CAT Request re Lochhead Avenue (Lochwinnoch Community Development Trust)

Representations Received (2nd – 10th March 2023)

NOTE – Only representations provided with a full name and address have been included. All representations have been reproduced in this format in their entirety, however, personal information has been removed or redacted.

2nd March 2023

#	‡1	the community larder has helped so many people in the village in so many ways , it's a
		place to get some grocery fresh fruit and veg and also helps with people's well being as
		the volunteers are all so very welcoming to everyone that goes to the larder ,and Do not
		judge anyone because they use the larder, my granddaughter attends with me and she
		has learnt that you only take what you need as there are a lot of people who may need it
		a bit more than we might she is nine years old , I only hope the larder can stay on the site
		as there had been lot work put into the project

3rd March 2023

#3	I am writing to you to in favour of the community larder and the garden area here in Lochwinnoch, As you are aware that times are difficult for one parent families and the elderly especially, I personally use the community larder as I am the only person who works in my family and this facility provides me with a safety valve regarding finances ,My mother is elderly and likes a trip to the larder also ,I also see young families using the garden facilities on a regular basis. I hope you will continue to support this innovative scheme in the future . Yours in support of the scheme.
#4	I am emailing to express my support to retain the space around the Lochwinnoch Gardens and larder to remain. The area is a godsend for people from Lochwinnoch and surrounding areas. The opportunity for people of all ages and needs to meet other people and have a chat and a coffee and also trade larder goods or pick up a few basic essentials at a donation if wanted is a tremendous help and feel good factor for many people. The volunteers and employees who run these communal spaces are so helpful and friendly and although I don't use the area to socialise I know they provide great therapy for people who just need a friendly ear or a place to chat to others in a non judgemental environment. The premises have been made accessible now to less able people with the grounds being Mono blocked and tidied up considerably. The area looks so nice and it really is a huge asset to so many people. Please retain this service as it is invaluable to people's health by providing fresh foods etc and mental health is promoted by spending less cash on expensive food items and social experiences being promoted for all.
#5	I wish to add my support to the CAT application from the team currently running the Lochside Avenue community Larder, to further enhance the space on a ten year lease, with the option to purchase. The work done there thus far has been professional, inclusive and caring. Plans to further develop the site are well considered, and would create a hub in the village that is sorely needed as the population increases. The design of the McKillop Institute, so close to the main street, prohibits there being a community square for the kind of enterprises being proposed.

#6	I have recently used the larder and found it a godsend, it is essential for it to stay open as it helps so many people in the community and surrounding areas.
#8	We are writing in support of Lochwinnoch community larder and Lochhead gardens . It is of great value and importance for us ,residents of Lochwinnoch .Especially the larder is so great in supporting unemployed, single parents with several children, and especially elderly people, At this difficult time when we have the cost of living crisis and many families are struggling to buy food for their children and themselves It also serves as a socializing meeting area for people who are stuck in the village and cannot afford to go anywhere esp. elderly. Many people find friends, which can help in various ways not only providing comfort but also some good food ,it helps to reduce waste and this is very important when food supplies were low in the supermarkets .We people work together to
	 make this scheme better and accessible to everybody , Lochhead Gardens is a wonderful idea also, Many elderly people come to sit there and walk ,to meet somebody esp. when somebody is lonely .and its fantastic nature spot next to the loch . Organizers of the larder are doing tremendous job helping everybody and there many volunteers who are keen to help this wonderful project to develop further . We are very proud of this scheme

6th March 2023

#10	I would like to register my support for the asset transfer request for the site at
	Lochhead Avenue, Lochwinnoch by LCDT. I think the project will be great for the
	village offering a number of benefits and I believe community ownership is the best
	way to deliver such benefits and to empower the community
#11	As a resident of Lochwinnoch I've watched over the years as Lochwinnoch Community
	Development Trust took over the disused space on Lochhead Avenue and slowly
	transformed it, first into a garden growing vegetables which not only provided a source of
	food for vulnerable members of the community but brought members of the community
	together in a safe outdoor environment during lockdown, then adding on a space for
	children's play projects like Wildcare and Lochwinnoch Toddlers to use, through hosting
	stalls, and even a silent disco at community festivals, to today when the addition of the
	Community Larder has really turned this site into a spot the brings the community together.
	Occasionally I walk through the site and there are always people chatting, checking in on
	each other, across generational and other status-based divides. I've read through the plans
	the organisation has for the site and it feels as though this has the potential to become the
	beating heart of the village; I've lived here for nine years and this particular space being
	available for the projects that currently operate there has really transformed the way we as
	a community interact.
	I was a former board member of LCDT; I'm no longer involved with the organisation and my
	family don't really use the Larder, but my children regularly attend Wildcare with Evie
	Jackson during the school holidays and the benefit of this wild space for them within the
	village to learn forest school skills and play outdoors in an environment tailored to them
	has been transformative. There is already a lack of affordable childcare within the village; if
	Wildcare no longer had access to this site it would be a huge blow to the children of
	Lochwinnoch. Furthermore, for the village to lose its site for the Larder, which I know from
	conversations at the school gates that more and more families are having to rely on, in the

	middle of a cost-of-living crisis, would be catastrophic. There are no other workable
	locations within the village.
	With all this in mind, please consider supporting LCDT's CAT application
#12	I am writing to lodge my support for the community asset transfer for a ten year lease of Lochhead Gardens to Lochwinnoch Development Trust from Renfrewshire Council . As well as living on Lochhead Avenue I am a regular volunteer at Lochwinnoch Community Larder and Community fridges which are situated on the gardens.
	I support this application because every day I witness the wonderful community spirit which exists in these gardens. The Larder and Community fridges now has seventy plus volunteers who put a lot of time and effort to prevent food wastage and preventing supermarkets sending good food to land fill. Everybody in the community can benefit from this free food. It also means that people with food insecurities can attend and get free food in a dignified manner. Having the ten year lease of the gardens would give us confidence that this can be a long term project. The gardens have now become a hub within the community. It is a wonderful sight on a Saturday to see families from all parts of the village working together in the gardens to
	create a space that can be used by all members of our village. Living on Lochhead Avenue I personally am pleased that the gardens are being tidied up and put to good use. I'm happy that more people will benefit from the gardens in the future and feel excited about all the opportunities the villagers will have to use the gardens. I think it will be beneficial for the village to have a ten year lease with the opportunity to buy, it will give us a greater incentive to move forward with this marvellous project and give us greater pride in our achievements in creating this wonderful much needed hub in our community.
	I look forward to hearing the decision
#13	 I fully support extending LDT's lease of Lochhead Gardens for the following reasons: It is a unique space in a village where every available plot is up for development The area is multifunctional and should be available to as many villagers as possible, who should have a say in how it operates It has inspired various teams of volunteers, working together to benefit the whole community. This has included young people and given them a positive focus The gardens house the Community Larder which is well used by a wide range of villagers, not only as a provider of free food but also as a valuable meeting place, somewhere they can come and have a chat thereby helping to promote their health and well being.
#14	I am writing this email in support of the above application in Lochwinnoch. Having moved the village in August 2019, I can say that this project and land has already positively influenced my life in the village as well as those around me.
	I am a volunteer at the community larder, however my partner was involved in the setting up of the grounds back in 2020 and our children got involved. Without this project we would not have made the friends and support network that we have so far in the village. We use the facilities of this land as they stand already and consider that the changes can only better improve the community.
	This space will allow more social activity and more community groups to meet, as well as allowing the larder to continue to provide the dignified food project that they do, that also supports reducing food waste. My children are nearing their teenage years and I consider that this project will also allow them to participate in its growth, as well as hopefully volunteer where possible, and in the future hopefully help it grow even further with the ever needing changes that are needed to grow our community positively.

	I am aware that there is some concerns with the impact that the current project and future project may have on local businesses. For me, being involved in this project and also being able to benefit from it has meant I have been less impacted by the cost of living crisis, and it has meant I can still shop locally (where it can often be more expensive to do so). As the location is fairly central and accessible to the village it also allows me to walk or cycle meaning I pass these businesses and have visited them more than I would have if I was in my car driving to the supermarket which is out of town. Lastly I want to reiterate the positive impact this project has had so far on those that use
	the project - for some elderly people in the village it allows them somewhere they know a friendly face will be for a conversation, with a warm cup of coffee or drink to have. It allows those with children to come down and know that there is a safe space for children to run about whilst they are utilising the service. It also brings people from neighbouring villages, who then go on to use our other local amenities.
	I am in full support of this project.
#15	I am a resident of Lochwinnoch and I am also a member and user of Lochwinnoch Community Larder. My children have also attended many Wildcare sessions throughout school holidays.
	I am writing to express my support for LCDTs application for lease of the land at Lochhead Gardens. I believe that their proposed plans will continue to enhance the immediate area and the lives and wellbeing of our wider community.
	The land at Lochhead Gardens has gone from a scrub land that wasn't being up kept very well and where dog walkers let their dogs roam to an essential inter generational community hub.
	The larder has provided a genuine positive contribution to the community from dignified food provision to volunteering opportunities, local employment and reducing isolation.
	I hope that they are awarded the lease to enable them to expand the development and further invest in the community.
	At this time I would like to express my disappointment at the LCC's lack of support around LCDT and developments at Lochhead Gardens. In particular certain members of the council have been publicly toxic and consistently negative and slanderous on local public media platforms about the Larder and quite frankly bullying in their tone and manner which has went on relentlessly towards the larder and those that facilitate it. Their opinions have been very divisive and inflammatory. It certainly does not feel to me that certain members of LCC have the best interests of the village at heart and I question that their personal opinions and allegiances should cloud their judgements so blatantly. I hope that if Renfrewshire Council awards the lease these non supporters will stop their bias, unfounded bullying tactics. Please remember that there are real people with feelings impacted by the unkind words and lies that you spread.
	Good luck to LCDT and the best interests of the village
#16	I am writing this email in support of the above application in Lochwinnoch. Having moved the village in August 2019, I can say that this project and land has already positively influenced my life in the village as well as those around me.
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I am in full support of this project.

I am writing to register my support for the proposed asset transfer of the site at Lochhead #17 Avenue in Lochwinnoch to the LCDT. As a resident of Lochwinnoch, living just a few yards from the Lochhead Avenue site I have

witnessed and benefitted from the many of the projects initiated and supported by LCDT. My children have played, explored and enjoyed the Wildcare sessions, I have made meals with produce from the Community Larder, we have attended many of the Feel Good festival events. I have seen what was once an overgrown wasteland transformed into a valuable hub for the community, both in terms of its provision of services and events, but also as an opportunity for volunteering and supporting and promoting local businesses. As the cost of living and climate crises take hold and impact our daily lives, it has been heart-warming and inspiring to see how our community has embraced and promoted sustainability and support for all. I wholeheartedly support the proposed asset transfer to allow these projects to continue and flourish into the future

#18 This is an email of support for the CAT application for the 10 year lease of Lochhead Gardens.

I am a community member who will personally benefit from the plans for the use of the space, as will my partner and young family aged 4 and 9.

We have been enjoying being part of developing the grounds to date, feeling a sense of pride in the community and excitement in terms of what the space will ultimately offer. A safe, contained, environmental and sensory space for the whole community to enjoy. As a psychotherapist and creative group facilitator I would also like to offer wellbeing workshops in nature for all ages, to benefit the whole community. The planned development for Lochhead Gardens offers the ideal space and environment to bring this vision to reality. This is just one of many possible opportunities that could be offered from a variety of skilled professionals for the benefit of the community.

I eagerly look forward to hearing the outcome of this

#19	I am writing in support of the community asset transfer process for Lochhead Gardens in
	Lochwinnoch. My name and address are included below which I understand is a
	requirement, and I am happy for my email to be used for purposes in support of this
	project.
	The work undertaken at Lochhead Gardens has already transformed the space, and there is
	so much potential to make this a real hub of the village. I grew up in Lochwinnoch, and am
	in the village every day - working or collecting my two children who attend childcare there, while also looking for a property that will allow us to move back into the village itself
	permanently. I believe the plans proposed will bring a variety of benefits to a wide range of
	community members, and I for one whole heartedly believe in investing in our local
	communities. Lochwinnoch has long been a beautiful and sought after location, a true
	country village with heart. I believe this project could build on this and leave a legacy for
	future generations - I hope this can progress swiftly so we may all reap these benefits.
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7th March 2023

#21	I am writing to express my support for the application by Lochwinnoch Community Development Trust for a Community Asset Transfer for Lochhead Gardens in Lochwinnoch on a 10-year lease.
	The Gardens are already a valuable asset for the community and the plans that LCDT have for enhancing the area will make this and even more important area for multiple uses. This has been sensitively designed with consultation with the community. Having the certainty of a 10-year lease will allow these plans to be fully utilised
#22	I am a volunteer and a member of Lochwinnoch Community Larder. I am writing in support of the 10 year lease in Lochhead Avenue.
#23	I am writing in support of the commuting asset transfer of Lochhead Community Gardens to Lochwinnoch Community Development Trust.
	I am a resident of Lochwinnoch. I am registered as a childminder here in Lochwinnoch for 12 years.
	During Covid I set-up an outdoor learning experience for children to enjoy. LCG site became our base to for children to explore and to learn in
	We utilise the site as a base throughout the year for childminding activities as well as operating from here as Wildcare during holidays. Many children benefit from this site as it's set in the heart of the village, easily accessible, a central base to work out from as the play park, local shops, Castle Semple, RSPB, River Calder are all within walking distance, all are

	important parts of our community which the children learn through play about when they are booked in.
	Lochhead Community Gardens site naturally lends itself to outdoor learning for children. The children love to climb trees, use the mud kitchen, paint pictures and hang in the outdoor gallery to talk about their pictures, we all play games together, plant and grow vegetables and strawberries as well as flowers. This outdoor space is a vital source for children to connect with nature which helps to build resilience and confidence from the inside. Children learning about nature helps them understand and respect their environment.
	Lochhead Community Gardens offers a familiar safe place for children to learn and grow from. They have so much fun.
#24	I am writing in support of the Community Larder through LEAP, obtaining a CAT in order to use the former waste ground at Lochhead Avenue in Lochwinnoch.
	The Community Larder along with several other groups have made such a difference to the appearance of the site. It is well managed, great efforts are made to keep the space tidy and the future proposals look fabulous without over developing the site.
	I was the founding member of Lochwinnoch Cares which I began during the pandemic as a way to support vulnerable people in Lochwinnoch and the rural surrounding area. I must emphasise how much the larder has given help and support, by providing and delivering food to people who might otherwise have had to go without.
	Now the Pandemic is over, the Community Larder has taken on the task of providing a delivery service to these vulnerable people. I have seen first hand what a difference it means, knowing that there will be some food on the table for elderly people, single people and families alike. The social interaction is also a huge benefit.
	Some of the people the Larder supports are unable to travel to the more affordable supermarkets partly due to poor public transport, but it should also be noted that it is expensive to purchase food in the village shops.
	The Larder is also a great place to socialise, it's non judgemental and all ages mix together, it's such a joyful place. It provides great volunteering opportunities, from Duke Of Edinburgh students to retirees and every age in between.
	Apart from the Community Larder, there are a number of other groups which make excellent use of the space. A Wildcare holiday childcare group, a biodiversity group and a home education group and their clientele, are some of the other beneficiaries of the land and use it in such a positive, low impact way.
	Preventing food going into landfill by making sure it's available in Lochwinnoch (the nearest Food Bank is not accessible for those without transport or who are on a low income), offering it in a dignified way, whilst providing a beautiful environment to socialise in is so important, particularly after experiencing all the worry a pandemic and a recession brings.
	I urge you to consider the aforementioned reasons when making a decision and thank you for taking the time to read this email#24
#25	I am writing in support of the proposed Community Asset Transfer of Lochhead Gardens, Lochhead Avenue, Lochwinnoch PA12 4AW to Lochwinnoch Community Development Trust.
	The activities that have taken place at Lochhead Gardens over the last few years have provided a massive benefit to the people of Lochwinnoch. What was once a area of overgrown, unused land, is now a hub for community activities that are bringing energy,

	connectedness, jobs, volunteering opportunities and much more to Lochwinnoch. It has become a real asset for the village and their plans will only enhance this.
	My family now uses that site often and has been opened up to experiences previously unavailable due to LCDT's work. Our daughter has benefitted, and loves, the Wildcare that takes place there. We have visited workshops provided during the Feelgood Festival, joined gardening groups and regularly use the Larder. Beyond redistribution of food that would otherwise go to waste and providing vital food for those in need, the Larder has become a hub for diverse community interaction especially helping the socially isolated. It has also provided jobs and volunteering opportunities to those within the village.
	The work the LCDT and their partners have done and are planning should be applauded and has my wholehearted support
#26	As a resident of Lochwinnoch of nearly 20 years with two young children, I can't stress enough what a wonderful assess Lochhead gardens has become for the village. The diversity of people who currently use and will potentially use it in future is phenomenal. Young, old, able, disabled, from all economic backgrounds converge, engage, teach, learn, exchange ideas, information, laughter, tears and everything in between. Lochwinnoch is a better place for having this on our doorstep and with a long term lease could continue to offer this and so much more. The benefits already felt by current users is just a small indication of what could be achieved for our community in future. It's, vital, in my eyes, this continues to grown and reach its full potential, that will serve Lochwinnoch for generations to come.
#28	I am a community member Lochwinnoch and fully support the CAT application, this is an incredibly hard working group who have transformed an unloved piece of land in the heart of the village. I support the application for the following reasons.
	- the Lochwinnoch community trust have taken an abandoned and previously unused piece of land and transformed it into a vibrant community space and a safe site for the community, young people and families.
	 my children who 8 and 6 use the Wildcare provision which is an outdoor childcare provision offering access to nature and education in an outdoor setting. This is even more vital since the after school club closed down.
	- they have through hard work and fund raising made it operationally viable and accessible, coordinating volunteers to maintain the site and programme, introducing infrastructure and improving access. They have a demonstrated skillset and capacity to deliver on the proposal.
	- they have created a fresh food and community larder scheme which provides fresh locally grown veg and also encourages dialogue around sustainable food systems, food education and healthy eating.
	- the garden has become a vital community hub, the LCT have transformed this site into a welcoming green space and community meeting space which actively promotes the wellbeing of the local population, encouraging social engagement and bringing people together through local events, food growing and community led enterprise. This is to be applauded and should be sustained and supported.
	I wholeheartedly lend my support to this CAT application
#29	I would like to register my support for this application. LCDT have demonstrated that the site can be developed for the general benefit of the community in a sustainable and responsible manner. The security of a long lease will open up opportunities for further

	development of what was a derelict site, in line with many of Renfrewshire Councils own aims and objectives.
#30	I am writing to offer my support to the proposal that Lochhead Gardens (on Lochhead Avenue, Lochwinnoch), be transferred as an asset to the community. I believe the plans show a fantastic development to the benefit of all, incorporating the means of supporting itself with the market stalls, and huge benefit to the community through growing, educational, wild and social space

8th March 2023

#31	I am writing in support of the community asset transfer of the site at Lochhead gardens.
	It will provide a wonderful resource for the local community to gather intergenerationally and contribute to anti-isolation and general well-being.
	The food larder itself is an absolute lifeline providing much needed food, with dignity and socialisation. The wider elements such as community growing are attracting people to come and work together for collective purpose. Growing food, learning skills and meeting people.
	The area will provide a place not just for the named childcare outfit, but a resource for the many childcare and outdoor education providers in the area to make use of a safe, natural and enriching space to occupy and educate children.
	There is real momentum for this project. Just come and look on a Saturday morning, people are voting with their spades. On the plans there really is something for everyone, it's rooted in wellbeing and the whole community will benefit greatly.
#32	I am writing to add my support for the above proposal for a 10 year lease at the Lochhead Gardens site.
	Whilst I do not live in the Lochwinnoch community, I have been using the Wildcare facility at the site for the past 2 years where 2 young children have been attending during school holidays post Covid.
	As children who live in a very built up area in a Town, this has been a welcome and much needed educational opportunity where they have learned valuable co-operational and social skills with children outwith their own peer groups.
	This has been an incredibly valuable experience, as it has afforded the children a break from their own routine, effectively providing a degree of respite in a rural setting where they have felt safe, welcomed and cared for. They have also been given the opportunity to connect with nature, learn about growing things and the value of helping/sharing others via the larder and ultimately created new friendships and relationships which has boosted their Mental Health, particularly following the disruption during the Covid pandemic.
	I have witnessed them growing in confidence and as a direct result of attending Wildcare, have since attended a number of the community events during the Community Feel Good Festival.
	I would very much welcome the application for the Lease to be successful, as it supports with future planning and development and for valued childcare.
#33	I wish to add my support to the CAT of Lochhead Gardens on a 10 year lease.

The use of the gardens, from the community larder and as a child friendly area are a true
credit to Lochwinnoch and the citizens. I fully support this plan for the next 10 years as a
resident of the village and hope the CAT can go ahead.

10th March 2023

#34	We are writing in support of the community asset transfer of Lochhead Gardens. We're so impressed with what the team has done with the space already and we're excited for the possibilities the project proposal would bring.
	We have already benefited from the wide range of opportunities offered in this space including:
	Allowing our daughter to play in the mud garden, pick brambles and explore the natural space provided
	 Attending events and activities and getting to know other people/learn new skills there during the Feel Good Festival Socialising with and mosting new people, at the community larder which has
	 Socialising with - and meeting new people - at the community larder, which has become a vital community meeting space Using the food services of the community larder, which has been a huge help to us
	when we've been struggling - and both helps to reduce food waste and bring dignity back to much needed food provision
	 Learning new skills and gathering the materials needed to grow our own vegetables through the Digging It scheme
	And while we haven't managed to make it along yet, we're looking forward to heading along to one of the volunteer days to get involved with gardening and improving the space - we know that other families who have been along have got a lot out of it.
	Particularly as parents of a young child with huge childcare costs to pay, the space has helped to counter loneliness and isolation by being a welcoming, free, community space we can attend on a regular basis, knowing we will also be welcomed with a smile.
	As the cost of living crisis continues to hit hard, a community owned space like this could be a vital lifeline for so many people. A hub that could foster the growth of more community groups, social enterprises, charities and projects would have endless knock on effects that could benefit so many more people.
	Access to a natural, outdoor space in the heart of the village that is used for different activities and developed to encourage wildlife would be a wonderful asset to our community.
	The fact that our village has so many caring community-minded people in it, looking to create this kind of project to benefit the whole community, is one of the many reasons why we're proud to call Lochwinnoch home.