

Sarah Lasenby – Address to Council

Temple Cowley Pools campaign

To all City Councillors

I have been helping with the Campaign to Save Temple Cowley Pools and want to share my experience of the local people's responses on the issue.

In the past, when I was asking people if they would like to sign a petition (number 7) to help save Temple Cowley Pools, I have been surprised to find some people running up and asking to sign. Of the other people I spoke with, a very large number of people want to sign as soon as they know what it is about.

Recently there has been misinformation in local press and some have said, 'oh but its too late' or, 'I thought it had been decided to keep it'.

More recently we have been showing people the proposed plan as to how the pool and leisure centre could be retained; a space for a Community Centre added and flats built, 50 % of which would be for social housing.

On the 21st June when it was the 80th anniversary of Florence Park Fête I was outside the main gates and talking with people as they came in. [Only one couple did not want TCP saved.] All the rest were very keen to keep it and willing to stop and listen to my explanation of the plans that could be developed at TCP. They were really enthusiastic about the possibility of this plan becoming a reality and saving Temple Cowley Pool.

Those who came from Rose Hill were particularly unhappy as they would need to take two buses to reach the centre in Blackbird Leys. Local people see the closing of TCP as a significant deterioration in the provision for people in this area and wonder what else will be taken away.

I felt very touched by them and sad when I realised that this Council has not, and is not listening to what the people in this area want. How can these people be heard ? The Council have the solution in their hands and if they do not make sure that the leisure provision at Temple Cowley is retained then they will have done a great injustice. TCP's proposal is your chance to get it right after so many years of not responding appropriately.

The people's needs are what matter and you should now be listening and acting on what you hear.

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