

Support the proposal for a **New Florence Park Centre** for Children & Families

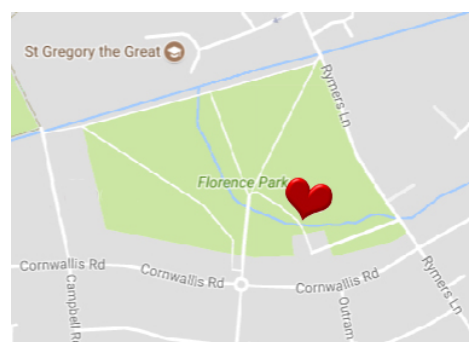
Work Play Eat Make Learn

- New nursery providing childcare with a focus on play, & connection with nature and the outdoors
- Free drop-in sessions, including Stay and Play, and parenting classes
- Connections for young families, support for children with disabilities, and holiday childcare
- Community café, offering fresh, healthy food and a welcoming space for all
- Regular workshops and training programmes
- Meeting rooms and flexible workspaces for hire
- Local jobs and volunteering opportunities
- Community-owned initiative – any profits are ploughed back into sustaining the Centre

We're getting there, but we're not there yet ...

Since April 2016, a local group has been working hard to help develop this exciting initiative, in consultation with residents, community groups, schools, councillors and partners.

Aspire Oxford, an award-winning charity and social enterprise, is spearheading the bid for this. The aim is to enable the local community to take on ownership and management of the building at the heart of Florence Park - and at the heart of our local community. And so far, we have received over 1,500 signatures on a local petition to keep the Centre as a community asset and open-access for all, and many pledges of relevant skills and time. But ...



... bids are not easy, and we have to jump many hurdles. Right now, we have a very important hurdle coming up. After several bidding rounds, the Council will now be deciding between our community-based initiative and a bid from a private business. We have just submitted our final bid. And **NOW**

We urgently need you to write to the key decision makers!

Here's what you need to do:

1. **By Wednesday 30 August** - Please write one email to Councillor Mark Gray (Lead Cabinet Member for Local Communities), copying to Steve Harrod (Lead Cabinet member for Children And Family Services), and senior officers involved in looking at our detailed bid papers, and making their recommendations to the Council Cabinet (who make the final decision). Please write your email, using our briefing as a guide.
2. **By Monday 11 September** - Please write individual emails (same text each time), to each of the other Cabinet members using the same briefing guide. We are not sure what information they will receive from the recommending group. It is therefore crucial that we, the supporters, put forward our key points by communicating directly with Cabinet members. (If you didn't manage to do step 1, please include Mark Gray and Steve Harrod.)

Finally ...

The official decision will be made at the public, full Cabinet meeting, on 19 September, from 2pm. We would value your support on that day as well, so please hold this date.



Join the email list for updates:

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Learn more at the website:

<http://florenceparkoasiscentre.weebly.com>