

North Kelvin Meadow Group Representation

Dated: 2nd May 2019

To communityassettransfer@glasgow.gov.uk
[REDACTED] Development & Regeneration Services, PLS, Glasgow
City Council, 231 George St, Glasgow, G1 1RX.

Representation in response to the The Children's Wood's request for a 50 year lease of The Children's Wood and North Kelvin Meadow, site between Clouston St / Sanda St / Kelbourne St, G20.

Support:

The North Kelvin Meadow Group (NKM) supports the asset transfer request by The Children Wood Group (CW).

At the same time however, we believe that the proposed transfer could – and should – deliver benefits to the wider community over and above those identified in the request, and it is important that these are not overlooked. Full details are set out below. We have then also set out how we believe these wider benefits can be secured through the terms of the proposed lease and, if Glasgow City Council is minded to grant the asset transfer request, we would ask for it to be done on these terms. These cover:

- NKM's work on the site and the wider community benefit;
- Use of the site by dog walkers from the local community; and
- The category and purpose of the land.

NKM's work on the site and the involvement of the wider community

NKM was founded and constituted as a group in 2008 and has been a registered Scottish Charity SC041346 since 2010. It is run by a committee of volunteers who live local to the land, and was the first group to actively manage the land on behalf of local people since the Council deemed the land surplus to their requirements back in 1992.

This notwithstanding, the asset transfer request doesn't mention NKM as an active user and manager of the land, which it is and has been since 2008. While NKM recognizes that CW will have overall responsibility for the land under the terms of the proposed lease, we want to ensure that we can also continue the work that we have been doing here for the last 11 years, and believe that there are a number of benefits to the community in us doing so. Some key elements of this are:

- **33 Wooden Raised Beds and Barrels.** These are owned by NKM and each is rented per calendar year to local people to grow vegetables in. All income gets reinvested in the land.
- **3 Compost bins.** They are owned by NKM and used by the local community. The resulting compost is then used to grow vegetables and plants from.
- **The brick shed.** Back in 2008, NKM cleaned out the brick shed which had been used as the girls' sports changing room in the 1980s and before. We put doors and shutters on it and have helped maintain it along with the CW group ever since. It's a place to keep the tools and equipment needed for the land.
- **Signage.** The NKM has put signage of what it has been doing along with pieces on the history of the land and its contact details on the fence of the land since 2008,.
- **Volunteer sessions and community events.** For 11 years, NKM has been putting on volunteer sessions and events to help local people look after the land. Much of these activities relate to conservation efforts in making sure the land continues to function as a wood and meadow, but they also include Orchard sessions and work in connection with the raised beds. These sessions and events not just help the land but also the people involved in doing these healthy outdoor activities. It also helps endear a sense of community. Every year we help many students who want to know how land like this is used and benefits communities.

We believe that all of the above, and the benefits this brings to the wider community, needs to be taken into account when determining the asset transfer request. And, if the asset transfer request is

granted, then this should be done on terms that ensures we can continue to deliver these benefits for the wider community in the future.

Specifically, we would ask that any lease:

- requires the tenants to allow NKM and the wider public access to the site for the purposes of both recreation and conservation work including (but not exclusively) all the activities listed above;
- requires the tenants to allow NKM access to the Brick Shed and to store tools there; and
- stipulates that raised beds, compost bins and all other such infrastructure placed on the site by NKM remains the property of NKM.

Community Dog Walkers

Dog walking is one activity that's been consistent on the land since the 1990s, to the benefit of both the dogs themselves and their owners. They are also there at times when others such as CW staff and volunteers aren't and tend to know each other, and have been often referred to as the guardians of the land, as they help to cut down anti social behavior. The land is a place these people can interact which doesn't happen so much in an inner city environment such as this.

At present, the asset transfer request contains only a passing reference to local dog walkers, and we wish to ensure that their interests are also protected in the terms of the proposed lease.

Specifically, we would ask that any lease:

- requires the tenants to continue to allow responsible local dog walkers to access the site; and
- requires the tenants to ensure the maintenance of dog poo and litter bins on the site.

The category and purpose of the land.

Along with many other people in the community, we have continued to lobby via our submissions to the Council regarding the updating of the Open Space Map in the City Plans that have stretched over the last 11 years, the latest one being November 2018, that the land be relabelled:

From “6.51 Sports Areas – Playing Field”.

To “6.71 Natural / Semi Natural Greenspace – Woodland”.

This is because the land is a wood and meadow and has been used like that for the last 20+ years. Indeed, the two groups that use and manage the land (i.e. CW and NKM) have wood and meadow in their names respectively.

To protect the woodland and meadow nature of the site, we would ask that any lease:

- stipulates that the main use be as a wood and meadow, with ancillary use as a community allotment, orchard and raised bed allotment; and
- requires the tenant to maintain the site as woodland and meadow throughout the duration of the lease.

We trust the above will be taken into account when considering the asset transfer request and the terms on which this might be granted.

Yours sincerely

North Kelvin Meadow Group.
Scottish Charity SC041346
1/1 Sanda Street
Glasgow
G20 8PS

Email: northkelvinmeadow@gmail.com
Website: northkelvinmeadow.com
Facebook: [northkelvinmeadow](https://www.facebook.com/northkelvinmeadow)

