



Labour Pans Paulsgrove Pool Plan

Penny Mordaunt launches campaign to get pool project moving despite Labour voting against funding

Local residents are outraged that, whilst Paulsgrove's Labour MP has been running a publicity campaign to build a swimming pool locally, when an opportunity to kick start the project arose, Labour voted against it.

Labour and the Lib Dems voted against the Conservative budget to include funds to draw up plans and a feasibility study for the community pool, which would have helped in getting funds to build it.

On hearing the news, Conservative Parliamentary spokesman Penny Mordaunt launched a campaign to get our Labour MP and Councillors to reverse their decision to block funding for the study.

Penny said; "Government wastes huge sums of money on advertising to get people to lead healthier lives. I'd argue they should spend that money on good community and sports facilities. I have written to our Labour MP to get her to reverse her policy on stopping this funding for Paulsgrove and to ask her to honour Labour's promise of free swimming for under 16s, as so far, the funding has not been forthcoming."



Shadow Council Leader, Steve Wemyss

"It is a great shame Labour and the Liberals did not support us. To get any kind of funding for a pool we would need to show a carefully thought-out plan for how the pool would be sustainable, and the numbers of people who could benefit from it. Now we will be at a disadvantage when competing against other cities."



Paulsgrove Cllr Mike Blake

"If we are to get a pool we need to be pragmatic and take every opportunity that comes our way. The Government's School building fund (BSF) is not accessible for projects which do not already have a pool, and the country is completely broke. So putting all our eggs in that one basket, and voting against other funding is extremely foolish."



Local campaigner Di Pearsall

"Labour must think we are stupid not to notice them saying one thing and then blatantly doing another. Paulsgrove has been let down again."



Penny Mordaunt is calling for the following to be done to get north Portsmouth better community facilities-

- ◆ Our local Labour and Lib Dem politicians must revise their decision to stop funds for a plan for a pool in Paulsgrove to be drawn up and support the Conservative budget.
- ◆ The insurance money from the Wymering Community Centre fire has been spent on improvements elsewhere. This leaves the Paulsgrove/Wymering area without a community facility. The Council should research what the unmet need is for these communities, and the potential savings on health improvement and crime reduction if there was an extra facility.
- ◆ **The Government must honour its promise of funding free swimming for under 16s.**
- ◆ The Government must stop removing money from Portsmouth City Council. Local taxes should be spent locally and not by Whitehall. Labour has removed millions of pounds of funding from Portsmouth over the last 11 years and redistributed it to Labour areas in the north. If it had not done this, Portsmouth would be in a much better position to provide decent community facilities.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you support all or any of this then let us know. The more we can show that people care about this and are annoyed at Labour's decision, the better the chance we have of changing it. If you have any skills or experience, which could help in securing a feasibility study for the pool project, please get in touch with us.