

Good evening all

I am one of the service users from the Activity centre and my concerns are below:

As I am sure you are aware I, along with many other users, have met with [REDACTED] from DGC before Christmas to discuss the rough plans he could share.

I commend his approach in improving his sport and building on his clubs ambitions, and if I were give the opportunity to purchase a building in prime land for £1 for the advancement of my business (aka charity if I completed the forms) then I would also jump at the chance.

[REDACTED] has advised me that there is going to still be space for my business, and others to operate, however this is likely to be in a shared space, this won't work for many reasons. My main concerns are below:-

1) A lot of my clients lack confidence in their bodies and it has taken them a long time to be able to come to a class, to share this space with other users would negatively impact my commercials with this client base and would cause a reduction of numbers. It would remove services for overweight service users. This is an area that the Scottish Government and Health Service has active concerns about, over 60% of adults in Scotland are overweight or obese. By removing adult services in fitness or movement you are contributing to a huge financial burden on our healthcare services.

2) [REDACTED] has advised that rates would likely increase, I have been told up to £40 per hour (by other service users). This is not viable for me, I would have to increase my prices, I have some clients who can only financially afford one class a week at £4, again this would place them at a disadvantage and removing their option of activity.

3) I was disappointed in the business case, as I was lead to believe that this transfer (which is now a purchase) was to provide more opportunity for the community to take part in a range of activities. This doesn't read to be the case. Yes, a new range of gymnastic based activities but when you weigh up what would be removed the case is no longer compelling. Removal of hardcourt sports would be a significant loss to the area and service users.

4) Removal of activities for retirement age people, the area has rising numbers of retirement age people- SAC is ostricing them, with no suitable alternatives for them.

5) SAC's very own Sport & Leisure Strategy "A vibrant South Ayrshire where Sport & Leisure is available for the benefit of all"

The aim of our strategy is to ensure the sport and leisure facilities and services we provide help South Ayrshire and our residents become healthier and fitter.

**We recognise the valuable social, health and economic benefits that the provision of sport and recreational facilities and opportunities can create for our communities, alongside an improved quality of life.**

Whilst the Leisure Strategy identifies a clear route forward for the Council's delivery of Leisure Services it is also important to recognise that increasing financial constraints will require us to consider fundamental aspects of how services are delivered.

So, what does this mean for you? Quite simply, it's about increased access to sport and leisure to increase participation, improve health and wellbeing and help establish safer and stronger communities.

Alongside this, it's about ensuring those with the promise to be elite athletes have the opportunity to follow the right pathways to achieve their true potential.

This strategy defines how we will do this to achieve our vision of a vibrant South Ayrshire where sport & leisure is available for the benefit of all and we will review this each year to ensure we continue to do just that for you, for your family and for your community.

6) Several times constituents have been advised that there would be a public meeting to discuss this, to allow all parties to have a say, where is this meeting?

7) I contacted all of the councilors at the beginning of this process, and 1 single councillor has responded. MSP John Scott has shown more interest in my concerns.

Only 1 councillor has taken the time to keep in touch with updates. I am so very disappointed in the service provided to the community from 3 of you. No wonder people in the community are completely disillusioned. Craig seems to be the only one who remembers what his job is for.

Thinly veiled threats like 'how will we fund it in the future?' are pointless and unhelpful (although perhaps the 4.79% increase in my council tax could be used!!).

I would hope that my concerns are added to the list of others concerns that have been raised within this period.

Yours sincerely

