

Sarah Baird
Community Asset Transfer Team Leader

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25 February 2019

By email

Dear Sarah,

Dundonald Gymnastics Club (DGC) SCIO SC048271 CAT request for Muirhead Activity Centre

Please accept this document as my representation for the above.

I wish to raise my concerns over the CAT request for Muirhead Activity Centre. The Activity Centre currently runs an afterschool club which services both Struthers Primary School and Muirhead Primary School. My child currently attends afterschool care at Muirhead three days a week and from August 2019 will attend four days a week. It is a well attended afterschool club especially since the closure last year of another local afterschool service at Meadowgreen.

The Dundonald Gymnastics formal asset transfer form states the following in relation to links to the community:

“Maintain community access to individuals, local groups and organisations in non-sporting activity including quality child play, children’s parties and meeting room.”

“In the medium to long term it is planned to develop the internal layout of the centre to accommodate a high quality studio room that could accommodate a wider range of activities and further expand community access.”

The form also states under negative consequences that:

“The proposed plan is to create a dance studio / meeting room / education room within the facility. This will allow for continued community use for a range of activities that are not necessarily sport based.

The gymnastics facility will also be able to be used for excellent kids play facilities and children’s parties. It is hoped that this ensuring community access will mitigate any local concerns that the centre will not be available for community use.”

My concerns are that:

- The formal asset transfer form does not make any mention to the afterschool club that uses Muirhead Activity Centre 5 days a week
- The form notes that the centre will be available for community use but does not specify timescales for the potential refurbishment and what will happen to the existing groups and clubs that use the Centre particularly the afterschool care.

- There has already been a loss of afterschool provision in the area and this would be a blow to parents who work.
- There are no other afterschool provisions in the Struthers and Muirhead area that would allow parents to make alternative arrangements.

I would like assurances that Dundonald Gymnastics club will allow the afterschool provision to keep using the Centre indefinitely or until another suitable location has been found.

I hope that the Council will take the time to provide parents with information on what will happen to the afterschool provision as this is a concern as a large number of parents.

Yours sincerely,

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