

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER OF COMMON GOOD LAND

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. **Kilmarnock Tennis Club** have submitted a Community Asset Transfer application, in relation to the former bowling club site within Howard Park, Kilmarnock. As the Howard 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.

KILMARNOCK TENNIS CLUB

4. Established in 1936, **Kilmarnock Tennis Club**, herein referred to as **KTC**, is a not-for-profit sports club who provided their members with tennis facilities and playing/development opportunities. Membership of KTC is open to anyone in the community with no restrictions on who can join.
5. The club has grown significantly over the last few years and could be considered to be at, or to exceed, capacity at their site in London Road. The club wish to retain and grow the membership, expand the facilities available in Kilmarnock and to introduce the new activity of padel tennis. They also wish to open up tennis to more people in the town through provision of gate access technology that will allow anyone to book and play tennis or padel without the need for membership.

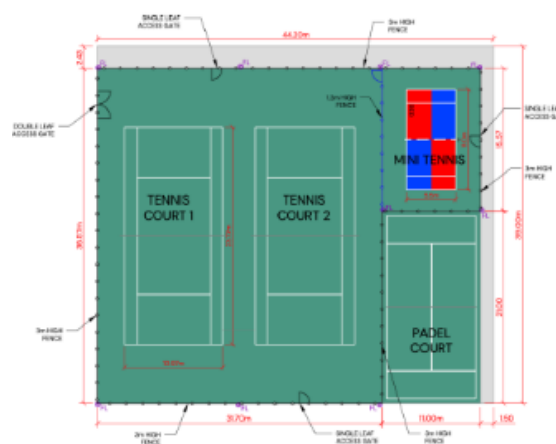
FORMER BOWLING CLUB, HOWARD PARK

- The former bowling club is a single story building with extensive ground to the front of the site. The facility was home to Howard Park Bowling club until 2019. The bowling club sits within the Howard Park, a picturesque open green space well used by the people of Kilmarnock.

PROJECT PROPOSALS

TENNIS INFRASTRUCTURE

- The desired outcome of this consultation is to ascertain public views and seek representations on a proposal to agree use of the site of the former bowling green to install:
 - Two new artificial grass courts
 - One outdoor padel court
 - A mini tennis court
 - Floodlights
 - Smart access gate and technology



- The completion of this project will see the re-establishment of sport within the Howard Park, meeting the needs of an expanding membership base and bringing pay as you play opportunities into the Howard Park. The project will also help to regenerate the Bowling Green site helping ensure that the area is well maintained and limiting the opportunities for Antisocial Behaviour common in areas with low footfall.

SUMMARY

- Kilmarnock Tennis Club have submitted a Community Asset Transfer application in respect of areas within Howard Park, Kilmarnock. 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.
- KTC believe their proposals will add value to Howard Park in terms of the aesthetics of the park, increased facilities within the park as well as increased health and wellbeing provisions for the wider population. The re-establishment of sport within the site will enable a wider range of people to engage in the site.

REPRESENTATION

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

Community Asset Transfer

Vibrant Communities
Burnside Street
Kilmarnock
KA1 4EX

In accordance with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the consultation will last for a period of 8 weeks (20 June 2022 – 7 August 2022). The Council will consider all representations made and respond within 8 weeks of the consultation closing. The final response to representations will be published along with the original representations redacted of personal information. The final decision will also be published and notified to all required parties in terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

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.