

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER OF COMMON GOOD LAND

PURPOSE OF

1. The purpose of this consultation is to ascertain public views on the proposal submitted by Kilmarnock Railway Heritage Trust for the former bowling club situated in the Howard Park Kilmarnock.

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 either a management responsibility, short or long term lease or through the transfer of outright ownership.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ACT PART 8

3. The application for Community Asset Transfer of this property has to meet criteria set out in Part 8 of the Community Empowerment Act as the Howard 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.

KILMARNOCK RAILWAY STATION HERITAGE TRUST

4. Kilmarnock Railway Station Heritage Trust were formed in 2014 with the primary aim of bringing the redundant railway offices in the Kilmarnock Railway Station back into community use. The first phase was completed in 2015 and its success recognised when the Trust won the SURF Awards for Regeneration.
5. As well as regeneration of buildings the Trust also have a strong portfolio of working to improve the lives of people within the community. The trust run Art Exhibitions, creative classes, tai-chi and yoga classes among others. The charity also engage in more targeted work to help those with poor mental

health, isolation, loneliness and addiction issues re-connect with others around them.

HOWARD PARK FORMER BOWLING CLUB

6. As indicated previously, the former bowling club forms part of the Common Good land of the Howard Park. The building was most recently used by Howard Park Bowling Club until around 2018/19.

PROJECT

7. The desired outcome of the consultation is to lodge views on a proposal by KRSHT to fully refurbish the building and bring it back into community use. The project will see the development of a community gym primarily intended for those with a disability or in recovery from surgery. This would make the Gym unique in that no other mainstream Gym in the area has been designed with this specific function and purpose in mind. It is anticipated that the Gym users would be referred via services such as the NHS Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists. The machines would be able to be used by able bodied people but have modifications that would allow, for example, wheelchair users to use the equipment. The remaining space would be used to deliver classes as part of the Gym such as YOGA.

SUMMARY

11. Kilmarnock Railway Station Heritage Trust have submitted a proposal which they indicate will add value to the Howard Park site in terms of the aesthetics of the park with the refurbishment of a currently derelict building, increased services available within the park, increased employment and volunteering opportunities, increased health and wellbeing provisions for people with disabilities and those recovering from surgery.

REPRESENTATION

12. 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 (28 August 2023 – 23 October 2023). All representations will be published and a final response to the representations will be published along with the original representation.

The representation will then form part of the Community Asset Transfer assessment process and assist elected members in considering whether an agreement through the Sheriff Court for the lease of the building should be sought. Anyone who has made a representation through the process will be notified of the outcome of the project.