

From: REDACTED <REDACTED>

Sent: 29 April 2022 22:20

To: Commercial Property <Commercial.Property@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Subject: Ravelston Park CAT - Feedback

Hi,

I am writing to object to the proposed sale of part of Ravelston Park to the “Blackhall Community Trust” for the following reasons.

1. This park is regularly used by many community groups and the community will suffer if any of this space was to be removed. Given exact size of the land, percentage of park and exact size of the building can't be provided, it's very difficult to understand the full impact of any lost land.

The existing garden and land the building on seem adequate for an extended nursery, and therefore requires no additional lose of any partland.

2. My biggest issue is the fact that selling this piece of land sets a dangerous precedent. Given the history of how the land was gifted.

Any group claiming to represent the community could come along and also request land. What about a sports centre? Once its done once its much more difficult to prevent happening again.

3. More people work from home now, and green space is at a premium. Also with ESG, green and park space is vital for a health society.

4. Overall benefit. Based on 10 additional nursery spaces. Has feasibility been carried out to determine if this is enough spaces, or whether more will be required and what that will mean for the future as well.

5. Nursery provision is provided by the council in every other area. Blackhall is being unfairly singled out in its lack of funding and solution by the council. A space closer to the school would be ideal.

6. Community trust needs to be for the community - The group doesn't allow new joiners, and my 3 applications to join have gone unanswered. I therefore would say that they don't fully represent the community, and this needs to be considered with any application process.

Overall, I believe the engagement is better this time, the objective to provide nursery places and improve conditions is welcome, however on balance with the points above, I would still not at this point be against the plans.

I would of course be happy to talk about any of the points above in more detail.

Best Regards,  
Derek

Derek Gordon  
REDACTED

