

Address to Full Council April 23

Residents in Northway want to raise their concerns about the lack of democratic process in relation to development in our area. We are deeply concerned about the proposed loss in green spaces, overdevelopment and flooding and increased traffic.

In our view the City council is ignoring the views of local residents who care deeply about their communities and green spaces. We are angered and frustrated as the council leadership has little regard to national legislation, the Localism Act, where the Government has resolved to hand powers back to local communities

It is the view of the Coalition government that local people and businesses are at the heart of communities and the Government is determined to put them back in control with the choices and chances to shape the future of their local area.

Across Oxford communities are standing up against the undemocratic and unpopular schemes by City council.

- 1) Residents in East Oxford want to keep Temple Cowley pool, 18,000 people signed the petition to Save Temple Cowley Pool.
- 2) Residents in Black Bird Leys want to keep the Minchery Farm allotment site and keep the green where the new BB Leys Pool is proposed to be developed.
- 3) East Oxford residents and campaigners are united in the campaign to keep St Clements car park
- 4) Barton Residents, already under provided in terms of green space provision are very angry and campaign against the loss of their well-loved Barton Nature Park.. they feel ignored
- 5) Highfield Residents Association is campaigning against overdevelopment and traffic problems in their area due to expansion by the universities and hospitals and asked for the implementation of a planning document addressing their concerns as recommended by the Core Strategy Inspector. Their request has been completely ignored.
- 6) Residents in North Oxford are deeply concerned about the impact of the proposed Northern gateway development on their communities and Port Meadow. They are now working on a neighbour plan and hoping to use the Localism Act to get more control over their communities.

I urge the City Council to listen to the residents and work with the community to preserve precious green spaces and other community assets.

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