

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST

GALSTON LIBRARY

Application by

Galston Community Development Trust

GALSTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST - PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

Galston Community Development Trust was formed in July 2012 as a SCIO (Scottish Charity No SC043291) with the aim to regenerate Galston.

The major projects completed include:-

1. (2015) Two disabled parking bays at Galston Surgery (£6000), previously people with disabilities had to walk a fair distance to access the surgery.
2. (2015) MUGA (Sports cage) at Barmill Stadium (£70,000), allowing sports facilities for the youth.
3. (2018) £1 million restoration of the former derelict Portland Arms Hotel, which enabled 5 local businesses affordable office space and provided employment for 8 people. It allowed the Trust to start up the popular After School and Summer Clubs. The building also now supports a food larder in conjunction with Crossroads Community Hub.
4. (2021) The Trust identified the need for a Charity Shop and leased small local premises in Titchfield Street and secured 14 volunteers to operate it. The successful shop sold over £12,000 of good quality, affordable goods in the first year of operation, providing funding for the following projects:-
 - Funded Wave to Santa round Galston streets
 - Provided funding for Bunting & large Banners for the Gala Day
 - Contributed to Old folks Christmas Meal
 - Subsidised the Coronation Ceilidh

PROPOSED USE OF THE BUILDING

With the Library Building in Henrietta Street having been declared surplus to requirements by East Ayrshire Council, the Trust have expressed an interest in purchasing the building to expand our charity shop and integrate the food larder within the same premises. The purchase of the building will provide 6 times the area for displaying the goods donated by the public and encourage even more purchases, with expectation to increase sales. We would maintain the Library's Free Warm Space .

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

The Trust is committed to improving the lives of local residents ensuring those with less disposable income can access quality goods at low costs, the facility will act a central resource for the community. Profits from the facility will be reinvested back into the community. The facility will be run by volunteers who will gain skills and work experience and further training opportunities. An increased floor space of the shop would mean that we would be able to offer more volunteer opportunities.

SUMMARY

The Trust have already successfully managed a number of high value projects and have operated their small Charity Shop for 18 months at a profit. The purchase of this building would allow us to maintain the building and surrounding area in good condition and offer a wider choice of goods for sale to the public, reduce quantity of goods going to landfill , whilst providing more funds for Galston projects.

If you would like to make representation on the proposal please email:

CAT@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

and indicate which organisation you would like to make representation on. Representation should be lodged by Monday 31 July.