

Summertown and St Margaret's Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 – Regulation 16 Representation Form

Respondent from Oxford, UK

Part B - DETAILS OF YOUR COMMENT

To which part of the document does your representation relate?

Page 16ff		Section		Policy Alexandra Park	
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Do you support, oppose, or wish to comment in this part of the Plan? (Please tick one answer)

Support Support with Modifications Oppose Have Comments

Please give details of your reasons for support/ opposition, or make comments here:

I have just returned from playing tennis on a Sunday morning at Alexandra Park and I want to communicate how many people were having fun and getting exercise in the area. For most of the morning all but one of the grass courts were in use and not only by adult tennis players. There were family groups including children and teenagers on several courts having fun, including on one court a little lad who could not have been more than 5 having a lesson from his father. There was slightly more serious tennis going on on some of the hard courts including a group lesson again involving children. The children's play area was also being intensively used. There were also people walking their dogs through the area and around the courts. Surely, it's a good thing if park areas offer activities for adults and children and not just rather sad looking unkempt grass. I agree that the area that is now devoted to grass (and litter) could be improved with some additional benches, shrubs and plants but I am not convinced that even if some of the car parking was added that the area could be made into a park with paths etc as described in the document. It is just too small. I want to draw attention to how well used the basketball area, children's park and tennis courts are and emphasize their value in providing spaces where adults and children can get exercise and DO things. Given our national problems with obesity we should be encouraging exercise. Maybe what we should consider adding is a 5 aside football pitch. After all there is lots of lovely space around Summertown and St Margaret's for walkers (e.g. Port Meadow, public footpaths into the University Parks, Cherwell Drive and public footpaths to The Victoria Arms).

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

What improvements or modifications would you suggest?

Improvements to existing grassed area such as adding more seating and putting in shrubs but I think the tennis courts don't 'dominate' the area in the negative sense implied in the document. They offer opportunities to play, exercise and have fun. Some people just stop to watch the tennis!

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

If you have any additional representations feel free to include additional pages. Please make sure any additional pages are clearly labelled/ addressed or attached.