

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 October 2019 15:42
To: Community Asset Transfer <communityassettransfer@glasgow.gov.uk>
Subject: Asset Transfer of Cathkin Park and MUGA: Objection

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Mount Florida I would like to register my strong objection to the proposed asset transfer of Cathkin Park to the Jimmy Johnstone Charitable Trust.

The notification has been pitiful and only publicised locally in the last few days through the efforts of local residents. Given that the date of signature on the application is 10/7/18 that is completely unacceptable. Please can you find out and reply with an explanation of the reason for this delay? There has been no communication from the organisation making the application to the local community via any recognised channel (Mount Florida Community Council, for example) or leaflet drops.

The information provided by the trust is patchy and opaque. The community consultation of 40 people is feeble in an area of 6000 residents (Mt Florida alone never mind the areas to the north of the park). A search of their name finds one OSCR document with all names redacted.

There are ample football facilities locally at Toryglen, Lesser Hampden and Hampden. What we are short of is open space for general use and wildlife. Privatising a public space for 25 years to an organisation that has not shown interest in engaging with the local community is not a good use of the area.

The Charity asking for the transfer is closely allied with the organisation already making use of the ground. They have had it at peppercorn rent for 10 years and made no effort to open the pavilion to the public as they claim now to be keen to do in their proposed business plan. Their stated aims would be laudable if they actually involved any local people but as a parent at Mount Florida Primary active on the Parent Partnership, we've had no interaction from the charity suggesting involvement. Given that it is described as such an inclusive scheme it is surprising that no effort has been made for community engagement.

Looking at the dates and timing, it would seem that this SCIO was set up solely to qualify for the asset transfer, in response to the campaign to revive the Third Lanark football club at the site. I don't support that suggestion either - there is a far greater need for open use green space than there is for yet more football provision. Their charitable aims are worthy on paper but bear no relation to anything they are actually doing.

As an aside, the document currently listed under the Cathkin transfer details as Consultation Response 12 on the website actually refers to a request by Locavore for an asset transfer in Bellahouston Park.

Might I also suggest some in-house training for Council Staff? When I rang up the main GCC reception to ask for contact with this department (to check the closing date for objections, which is time sensitive and not suitable to wait for the 20 days your automatic email suggests) the receptionist did not know what 'Community Asset Transfer' was and directed me to the Planning department. Three kind but ultimately clueless staff there were unable to help either.

To reiterate - I object to the transfer by lease of the Cathkin Park area to the Jimmy Johnstone Charitable Trust. I would also like a specific reply explaining how an application dated 10/7/18 was only made known about in the last few days with an objection closing date of 25/10/19.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.