



## Save Temple Newsam Golf Course

Leeds City Council are proposing to redevelop Temple Newsam Golf Course into a Family Cycling Centre and other attractions.

Temple Newsam Golf Club is not opposed to most elements of the Council's proposal (on the proviso **golf can be integrated within the new facilities**) and believe a multifaceted community sporting hub could be the future for municipal golf but we should not have to sacrifice one for the other.

However, their proposal is factually incorrect and misleading, for example:

**1. There is a national decline in the number of people playing golf.**

**INACCURATE** *England Golf says there has been a decline in golf club membership over the last few years which we believe is now stabilising, but **pay and play golf has continued to grow in popularity**. This is reflected in LCC's own figures which clearly show that **since 2016 the number of people playing golf at Temple Newsam has risen by 50%** with pay and play income **up by 19%**. This is an **increase in people playing golf at Temple Newsam, not a decline**.*

**2. Keeping the golf course open requires a subsidy of £220,000 per annum from LCC.**

**SPIN** *The subsidy required from LCC will be £310,000 pa without the income from golf.*

**3. Temple Newsam golf course costs £377,000 per year to maintain.**

**REALLY?** *Their figure is over £100,000 per year more than any of the top private golf courses in Leeds, which are in far better condition – why? When challenged **LCC conceded this amount is based on estimates and apportionment and therefore could be overstated**.*

**4. Closure of the golf course and redevelopment will provide a £60,000 per annum "contribution to the medium term financial plan".**

**SPIN** *This infers it will turn a £220,000 per annum loss into a £60,000 per annum profit but the reality is **LCC will borrow £1m (plus interest) to lose £160,000 per year**.*

We have attempted to convince Ward Councillors that the East Leeds community can have both but they are unwilling to change their stance on the matter and intend to force this reckless financial plan through with a consultation survey that is heavily biased against golf and grossly unfair.

The questions the consultation survey should be asking are:

- A. Do you want to close the golf course at Temple Newsam in favour of a development that will cost the council tax payer of Leeds a further £90,000 per year and increase the City's debt by £1m?
- B. Would you support a redevelopment which provides a Family Sports Hub that encompassed golf, cycling and a café (with bar facilities)?

**Please support us in keeping the golf course open!**