

## Community Asset Transfer Proposal for Muirhead Activity Centre

This communication raises objections to the Community Asset Transfer submission from Dundonald Gymnastic Club in relation to Muirhead Activity Centre, KA10 7AZ.

The objections are as follows.

1. I am a member of Troon Opportunities in Retirement badminton group who currently use this facility each Friday morning for seniors badminton. As Dundonald Gymnastics Club intention is to install a sprung floor and have equipment permanently in situ this will prevent our group utilising the facility. At a Troon Community Council Meeting a representative from the council indicated that discussions would take place with any group likely to be displaced by the Asset Transfer. It was also stated that the council would facilitate an alternative suitable venue for each group. To date our group have not received any form of communication regarding this matter.
2. The fact that Dundonald Gymnastics Club is focussed mainly on gymnastics requiring specialised facilities will exclude many existing clubs utilising Muirhead. Section 4-4.2 of the Community Proposal lodged by Dundonald Gymnastics Club, states the community benefits should include social wellbeing and consideration of inequalities. If local residents on low incomes need to source alternative facilities at much higher cost, it would put them at an economic disadvantage. There is likely also to be an accessibility issue for families particularly in respect of the many community led sporting and social activities currently run by Muirhead Tenants and Residents Association as well as individuals and other groups.
3. Muirhead has a user base from a local population of around 15,000 people, which is growing rapidly. It is the most utilised of all the Council Activity Centres. At a time when house building is increasing and, therefore, the population rising this proposal is in effect reducing access to indoor sporting and social facilities. We object to a tax payer facility being transferred to a business focusing primarily on gymnastics (or any single usage).
4. Objective 4 of Dundonald Gymnastics submission indicates that they will maintain community access to individuals, local groups and organisations in non-sporting activities. However, this access will be limited by the nature of the specialist equipment available and does not take account of current user requirements.
5. The Leadership Panel should refuse this Community Asset Transfer and agree a survey to investigate why Council Activity centres are not financially sustainable for communities. Perhaps a revised pricing structure is required.
6. It is understood that transfer value of £1 has been proposed, which is totally unacceptable – the Council have indicated that they have a very large deficit and in these circumstances any Asset Transfer should be at or near market value for the premises and land.

