

NOTICE OF REPRESENTATIONS

Community Asset Transfer Request

Ralston Community Sports Centre – Kelburne Hockey and Community Sports Club

REPRESENTATIONS: AGAINST 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** representations that did not provide any reason for why they either supported or rejected the CAT Request. **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 total but **are not included** in the breakdown 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 AGAINST the CAT Transfer Request

The number of representations received **AGAINST** the CAT Request are **1417**, which includes **30** representations made which were non-compliant and **27 (3)** which did not provide any reason for their objection. 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 objection.

THEME 1: Loss of Football Provision and Ralston Skills 636 (15)

Comments include:

- “The [Ralston Skills] programme is a massive asset to the community, a local treasure, well respected and a very celebrated part of the local community with local children at the heart of it”, *Local Resident*
- “It’s a myth if anyone who says there are plenty of facilities to use...all football pitches are booked to capacity for Training Monday to Friday 1730 -2130...as a team we have struggled to book other pitches when Ralston is not available”, *Parent Local Football Club*
- “Over 1000 children, boys & girls, play matches and train in Ralston on a weekly basis”, *Various*
- “As a league we use this facility every Saturday and Sunday... the grass area has never been suitable for young people to play football on. I hope you consider the impact to the wider community”, *Renfrewshire Football League*
- “This piece of land has been incredibly well used by youths for over 2 decades who wish to play football. Over 1000 youths and adults use the football pitch every week. If this CAT were to go ahead, hundreds of these youths would have nowhere to go and it would see the end of the current Ralston skills class that runs every Saturday that gives young kids the chance to develop their skills before they can join a youth team. This would be incredibly detrimental for the future of football in Scotland”, *Local Resident*
- “My son, like many other children in the local area goes to Ralston Skills faithfully every Saturday morning. It plays a big part in developing his social skills as well as his overall health and well-being. If Kelburne Hockey Club are successful in their application, Ralston Skills would cease to exist which would be an absolute travesty”, *Local Resident and Parent*
- “I object because this transfer would directly impact on my own club...we have teams who use this facility on a regular basis...impact on wider local YFL... now looking to perhaps taking all of their business to Inverclyde”, *Renfrewshire Football Club*
- “For this asset to be given to a hockey club would be the wrong decision as football has more participants and this facility has been utilised by [local] league for many years”, *Renfrewshire Football Club*

THEME 2: Loss of Greenspace 312 (6)

Comments include:

- “Do not take away this public space from the children of Ralston and the wider Paisley community that need this hub space for organised football”, *Local Resident*
- “...potential that youths who used this ground would then turn to anti -social behaviour, hanging about on the streets as they no longer have green space to play on”, *Local Resident*
- “If the CAT goes ahead then there will be no public, open green space in Ralston”, *Various*
- “Without this area, there is nowhere for local people to allow their kids a little freedom, come to play with their friends in a safe environment, no traffic and away from the main road...not to mention the many of us that use the grass and surrounding area to walk our dogs again with no traffic”, *Local Resident*

THEME 3: Concerns about Ownership of RCSC 518 (5)

Comments include:

- “...our community sports centre should remain in public ownership”, *Local Resident*
- “It’s important to ensure the whole grass area, including the sports centre, remains a public asset. It’s space for young and old to use freely”, *Local Resident*
- “I would like to see the Sports Centre stay within the community”, *Local Resident*
- “I completely object to the single public green sports space available in the Ralston area being transferred to a single private sports club. (Kelburne Hockey Club)”, *Local Resident*
- “I wish to have Ralston Community Sports in public ownership”, *Local Resident*
- “I believe that RCSC should continue to be run by OneRen on behalf of Renfrewshire Council”, *RCC Letters*
- “The only way to ensure this facility is available for the maximum benefit of Renfrewshire residents is to retain it as publicly owned and managed”, *Local Resident*

THEME 4: Use of Public Grants 264 (0)

Comments include:

- “I don’t believe they should be using public money to fund a private club” *Local Resident*
- Kelburne Hockey Club are requesting hundreds of thousands of pounds from the public purse....as a Council Taxpayer I would prefer my money to be invested in a publicly owned facility or not at all”, *Local Resident*
- “If the council are willing to grant this funding then why can’t this money (600k) be used to upgrade and develop the current facility which was widely used by local groups”, *Local Resident*
- I find it nothing short of a disgrace that public money would be used in order to refurbish the facility prior to any asset transfer”, *Local Resident*
- “Instead of granting KHC a large sum of public funds to take Ralston Sports Centre out of public hands, Renfrewshire Council should be promoting and developing the Ralston facility for community use” *RCC Letters*

THEME 5: Concerns about Environmental Impacts 24 (0)

Comments include:

- “The proposal....inevitably will evolve to include a license, which of course brings its own issues.... no concerns addressed regarding additional traffic flow whilst there were abrasive responses from the Kelburne representative during the meetings”, *Local Resident*
- “Many parents use the sports centre car park to drop their children off at school and pick them up again. This is an extremely busy place at these times without adding more cars from Kelburne Hockey Club into the mix”, *Local Resident*
- “With heavier traffic, comes the additional risk of traffic accidents - I'm especially worried for the young children who play locally”, *Local Resident*

THEME 6: Long-term Lack of Investment in RCSC 236 (0)

Comments include:

- [The facility] “...is well used by the community but there is no doubt it could be enhanced and better used”, *Political Representative*
- “Renfrewshire Leisure/One Ren has not promoted the centre. While it has become a successful football venue, the gym and fitness classes available at Ralston Community Sports Centre have never been promoted as they could have been.”, *Local Resident*
- “The mere fact this facility has been wilfully neglected in an attempt to meet the criteria for asset transfer is a scandal”, *Local Resident*
- “Renfrewshire leisure have failed to promote this facility over the past three years and look as if they have actively tried to run this facility down using the COVID pandemic as an excuse”, *Local Resident*

THEME 7: Kelburne Hockey Club Capability 372 (5)

Comments include:

- “I have grave concerns on just how actually KHC aim to maintain the services and remain compliant with building services”, *Local Resident*
- “Kelburne Hockey Club's consultation with the local community has been dreadful and it has caused much anger and dis-trust”, *Local Resident*
- “The charity which KHC have recently set up only gives voting rights to adult hockey members...local residents can join as associate members but would not have voting rights [and] would have no way of influencing how the centre was run which in principle is wrong and makes RCSC a private club not a community asset”, *Local Resident*
- “The CAT is a moving feast which makes it impossible for people to comment on”, *Local Resident*
- “The CAT makes no realistic provision for the up to 1000 players, many of them children, who use the Astroturf pitch currently”, *Football Club*
- “[KHC] incompetent job of running public meeting...question ability to run facility”, *RCC Letters*

- “KHC simply don't have the finance or expertise to run such an operation as their business plan sets out....their figures don't stand up, either in running costs or maintenance”, *Local Resident*
- “Kelburne Hockey Club’s consultation with the local community has been awful throughout this process and very inconsistent....I am left baffled why there are inconsistencies at such a late stage in their application”, *Local Resident*
- “A solution exists for Kelburne at the Onyx hockey pitch at Linwood. There is no need for it to move to Ralston and cause so much disruption”, *Local Resident*
- “Financial details deleted....prevents proper assessment of viability”, RCC Letters

END

Kelburne Hockey & Community Sports Club

Formal Response to those 'AGAINST' acceptance of this Community Asset Transfer

Attached is the KHCS response to the "AGAINST" 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.

Our proposal 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 have kept our responses brief in order to ensure we answer points raised however you can also find our proposal and more information behind these answers on [THIS LINK](#) on the Kelburne web-site.

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

Please note our feedback below to the themes stated in Renfrewshire Councils submission

THEME 1: Football Provision and Ralston Skills 106 (14)

Comments include:

- [Ralston Skills] "programme is a massive asset to the community, a local treasure, well respected and a very celebrated part of the local community with local children at the heart

of it", Local Resident

- "It's a myth if anyone who says there are plenty of facilities to use...all football pitches are booked to capacity for Training Monday to Friday 1730 -2130...as a team we have struggled to book other pitches when Ralston is not available", Parent Local Football Club
- "Over 1000 children, boys & girls, play matches and train in Ralston on a weekly basis", Various
- "As a league we use this facility every Saturday and Sunday... the grass area has never been suitable for young people to play football on. I hope you consider the impact to the wider community", Renfrewshire Football League
- "This piece of land has been incredibly well used by youths for over 2 decades who wish to play football. Over 1000 youths and adults use the football pitch every week. If this CAT were to go ahead, hundreds of these youths would have nowhere to go and it would see the end of the current Ralston skills class that runs every Saturday that gives young kids the chance to develop their skills before they can join a youth team. This would be incredibly detrimental for the future of football in Scotland", Local Resident
- "My son, like many other children in the local area goes to Ralston Skills faithfully every Saturday morning. It plays a big part in developing his social skills as well as his overall health and well-being. If Kelburne Hockey Club are successful in their application, Ralston Skills would cease to exist which would be an absolute travesty", Local Resident and Parent
- "I object because this transfer would directly impact on my own club....we have teams who use this facility on a regular basis...impact on wider local YFL... now looking to perhaps taking all of their business to Inverclyde", Renfrewshire Football Club
- "For this asset to be given to a hockey club would be the wrong decision as football has more participants and this facility has been utilised by [local] league for many years", Renfrewshire Football Club

Kelburne Response to Theme 1 : Football & Ralston Skills

For our response in this area, we will separate out 'football' and 'Ralston Skills' in 2 separate feedback sections

Football

- Our proposal is one which has wider-based sporting principles with Hockey as the Primary sport on the artificial surface which would continue to be used by Ralston Primary school as they do today (free-of-charge). Use would also be extended to local Skill Groups, other sporting groups seeking space for physical training activities, and free-of-charge to all secondary schools as part of their sporting programmes and the new vision of growing the sport of Hockey across the whole of Renfrewshire. The grass area will be re-generated with planned works at the artificial pitch installed during artificial pitch construction and this will continue to be made available to support football and other potential sports like American football through an "anchor tenant" process. We expect demand to be high for the grass area when the remedial work to the ground is undertaken.
- In essence, we are providing a 1 for 1 football pitch change (from artificial to grass) which makes provision for football and other formal arrangements with anchor tenants who need a regular home/pitch to play on. We will not be installing floodlighting for the grass area as this requires planning permission and during the winter evenings, playing on grass will be restricted due to extreme weather conditions. One-Ren currently offer almost 60 pitches (mix of 14 artificial and 46 grass) for football to take place and in previous discussions with their leadership team, we are led to believe that football demand would continue to be covered, even with the change of the Ralston Community centre football pitch to Hockey, and this coverage would be withing a 1 to 4 miles radius of the Ralston facility.

- In addition, there are on-going football pitch developments in the immediate pipeline which will serve football only and expand the overall number of pitches available in the next few years. Eg
 - Seedhill - up-graded facilities for football (11s and 5/7s) to support UWS expansion after the sale of Thornly Park complex
 - St.James (Racecourse) – 4 new grass pitches currently under construction with new pavilion changing areas
 - New Paisley Grammar High School (Renfrew Road) - new artificial pitches to support school & public hire
- In previous discussions with football clubs, claims of anywhere between 3 and 6 bookable artificial pitches are quoted as being 'available' to book but too busy, whereas on the One-Ren website there are 14 artificial pitches available for booking, all within a 4 mile (20 minute radius) of Ralston. We believe more needs to be done with football groups and One-Ren to review and fix these booking anomalies to ensure pitch-booking is easier to make and available to all clubs which will maximise the use of the substantial financial investments made by Renfrewshire Council.
- Also known is the fact that the artificial football pitch at Ralston is booked regularly by football clubs outside of Renfrewshire. Why is this the case if clubs can't get bookings.? The pitch booking process is that Renfrewshire clubs get first crack at the bookings and any free space is available to anyone. It therefore must follow that not all the space is being booked or needed by Renfrewshire Clubs which contradicts previous statements that football cant get bookings.
- In direct contrast, Hockey in Renfrewshire has 2 low-grade pitches available which DO NOT comply with governing body regulations for National competitions, therefore our Club cannot play on these pitches due to Scottish Hockey rules. Football has almost 60 pitches to book/play on locally, and our Club have none to book/play on and have to travel 11 miles through Glasgow to Glasgow Green to play – this is unacceptable.
- We believe it is absolutely vital that a diverse range of activities are created for people from all backgrounds, ensuring the health & well-being of all groups are catered for equally and inclusively. Currently this is not being provided in Renfrewshire and our proposal aims to change that for the benefit of not only hockey, but a wider range of sports (including football), fitness and health & well-being activities that exist today. Our proposal is well thought out and addresses all of the sporting diversity issues that exist today and allows for a wider range of sport to take place at a currently under-used facility in Renfrewshire.
- Casual football use for local youths/residents - we will be making provision for football goals and lines for kids to use at any time when the pitch is free of bookings. This is meant as a simple, casual kick-about area for any groups of kids in Ralston to come along and enjoy today, but on the grass pitch area which will be renovated.

Ralston Skills

- Are a well-established operation played formerly on grass and now on artificial grass on Saturday mornings between 0930-1100am. Their ethos is identical to our Jockey Group of

- players and having two youth sports played on a Saturday morning we believe is vital to the image we want to project that our young kids of today can come along and play multiple sports at our centre and have fun and be part of the social fabric of their club in their area.
- In our timetable, we have scheduled 0900-1045hrs on Saturday for Ralston Skills and 1045-1200 for Jockey Hockey, both on the artificial pitch. Both groups are able to co-exist on Saturday mornings with Senior Hockey taking place directly afterwards
- There is no physical or time/logistical reason for Ralston Skills to cease to exist if the CAT is awarded to KHCSC. We want Ralston Skills to continue playing at this location which helps meet our overall objectives, however if they choose to close then this is a matter purely for their own leadership team to decide, however this timetable slot will continue to be reserved for their activities
- It is important to note at this juncture that the communication process with Ralston Skills has been disappointing. We have always urged respect and consideration for any club or organisation involved in this process however Ralston Skills leaders have regularly disparaged our Club directly on Social Media feeds and called our organisation in to disrepute. There is no doubt that individuals and organisations will have their own views on our CAT which is part of the process however tarnishing the reputation of our Organisation of 50 years plus in Renfrewshire was wholly unacceptable to us, however we chose a process of 'no-response' to this type of social media correspondence.

We do however accept this is a challenge for all of us and will continue to work with anyone involved in this process to make a success of our proposal.

THEME 2: Loss of Greenspace 75 (5)

Comments include:

- "Do not take away this public space from the children of Ralston and the wider Paisley community that need this hub space for organised football", Local Resident
- "...potential that youths who used this ground would then turn to anti -social behaviour, hanging about on the streets as they no longer have green space to play on", Local Resident
- "If the CAT goes ahead then there will be no public, open green space in Ralston", Various
- "Without this area, there is nowhere for local people to allow their kids a little freedom, come to play with their friends in a safe environment, no traffic and away from the main road...not to mention the many of us that use the grass and surrounding area to walk our dogs again with no traffic", Local Resident

Theme 2 : Kelburne Response to Loss of greenspace

- In our published business proposal (click this link [HERE](#) for our top-level presentation, see page 32), we have no plans to change what is already enjoyed today as free public space in allowing local residents, youths and our community, free use of the grass and surrounding grass areas, as if there was a seamless changes from One-Ren to KHCSC. It will be open to all as a public space providing there is no interference with any bookings at that time. We are fully supportive and commit to free public access in the following areas
 - Ralston Primary (pitch, car park and drop-off/collect)
 - Active Schools

- All Renfrewshire High Schools
- Joggers & runners welcome
- Responsible dog-walkers more than welcome
- Ralston Community games
- Community Notice Boards
- Grass football pitch provision with Goals/lines etc.

- Grass area will be more regularly maintained (grass cutting etc)

THEME 3: Concerns about Ownership of RCSC 77 (5)

Comments include:

- “...our community sports centre should remain in public ownership”, Local Resident
- “It’s important to ensure the whole grass area, including the sports centre, remains a public asset. It’s space for young and old to use freely”, Local Resident
- “I would like to see the Sports Centre stay within the community”, Local Resident
- “I completely object to the single public green sports space available in the Ralston area being transferred to a single private sports club. (Kelburne Hockey Club)”, Local Resident
- “I wish to have Ralston Community Sports in public ownership”, Local Resident
- “I believe that RCSC should continue to be run by One-Ren on behalf of Renfrewshire Council”, Local Resident
- “The only way to ensure this facility is available for the maximum benefit of Renfrewshire residents is to retain it as publicly owned and managed”, Local Resident

Theme 3 : Kelburne Response to Concerns about Ownership of RCSC

- We fully understand the debate on publicly owned facilities versus KHCS run as a charitable organisation. As explained in the previous sections, our intentions are to grow the profile of the centre by having a wider range of sports, more activities in the Pavilion, more use of the grass pitches and increased used by social and health & wellbeing groups, which we believe will increase the profile of the centre over time
- It seems odd to KHCS that there have been many complaints over the years (Theme 6) of the centre being under-resourced by One-Ren yet not much has been done since 2016, yet they appear not to be prepared to support a new vision and a new plan which would address this with more opening hours, more activities and more opportunities all-round.
- We believe a more logical approach would have been for these objecting organisations to share their own proposal of improvements for the centre, rather than challenge a new vision and offer nothing in return other than trying to re-ignite the same 2016 arrangements which cover the past 6 years, have not worked out.
- Our proposal is for a 50 year lease and if we don’t meet the conditions proposed by Renfrewshire Council, then it could be their approach that they terminate our lease if we are not providing what we committed in our proposal
- In previous years prior to Covid, operating hours of the centre were severely restricted due to the lack of use of the facility. In our business proposal, our weekday operating hours will

- be 9am to 9pm and weekends will be 9am to 6.30pm. This is a significant improvement in facility availability from the years prior to Covid and now, after it's recent re-opening on restricted hours.

Theme 4 (use of Public Grants) - We are unable to respond in great detail due to the redaction of the financials, however we would like to share a couple of observations

- Public money & grants are designed to support the development of Community Clubs and hubs and the health & the well-being they serve. The centre itself currently supports one sport on a pitch with money which came from the same public funds KHCS are looking to access and our model supports more than one sport and is more diverse in gender & age
- Our financial planning model, both start-up budget and our 10 year business plan, are with Renfrewshire Council officers to decide if this is acceptable or not and they will reply accordingly.

Renfrewshire Council Spokesperson responded: *The Council does not automatically provide funding to community bodies in relation to community asset transfer requests, regardless of whether the application is successful or not. The Council has a range of funds available for community bodies to request support from e.g. the Community Empowerment Fund, which may support a CAT application, however each application is judged on its own merit.*

THEME 5: Concerns about Environmental Impacts 23

Comments include:

- "The proposal.... inevitably will evolve to include a license, which of course brings its own issues.... no concerns addressed regarding additional traffic flow whilst there were abrasive responses from the Kelburne representative during the meetings", Local Resident
- "Many parents use the sports centre car park to drop their children off at school and pick them up again. This is an extremely busy place at these times without adding more cars from Kelburne Hockey Club into the mix", Local Resident
- "With heavier traffic, comes the additional risk of traffic accidents - I'm especially worried for the young children who play locally", Local Resident

Theme 5 : Kelburne response to Concerns about Environmental Impacts

- We have stated many times before that KHCS have no intention of requesting a licence for a bar. Our business proposal we believe is sound without requiring this, with the majority of income coming from membership costs, artificial pitch letting, Gym & Studio groups using the Pavilion for a 3-fold activity increase and the Café. Other activities like Sponsorship, charitable grants and income from the grass pitches from football/other sports hiring on the grass pitch, make up the balance of income generated. Renfrewshire Council are perfectly capable and within their right to include this as a specific legal clause to ensure we are held to our 'no-bar' commitment if they so wish.
- On a normal Saturday, activities will be spread throughout the full day so it follows that traffic will be spread more widely through the day and therefore a more even flow of traffic over a longer period will ensue.
- There is currently an issue on parking at the centre which is well-documented. Our aim is to address something that hasn't been addressed for many years. To assist local residents at peak times, we will be more pro-active in working with visitors to ensure the existing car parks (main car-park and Ralston Primary) are used in full and this will be done with advance communication, hands-on management by our staff and volunteer members working

- directly with visitors. We also have plans for a small internal & discreet overflow car-park which would be put in to use if required at weekends.

THEME 6: Long-term Lack of Investment in RCSC 17

Comments include:

- [The facility] "...is well used by the community but there is no doubt it could be enhanced and better used", Political Representative
- "Renfrewshire Leisure/One Ren has not promoted the centre. While it has become a successful football venue, the gym and fitness classes available at Ralston Community Sports Centre have never been promoted as they could have been.", Local Resident
- "The mere fact this facility has been wilfully neglected in an attempt to meet the criteria for asset transfer is a scandal", Local Resident
- "Renfrewshire leisure have failed to promote this facility over the past three years and look as if they have actively tried to run this facility down using the COVID pandemic as an excuse", Local Resident

Theme 6 (long term lack of investment in RCSC) we can,t respond to as this directly relates to Renfrewshire Leisure (now One-Ren) and we will defer to Renfrewshire Council to decide how to respond with just one observation on our part

- It is our view that what we are offering at KHSC is a wider range of activities which are geared to more sports, more activities in the Pavilion based around fitness, social & health & well-being groups, and a longer term investment in the fabric of an iconic Grade A listing building by a committed community club. This can only serve to be a good thing for the centre in the short, medium and the long term and shows the spirit of real investment.

A OneRen Spokesperson responded: *"OneRen operate Ralston CSC on behalf of the Council. The facility is jointly maintained by OneRen and the Council. OneRen and the Council work alongside each other to ensure that all OneRen operated facilities are well maintained and meet the expected standard in terms of customer provision. Capital improvements and largescale investment in facilities remains challenging as there is limited funding available to support a programme that requires to be spread across numerous sports, community and cultural venues. Community use of Ralston during weekdays has historically been very low, resulting in the facility operating at a significant deficit. In response to this position, the opening hours of the facility were amended in 2016 to 5pm-9pm Monday to Thursday, and 9am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday. The business plan supporting the CAT application suggests the applicant would welcome community use during the day and would look to facilitate that on a long term basis."*

THEME 7: Kelburne Hockey Club Capability 31

Comments include:

- "I have grave concerns on just how actually KHC aim to maintain the services and remain compliant with building services", Local Resident
- "Kelburne Hockey Club's consultation with the local community has been dreadful and it has caused much anger and dis-trust", Local Resident
- "The charity which KHC have recently set up only gives voting rights to adult hockey members...local residents can join as associate members but would not have voting rights [and] would have no way of influencing how the centre was run which in principle is wrong and makes RCSC a private club not a community asset", Local Resident
- "The CAT is a moving feast which makes it impossible for people to comment on", Local

Resident

- “The CAT makes no realistic provision for the up to 1000 players, many of them children, who use the Astroturf pitch currently”, Football Club
- “KHC simply don't have the finance or expertise to run such an operation as their business plan sets out....their figures don't stand up, either in running costs or maintenance”, Local Resident
- “Kelburne Hockey Club’s consultation with the local community has been awful throughout this process and very inconsistent...[initially advised] plans to bring high school pupils down to the pitch during school hours for hockey coaching....this would have big implications for Ralston Primary School...next meeting it had changed and Kelburne were saying that high school children would be getting brought down only after school hours for hockey coaching (this would have big implications for the local children who love to play in this area after school). I am left baffled why there are inconsistencies at such a late stage in their application”, Local Resident
- “A solution exists for Kelburne at the Onyx hockey pitch at Linwood. There is no need for it to move to Ralston and cause so much disruption”, Local Resident

Kelburne Response to Theme 7 : Kelburne Hockey Club capability

- We understand that change can often be seen as hurdle and to KHCS, this is no different. This is a huge project for us but our history as a successfully run club will stand us in good stead to make this a success. We have run our Club for 50 years at local, regional, national and international level, have a wide range of professional skills and tradesmen in our organisation today, and we’re fully committed and ready to manage this facility.
- We bench-marked different organisations who run facilities like this one, the most recent being Clydebank Community Sports hub and our operation is based on this model and we are hiring seasoned professionals to run the centre on a daily basis – a Centre Operations Manager, Pavilion operations staff, Gym & Studio trained staff and a Grounds Maintenance person. These skilled people will ensure the operation runs well and report back to the Board and Trustees on a daily/weekly basis as required
- Our Business Plan is with Renfrewshire Council currently and we await the outcome of the results of the CAT panel in August.
- Our Board sits currently at 4 Trustees and if we are successful, the Board will increase to 9 Trustees and we will bring specific skills (see link [HERE](#) from our presentation slides, page 35) from the local community which will augment the role of the board and provide a better balance between sport, business and local residents & community needs
- Free weekly Hockey to Secondary schools is primarily for after-school Clubs as per the schedule listed on page the link [HERE](#), see Page 27. Some irregular inter-school Cup competition matches will take place (winter) through the year and these dates when known, will be scheduled at a time that suits Ralston Primary diaries.
- It makes logical sense that from when our business proposal was made, it grows and takes shape in the months following our application and this is the case with our proposal. The principle remains the same but as we add specific operational activities into the plan, this puts more meat on the bones and demonstrates that KHCS are moving forward to make this project a success.
- We believe that One-Ren should make a statement concerning the (1000) football numbers that use the centre and whether they are sustainable at the Ralston centre or whether they can still be sustained within the capacity of the other artificial & grass pitches in the One-Ren pitch portfolio. We believe from past One-Ren discussions, they can support the Ralston football lets at other local nearby football centres however One-Ren can qualify this more directly.

- We are currently based in Ward 3 Paisley East & Ralston and want to develop our new Vision in our own spiritual home of over 50 years. The Ralston Community Sports Centre we believe is a fantastic venue to move to since we reside nearby, just 1.2 miles away, and from this base we will provide an improved facility for Hockey and our local community. Linwood is indeed a “potential” since a low-grade hockey pitch is already there, however Renfrewshire Council would have to invest in substantial sums to replace that pitch and then make it available to KHCSC and other Clubs and continue to support a 2nd hockey pitch that Renfrewshire needs to support Hockey, the 2nd most popular team sport in our county.
- For Kelburne however, our proposal at Ralston has been fully costed and involves the true worth that is re-developing and growing the well-loved facility that everyone wants in Ralston. We hope that we are allowed this opportunity to do so at KHCSC

Finally, we believe many of the ‘re-statements’ in all of the above sections could have been avoided directly and quickly by simply being allowed to take part in the ‘Open Meetings’ held by Ralston Community Council (RCC). Meeting local residents face-to-face at the start of and as our proposal took more shape, would have helped resolve many of the issues or at least achieve a better understanding. When you find that you’re excluded from meetings and others who don’t use the centre and don’t live in the area are invited, it fuels the result you want as opposed to being impartial and listening to all sides of the argument, and very quickly, a ‘them-and-us’ approach takes over and the sense of balance is lost. Despite claims of ‘zero interest’ in our proposal from local residents, it is clear that this is not the case in the FOR response provided by Renfrewshire Council. As always, we do accept however that this is a challenging topic for everyone involved and no-one is perfect, however we will continue to work with anyone involved in this process to make a success of our proposal and provide as much information as possible to local residents as we should be doing.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to answer the questions raised by those who are AGAINST this Community Asset Transfer.

The Board.
Kelburne Hockey & Community Sports Centre

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

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 KHCSC, 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