

From [REDACTED]

Sent: 24 October 2019 14:15

To: Community Asset Transfer <communityassettransfer@glasgow.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection: Community Asset Transfer - Cathkin Park

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have recently been made aware of the application for transfer of Cathkin Park to the Jimmy Johnstone Charitable Trust under Community Asset Transfer.

Whilst there may be benefit in developing the park to encourage wider use, the case provided is insufficient to justify the transfer at this time. I believe the following points need to be addressed before the request can be considered.

1. There has been limited consultation with the local community over the transfer. The documents provided indicate a small number of residents (40) surveyed in the target areas of Crosshill and Govanhill (population in excess of 15 000), yet no mention of consultation with residents of Mount Florida or Toryglen, specifically those residing immediately adjacent to the park, eg Prospecthill Avenue. I understand there was no contact with local community councils to gather their views.
2. The local area is well-served by football facilities, with pitches available for hire in the immediate area at Holyrood School, Toryglen Regional Football Centre, Lesser Hampden and slightly further afield, Glasgow Green and Castlemilk. Can another MUGA pitch, requiring removal of a grassed area which benefits biodiversity and flood prevention, be justified?
3. The business case states the park is 'underused' but with no criteria to back this up. Indeed, many of the responses to date include local residents confirming their personal use of the park for sports, walking, playing etc, and I would include myself and my family in this category.
4. Cathkin Park is not used exclusively for football by JJCT affiliated clubs. There would be a potentially detrimental effect on other clubs using the park, including Third Lanark, and thus potential negative consequences of engagement in sports (for example increasing costs of pitch hire/priority access for JJCT-affiliated teams). This is not addressed in the business plan. The running track to the outside of the pitch, and the cycle speedway track also offer opportunities for sports and recreation, and it is not clear if this will be retained and maintained under the conditions of any transfer.
5. Cathkin Park has historical importance as the home of early international and national competitions and of the original Third Lanark football club. This is not recognised in any of the documents submitted.
6. The business plan does not give any consideration of environmental issues, including any impact assessment on biodiversity, air quality. congestion etc
7. The immediate area surrounding the park is a high-density population area consisting primarily of tenements and high-rise buildings. A significant reduction in local greenspace has occurred in recent years, with the construction of the aforementioned TRFC on the former Toryglen recreational area and the New Victoria Hospital on Queens Park recreation area. Mount Florida in particular has limited green space, with the potential sale to developers of Mount Florida Bowling Club to the south and now Cathkin Park to the North. Any restriction in access for local residents and current users of the park as a result of the development would be detrimental, and any plan for development must ensure benefit for all the community beyond a specific club.
8. No provision for safeguarding the park from further development is mentioned. As noted the Mount Florida bowling club has been in discussion with housing developers over the sale

of what was originally a space gifted to the people of Mount Florida, and fell into the ownership of a few private individuals. What is to stop Cathkin suffering a similar fate, if the projected business plan does not work out?

Kind regards,

[Redacted signature block]