that the £300k be used to support a new bid to Government for the development of wireless hotspots in public buildings with a focus on public museums and galleries. Discussions are taking place with the LEP about this opportunity

### **Additional Information Requested**

For the purpose of this Annual Report to Council the Oxford City Council has requested the following information from the Oxfordshire LEP:

- Increasing inward investment in Oxfordshire: How many business enquiries and how many conversions in the Oxfordshire and in Oxford over the last 12 months?
- Business support: How many businesses were assisted in Oxford and Oxfordshire over the last 12 months?
- Improving infrastructure for growth and jobs: What was the total investment in Oxford and Oxfordshire over the last 12 months?
- Economic development: What was the total investment in Oxford and Oxfordshire over the last 12 months?
- Broadband: What was the total investment in Oxford and Oxfordshire over the last 12 months?

This information has currently not been made available in a format where it is possible to disaggregate this information for Oxford.

Councillor Bob Price introduced the report.

Councillor Craig Simmons asked if the City Council would fund the LEP or specific projects. In response Councillor Price said that the overall strategy fed into the funding streams. He added that the majority of the funding unfortunately had gone outside of the City to the Enterprise Zone.



Councillor Graham Jones said that he had heard twice in the last few weeks that there was a plan coming to harness government funding and 7000 new homes in the County including 3000 in Oxford, and asked if Councillor Price would comment that the Grenoble road development would happen. In response Councillor Price said that all discussions and issues around housing would fall from the discussions on the City Deal and around the outcome of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment which we hoped to receive by the end of the year. He said that this would then feed into an analysis of housing needs over the coming 15-20 years. He further added that the City Deal document was going to the Government to seek a lifting of the borrowing cap to £121 million which would allow development within and outside the city.

Councillor Jeans Fooks said that any further development should be low carbon, yet this had not been mentioned. In response Councillor Price agreed and said that consideration had been given to adding a low carbon element, however it was considered not a strong area of current growth in the County. He further added that priorities could change.

(b) Reports from and questions to Members representing the Council on outside organisations

None received.

## 51. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE BRIEFING

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which updated Council on the activities of scrutiny and other non-executive Councillors since the Committee was appointed in May 2013.

Councillor Mark Mills moved the report.

Council agreed to note the report and the activities of scrutiny.

## 52. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Council had before it 10 Motions on Notice and reached decisions as follows.

(1) **Freight Consolidation Centre for Oxford – (Proposed by Councillor Graham Jones, seconded by Councillor Mike Gotch)**

Council notes

- the current Air Quality Action Plan to reduce Nox emissions in the city and the Low Carbon Energy Strategy to reduce carbonemissions
- that current levels are too high
- that the Westgate development will bring more traffic into the city centre with consequent increases in traffic-related pollutants.

It therefore requests the Executive Board to ask officers to work with the County Council and other partners to develop a series of measures to address both these pollutants and carbon constraints in the new development generally.

Noting too the high levels of congestion and pollution caused by commercial vehicles in district retail centres as well as the city centre, Council further requests the Executive Board

- to ask officers to explore and report on the establishment of a freight consolidation depot as is happening in cities across the UK and abroad
- identify feasible sites, and
- explore the feasibility of making the use of electric delivery vehicles a condition of such a scheme's operation.

***Councillor Graham Jones moved the following amendment to his own Motion:***

In Paragraph 2, insert between the words 'officers to' and 'work with' the words 'report to all members on their'.

At the end of Paragraph 3 add the word 'to'.

At the beginning of Paragraph 4 delete the word 'To'.

In bullet point 1 delete the words 'explore and report' and substitute the words 'publish a report as a matter of urgency'.

Insert after the bullet point 1 an additional bullet point

'- include district centres in their feasibility assessment'

***Councillor John Tanner moved the following amendment***

*In the first paragraph, third bullet point, delete the word 'will' and insert the word 'may'*

*In the second paragraph, delete the word 'requests' and insert the word 'congratulates' and Delete the words 'to ask' and insert the words 'for asking'*

*In the third paragraph, delete the words 'commercial' and 'requests' and insert the word 'thanks'*

*In the third paragraph, first bullet point, delete the words 'to ask' and insert the words 'for asking', After '...explore' and before 'and report...', insert 'with the County Council and retailers,'*

The mover of the substantive Motion (Councillor Graham Jones) accepted the amendment from Councillor John Tanner.

Following a debate, Council voted and the amended Motion was adopted as follows:

## Council notes

- the current Air Quality Action Plan to reduce Nox emissions in the city and the Low Carbon Energy Strategy to reduce carbon emissions
- that current levels are too high
- that the Westgate development May bring more traffic into the city centre with consequent increases in traffic-related pollutants.

It therefore congratulates the Executive Board for asking officers to report to all Members on their work with the County Council and other partners to develop a series of measures to address both these pollutants and carbon constraints in the new development generally.

Noting too the high levels of congestion and pollution caused by vehicles in district retail centres as well as the city centre, Council further thanks the Executive Board

- for asking officers to explore with the County Council and retailers and report on the establishment of a freight consolidation depot as is happening in cities across the UK and abroad
- to identify feasible sites, and
- explore the feasibility of making the use of electric delivery vehicles a condition of such a scheme's operation.

### **(2) Youth Contract Compliance - (Proposed by Councillor David Williams, seconder Councillor Craig Simmons)**

Given that youth unemployment is now an extremely serious issue with damaging long term social and personal consequences Oxford City Council would seek to establish from its suppliers that they have employees drawn from all age cohorts and do not neglect young people.

Henceforth a condition of securing a contract to supply good and services to Oxford City Council will be that the contracting company must have at least 5% of its registered workforce under the age of 21. (Applicable to all companies with a workforce of 25 or more employees). As the City Council is compliant with this rule it would expect all its suppliers to meet this contractual obligation.

This motion of Council to be forwarded to the City Executive Board with a relevant officer's report providing a strategy for implementation within the next two cycles of Committee.

***Councillor Ed Turner seconded by Councillor Bob Price moved the following amendment:***

*To delete all of the words after the first reference to Oxford City Council and replace with the following words:*

*“will continue to emphasise the importance of creating apprenticeships in all its major contracts. In addition, Council will state in its tender information for tenders over £100k its commitment to supporting young*

*adults into work by requiring any organisation that is awarded a contract with the Council in excess of £100k a requirement that we wish to contract with suppliers with a positive approach to creating jobs for our young adults and the creation of a more sustainable workforce. This specification should be added as an evaluation question along with the Living Wage and it will form part of the tender evaluation. It will be added as part of the same contractual term as the Living Wage”.*

The mover of the substantive Motion (Councillor David Williams) did not accept the amendment by Councillor Ed Turner and following a debate, Council voted and the amendment was adopted.

Following a further vote the Motion as amended by Councillor Ed Turner was adopted as follows:

Given that youth unemployment is now an extremely serious issue with damaging long-term social and economic consequences Oxford City Council will continue to emphasise the importance of creating apprenticeships in all its major contracts. In addition, Council will state in its tender information for tenders over £100k its commitment to supporting young adults into work by requiring any organisation that is awarded a contract with the Council in excess of £100k a requirement that we wish to contract with suppliers with a positive approach to creating jobs for our young adults and the creation of a more sustainable workforce. This specification should be added as an evaluation question along with the Living Wage and it will form part of the tender evaluation. It will be added as part of the same contractual term as the Living Wage.

**(3) Royal Mail Privatisation – (Proposed by Councillor Bob Price seconded by Councillor Scott Seamons)**

This Council recognises that the Royal Mail is part of the fabric of our nation and believes that plans for its privatisation will lead to high prices and a reduction in services for the people who need those services the most. Therefore we resolve that Council should formally sign the "Save our Royal Mail" petition to put pressure on the Government to reverse its decision and protect the country's postal services; and that the Leader of the Council should write to the Secretary of State for Business and Enterprise conveying the terms of this Resolution.

***Councillor David Williams seconded by Councillor Elise Benjamin moved the following amendment:***

*To add the words “and opposition” after the words “Government” in the fifth line.*

*To add the words “and the Labour Shadow Business Secretary, Chuka Umunna MP” after the words “Business and Enterprise in the final line.*

The mover of the substantive Motion, Councillor Bob Price did not accept the amendment by councillor David Williams and following a debate, Council voted and the amendment was not adopted. Following a further vote Motion (un-amended) was adopted as follows:

This Council recognises that the Royal Mail is part of the fabric of our nation and believes that plans for its privatisation will lead to high prices and a reduction in services for the people who need those services the most. Therefore we resolve that Council should formally sign the "Save our Royal Mail" petition to put pressure on the Government to reverse its decision and protect the country's postal services; and that the Leader of the Council should write to the Secretary of State for Business and Enterprise conveying the terms of this Resolution.

**(4) Energy Bill – (Proposed by Councillor Jean Fooks, seconded by Councillor Mike Gotch)**

UK homes are amongst the least energy efficient in Europe. The contribution this makes (along with high fuel costs) to high fuel bills helps account for the fact that a quarter of UK households are now in fuel poverty, requiring more than 10% of their income to keep warm in the winter. The World Health Organization estimates that between 30 and 40 per cent of excess winter deaths in cold countries can be attributed to cold indoor temperatures. In the UK excess winter deaths (about 7800 of them die each year to living in cold homes) exceed those in colder countries such as Norway and Sweden.

More than a third of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions come from non-industrial buildings, and besides accounting for thousands of deaths annually, poorly insulated homes are leaking CO2 into the atmosphere without it having served any useful purpose. The Government's Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation policies can address some of this but not enough. By channelling sufficient funds into subsidies for insulation, renewable energy and modern boilers, the Government could end fuel poverty, protect the environment and create jobs.

Over the next 15 years the Government will raise an average of £4 billion every year in revenue from the European Emissions Trading Scheme and the Carbon Floor Price. An alliance of charities, groups and individuals concerned about fuel poverty and carbon reduction have launched a campaign (the Energy Bill Revolution - <http://www.energybillrevolution.org/>) to ask the Government to dedicate this revenue to subsidizing energy-efficiency in homes.

This Council asks its Chief Executive Officer to write to the City's Members of Parliament asking them to support this initiative.

Following a debate, Council voted and the Motion was adopted.

**(5) Legal Aid - (Proposed by Councillor David Williams, seconded by Councillor Craig Simmons)**

This Council opposes the Government restrictions on the ability of citizens of Oxford and all UK citizens to seek legal aid. The Council believes that all its services should be open to judicial review and legal action by citizens no matter what their financial resources.

These moves will undermine the ability of the average individual to obtain justice and will without doubt damage the ability of the courts to resolve

disputes peacefully. The reputation of the courts as defenders of liberty and justice will be undermined and recourse to law will become restricted to a wealthy elite.

The Chief Executive is authorized to make the opinions and concerns of the Council on this matter known to the Lord Chief Justice and the relevant Government Ministers of State.

Council noted that Councillor David Williams had withdrawn the Motion.

**(6) The Living Wage – (Proposed by Councillor Van Coulter, seconded by Councillor John Tanner)**

This Council reaffirms its commitment to the Living Wage and for the promotion of decent terms of employment.

Council condemns the burgeoning use of Zero Hours contracts.

Zero Hours contracts condemn many people in work to poverty, facilitate discrimination and bullying in the workplace and undermine Minimum Wage legislation.

We congratulate all Oxford employers who pay the Living Wage as a minimum and who strictly restrict the use of Zero Hours Contracts to where they are by genuinely mutual agreement in the interest of the employee concerned, or where they reject them altogether.

We call on the Coalition Government to increase the legal Minimum Wage in line with the Living Wage and to legislate tightly to restrict the use of Zero Hour Contracts, and to pursue the right for workers to stable and predictable employment contracts at the EU level, to avoid a destructive pan-European race-to-the-bottom in their rights.

Following a debate, Council voted and the Motion was adopted.

**(7) Ethical Procurement - (Proposed by Councillor Craig Simmons, seconded by Councillor David Williams)**

‘The Council is concerned that all its investments are ethical, not only related to the products and services the companies offer but also from their operational location. As a consequence the Council will not place its monies be they direct purchases or long term investments in companies or concerns that operate with off offshore accounts or in known tax havens where the full rigor of UK and European tax levies are avoided.

The Finance Officers to proceed to redirect any investments already lodged with companies that give known tax avoidance locations as their business address and to only invest ethically in all future financial transactions.’

Council noted that Councillor Craig Simmons had withdrawn the Motion.

**(8) Supermarket Levy – (Proposed by Councillor Craig Simmons, seconded Councillor Dick Wolff)**

The City Council notes the possibility of making an application under the Sustainable Communities act to levy local large supermarkets with a rateable value of £500,000 or more to raise an estimated income of over £1 million.( The Act indicates an extra rateable levy of 8.5%). The money raised may according to the Act be used to improve local economic activity, support local services social and community wellbeing and environmental protection.

With this in view a report to City Executive Board illustrating how such a levy will could be implemented should be prepared and considered in the manner recently adopted by Bristol City Council.

Councillor Craig Simmons Motion on Notice was not considered as the time allowed for Motions on Notice by the Constitution had lapsed.

**(9) Supporting the Robin Hood Tax - (Proposed by Councillor Elise Benjamin)**

Council notes that:

- as a result of the economic crisis, unemployment has become a serious concern;
- Local Government will see real term cuts in central grant of 28% over the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review period, meaning a cut of £6bn in annual grant by 2015;
- Extending the current Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) on shares to other asset classes such as bonds and derivatives could raise £28bn of additional revenue in the UK a year: and:
- At least 11 European nations including France, Germany, Italy and Spain are moving ahead with FTTs on shares, bonds and derivatives estimated to raise £30bn a year.

Council believes that:

- revenues from the FTT could help repair the damage caused by cuts in public services since 2010;
- local government deserves to receive a significant proportion of FTT revenues, making an important contribution to both capital and revenue expenditure such as reversing cuts to council tax benefits; and that whilst an FTT might have a negligible effect on jobs in the City of London, investing FTT revenues in a smart and progressive way would see a significant increase in employment levels in other sectors.

Council resolves that:

- the UK government should extend the current FTT on shares to other asset classes, such as bonds and derivatives.

Council further resolves to:

- write to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Chancellor and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government stating this council's support for extending FTTs; and;
- write to all local MPs outlining the Council's position.

Council noted that Councillor Elise Benjamin had withdrawn the Motion.

**(10) Impartiality of Planning Process - (Proposed by Councillor David Williams, seconded by Councillor Elise Benjamin)**

This Council believes that both Councillors and officers must act, and be seen to act, in an impartial and objective way if public faith in the planning process is to be enhanced.

There is already a requirement under the Employee Code of Conduct for each Service Area to maintain a Register of Gifts and Hospitality, but members of the public are unable to easily access this information.

Council therefore resolves that, in the interest of openness and transparency:

- (1) All Service Area Registers of Gifts and Hospitality should be made readily available to Councillors and members of the public via a link on the Council website; and
- (2) Planning Applications should include reference to any related disclosures.

Councillor David Williams Motion on Notice was not considered as the time allowed for Motions on Notice by the Constitution had lapsed.

**53. MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION**

**The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 9.15 pm**



## **Address to Council from AnnelieseDodds**

### **The Living Wage and Zero Hour Contracts**

Councillor Coulter's motion recognises that the estimated one million people on zero-hours contracts generally want real jobs with real protection, just like everyone else. People on zero-hours contracts work fewer hours, on lower weekly pay, and are more likely to be seeking alternative employment than others, making a mockery of claims that zero-hours contracts have been introduced because they are always in workers' interests.

As one person on a zero-hour contract, who was recently quoted in a BBC report, said, their proliferation has led to a situation where people have no control over their personal finances from day to day and week to week. In Pat's words, a telemarketing worker in his late forties: "I'd have the landlord screaming at me for the rent...The fridge would be empty. I'd have to lean on friends for help, I've slept on sofas - lots of us did. It's the only way to keep going."

It is right that this motion has been presented to Oxford City Council because an increasing number of public sector employers have started, inappropriately, to adopt zero-hours contracts for large parts of their workforce. Indeed, around a fifth of those employed on zero-hours contracts are employed in the caring, and generally government-funded, professions of health and social work, and 8% in the arts, entertainment and leisure, again, often directly or indirectly employed through local authority funding.

I hope that Oxford City Council will be resolute in its rejection of zero-hours contracts, as proposed in this motion, in advance of the national and EU-level action which has never been more urgent to prevent their burgeoning use in the UK and elsewhere".

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## 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?

Last time I addressed Council I spoke about how you faced a decision; continuing to be guilty of maladministration, or taking the opportunity, in the light of new information, to revisit your decision to spend over £13m on building a 25m swimming pool in a place where there is no evidence of demand, while at the same time closing the existing swimming pool at Blackbird Leys and the Temple Cowley Pools & Gym Leisure Centre when they could be refurbished and improved for £3m.

The maladministration continues, as you have decided to start building the swimming pool in Blackbird Leys. Your action has crystallised for the Blackbird Leys community the huge adverse impact this building will have; how much of the little green space they have left it will eat up; how it will loom over the residents close to it in Pegasus Road; and how much more traffic will be generated if people are forced down 20mph residential roads to meet the forecast footfall.

And I have continued, as promised, to move towards an application for a Judicial Review. The pre-action protocol has been attempted; your legal department have responded, but only partially, and with threats about how much money it will cost me. As usual, with all the legal defences I've seen from this council over the last four years, there is no attempt to provide a substantive defence of the actual issue, or to engage in a dialogue to resolve matters. Instead, requests for information are ignored and I'm told in no uncertain terms that if I, a mere member of the public, dare to challenge the mighty City Council, I will be pursued for all the money I have. We should all be aware that it is the public that funds this organisation, which is after all said and done only a middle ranking district council, and that you exist not for your own self-aggrandisement, but to deliver services that the people of Oxford want and need, where they want and need them.

And with Temple Cowley Pools, the people have made it very clear to you over the past four years that they want their services kept open, and the Campaign has demonstrated time and again that the evidence you put forward to support your case for closure does not stand up to even the most basic level of scrutiny.

So, this lack of engagement does not prevent an application for Judicial Review from proceeding. But recently even more new information has come to light that adds even more weight to the need for you to review your decision to close Temple Cowley Pools. Not only that; this information compromises your overall strategy on housing and finance, negating your Corporate Plan and all the policy documents that flow from it.

The fundamental building block of the Council strategy, something that dare not be questioned, and is repeated all the time, is that we as a city are in desperate need of more housing. It's simply accepted that we don't have enough. This is what is driving all the housing development across the city, from infill in any available space (well in East Oxford at any rate), through closure of Temple Cowley Pools to make way for housing on that site and into the green field behind St Christopher's School, through to the removal of all green space up to the City boundary that is the Barton West development.

This new information I have is not made up, but comes from the Council; firstly leaked unintentionally in a public meeting, but then clarified in an answer to a public question at the last City Executive Board Meeting.

The key number driving the housing strategy is the number of households on the Housing Register, what used to be known, and still thought of by many people, as a waiting list. Page 17 of the Corporate Strategy declares boldly that there are over 6,000 households on the Housing Register, and as a result the Council's number one declared housing priority is to build new homes. As many as possible. And regardless of the related need for additional services such as education, health and transport.

There is a general assumption that everyone on the Housing Register has an assessed and recognised need for accommodation. However, what has recently been revealed is that anyone on the lowest Band, Band 5, is not assessed as being in need, and indeed will never get a home through this process, however long they stay on there.

Two questions occurred to me, based on my experience with the way the Council manipulates information to its own ends. Firstly, how accurate is that figure of 6,000 driving the housing policy? And then, how many of that number is in Band 5 – because we will then have an insight into the real assessed need.

So, the numbers. At the start of September there were 4,789 households on the Housing Register, not the 6,000 driving your strategy at the moment. And in Band 5? I was, frankly, astonished at this number. 2,926 households are in Band 5, and will never be allocated a home regardless of how long they are on the Housing Register.

And it means that instead of 6,000 households, you should be using 1,863 households; this is less than a third of the number you have used to develop your housing strategy, and launch on this frenzy of new development. I'm not suggesting that there is no need for housing at all, but the reality of these numbers calls into question and surely invalidates your Housing Strategy, all the related planning policies and also the Corporate Plan itself.

And if these numbers had been available when you considered closing Temple Cowley Pools, and decided building houses was a better option, perhaps you would have made a different decision. Full, real, accurate information was not made available to you when you made your decision; not only on this housing issue, but also on refurbishment costs, what the real state of the Temple Cowley Pools building actually was, and comparative building costs for new swimming pools that show just how expensive the new pool at Blackbird Leys. None of this information was available to councillors in July 2011 when you decided to close Temple Cowley Pools – it is available now, and you should take this opportunity to fulfil your legal obligation to review your decision.

## Address to Council from Mark Pitt

### Development issues in Oxford

We are currently seeing a wave of the most divisive, dangerous and desperate development either permitted by, or directly undertaken by Oxford City Council.

Divisive as the city is already divided into a rich, spacious north with vast expanses of green space and an increasingly cramped south.

Sounds Bad? It gets worse, the Council it stated to the Inspector as Core Strategy policy C.S.21 "*The City Council will seek to maintain an overall average of 5.75 ha of publicly accessible green space per 1,000 population*" - but population increases meant that already, by 2010, without allowing for any removal of green space at all this no longer existed.

Bad? It gets worse – in the green spaces survey, supporting evidence for both Core Strategy and the Barton AAP, the Council told the Inspector that Oxford's population would rise by 2.75% – no, it had risen 11% up to 2012 – a 400% miscalculation – if it took me an hour to ascertain this why did the Council not check the evidence it submitted?

Put simply, the Inspectors accepted in good faith evidence from the Council that was simply wrong, the DPD sites were therefore assessed incorrectly.

Bad, It gets worse – Barton green space was decided as 10% of the total *area*, but per 1000 residents, using reasonable assumptions, the development will have less unrestricted green space than Tower Hamlets.

Bad, It gets worse – the nearby Barton Cricket Ground, protected green space, was cheerfully given up for development leaving only 16% as the green space down from the 25% the Inspector agreed on with already incorrect data.

Bad, it gets worse – you ran with the pack leading the Headington green space asset stripping, hacking of chunks of the last green space left, Bury Knowle Depot and the precious stables – you pour concrete into the heart of Headington, turning communities into dormitories - you should not inflict such losses on those least able to afford them.

Why do I say dangerous development?

The Thames is mighty, bringing us food and water, but a deity she is not, and when millions of cubic litres of water fall on her vast catchments we get the repeated flooding of previous centuries, for example, the great Wellington Flood of 1852 when Oxford was described as "*floating on the surface of some boundless river for as far as the can reach nothing is to be seen but water.*", and 1894 when all of St Ebbes, Botley, St Frideswides, Osney and Hinksey were underwater - should teach us caution, but we are ignorant of historical reality, and rely on computer models.

The 1850s saw the end a 500 year "The Little Ice Age" and the onset of a global warming, and one can speculate these events may be related as may be again.

We can either decide that as the Environmental Agency's floodlines have been surpassed so many times it will be millennia before this happens again, or the modelling is wrong, or that something has changed and it has.

Drainage has been much improved, but as I walk up the Thames valley seeing stile after stile over long gone hedges, the vast swathes of arable replacing the pocket sized fields Lord North's Elsfield map of 1703, the sprawl of Headington where Antony A Wood gloried in the fields of rye in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, fields where vast Wychwood used to be, I know that if water comes, there will be little to slow it.

The risks have changed, global warming may mean heavier and more intense rainfall, leading to an increase in groundwater and surface water runoff, and whereas a bunch of blokes in hi viz manning flood defences at Osney may be a comforting visual metaphor for a caring patriarchal state, that is river defences - when the water goes by, but there is little defence for groundwater which comes up from under, and surface water, that flows over, which is precisely the risk at Barton – you advance to the water, when you should retreat.

In November 1894, in this very chamber in a dramatic scene, an exhausted mayor stood up to report on his flood relief– with 3 miles of planking in St Thomas's and St Ebbes, four schools had been closed, food came by boat, collections held to relieve the sufferings of the poor and he said:

*“They might have had the waters as high as it was on the present occasion, but they now had hundreds of houses built on the low-lying districts to contend with which they had not had previously.*

Up jumped Mr Underhill, he wasn't having a bar of this - *“a strong feeling of indignation was passing through his breast with those who permitted buildings and put up buildings in such a miserable situation. “*

to which Mr Kingerlee retorted he *“had voted that these houses should be built in these very districts, and then he wished to pass a censure upon himself and others who has passed those very plans..” He thought they ought not to blame the people who built, but the authority that passed the plans”*

Should we be building on low lying districts like Barton and Oxpens due to the flood risk? I don't know, but what bothers me, is neither do you.

Thank You



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NPFF no need

our policies intensify this deeply

Social housing for welcome development

Grand

New Victorians ref planning

1:4000 so OK

Population

### **The Flood Of 1894**

Jackson, Nov 24<sup>th</sup> or Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 1894 *"The Mayor said they were all aware that the city had been visited by one of the most disastrous floods ever remembered in Oxford. They might have had the waters as high as it was on the present occasion, but they now had hundreds of houses built on the low-lying districts to contend with which they had not had previously. He had seen women wheeled in barrows and children running through the floods to get bread for breakfast... Mr C. Underhill was quoted as **"At the same time, a strong feeling of indignation was passing through his breast with those who permitted buildings and put up buildings in such a miserable situation."** to which Mr Kinglerlee retorted he "had voted that these houses should be built in these very districts, and then he wished to pass a censure upon himself and others who has passed those very plans.." **He thought they ought not to blame the people who built, but the authority that passed the plans"***

Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 1894, *"- the volume of it, however, was so unusually large that in all the low-lying meadows, especially those adjacent to the rives, and in the basements and cellars of many houses it has by no means disappeared. In the streets in Osney, Friars, St Thomas's and Hincksey [sic], the water made its way into hundreds of dwellings, .. four schools were closed by order of the managers during the height of the flood .. about midday on Friday the water was at its highest, and the discomfort and inconvenience it produced in the low-lying portions will not easily be effaced from the memory of the sufferers. In some cases children were taken to school in a boat.. and various articles being handed up to the bedroom windows in baskets it is estimated the planks would extend a distance of about three miles..*

Up jumped mr underhill, in this very chamber

Even if you had insisted on housing instead of car parks this is beyond you, and each development is more desperate, diversive and dangerous than the last, these are terrible losses to inflict on poorer communities – it is the poor that suffer , irreplaceable green space is signed away

Stile after stile over non existent hedges, in place the small fields of Elsfield on Lord Norths map are vast arable lands, the woods of wychwood are all but gone, and the fields of rye revelled in by Antony Wood on Headington Hill, natures natural SUDS are removed.

Pop review

That bad, it gets worse

Equality of slaves

, turning communities into dormitories.

Private space

Show urban village

It will never happen again cant

Objection by Natural England

Building in deprived area

Green space lost conv to

1:1000 year flood happened 4 timesa

Add Old Road, Barton loss, BCG, Barn and Depot

16% not 25%

Heritage

Pour concrete in the heart of Headington

Where will the children play?

Whiff of smoke Tony Benn, arrogance last colony

Where will the children play, play pip play!

Selfishness and exclusivity

Is that bad? It get worse

Communities not dormitories

Dog eating chunks bites off park

It will never happen again

## Conclusion

- can only deepen social inequalities and exacerbate social inequality in one of the most segregated cities in Britain?

Garden cities

The full force of problems on poorest – alternatives

“Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society”

Quote CS on green space

Show island effect and green city NPPF and arable green for Northway, Barton

Understanding green the little old lady , cut up bury knowle park, prime cuts

Hacked and like the man with the horse trained it not to eat

10% for housing/space

;Green deprivation

Every blade must be fought for

OFFCUTS

We live in a very socially divided city segregated into north and south, rich and poor yet it is the latter who will bear the brunt of Council’s development plan.

This reviews the current and future very low green space provision in the Headington and Barton “Urban Villages” concentrating on the importance of the imminently threatened community and green field sites the former Barton Cricket Ground, Bury Knowle Stables and Depot all of which .

The social and amenity cost of housing provision in Oxford is falling disproportionately on the poorest parts of the city as a direct result of Oxford City Council’s policies.

## Green Space And Social Equality – A City Divided

OUT? – Headington had only 60% of the 5.75 H.A. per 1000 promised to maintain as a city wide average under C.S.21 of the Core Strategy.

Link flood 1852 with end of little ice age.

??, as the developments at Barton, Bury Knowle Depot, and Barton Cricket Ground and others take green space and increase population

Bad, It gets worse – the pressing need for housing ..

– the Core Strategy was passed on incorrect evidence presented to the Inspector.

*He had seen women wheeled in barrows and children running through the floods to get bread for breakfast.... “*

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## **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.

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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

AN/SS/SP 23 September 2103