

Chairman's Update – Oadby Forum, Tuesday 28th February 2017

Oadby Swimming Pool Site, Leicester Road, Oadby

Background

The site of the Oadby Swimming Pool is situated adjacent to Ellis Park. This land is presently owned by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council following a conveyance dated 21st June 1897 made between (1) John Gulson and Others and (2) The Parish Council for the Parish of Oadby

The conveyance states 'the said Rachel Ellis has agreed to give and the Council have agreed to accept the said pieces of land and hereditaments hereafter described to be held by the Council for the benefit of the Inhabitants of the Parish of Oadby and the said Rachel Ellis has requested the said John Gulson James Ellis and Joseph Sturge to convey the same accordingly.'

The conveyance contains one restrictive covenant that the Council or its successors '*will not at any time hereafter permit or suffer the sale of ale wine beer or spirituous liquors on the said closes of land hereby conveyed or any buildings to be erected thereon and that any sale or sales of the said closes of land or any part thereof the purchaser or purchasers shall in his or their conveyance enter into a covenant to observe and perform this covenant.'*

Previous Decisions

At a meeting on 9th December 2014 Councillors resolved that:

In relation to the site of Oadby Pool, Leicester Road, Oadby, it is recommended that the Council resolves to make the land available for affordable housing development purposes in order to promote its housing priorities after it becomes vacant in 2015.

Further to this, at a meeting on 8th December 2015 Councillors resolved that:

A full feasibility assessment of the Oadby Swimming Pool site be undertaken to assess all potential options and, or suggestions, available for the future use of the land and that a report outlining the same be prepared for Members' consideration and resolution.

Public Involvement

The Council received a number of suggestions from members of the public. These are summarised below:

- The site is cleared and set out as parkland
- Multi-purpose space for playing basketball, badminton etc and communal space for parties, youth club shows etc
- Remain a single storey building offering facilities for youth of Oadby, with the space doubling for use by other groups
- Remain an area for recreation

- Serve the community in some way with recreation in mind
- Indoor bowls
- Youth facility including possibly a skate park and subject to availability of funding a 3G pitch
- Community building for Oadby – for both adults and young people
- Indoor sports/leisure such as ten pin bowling, indoor roller skating, table tennis, film shows
- Community hub as part of community ‘campuses’ run by church organisation
- Provision of a health centre
- Place of Worship
- Affordable housing in small development with gardens
- Memorial garden for the Ellis family

Current Position

Taking account of the above resolutions and suggestions, the following options were identified for the future use of the site:

- Redevelop the site as parkland, sports and recreation provision
- Redevelop the site for indoor community use
- Redevelop the site for housing

Councillors considered a detailed report relating to these options, and the full feasibility assessment of the options at a meeting on 31st January 2017 and:

- Noted the consideration of the feasibility of the various options that have been put forward for the future ownership and use of the site as set out in this report;
- Resolved that the most appropriate use(s) for the site is either a wholly residential use or a combined residential and community centre use;
- Delegated to officers the task of evidencing and preparing an appropriate design scheme for the future use of the site for future consideration by this Committee.

A copy of this report can be found on the Borough Council’s website at:
www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk.