

**As this consultation is via the 'The have your say page' having been silenced in the past I fully intend to have my say.**

### **The good**

The pavilion would get a badly needed makeover to make it a much better place for GYFC and any other clubs that use it.

### **The bad**

The consultation as required by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 was only started once the planning had been approved and a deal had been put to GYFC which included the loss of Common Good Land.

SAC is trying to assure us that they will not remove common good land but surely the extension of the pavilion takes up more of the Common Good.

### **The bizarre**

A pavilion done up while a 3g pitch is destined to be sited some distance away from it.

A 3g pitch for Girvan Academy on the other side of the park.

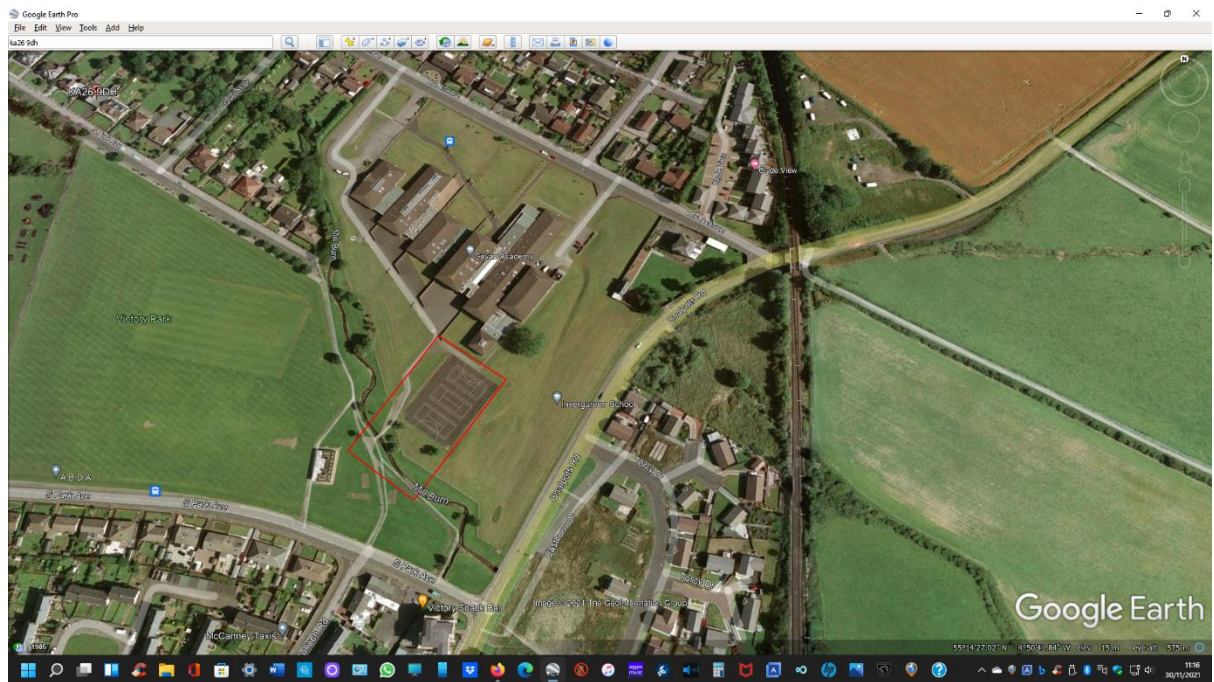
**Is it not time for a compromise? With a suitable compromise I could be persuaded that an extension of the pavilion is worthwhile the loss of a small section of Common Good this is my personal view.**

Not siting the pitch at the top of the park was not a compromise putting it there in the first place was a goof up by SAC when this is the Venue for the lowland gathering which next year (2022) is due to celebrate its Golden Jubilee if Covid allows.

After talking to someone who is extremely knowledgeable about 3g pitches having worked for the Scottish Football Association (SFA) and initiated and advocated for a project that later developed the extraordinarily successful Toryglen Football Centre, he was in no doubt that the proposed 3g pitch was in totally the wrong place. He discussed the possibility of using part of the Academy grounds and culverting the burn so it could be extended out over the burn. One of the pitches at Toryglen has been built over a culvert. It wouldn't be quite as big as the proposed pitch but what is the point of favouring size over accessibility. Please see the google earth image.

He also advocates free to access sport facilities for those who couldn't afford to pay to hire a 3g pitch. There seems to be a total lack of understanding that to a small group who would like to use this facility the cost is prohibitive. It is on Common Good Land after all.

Another concern is that this pitch is supposed to be for Girvan Academy, and I really think they have become an afterthought with this pitch.



### Reasons why this compromise makes sense

1. Girvan Academy pupils would not need to walk nearly half a km along paths (to avoid cross contamination) to get to the pitch.
2. It's right on the doorstep of the pavilion. (However extending in the way currently suggested would affect how long it could be)
3. **Best Value**; comment by Audit Scotland regarding SAC on best value;

“Disappointingly, however, the momentum that the Commission reported in previous Best Value work in South Ayrshire Council from 2014 to 2016 has slowed in key areas. We therefore expect an increase in the pace and depth of change.

Siting the pitch as above seems a much better value option as what will happen due to the inaccessibility of the 3g pitch to Girvan Academy they will end up spending more money to provide a surface that Girvan Academy can access.

Audit Scotland say for SAC;

“The current estimated funding gap for the eight-year period 2022/23 to 2029/30 is between £56 million and £69 million “.

SAC should be looking to spend money wisely so that more money isn't needed to make up for mistakes due to bad decisions i.e. placing a 3g pitch in a place inaccessible to the children it was designed for. It's like SAC providing its workers with a desk situated on one side of a road but the chair situated on the other side.

5. SAC is among the first in Scotland to approve a specific carbon budget to support its climate change commitments but by insisting the pitch goes on virgin green open space which is a natural carbon sink they are doing the opposite. Building the pitch near the pavilion and academy uses far less virgin green land and is more in keeping with their policy.

6. The part of the park SAC have chosen for the 3g pitch totally contravenes the deeds showing a total lack of respect for a gift that was handed over to the people of Girvan.

***“But without prejudice always to the right of my said disponees to use or let or grant the use of the piece of ground hereby disposed or any part thereof temporarily for the holding of musical entertainments or of football or other matches or games and for such other purposes of a temporary kind”***

The deeds allow it to be used for the playing of football matches on a temporary basis, this means that the land is not permanently altered and can be used by others for other recreational purposes. Constructing a substantial fixed artificial pitch with a fence around it, would not allow the land on which it is sited to be utilised for any other purpose, other than playing football/rugby.

7. SAC prides itself on its biodiversity projects but by removing vast quantities of soil and grass it removes the feeding ground of the migratory swallows which return to that area of the park every spring and the bats that can be seen swooping about at night. I did think that bats were a protected species.

I would be very happy to compromise on the loss of a small piece of common good land if SAC are also prepared to compromise and put the needs of the Academy children 1<sup>st</sup> by positioning it where they can access it as shown and also keeping the Pavilion and the land on which it is built in the Common Good Account.