

Good Evening; I am Sarah Lasenby a member of the Save Temple Cowley Pool campaign.

I know all of you want to take the best decisions for everyone in Oxford. You have made the people of Blackbird Leys happy with their new pool and now I ask you to turn your attention to the people who live in the area that was served by Temple Cowley Pools and Gym.

It is a large area that goes right up to the Plane and includes Rosehill and Wood Farm. The vast majority of these people, may be up to 40,000, can no longer get to a swimming pool they can afford by walking for 20minutes or less or with a single bus ride. Please remember that Temple Cowley is still the best position for a Leisure Centre as transport links are so good from all directions and it has met the needs of very many people living in the area for years and years. This is a very densely populated area too.

To deal with the fact that so many people can't reach Leisure facilities any longer you must consider what to do next. I hope you can think **laterally**. The Council needs to do something now.

Please stop the demolition until after the Planning Application has been decided. It would be dreadful if Catalyst fails to get planning permission AND the Pools buildings have already been demolished.

I really feel this is a no brainer. So please take action. Whether or not the demolition goes ahead is still in your hands.

I am sure you are all concerned by the situation that exists now. Specially those Councillors whose wards are near by.

And you still have a small chance of saving Temple Cowley Pools. If this happened it would be wonderful, specially for the Labour Councillors who took the decisions in the first place.

All Councillors should remember you are there to serve all of the people not to leave large numbers with access only to private pools that are too expensive for most people.

I am very distressed by what has happened and specially by the actions of Labour Councillors. I know some of you did not approve of the closing of TCP. Please now live up to your fundamental beliefs about helping people as best you can.

After the Planning application has been dealt with and if [this may be very unlikely] Catalyst is unsuccessful then what should you do ?

First of all you should meet with the directors of the Community Interest Company. This will enable you to fully understand what the offer is. Briefly it is to run the leisure Centre at nil cost to the council and to build flats as well.

You may not be aware but many other Labour Councils across the UK have enabled citizens to take over the running of facilities. They have done this to ensure the community, their voters, continue to have the health and fitness facilities they need and where they need them. These projects are run by the public to save their Council's money while retaining services.

Oxford cannot be a World Class City when so many people are deprived of access to their swimming pool. Please pay attention to this and take action in the name of all the people. This will show that you really do care and can think laterally.

How will you feel if Catalyst's application fails and there is no longer a building at Temple Cowley?

By the way if anyone thinks the campaign will shut down if there is no building please think again. Some Councils have had to rebuild the facilities they have had demolished.