

The WEST PARK CHRONICLE

The Community Newspaper for West Park

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www.westparkresidents.org.uk

The West Park Centre May be Sold Off - Do We Care?

West Park Centre has been placed on the Council's 'Asset Disposal Register', which means that the Council intends to dispose of it. At present we're not sure what would be sold.



A disquieting aspect is that the package would be more attractive to prospective developers if it included the nice green space surrounding the Centre. This means we need to assume that West Park Fields are at risk as well.



Apparently the Centre is likely to continue functioning until the Northern ballet Theatre relocates to its new development at Quarry Hill about two years hence, but we need to be aware that the Centre could be sold at any time between now and 2011.

Restrictive covenants apply to both the Centre and the Fields, but we don't know if these have figured in discussions so far. If covenants are breached for the Centre, then presumably it would make it easier to ignore the ones for the rest of the West Park Fields.

WPRA Point of View

Instead of disposing of West Park Centre, the Council should recognise its importance to the city and take steps to enhance its long-term role. As a first step it should be removed from the asset disposal list.



To Be Discussed at INWA Committee Meeting, 13-5-08

A deputation representing Spen Hill Residents Association, Moor Grange Action Group, STEP (Supporting The Elderly People), The West Park Fields Group and West Park Residents Association will speak at a meeting of Leeds City Council's *Inner North West Area Committee* on **November 13th at 7 pm at the South Parade Baptist church.**

The aim is to try to convince the twelve councillors to have West Park Centre removed from the Asset Disposal Register.

Representatives of the five groups have already met to discuss this issue. All are agreed that the centre should not simply be placed on a 'for sale' list as if it was an item in a car boot sale, but that it's role in the community should be recognised and enhanced.

How Do You Feel About It?

If you have views on this issue you can make them known by:

- Attending the Inner North West Area Committee on the 13th November – there is an opportunity for members of the public to make their views known. Even just your presence will give the Committee an idea of the strength of opinion.



- And/or by contacting your local councillor, or any of the councillors for Inner North West Leeds (see email addresses below).

If you agree with the WPRA view then it would be very helpful if you were to write to some or all of the councillors who are on the Inner North West Area Committee.

Names and email addresses are in the box but if you need postal addresses or phone numbers they're easily available from the Leeds City Council's website at <http://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/mgFindCouncillor.asp>.

The Impact of Losing the Centre

Here are some relevant points for possible rehashing into your own words.

- Loss of the West Park Centre would rob Leeds of a unique resource. Currently it supports and helps develop the city's musical reputation. What makes it so popular among those who use it is that the Centre has the largest rehearsal hall in Leeds, apart from the Town hall, and the facilities are unique in terms of acoustic quality and size.



- West Park Centre is a valuable local amenity for the Inner North West local community, which is otherwise poorly served in terms of community resources. It is capable of serving the local Inner North West communities to a much greater extent than has so far happened. All it needs is the will and vision to push this forward.

- Sale and subsequent commercial development of the West Park Centre would af-

fect West Park fields and probably result in serious reduction in green environment for North West Leeds. The Council has not considered the effect any sale of the Centre would have on the potential loss of surrounding fields.

- The sale is being proposed without any consultation with the many organisations which rely on the West Park facilities. No detailed consideration has been given to the potential for developing the arts, youth and recreational opportunities of the Centre.

- The West Park Centre represents a city-wide community centre with facilities unique in Leeds. It serves the city to an extent unmatched by other community centres. It is the only major arts centre of its kind in the city.

Councillors on the INWA Committee

James Monaghan (Chair, Headingley, Lib Dem):
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