

NOTICE OF REPRESENTATIONS

Community Asset Transfer Request

Ralston Community Sports Centre by Kelburne Hockey and Community Sports Club

REPRESENTATIONS: IN FAVOUR OF THE COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

INTRODUCTION

Following notification of a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Request in relation to Ralston Community Sports Centre (RCSC) published on Tuesday 31st of May 2022, a total of **2941** Representations were received by the end date for representations of 1st July.

The CAT Request, submitted by Kelburne Hockey and Community Sports Club, is for a long-term lease of the sports centre and playing fields for the purpose of redeveloping the Sports Centre to provide a wider range of sports and activities, extend the opening hours of the Centre and to create an all level Hockey pitch.

Within the total representations, **272** were received by post or into the CAT Mailbox on or before the 1st of July. This figure included **31** representations that did not provide a full address; **6** that did not state if they were in favour or against the CAT Request; and **27** that did not provide any reason for why they either supported or rejected the CAT Request. In addition, **1263** signed letters were delivered to the Council on 1st July and are included in the total and breakdown of representations below. A further **1406** signatures were provided in the form of petitions. These have been included in the overall total but **are not included** in the breakdowns below.

The total number of representations received **excluding** petitions is **1535**. Of these, **118** (7.7%) are in favour of the CAT and **1417** (92.3%) are against.

Further analysis of the 1535 representations **excluding** petitions, shows that **900** (58.6%) came from the PA1 postcode area of Paisley; a further **308** (20.7%) came from other parts of Renfrewshire and **287** (18.7%) from other parts of Scotland. The balance of 40 representation (2.61%) did not provide an address or postcode.

Due to the scale of the representations received, the Council is unable to publish each one. Instead, each representation received, including bulk letters but **excluding petitions**, has been recorded and analysed to identify common themes. Two separate notices, *FOR* and *AGAINST*, are being published on the Council Website with numbers for and against each theme identified. Where a single representation cited more than one theme in their reasons, each reason provided has been counted under the appropriate theme.

Representations in FAVOUR of the CAT Transfer Request

The number of representations received **IN FAVOUR** of the CAT Request were **119**, which includes one representation which is non-compliant. Representations not fully compliant are shown in brackets below. This figure **INCLUDES** all letters delivered to the Council on 1st July but **EXCLUDES PETITIONS**. Representations not fully compliant are provided in brackets below.

The comments included below have been selected as an illustration of all comments made under each theme and represent the wide breadth of comments made. These are all direct quotes from the representations made and do not reflect the opinions of Renfrewshire Council

The numbers below refer to the total number of representations citing the theme as a reason for their support of the CAT.

THEME 1: Hockey Facilities and Skills 108 (1)

Comments include:

- “There are many more facilities for football across Renfrewshire than there are for hockey”, *Local Resident & Hockey Player*
- “The facilities available are insufficient for the number and size of the clubs in Renfrewshire and are not of the required standard for national level competitions...Renfrewshire needs more than 1 public hockey pitch”, *Governing Body*
- “The lack of available facilities in Renfrewshire excludes many people from enjoying the sport or being able to try it”, *Local Resident*
- “Hockey is an inclusive sport with opportunities at all levels”
- “Having an alternative sport available in the local community is a good thing”, *Local Resident*
- “Kelburne’s programme with schools will allow young people to experience an alternative sport and help grow local talent”, *Renfrewshire School*
- “Hockey is a wonderful sport...played by all ages, genders and abilities”, *KHC Letters*
- “Hockey offers so much, and the lack of facilities has made players look elsewhere to join clubs”, *Local Resident & KHC Member*
- “Support Kelburne Hockey Club's application for a CAT of the Ralston Community Sports Centre...as a diverse and inclusive sport it is fantastic to see them take the lead in looking to secure local facilities for all to use”, *Local Sports Club*

THEME 2: Support for Kelburne’s Situation 93 (0)

Comments include:

- “Paisley and Renfrewshire should be proud that Kelburne Hockey Club is one of Scotland’s top clubs”
- “Ridiculous that Kelburne have to travel to Glasgow to play hockey and to train”, *Local Resident*
- “Kelburne are one of the highest performing hockey clubs in Scotland, they deserve to have their own facilities”, *Local Resident*
- “Kelburne and Renfrewshire desperately need a quality hockey pitch in Paisley. I cannot imagine a more suitable venue - there is plenty space available for a hockey pitch as well as football, good changing facilities and parking provision”, *Local Resident*

- “I feel that at this time, post pandemic, that it is essential that a diverse range of activities are created for people from all backgrounds. Ensuring the health and wellbeing of all groups equally and inclusively; currently in Renfrewshire with the percentage of pitches being football orientated this diversity opportunity is not being realised; Resources are continually directed to the same core sport of football and a majority of our population who do not like football are missing out”, *Local Resident*

THEME 3: Promote Sport, Support School; Added Value & Community Benefits 106 (1)

Comments include:

- [KHC are] “outstanding ambassadors for Renfrewshire sport, and it is a great shame that they do not currently have a home to play hockey in Renfrewshire”, *Political Representative*
- “I am in full support of the CAT and what that can bring to the community”, *Local Resident*
- “There are so many identifiable benefits of the transfer...free pitch use and coaching for Renfrewshire schools...increase in the numbers of adults and children playing sport...increase in wellbeing, sports and fitness...multi-sports...retention of existing Saturday morning club”, *KHC Letters*
- “I would like to express support for the CAT to KHC...as a local sports club looking to improve sports facilities in the area for everyone”, *Local Sports Club*
- [I am] “in support of Kelburne Hockey Club and their plans to bring Hockey back to the forefront of sport within Renfrewshire”, *Local Resident*
- “The opportunity for pupils with an interest in hockey to have an outlet for their passion without having to travel a long distance to get there would give some measure of equity with other authorities.”, *Renfrewshire School*
- “...believe that there is considerable community benefit from the proposal in the short and long term, and that Kelburne has provided a vision that they are very capable of delivering upon.”
- “The opportunity for local children from primary schools to high school is amazing...trying a new sport, where inclusivity and ability are encouraged”, *Local Resident*

THEME 4: Investment in the Ralston Community and RCSC 96 (1)

Comments include:

- “With regards to the CAT..... I have to say that this would be a great asset and would provide another area of sport for local kids as well as adults”, *Local Resident*
- “This is the best prospect for attracting investment into the facility and maximises the facilities potential which will be available to the community and other sports”, *Local Resident*
- “.....the business case plan will support existing community activity but more importantly develop new opportunities for all.... increase usage of the facility and drive a community hub”, *Paisley Resident*
- “Kelburne will do a great job at upgrading the current site & fabric of the centre to protect its listed heritage as providing a modern sports complex, not just for hockey but for a range of sports and activities for all of the local community to enjoy”.
- “....the site in its current format state is unsustainable”, *Local Resident*

- “For a site of its size and potential it is drastically underused and is in serious danger of falling further into disrepair. What Kelburne are offering the local community is an exciting prospect”, *Local Resident*
- “Ralston and Paisley deserve better than a closed up sports centre with a decaying pitch that's only used by a small section of residents”, *Local Resident*

THEME 5: Scope and strength of CAT Request 99 (1)

Comments include:

- “The plans for the Centre appear to be a wonderful opportunity for the Centre to operate to its full potential and give it a new lease of life”, *Local Resident*
- “... particularly impressed by the detail provided and the plans to widen the appeal and usage of Ralston Community Sports Centre ... far more than just a proposal about a synthetic pitch ... vision to revitalise an underused, tired sports centre for the benefit of the people of Ralston and Paisley”, *West District Hockey Association*
- “...at this time, post pandemic, that it is essential that a diverse range of activities are created for people from all backgrounds”, *Renfrew Resident*
- “Kelburne have the infrastructure to contribute to the well-being of the community, not only by delivering hockey activity but by securing a site that will offer an array of activities on a long-term basis for the community”, *Scottish Hockey*

END