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community asset transfer NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the third issue of our CAT newsletter, bringing you up to date with all of the latest news from the CAT team at East Ayrshire Council and our local communities.

So far, the team has had 34 applications approved by Cabinet, 15 of which have now completed their transfers.

Completed Transfers	Approved by Cabinet
Barrhill Community Centre – Cumnock Amateur Musical Production Society (CAMPS)	Bellfield Pitch and Pavilion – Bellfield Youth Football Club
Barmill MUGA – Galston Development Trust	Bonnyton Community Centre – Bonnyton Community Association
Caprington Golf Club Buildings – Caprington Community Golf Club	Crookedholm Pitch and Pavilion – Crookedholm Amateurs
Crookedholm Community Centre – Sports Karate Sakai	Dalmellington Community Centre – Dalmellington Community Association
Dalmellington Library – East Ayrshire Carers	Gatehead Community Centre – The Light and Life Church Missions
Dean Park Pitches – Dean Thistle	Hurlford Community Centre – Hurlford Community Association
Former Criminal Justice Building, Cumnock – East Ayrshire Carers	Hurlford Housing Office – Hurlford and Crookedholm Playgroup
Former Cumnock Nursery – yipworld	Jamieson Park Pitch and Pavilion, Newmilns – Irvine Valley Community Church
Land at Quarryknowe, Auchinleck – Auchinleck Community Development Initiative	John Fulton Hall, Fenwick – Ayrshire Communities Enterprise
Lindsay Park Pitch and Pavilion, Crosshouse – Crosshouse Boys Club	Land at Crossroads – Crossroads Community Hub
Millmannoch Pitch and Pavilion, Drongan – Drongan United	Land at Gateside Road, Galston – Gateside Tenants and Residents Association
Park Terrace Pitch and Pavilion, Lugar – Glenmuir Thistle	Land at Lugton Road, Dunlop – The Wee Gardens Project
Riverside Pitch and Pavilion, Catrine – Catrine Amateurs	Netherthird Community Centre – Netherthird Initiative for Community Empowerment (NICE)
Stair Community Centre – Stair Community Association	Newlands Drive Pitch and Pavilion – Craigie Amateurs Football Club
Units 3&4 Dalmellington Area Centre – Doon Valley Amateur Boxing Club	Onthank Community Centre – WDi40
	Site of Ochiltree Community Centre – Ochiltree Community Hub
	Site of Ochiltree Library – Ochiltree Community Hub
	Townholm (area of ground) – Bonnyton Thistle
	Western Road Pitch and Pavilion, Galston – Galston Youth Football Club



Communities making success of asset transfers

Caprington Golf Club buildings, Dean Park pitches, Barrhill Community Centre and units at Dalmellington Area Centre are just part of the success stories that have emerged from the Council's CAT process.



Since Dean Thistle took over Dean Park pitches, they have been awarded the Scottish Football Quality Mark at Community Level, which will enable them to involve the wider community in their projects. Dean Thistle have already set up football partnerships with New Farm Loch Amateurs and Silverwood School, and are looking at working with disabled groups as well as starting an over 35s team in the summer. This year they will also be upgrading the pavilion, car park area and carrying out some pitch improvements.

Further south, Doon Valley Amateur Boxing Club took on a ten year lease of units in Dalmellington Area Centre last year.

Sam Mullen of the club said:

"The transition of the units has allowed me to provide a facility which is beneficial to a local community where unemployment is prevalent. Our boxing facilities and gym currently operate on a daily basis providing personal training, training for amateur and professional boxers and a gym for public use."

The club's future plans include working with local schools and looking into government funding which would allow fitness classes to run for members of the public.

Stair Community Association is also delighted with the successful purchase of Stair Community Centre in April 2015 from East Ayrshire Council through the CAT scheme. The Association would like to thank its two Community Workers, Lyn Johnstone and Margo Crolley from the Vibrant Communities team who worked tirelessly to advise and support the Association during the CAT process. Thanks also go to everyone who contributed to the appeal fund, to centre users and the local and wider community who made the purchase possible.


To mark this momentous achievement, the Association hosted a cheese and wine evening at the Centre last September. The community got the chance to contribute to the consultation on future improvements and to share their ideas for the centre. Issues including toilet facilities, heating,

the kitchen, room layouts, maintenance, disabled access and other projects were all discussed. Offers of help were also gratefully received. The evening concluded with a vote of thanks for the Chairperson Gordon Sloane, and a toast to everyone who has helped to ensure the centre's future in the community.

At Barrmill MUGA, David Richmond from Galston Development Trust has informed the CAT team that the MUGA is now open for business and is being well used.

And at Lindsay Park Pitch and Pavilion, Lynn Keast from Crosshouse Boys Club reports that the club is doing well with 180 children playing football every week. The club has also just completed its next stage in the Quality Mark, while local schools are making good use of the park for football as well as sports days and fun days.





Water Exemption Scheme

If you're a charity registered with the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) or a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) you can apply for exemption from your water, waste water and drainage charges.

The Scottish Government Water and Sewerage Charges Exemption Scheme began in April 2015 and can help charities with the cost of their water and waste water bills.

Support is available to charities registered with OSCR and CASCs that have a gross annual income below £300,000. OSCR-registered charities and CASCs will not be eligible for exemption if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- a permanent alcohol licence is held, other than an occasional permission under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 or its predecessors
- the premises is a charity shop or other premises used for the purpose of retailing new or second hand merchandise
- the premises operates as a café which is open to the public and operated on a regular basis to generate income
- the organisation is a local authority or an Arms-Length External Organisation (ALEO)

An online application process is in place and organisations need to apply to be in the scheme each year. Although any leases/purchases have to be in place to apply, any exemption will be backdated to when the lease commenced.

<http://www.business-stream.co.uk/water-rates-charges/water-charge-exemption-scheme>

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT: A NEW WAY FORWARD

The Community Investment Team within Vibrant Communities can help community groups and organisations not only to think about funding, but to consider alternative finance approaches to support their work.

A variety of exciting and innovative options are available for investing in your community, to encourage wider participation and involvement to make your community a better place to live.

The team offers a range of information and training sessions for groups, including regular updates on grant funding; meetings to discuss funding options for projects; training; and information and advice on new, innovative approaches to community investment.

If you know of any group or organisation that may be interested in support, please ask them to contact:

Community Investment Team
Neil McKenna, Margaret McBain
and Eddie Bulik

Tel: 01563 578104

Email: vibrantcommunities@east-ayrshire.gov.uk



Community Based Solutions

Community based solutions and investments worth £3,958,000 have been approved in New Cumnock, Dalrymple, Drongan, Kilmaurs, Mauchline, Patna and Rankinston, and more are emerging, some of which are within the context of Community Led Action Plans.

New Cumnock

The Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust has agreed to acquire New Cumnock Town Hall from the Council to redevelop it for community use and work has already started onsite.

Glenafton Community Development Group is progressing a project to develop a community sports hub which would include new changing rooms, a function suite and an artificial pitch.

The site of the library, games hall and community centre will be transformed into a play area, community garden, square, heritage centre, cafe and car parking to meet the aspirations of the Community Led Action Plan. The heated open air swimming pool will also undergo refurbishment.

The Council has approved investment of £614,000 to support these projects.

Dalrymple

The investment of £2.1m in Dalrymple Primary School provides a significant opportunity to rationalise the accommodation within the existing building, providing enhanced accommodation for both Early Years' education and the community.

The new build extension frees up space within the school for use as a community area which would include a separate entrance, meeting/activity area and access to existing school facilities such as the gym/dining halls outwith school hours. Work is expected to be complete by autumn 2016.

Drongan

Additional Early Years' accommodation was needed within Drongan Primary School and this provided an opportunity to relocate existing local community facilities, including the

library, into accommodation within the school community wing. A total investment of £530,000 was agreed and work is now under way. The community facilities are expected to be available in the spring of 2016.

Kilmaurs

Extensive discussions and engagement about the sustainable future of Kilmaurs facilities and solutions took place with the local community, which led to a CAT application from the Community Association. They wish to relocate lets from the community centre into a re-developed library building. Investment of £154,000 has been agreed to allow work to go ahead in the library building and a detailed CAT application is expected shortly from the Community Association.

Mauchline

The community based solution for Mauchline will involve transferring the usage of the community centre to a refurbished library/local office building, with the new facility being CAT transferred to a newly formed community group.

The Council's Cabinet has agreed a £355,000 investment for work to go ahead and a detailed CAT application is expected shortly.

The games hall will continue to be run by East Ayrshire Leisure Trust for the next three years until the



Plans for New Cumnock

Community Led Action Plan Steering Group completes the asset transfer of Beechgrove Park Pitch and Pavilion. The group also hopes to build a new sports facility.

Patna

The library and community centre within the Patna campus are being retained by East Ayrshire Leisure Trust with the community centre continuing to be managed by the Community Association. Services delivered from the Day Centre will transfer to the community centre. The proposed investment for this proposal is £135,000.

Rankinston

The local community and Health and Social Care Partnership have been having extensive discussions about creating a sustainable future solution. The Partnership has advised that it's willing to relocate its adjoining Primary Care GP Practice within the community centre.

Plans are being developed to reconfigure the centre so that it can be used by the local community with shared use by Primary Care Services. Once reconfigured, the Community Association would manage the facility through a CAT management agreement. It's estimated that the cost for this would be £140,000 which will be jointly funded by the Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership – Primary Care Services.

FINANCIAL TRAINING

The Community Investment Team along with the CAT Team delivered an 'Introduction to Bookkeeping' session for groups undertaking a Community Asset Transfer. They worked through the responsibilities of treasurers and basic book keeping, looking at some of the terminology treasurers might come across and the benefit of keeping regular financial records.

Quotes from those who took part were very positive:

"Very useful, clear information, will use spreadsheets etc. given out, thank you."

"Helpful course for beginners."

"Very informative, nice laid back atmosphere."

If your group or organisation would be interested in any support, please contact the Community Investment Team – Neil McKenna, Margaret MacBain and Eddie Bulik - on 01563 578104 or email vibrantcommunities@east-ayrshire.gov.uk



Good Practice

Scottish Government's Community Empowerment Unit

The CAT team has recently given feedback on the CAT process to the Scottish Government's Community Empowerment Unit. This will help to inform the Regulations and Guidance that will be published to support the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, which will come into force in September 2016.

Holyrood Policy Community Assets

Katie Kelly and Angela Graham from the CAT team were invited to speak at the Holyrood Policy Community Assets Event in January. Those who attended the event got to explore the latest policy developments, innovation, good practice and options for the future in the asset transfer process.

Katie and Angela gave a presentation on East Ayrshire Council's experiences to date. Other speakers at the event were from Improvement Services, Community Ownership Support, Community Empowerment Team (Scottish Government), Big Lottery Fund Scotland, The Craggs, Tayport Community Trust, Scottish Futures Trust and PAS.

Courses for CAT applications

If you'd like ideas for business or financial training, to brush up on existing skills or to make the Community Asset Transfer Process easier for your group/organisation, then why not try some online learning courses?

Although charges apply to some courses, you may be able to apply for an SDS Individual Learning Account. This will give you £200 towards the cost of training/learning. To check if you are eligible, go to: <http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/content/ila-scotland-funding-for-you>

Here are a few examples of some courses available from Learndirect:

Understanding Accounts

This course will teach you how to read and analyse accounts - including balance sheets, profit and loss accounts and cash flow statements - so you can make more confident decisions.

Social Media for Dummies

Learn how to build social media into your business planning, and measure the return on your investment. The course also covers working with Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube and you will discover how to share the right content with the right etiquette to attract followers and build your social authority.

Marketing

You'll get to understand the importance of four key elements - product, price, place and promotion - in order to develop an effective marketing strategy and promote your business. You'll also learn how to find out more about customers, and understand how to evaluate your business using SWOT analysis.

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

Would you like to learn about your responsibilities towards safeguarding vulnerable individuals? This course is essential Level 1 Safeguarding Training if you work in the health, care, education and early years' sectors as well as those voluntary and corporate organisations who work directly with children and adults at risk.



VIBRANT COMMUNITIES SUPPORT

Vibrant Communities' Community Workers and Sports Development Officers can provide support and advice to groups/clubs involved in Community Asset Transfer.

They will be able to provide assistance with:

- initial evaluation of the sustainability of the project
- a needs/SWOT analysis
- a Development Plan to ensure the club has a focused document on how to achieve their goals
- business planning and financial projections
- attaining the external funding required for the Community Asset Transfer

For further information contact:

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Tel: 01563 578148 or

Sports Development Office, Greenholm Street, Kilmarnock
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