

Introduction to Community Consultation Meeting

Subject: Proposal for Kilmarnock Station Railway Trust to Take Community Asset Transfer of Old Men's Cabin, Howard Park
Date: 21 April 2022
Time: 7pm-8.30pm
Venue: Kilmarnock Railway Station

Craig Fulton introduction

“Good evening and welcome to the community consultation for the proposal of Kilmarnock Station Railway Heritage Trust to take Community Asset Transfer of the former Old Men's Cabin in the Howard Park. The trust propose to refurbish the building to provide a Café, public toilet and rooms for consultation specifically for the use of counselling services for those who have presented with mental wellbeing issues.

The community consultation will form the final element of the Community Asset Transfer application. The audio of the meeting will be recorded with a minute of the meeting produced which will indicate the objections and responses. When making an objection please state your name to allow for the objection to be assigned accordingly. This minute will then be reviewed by colleagues within East Ayrshire Councils legal section to ensure that it follows legal standards before being made accessible on the Community Asset Transfer website. On completion the meeting will be added to the consultation already undertaken and the full application will be sent to the Community Asset Transfer panel to assess.

The parameters of the consultation are to establish community benefit of the project. Objectors can make representation to the Trust based on perceived impact of the proposal which they believe would have a negative effect on their community. Having consulted with the Trust they are willing to listen to all reasonable objections out with the grounds of community benefit to help residents understand the steps taken to make this as positive an asset transfer application as possible. When questions fall out with the parameters of community benefit however the Trust can choose to address and disclose information as they feel suitable however these objections and resulting information will not be considered when the application is assessed given that they do not relate to community benefit.

It is acknowledged that multiple sources, some named and some anonymous, have circulated misinformation in relation to the proposal which indicates that this facility will be used as a rehabilitation centre for ex-offenders and those with critical addiction issues. These claims have been addressed as false by both the Trust and East Ayrshire Council previously, indicating that there is not, and has never been, any proposal or indication throughout the process that these services would take place at the former Old Men's Cabin. Given that significant rebuttal of these allegations has already taken place in the written and video response to the consultation we will not accept any further objections on this basis and once again would direct objectors on these grounds to the material circulated previously.

The consultation will adhere to the principles of the Equality Act 2010 and, in particular the Public Sector Equality Duty which requires public authorities and those exercising public functions to have due regard to the need to:

- “Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the act;

- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.”

Attendees are reminded that mental health conditions are considered as a disability and therefore are a protected characteristic. As such attendees are encouraged to be mindful of this when making objections. Any objection deemed to be promotional of direct discrimination i.e. treat someone less favourably than someone else has been treated because of a protected characteristic, will not be noted and the issue addressed. East Ayrshire Council also reserve the right to amend the minute of the meeting if there are instances of discrimination which are not picked up during the meeting but are found to be discriminatory on review of the minutes.

I would encourage all parties to ensure civility and respect throughout the consultation and would advise that the meeting will be limited to 90mins.

Given the previous misinformation circulated indicating that rooms within the Railway Station were under-utilised Allan has arranged for anyone interested in seeing the redeveloped building to be escorted round the facility after the meeting. This will allow residents to see an example of the Trusts completed projects and also see what the consultation rooms would look like if the Community Asset Transfer is approved and the project continues.

Allan I will pass over to you to give a brief introduction of the proposal and an overview of the charity itself.”