

Muirhead Activity Centre

I am extremely concerned that a Review has been asked for the proposed Community Asset Transfer of this building to Dundonald Gymnastics Club (DGC) and wish to register my objection, in the strongest terms possible, to any change to the decision which has already been made.

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

Even though the Club is registered as a Charity it is obviously a big business with 400 members and 200 on the waiting list and a large bank balance.

In the slides handed out by [REDACTED] at the Tenant Monitoring Group Meeting on 7 May (not a meeting with MTRA as was stated by a Council Officer on June 11) on Part 5 of the Act, it states "CATs should be considered in situations that recognise the public benefits that community use will bring, it is not about off-loading assets the Council no longer needs"

In this proposed Transfer, there will be **no public benefits in community use** when the building will be used for a single elite Gymnastic Club.

So many activities currently using this Centre will no longer have access, as the internal outlay with a sprung-floor will be radically altered to cater for Gymnastics only. Impossible for many Groups to remain in MAC

School-age children and adults who are working are only free for sport or leisure activities from 3pm onwards. How can they possibly be accommodated in Muirhead Activity Centre when these are the hours that the Gymnastic club is open? Obviously DGC hope that others will take up times when they do not use the Centre (anti-social Hours etc), when it is very inconvenient for these Groups at greatly raised prices.

Many locals who use the Centre at present can walk there in 5 minutes. How long will it take to walk to Marr College or Struthers Primary 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. The footpath across the golf course to Marr College is totally unsuitable, especially in the dark. The other option proposed is Dundonald Activity Centre – what an insult. Forced to leave your local venue and have to pay bus fares to Dundonald on a very limited service in the evening (every 90 mins).

I can understand some Groups being prepared to move, if they can find another suitable venue to continue their Activity. However, they are not doing this by choice, it is being forced on them

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.

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.

Part of Muirhead comes under Multi deprivation SIMD2

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

[REDACTED]