

Questions from Citizens

PQ1

Question to be asked on behalf DC of the Leader of the Council at the meeting of the City Council to be held on 26 April 2021

The decision to close John Carroll Leisure Centre is a major blow to the public health needs of local residents in Radford and surrounding areas. Was the Director of Public Health and the associated public health department at Nottingham City Council involved in the decision-making process and if not why not; and were the Area and Neighbourhood Officers adequately consulted regarding the likely negative impacts of this proposal in terms of community cohesion and mental and physical wellbeing? Nottingham City's Health and Wellbeing Board published a declaration in 2018 along with Public Health England and the UK Health Forum regarding Physical Activity and Nutrition. Item 3.7 of the declaration acknowledges "the physical, social and cultural environment in which we live plays an important role in individuals' physical activity levels and has the power to encourage or discourage sedentary lifestyles." Has Nottingham City Council abandoned this positive joint health promotion declaration agreed with the NHS? Furthermore, in the City Council's own recently published 'Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy 2020 – 2023' the four priority areas listed under section 3 for 'Inclusive and Accessible Services' are as follows:

1. Prevention: promoting healthy lifestyles and intervening early when people's wellbeing is at risk to avoid crisis and loss of independence
2. Community Connections: ensuring citizens can connect to the resources and support in their local neighbourhoods ensuring no-one is socially isolated and lonely
3. Independent Lives: supporting personal and community resilience, strengths and resources, reducing dependence on council funded support where possible
4. Choice and Control: seeing the citizen in the driving seat, shaping solutions around the outcomes that matter for individuals.

How will the closure of John Carroll Leisure Centre contribute to this important citywide strategy?

PQ2

Question to be asked on behalf DT of the Leader of the Council at the meeting of the City Council to be held on 26 April 2021

According to the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation Radford is one of the most deprived places in the UK. Also, using census data to analyse the composition of areas within a 1km radius of each leisure centre in Nottingham we found that John Carroll has the largest number of people in 'bad health' or 'very bad health', as well as the largest number of people (including those aged over 65) who suffer from a condition that limits their ability to carry out their daily activities, and the largest number of single households with a lone pensioner. Furthermore, it has one of the most diverse groups within its catchment area, including the largest number of black

people and second largest number of Indians and Pakistanis within 1km. Given this data if the Council proceeds to close John Carroll Leisure Centre then ethnic minorities will disproportionately suffer; pensioners who use the centre for social interaction will suffer; people who are already too ill to carry out their daily activities - never mind walk an extra 20 minutes to Djanogly as this Council suggests - will suffer. Given these facts, it seems astonishing that Nottingham City Council would close a facility that plays such a direct role in solving these very problems. The Council has responsibility for Public Health and as such should be ensuring that a facility such as John Carroll Leisure Centre is adequately funded and supported, especially as one of the only Council-run remaining sports, leisure and community facilities in the area. Can the decision to close John Carroll Leisure Centre be rescinded with a view to re-investing in the facility and giving the Centre a much-needed makeover with new signage, upgraded facilities and improved marketing?

PQ3

Question to be asked on behalf SD of the Leader of the Council at the meeting of the City Council to be held on 26 April 2021

On 12 February 2021, a coalition of athletes, celebrities and health bodies wrote to the prime minister asking for the "fullest possible support" to help sports and exercise facilities survive the pandemic. The letter said they were "deeply concerned" that thousands of shut pools, gyms and leisure centres were at risk of permanent closure. Referring to a "deep drop in activity across all ages and backgrounds", the group said "facilities...are a cradle for developing our national sporting heroes. The threat of losing these places has brought us together as a collective voice, to hope that everything is done to ensure these essential facilities are available to support our recovery, and enhance the health of the nation." John Carroll has been a factory for Nottingham's professional and elite athletes. Its attendees have gained scholarships, won medals, and represented our city and country at the very highest level. To close this facility will deny many aspiring local athletes their chance to fulfil their full potential, as well as deprive other residents the opportunity to maintain their health and emotional wellbeing. Can this decision be put on hold pending a proper consultation with Public Health, Community and Leisure Management departments?

PQ4

Question to be asked on behalf DD of the Leader of the Council at the meeting of the City Council to be held on 26 April 2021

In 2019 the Council Plan promised to protect leisure centres from any cuts. Two years later this Council is breaking its promises to local people. In relation to the planned closure of John Carroll Leisure Centre recently endorsed by the Council, can the Portfolio Holder please explain and justify this blatant policy reversal?

PQ5

Question to be asked on behalf JM of the Leader of the Council at the meeting of the City Council to be held on 26 April 2021

John Carroll is far more than a leisure centre - it sits at the very centre of Radford and is the beating heart of Radford and the surrounding community. However, it is obvious that over the years, Nottingham City Council has stripped away many of the community facilities previously available to residents, notably John Carroll Community Centre, the Tennyson Hall, the Tennyson Play Centre, the Shiefton Centre, and the Radford Unity Complex. The planned closure of John Carroll Leisure Centre will compound the shortage of facilities and contribute to an increased sense of helplessness and social isolation amongst the local community and probably lead to an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour. Can the Council undertake a genuine equality impact assessment taking into account the negative impacts of this decision on the local area especially in relation to promoting community cohesion?
