

Muirhead Activity Centre

I am extremely concerned about the proposed Community Asset Transfer of this building to Dundonald Gymnastics Club (DGC) and wish to register my objection to this proposal.

DGC has been in existence for 10 years, but only took up Charity Registration in 2018. It is obvious that this was done to enhance their prospects for a Community Asset Transfer.

In the various documents on the SAC web-site, many pieces of information are blanked out, so how are people to get full details about this organisation?

Why have there been so many discussions with Council Officers behind the scenes for so long – not even the local Troon Councillors knew anything about this proposal, till a Centre User found out? Nothing open and transparent about dealing in this way.

Why now are we being told about the 20-day periods throughout the process? – first we have heard of this.

Over the years, why have the Council not tried to manage their facilities in a much better way to minimise financial loss – Closure always seems to be their only option, to the detriment of the Council Taxpayers. We constantly have health officials encouraging folk to take up sport and exercise and the local venue which provides that, is going to be turned into a one-sport facility.

From the date of the Transfer Request being accepted 13/02/219 to the closing date for submissions 12/03/19 is only 4 weeks! Details of the submissions and all comments etc have to go to the Leadership Panel in June, just over 3 months hence, so why all the rush? 6 months from the documents were accepted is August. (Don't tell me it is to do with the Summer Recess – that should not in any way deter full and transparent dealings with the public).

Also, we now hear that there will be a Public meeting at the end of April, 6 weeks after submissions have to be given – what is the point of that? This meeting should have been at the end of February at the latest.

So many activities currently using this Centre will no longer have access, as the internal outlay will be radically altered to cater for Gymnastics only.

It was suggested at Troon Community Council in December by Council Officers that those displaced can probably go to Marr College or other Council venues – no proposals for this have been forthcoming although 3 months have elapsed.

Many locals who use the Centre can walk there in 5 minutes. How long will it take to walk to Marr College, especially in pouring rain and wind? – folk will be soaked by the time they get there. Then they have the long walk home to face after their activity. Not all parents have cars or access to one, and the footpath across the golf course is totally unsuitable, especially in the dark.

Part of Muirhead comes under Multi deprivation SIMD2.

Even though the Club is registered as a Charity it is obviously a big business with 400 members. How many of these are active gymnasts? and 200 on the waiting list. How many of these members and applicants on the waiting list come from Muirhead and how many from Troon?

DGC state that they want to develop youngsters for “elite performance” – this is not a club for any child to attend. To join you have to meet a certain gymnastic standard. At present, they are advertising various clothing items with the Dundonald Gymnastic Club logo - £75 for a Track Suit – how many parents can afford that? Why should the relatively few “elite gymnasts” benefit to the detriment of so many.

Why have the Staff who have worked in MAC for a long time already been deployed to other Council jobs? Rather strange to say the least, when **No Decision** will be made till June.

The SAC motto is "Ne'er forget the people". Remember this and do not be favouring the few.

I feel the people of Muirhead and Troon have been very badly let down by SAC during this whole exercise and I wish to register my objection in the strongest possible terms.

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