

Kelburne Hockey & Community Sports Club

Formal Response to those 'IN FAVOUR' of acceptance of this Community Asset Transfer

Attached is the KHCS feedback for the "IN FAVOUR" feedback received through the CAT process.

At this stage we would like to re-affirm that in putting our proposal forward for a new Vision for the Ralston Community Sports Centre, we will continue to engage with local residents through this process to ensure they are fully considered in our quest to make this a true Community Asset for many sports in Renfrewshire and used by more people in our local community. We are extremely pleased to have received so many positive responses and we will endeavour to make this a more wide-ranging facility for more to enjoy

Our proposal as most will know, enhances the current operation by providing not only a wider range of sports, but a wider ranges of fitness classes for local residents to participate in more social and health & well-being group opportunities for everyone in the area.

Our business case is borne out of a need for Hockey to thrive and grow as the 2nd largest team sport in Renfrewshire and we have approached this as an internal move within Ward 3 Paisley East & Ralston, 1.2 miles along the road from our current Whitehaugh base to this location, as part of a 50-year lease proposal from Renfrewshire Council to provide a unique and different legacy for hockey & sport in Renfrewshire.

We have an experienced team already in our Club and on our Board however with this Community Asset Transfer, we will grow our Board by another 5 Trustees and actively seek local experienced people to fill these slots and provide a better balance of sports, skills and local community experience in the new Kelburne Hockey & Community Sports Club.

We feel it's also important at this stage to advise that our KHCS petition (for a national hockey pitch in Renfrewshire – see this [LINK HERE](#)) which is a legally acknowledged process through Change.org, was only "noted" by Renfrewshire Council when it should be recorded. In this petition of **967 signatures** (with post codes/areas), these were signed IN FAVOUR of a pitch in Renfrewshire Hockey being made available for Kelburne to play in their own County and own Ward. Signature details below

- 300 individuals from Renfrewshire (80% of those from SIMD areas of PA1 thru to PA5)
- 423 signatures from individuals in other Scotland local authorities (who have National pitches)
- 208 signatures from other UK areas
- 36 signatures from International locations

We have offered some additional feedback here in support of some of the excellent comments and support received from Ralston & Renfrewshire residents alike and if anyone hasn't managed to read it yet, you can find more about our proposal by clicking on [THIS LINK](#) on the Kelburne web-site.

Thank you all so much for your valued support and trust in our organisation as a Community Club, to deliver what we hope will be a successful new vision at Ralston Community Sports Centre.

THEME 1: Hockey Facilities and Skills 20 (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”, Scottish Hockey
- “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 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

Kelburne additional Response and feedback to Theme 1 : Hockey Facilities and Skills 20 (1)

- We also agree there is an insufficient quality of hockey pitches in Renfrewshire and these currently do not allow our Club to play in National competition leagues or cups, or host international events like we have done in the past. With the clubs in Renfrewshire today, including schools who try to play hockey on their school 4G football pitch, Renfrewshire needs a minimum of two pitches in order for ALL clubs to play & train at their chosen sport and allow their sport to flourish
- The Linwood pitch on the West-end of town as it stands today, and the new facility in Ralston, allows this to happen. Hockey gets a massive boost which is well deserved, kids can access hockey locally and across all genders, and demand can be fulfilled in our own county in both the West-End & East-end of the town
- UWS, Paisleys University based in the town-centre also have to travel and play in Glasgow and with the new Ralston centre, this allows them to train and play on a National pitch to satisfy their BUCS rules, which also brings investment of hockey back in to the town.

THEME 2: Sympathy for Kelburne’s Situation 5

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

Kelburne additional Response and feedback to THEME 2: Sympathy for Kelburne’s Situation 5

- In our last internal study where we established that 87% of our membership stayed in Renfrewshire postcodes, predominately in SIMD areas, PA1, PA2, PA3, PA4 and PA5, our carbon footprint in travelling a minimum of 11 miles to Glasgow Green was exceptionally high. Our calculations based on post-code realised a reduction in our carbon footprint by 46%. It would be fantastic if we could reduce travel overheads for our young players from SIMD schools and allow them to get to this centre easily
- We know from our work with Heads of PE in various schools that we have lost hockey players from secondary due to the fact that coming from deprived areas, they can only use public transport. Having this centre on the main road through town is a huge bonus for kids who want to play as they have a short and simpler travel medium available to allow them to take part in hockey.

THEME 3: Promote Sport, Support School; Added Value & Community Benefits 17(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
- “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

Kelburne additional response & feedback to Theme 3 : Promote Sport, Support School; Added Value & Community Benefits 17(1)

- To maintain our community values as a charitable organisation, we will not be changing any approach that has currently been extended to Ralston Primary School by One-Ren. The artificial

pitch and car park is free for their staff and pupils to use, as is the car-park for for drop-off and collect

- We recognise that hockey has massive potential across Renfrewshire. The provision of FREE hockey for schools to attend and coach their kids on the pitch of their sport will generate organic growth in the game across our schools
- The facility being open for longer hours will provide significant Community benefits for youths as well as adults. We will be promoting youth club activities and Seniors Group activities, using staff in-place or available to self-help groups who can organise themselves. Activities in the Events Studio will increase and the focus is making it available for all community groups.
- Increased activities will enhance the health and well-being in the community and on young people. 7% of the adult population play football and the largest drop-out is in the the 16-34 year old male age range. The facility will provide a viable pathway for players to switch to hockey or other alternative activities to maintain a healthy & active lifestyle into adulthood.
- As a charitable organisation, all profits made from the operation are re-invested back into the facility. This is the legal element of being a charitable organisation and it's one that KHCS have embraced.
- The Café will bring more variety to the Community and although primarily for centre visitors, it will be open to the public to visit at their leisure. We believe having a café is an important social ethic which brings people together and this enhances the whole community spirit we aim to achieve at the centre.

THEME 4: Investment in Community and RCSC 8(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 our 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

Kelburne additional Response and feedback to THEME 4: Investment in Community and RCSC 8(1)

- It's important to note that we have worked with Historic Scotland to understand the history of this Grade A listed building and the iconic status it holds in the area. Currently the building is in good shape however it still requires investment (grant driven) and on-going maintenance that hasn't

been afforded to it in recent years. We have the skills and people in our organisation to take care of this directly and maintain this building for years to come.

- We will be employing a Management Team and staff to run the centre and this will bring employment opportunities with it. Working with Renfrewshire Council, Charitable Organisations, Qualified Fitness companies and working with our Volunteer group, we have a strong hybrid model to ensure the centre operates safely and successfully and that we can use our workforce to generate more activity to come to our facility.
- From a Council perspective, this would be seen to the outside world as having invested in their own Community and their own people, to release this facility for the greater sporting good, with a significant increase in hockey and other sports taking place at this centre, demonstrating that they are delivering on diversity, equality and inclusion qualities as part of Scottish Governments equality drive
- UWS now have a central location for their hockey and this counts as additional investment not only for KHCS, but for UWS who can now centralise their sporting activities around the central transport corridor of Paisley and much closer to their Paisley campus than before

THEME 5: Scope and strength of CAT Request 11(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

Kelburne additional Response and feedback to THEME 5: Scope and strength of CAT Request 11(1)

- We firmly believe we have a model that is a more sustainable model for the Ralston Community Sports Centre in that it will provide for Hockey AND more sports than it does today, will increase the utilisation of the Studio and Gym, make use of the grass area which for years has completely under-used and make space for more Social and well-being activities to take place. This is a model we believe will work and is now required for Ralston Community Sports Centre.

Summary

We thank your contribution and for the positive comments made on our proposal and while there will always be challenges we will gladly undertake as a worthwhile cause, you have our guarantee that the Centre is at the fore-front of our minds at all times and we're fully committed to working

with Ralston Residents and Ralston organisations to create this new Vision – a better facility to enjoy by a larger number of residents of Ralston and Renfrewshire.

Kelburne Hockey & Community Sports Club