

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

APPLICATION FOR LEASE OF COMMON GOOD LAND

PURPOSE OF

1. The purpose of this consultation is to ascertain public views on the proposal submitted by Dean Thistle Football Club for a 25 year extension of their lease of the Football pavilion within the Dean Park estate and a management agreement of the pitches.

BACKGROUND

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ACT PART 8

2. The application for disposal of this property has to meet criteria set out in Part 8 of the Community Empowerment Act as the Dean Park falls onto the Common Good register. Common Good is a type of property that local authorities may have, which has been passed down by former burgh councils. It often has strong historical and emotional value to local communities, as well as its practical use and financial value. The Act places a statutory duty on local authorities to publish their proposals and consult community bodies before disposing of or changing the use of common good assets.

DEAN THISTLE FOOTBALL CLUB

3. Dean Thistle Football Club have operated as the lease holder of this property since 2014. The organisations main purpose is to provide grassroots football opportunities within the Kilmarnock area and, at time of consultation, have over 400 active members.
4. Dean Thistle also however use Football as a tool to increase their social impact by developing services such as boot banks and recycling strips to ensure that the barriers to participation are minimised.

DEAN PARK PITCH AND PAVILION

5. As indicated previously, the football pavilion forms part of the Common Good land of the Dean Park. The site, which is indicated in appendix 1 sits to the south of the Dean Road.

PROJECT

6. Whilst the extension of the lease and management agreement will primarily ensure that the football facilities remain an operational amenity over the foreseeable future the club will also use the agreement to look to provide more parking opportunities within the locality. The football club are working with Ayrshire Roads Alliance to consider the parking and will look to take forward plans once they have security of tenure which funders require for investment.

SUMMARY

7. Dean Thistle Football Club have operated out of this facility since their inception and continue to invest in the pavilion and open green space for the benefit of not only its members but the wider community. This proposal seeks to extend their agreements on the site and to look to increase parking provisions within the wider Dean Park area.

REPRESENTATION

8. You can make representation on this proposal by emailing CAT@east-ayrshire.gov.uk or by writing to:

Community Asset Transfer
Vibrant Communities
175-177 Western Road
Kilmarnock
KA3 1LL

In accordance with Act 8 of the Community Empowerment Act the consultation will last for a period of 8 weeks (15 January 2024 – 11 March 2024). All representations will be published along with a final response to the representation.

The representation will then form part of the information provided to the Sheriff Court in considering the extension of this lease. Anyone who has made a representation through the process will be notified of the outcome of the project.