

MONDAY 22ND JANUARY 2007

Life Centre views

ONCE again the subject of the Life Centre rears its ugly head.

I agree with Vivien Pengelly. A grant of £25million towards the estimated £54million would have made all the difference. If the Labour council and its Lib Dem partners had any sense they would realise that at a time when a lot of councils are selling off swimming pools and leisure centres to private enterprise, our council wants to commit £54million of public money to a potential white elephant.

The Conservative idea of smaller pools at various points in the city is the best yet: limited funds shared by everybody. A large complex which would eat up more of the Central Park greenspace is ill-thought-out and should be abandoned.

Have Tudor and Karen any idea of the cost to a family without a car if they tried to get from Plympton, Plymstock, Devonport and Stonehouse?

ROBERT BIRDBROOK
Oreston

I FIND it hard to believe the U-turn the Conservatives have taken. Their decision brings into doubt the very future of Plymouth. If the council is unwilling to invest in improved facilities, what hope do we have of attracting new investment and much-needed jobs?

What we need from our councillors is a can-do attitude, not a can-not.

Dr P STRANGE
Plymouth

TUDOR EVANS should outline clearly what he visualises a Life Centre to be. He describes it as being a sports centre but is then reported as being committed to a huge leisure complex. What Plymouth needs is a modernised sports centre, one that includes an Olympic-sized pool, to cater for all sports, with the addition of a building to be used to teach/practise music.

The money saved, by not including unnecessary additions such as cinemas etc, could be used to build the extra pools Plymouth needs and to modernise other sports facilities in Plymouth.

Let the people of Plymouth decide.

MAUREEN CANN
West Park

ONLY A few months ago there was speculation that Plymouth lost the lottery bid because of a lack of cross-party support. Now the Conservatives confirm that they do not support the Life Centre. The Tories should be ashamed of themselves for costing the city much-needed facilities.

Mrs RUTH CHURCH
Peverell

HOW much money has the Conservative turn-around cost? Rob Preece points out that any departure from the Life Centre plan will undo many hours of officer work. Well, time means money, which in turn means I have to pay more council tax. And all for what? Second-rate facilities that will probably need replacing the moment they get built. Sounds like a bad deal to me.

MARTYN KIANCHEHR
Plymouth

IT'S not often I agree with Cllr Tudor Evans, but his comment that the Conservative's plans are "second-best, second-rate" is spot-on. It just shows that Vivien Pengelly doesn't use the facilities at Central Park. The changing facilities and pool are a deterrent to anyone wanting to swim. Why am I not surprised to hear she doesn't think we need an Olympic-sized pool? She has made it quite clear that all she cares about is getting a pool for Plymstock.

MARK WOODMAN
Laira

DON'T they realise this political immaturity and infighting actually turns people off and makes it less likely that people will make the effort to vote? The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats need to stop playing party politics and start acting in the best interest of the people of Plymouth.

LOIS STILLMAN
Plymouth

VIVIEN Pengelly's comments show what a lack of ambition the Conservative Party has for Plymouth. Instead of embracing the vision of world-class sporting and leisure facilities, they have opted for a patch-and-mend policy. If the Conservatives get into power in May, what sort of legacy are they going to leave?

D SMITH
Barne Barton