

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

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**COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER OF COMMON GOOD LAND**

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**PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this consultation is to ascertain public views and seek representations on a proposal to dispose of property held on the Council's common good account.

**BACKGROUND**

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

2. Community Asset Transfer involves the transfer of responsibility for an asset from the Council to a community organisation. This can be done through a management agreement, short or long-term lease or through the transfer of outright ownership.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015

3. **Campbell Area Tenants and Residents Association (CATRA)** have submitted a Community Asset Transfer application, in relation to ground situated within Greenside Park, Newmilns. As Greenside Park is held on the Council's common good account; the provisions of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 must be adhered to. The Act places a statutory duty on local authorities to publish details of any proposed disposal or change of use of common good property and conduct a consultation inviting representations before deciding to dispose of or change the use of land or property.

CAMPELL AREA TENANTS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

4. Established in 2008, **Campbell Area Tenants and Residents Association**, herein referred to as **CATRA**, is a **Registered Tenants Organisation**, registered and funded by East Ayrshire Council as per the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001. The organisation's overall aim is to safeguard and promote the interests of residents in the area on matters concerning housing, the repair, maintenance, condition and standard of properties, the environment, and the social and community life of the area.
5. Within the organisation's remit, is a focus on collaborating with the wider community to increase and improve community activities and facilities for everyone its area of operation. Since its inception CATRA has achieved this

by working in partnership with East Ayrshire Council's Housing Service and other departments, East Ayrshire Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations, the Tenants Information Service (TIS), Police Scotland and other Newmilns community and voluntary organisations, with successfully having developed seasonal activities and gifts to local children and pensioners, gala day stalls, fun social activities and improving their community by reducing antisocial behaviour and negotiating local housing and area improvements. CATRA has improved the wider environment by installing and taking responsibility for hanging baskets and planters and the community asset transfer of an open space from East Ayrshire Council, now known as the Kathy Brown, MBE Memorial Garden. The work of CATRA makes an effective contribution to the Regeneration of the Royal Burgh of Newmilns.

#### GREENSIDE PARK, NEWMILNS

6. Situated in the Newmilns area, Greenside Park is an open space area of parkland bequeathed to the community of Newmilns for recreational purposes. The park is used by local people and visitors alike for games, exercise, and picnics. The park has some traditional playpark equipment, mainly suited to the needs of younger children.

#### **PROJECT PROPOSALS**

##### PLAY EQUIPMENT

7. The desired outcome of this consultation is to ascertain public views and seek representations on a proposal to agree use of areas of land within the Greenside Park for the provision of interactive play. The installation of innovative and interactive play equipment will be funded by CATRA via successful grant funding applications to the Renewable Energy Fund: Whitelees Wind Farm, the National Lottery and CATRA's own fund-raising activities.
8. The completion of this project will see the installation of interactive play equipment within close proximity to the current play area. CATRA in partnership with East Ayrshire Council will install improved seating and picnic tables for the use of parents and grandparents accompanying children and young people to the park. The new facilities will also benefit, local schools, nurseries, youth and community organisations who will have access to additional outdoor resources.
9. The equipment will be supplied and installed by Jupiter Play and Leisure Limited, via YALP, a world-renowned developer and supplier of a variety of dynamic and fun equipment. With installations in countries throughout the world. YALP creates inspiring environments that challenge both young and old to exercise, play and, above all, have fun. CATRA understands the benefits of the great outdoors on our physical and mental wellbeing and fundamentally

believes that the way in which we play, exercise, and do sports enriches our lives with a positive contribution to physical, mental, and social health.

10. CATRA is excited and delighted to bring this innovative and inspiring play equipment to East Ayrshire. If successful, it will be the first of its kind in Ayrshire and one of only a few available in Scotland. The installations will combine technology with outdoor play, games, sports, and education. It will be accessible to everyone, regardless of background, age, gender, and ability, working to the belief that everyone should have equal life opportunities. YALP interactive facilities sourced and installed by Jupiter Play and Leisure combine the best of the physical and digital worlds, ensuring educational, social, and physical developments whilst having fun.
11. Understanding that many children and young people play more indoors on digital devices than playing and socialising outdoors, CATRA believes that the installation of interactive play equipment will bring benefits to them as well as the wider community. As per the Local Housing Strategy 2020, we are aware that 455 of Newmilns residents are under 16 years of age - 17.1% of the population. This figure combined with those of neighbouring communities, adds to our belief that this new, innovative equipment will benefit people across East Ayrshire and beyond. In addition, we believe that further development of the Greenside Park will increase tourism to the area, which will enhance and benefit the aims of the Community Plan with regard to the economic, as well as social and community development.
12. CATRA has engaged extensively with local residents in the development of this proposal with a number of local bodies and officials supportive of the project.

## **SUMMARY**

13. Campbell Area Tenants and Residents Association have submitted a Community Asset Transfer application in respect of areas within Greenside Park, Newmilns, close to the existing children's play area. Before a decision can be taken in respect of their application, a consultation has to be undertaken in terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 as the application relates to common good property.
14. CATRA believe their proposals will add value to Greenside Park in terms of the aesthetics of the park, increased facilities within the park as well increased health and wellbeing provisions for the wider population and targeted wellbeing interventions for children and young people in particular.

## **REPRESENTATION**

15. You can make a representation on the proposal to dispose of common good property by emailing [CAT@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:CAT@east-ayrshire.gov.uk) or by writing to:

East Ayrshire Council  
Community Asset Transfer  
Western Road,  
Kilmarnock

KA1 1HW

In accordance with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the consultation will last for a period of 8 weeks (31 January 2023 – 28 March 2023). The Council will consider all representations made and respond within 8 weeks of receiving any representations. The final response to representations will be published along with the original representations. The final decision will also be published and notified to all required parties in terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Furthermore a meeting chaired by East Ayrshire Council will be held to consider representation as follows:

**Venue:** Loudoun Church Hall  
**Date:** Monday 6 March  
**Time:** 7pm

The representations and final decision will then form part of the Community Asset Transfer assessment process and assist elected members in considering whether to approve the Community Asset Transfer application. If the Community Asset Transfer application is approved, the Council will require to seek consent from the Sheriff Court to dispose of the property in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

**PLEASE SEE APPENDIX 1: Outline plan for interactive play equipment**