

KILMARNOCK TENNIS CLUB

CONSULTATION RESPONSE

This document aims to address representation made following the consultation document which set out Kilmarnock Tennis Club's ambition to take Community Asset Transfer of the former Howard Park bowling club.

First of all, we would like to thank all residents who inputted to the consultation and we were encouraged to hear such an overwhelmingly positive response to our project! We were especially delighted that even residents who had concerns about the facility were broadly supportive of the project itself. As a volunteer led club it is empowering to see the time taken by local residents to offer their support for the project and these communications will be invaluable as we look to progress with the asset transfer and engage funders.

We do appreciate however that there were some concerns in relation to the parking in and around the Howard Park area and some correspondents felt that this project may exacerbate the challenges residents face. As a committee we have reflected on said challenges and would add some additional information along with measures which we feel would mitigate the issues.

CAPACITY

The maximum capacity of the facility would be 12 players. Reaching the maximum capacity at any one time would be very unusual as this would mean that doubles tennis and padel would need to be played on each court.

OPERATIONAL TIMES

In considering the correspondence there were concerns about how busy the streets around the site would become during operation. In the correspondence, reference was made to the number of vehicles parked in the locality especially during times the café was open. Given experience with our current facility we believe that, while the facility will be able to be used during the day, the real demand for the facility will take place between 5.30pm to 8.30pm on weekdays and Sunday afternoons. The café's website indicates operation between 10am-3pm on weekdays. Given the operational hours of each we believe that there would be little to no extra vehicular traffic when the café is open.

UTILISING MARKED PARKING BAYS

There will, however, be some extra vehicular traffic during the evening and on Sundays. To consider the capacity of the locality to handle this traffic we carried out spot checks on times we believe the facility would be busy. The committee noted that there was a varied amount of parking in the surrounding streets during all checks, however a constant was the availability of parking on Dundonald Road. Of the 43 available marked spaces at Dundonald road, no more than 10 were utilised during the spot checks. Given the previously stated capacity of the facility, we believe that even

if each participant drives to the Howard Park, sufficient space in the marked car parking area exists to ensure that parking does not affect local residents. If the plan is to progress, communication with members or those booking courts would specify Dundonald Road and the old Safeway car park as designated parking areas.

GREEN TRAVEL

Kilmarnock Tennis Club are also committed to active and green travel. The Howard Park is an ideal site to encourage members to walk, cycle or car share.

Any funding bids for the site will include provision for active travel at the location including bike racks etc. This will be further enhanced as the Howard Park forms a key central location with the proposed Infinity Loop which will promote and enhance the safe use of active travel in the Kilmarnock area. The Infinity Loop will enable safe cycling/walking access from every distinct community within the Kilmarnock area and serve to better promote active travel within the town overall.

SUMMARY

Kilmarnock Tennis Club are grateful to all residents who have inputted into the consultation. The club appreciates that parking is a concern though believe from site visits and consideration of peak times along with the measures to direct users to active travel and designated parking provisions that these issues can be mitigated. Hopefully the above measures go to reassure residents that the facility and the club's use/promotion of the facility would not cause a noticeable increase to the traffic within the area at peak times.

If you would like to engage further on anything within this document, please email CAT@east-ayrshire.gov.uk for collation and redress.

McCLELLAND DRIVE



HOWARD PARK DRIVE



DUNDONALD ROAD



DUNDONALD ROAD

