

# Games left marsh in a 'tragic mess'

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CAMPAIGNERS have accused Olympic organisers of leaving a popular green space in a mess, despite promising to restore the site following its use as a temporary training venue.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) pledged to return Leyton Marsh to its original condition after they built a basketball sports hall there over the summer.

Waltham Forest Council granted planning permission on the basis that the land would be back in "pristine condition" by October 15 - a deadline the ODA failed to meet amid claims that efforts had been hampered by heavy rain.

The organisation finally packed up and left Leyton Marsh earlier this month, but campaigners are horrified that replacement turf has failed to grow into the land properly and that parts now get waterlogged whenever it rains.

Green Party London Assembly Member Jenny Jones said she was "shocked" at the state of the marsh when she visited the site with campaigners last week.

She said: "There are clearly many broken promises about the restoration of the original space. I wrote to the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) and to the ODA to establish why the marsh has not been restored as promised."

Save Leyton Marsh campaigner Katy Andrews added: "It's a tragic mess. The



**Leyton Marsh campaigners are angry at the state in which the green space has been left**

"water is not draining away as it should and it comes up to your ankles.

"It's not like a marsh should be, it's like walking in a paddling pool. The water is just sitting there."

A spokesman for the ODA said: "We have completed the reinstatement works in accordance with the specifications agreed with LVRPA and Waltham Forest Council.

"Land on Porter's Field (Leyton Marsh) used for the temporary basketball venue has now been handed back to LVRPA and an ongoing programme of maintenance has been agreed.

"The reinstatement plan was drafted with residents' input and they have been kept informed through regular site meetings and ongoing correspondence."

## Online poll chooses new site for firm

A BUSINESS has opened a new branch in Leytonstone after staff and customers chose the location in an online poll.

The Hireman, which supplies construction equipment, asked people to pick where they wanted the chain to open a new outlet and 43 per cent voted for Waltham Forest over Croydon, Dartford and Surbiton.

Managing director Neil Graham said: "We have a great relationship with our staff and customers and wanted to involve them in this important decision.

"We were delighted with the response we received and are now excited to be opening our new depot and creating local job opportunities, with the benefits of training and career development, in this busy area of London."

The firm expects that the new branch in Joseph Ray Road will create up to eight new jobs in the next few years.

The company said more than 300 people had voted in the online poll.

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