

Dear Sir,

Request for Review

I refer to the decision for the Asset Transfer request made by the Children's Wood Project, validated on 28th March 2019 as it related to the Children's Wood and North Kelvin Meadow site between Clouston Street/Sanda Street/Kelbourne Street/ G20. A lease of 25 years has been offered with conditions one referring to resuming for 'educational purposes' - with no less than 12 months notice - part of the subjects, if Planning Consent is obtained for such purposes.

I will not rehearse submissions associated with the overwhelming importance of this site as developed by the community under the auspices of the Children's Wood Project set in the North Kelvin Meadow and other stakeholders. I believe the Asset Transfer Team will be well versed in this and will have had access to such materials which demonstrate the uniqueness of this project and it's critical community importance a key feature of Scottish Government policy.

In granting a lease of 25 years that decision should have confirmed confidence for the community, that as an organic entity, responding to future need, it would be well placed to execute the necessary response. That confidence has suffered challenge by the condition of securing part of the land – undefined in area and location – for 'educational purposes'. The Open Space category would we presume suffer forfeit. The community would necessarily resist such a change, that change itself essentially challenging the Scottish Government decision of 2016. In addition, a different City Administration could interpret the condition in a way inconsistent with the viability of this community project.

In alluding to the organic nature of this project measured by its social value, you may be aware of eg the G20 Youth Strategy Club which emanated from the Children's Wood/ North Kelvin Meadow it serving as the physical attraction which brought into focus the needs of disenfranchised young people, now delivering meals to families and elderly persons through the virus lockdown. The meadow also providing a wellbeing resource for exercise during the lockdown reducing stress and providing a visual amenity for others.

In conclusion, the Childrens Wood and North Kelvin Meadow have enjoyed a positive partnership with this Administration and I know would wish to maintain this. I would respectfully suggest that the condition in 'resuming' part of the subjects for educational purposes be removed. I would be confident that a narrative could be established to resolve any difficulty which would impede a mutual confidence for both parties to proceed with the lease. I do not represent the Children's Wood but as an ex trustee I can attest to the organisation's desire to work with the City in pursuing that which serves the community and promotes partnership. Community 'ownership' is well recognised as an important factor in providing stability and viability of services which often complements the statutory when funding is tight. In the current context of the Covid – 19 virus it would be safe to say that local authority budgets are very likely to be under severe constraint as the economy goes into recession and a dependence for needed services is required of the voluntary sector and volunteers.

Ralph Green

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15th April 2020