

- 1. Address by Artwell –** As Artwell is a district and county council candidate, this address and response will not be published/ broadcast until after the election

Barton's new football pitch

Elected Councillors, the Secretary of Barton's Football Teams consented to the destruction of their Football Pitch and Pavilion in order to assist the house builder Grosvenor to construct a much needed access road for the new estate. The Secretary was assured of a "like for like" replacement which Grosvenor would construct.

This promise has been broken. Grosvenor report they intend to construct a three quarter size pitch. This reduced size pitch will ensure that Barton will be expelled from the Hellenic league. Cllr Rowley was at the centre of these promises and we call on him now to assist Barton's Football teams in demanding that Grosvenor and the City Council fulfil their original agreement for a "like for like" replacement Football Pitch.

Written response from Councillor Smith, Board Member for Leisure, Parks and Sport.

Oxford City Council have been working with and supporting both Headington Amateurs FC and Barton United FC for several years. The support dates back to the provision of a new modular sports pavilion that cost approximately £350,000 and opened in August 2011. The modular build enabled the clubs to thrive whilst plans for the Barton Housing scheme were developed.

The clubs were aware that the new pitches would not be fenced off or have turnstiles to ensure wider community access to green space. Councillors and officers have met regularly with the clubs since this time to ensure that the clubs have a clear voice to help shape the new developments which include a brand new sports pavilion, 3G artificial turf pitch and also grass pitches that meet Sport England requirements, including a full sized pitch. We have also been supporting them during the works by providing different pitches, storage, equipment and advice.

Headington Amateurs previous pitch also did not meet the Hellenic League standards necessary. Not meeting the relevant standards can mean that clubs can get relegated from the leagues. However this is not an isolated occurrence and currently there are several other clubs in the league that do not meet the requirements.

Further verbal response from Councillor Smith

It is also worth bearing in mind that my understanding is that the artificial pitch is a three-quarter sized pitch, but there is a full size grass pitch.