

Council rejects land sale

OAKLEIGH MONASH LEADER

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MONASH Council has knocked back a land sale that could have raised more than \$200,000 for the Oakleigh pool redevelopment.

Councillors refused an application to sell a block of land in Oakleigh's Golf Links Ave at the April 24 meeting, on the grounds that it was open space and a public amenity.

The 460sq m vacant block, which cannot be sold or developed in isolation, has been valued by council at \$210,000.

Leader

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Developer Theo Axarlis asked the council if he could buy the land and consolidate it with his own

Golf Links Ave property next door. Six councillors voted against the sale and four councillors were in favour.

But Cr Geoff Lake said the site, which has no trees, plants or amenities, should be sold as it was "an error to think of it as public space".

Cr Lake said the council had made a mistake in missing an opportunity to sell the land and make \$210,000 to help fund the Oakleigh pool.

Cr Gerry Kottek said the land should be kept as open space to

encourage children to play outside.

Cr Denise McGill said the block should be sold as there was already ample public open space along the northern side of Schoolhall St.

Mr Axarlis described the land as a "forgotten parcel" and said the council should allocate money to develop the site into a park - or sell it to him.

Mayor Tom Morrissey said the council had not planned for landscaping work on the land, but as the block was to be retained this position would be "reviewed".