



28/01/2018

Stephen Bermingham
Communities Team
Fairfield House
8 Lothian Road
Dalkeith
Midlothian
EH22 3ZN

Proposed Asset Transfer of Rosewell Sports Pavilion to LASC.

Dear Mr Bermingham,

I am writing to you to inform you of the concerns Rosewell Development Trust (RDT) have regarding the proposed Asset Transfer of the Rosewell Sports Pavilion to Loanhead After School Club (LASC).

Although RDT are supportive of the current childcare services delivered by LASC in Rosewell, we have major concerns regarding the expansion of the service and the proposed extra services, as indicated in the LASC business plan for the Asset Transfer proposal. As well as this we are concerned with the transfer of a Rosewell Community building and adjoining land to a limited company based outwith the community.

As you are aware, RDT are currently in the process of developing a new community hub in Rosewell, which will be situated approximately 200 metres away from the Rosewell Sports Pavilion.

The new Community Hub facility will accommodate all of the groups currently operating from the Rosewell Resource Centre and will allow us to expand on our current projects we deliver in the community, as well as offering health and fitness classes, such as yoga, dance groups, etc. along with many other activities for the benefit of the whole community, reducing isolation and increasing community wellbeing.

On our reading of the LASC's business plan, it seems that it is their intention to offer similar activities in the expanded Sports Pavilion, thus duplicating the services being offered by RDT in the new Community Hub.

In our opinion this would create a situation whereby both facilities would be competing to deliver the same activities, which would not only create confusion within the community, but would also have a negative impact on the new Community Hub's income stream, which is, as you are aware, critical to the sustainability of the Hub in the longer term.

Rosewell Development Trust | 85 Carnethie Street | Rosewell | Midlothian | EH24 9AN

TEL 0131 629 9398 | EMAIL info@rdtrosewell.org.uk | WEB www.rdtrosewell.org.uk

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It would also cause major problems for RDT regarding future funding applications, as there is every likelihood that we would find ourselves in a situation whereby we are competing with LASC for funding to support similar projects. This would lead to funders questioning why two facilities in close proximity to one another were applying for funding for similar projects.

RDT are also concerned that apart from a Survey Monkey poll advertised via Facebook, there has been no meaningful consultation carried out within the community regarding this proposal. Therefore, the majority of residents are not aware of the intentions of LASC to expand and to fully take over the Rosewell Sports Pavilion.

It has been the intention of RDT that, once the new Hub is established and running successfully, to approach Midlothian Council with a view to transferring the Rosewell Sports Pavilion and associated five-a-side football facility into community ownership to enable RDT to develop and upgrade these facilities and to deliver much needed sports and leisure projects, in conjunction with and to complement the projects being delivered from the Hub. This part of RDT's long term plan would not be achievable if the proposed community asset transfer was granted.

As stated, RDT support the delivery of childcare services in the community, but due to the proposals outlined in LASC's business plan, and the loss of what is essentially a community asset in Rosewell, to a limited company based outwith the community, as well as the potential threat to the Rosewell Community Hub Project, we do not support the application by LASC for the transfer of the Rosewell Sports Pavilion into their control and would request that Midlothian Council do not approve this asset transfer as currently proposed in the LASC business plan.

Yours Sincerely



Marie Marsden
Chairperson
On behalf of and for Rosewell Development Trust

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