

Ravelston Park – Representation 078

**From:** Stuart Pinkerton <REDACTED>

**Sent:** 29 April 2022 19:47

**To:** [Commercial.Property@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Commercial.Property@edinburgh.gov.uk) <[Commercial.Property@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Commercial.Property@edinburgh.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Ravelston Park Community Asset Transfer

Good afternoon

I am writing to confirm my strong support for the CAT of a small proportion of land in Ravelston Park to the Blackhall Community Trust.

The primary use of the land being transferred in this CAT is to allow the BCT to build a new building to house the Blackhall Nursery as well as an area available for community usage.

The current nursery building is in need of upgrade and increased footprint to align to the Scottish Government's early years learning and childcare 1140 hours provision.

Without the transfer of the land the Blackhall Community Trust will not be able undertake any sustainable changes to the current nursery building or provide an adequate provision for local children.

Significant effort has been spent to identify other options for situating the nursery within Blackhall however no viable solutions have been identified. As such if the land transfer does not take place there is a significant risk that the nursery will have to close leaving a significant gap in early years provisioning in Blackhall and would remove one of the heartbeats of the community.

In addition to the nursery the land transfer will also allow for a small community space to be built. This is a current gap within the Blackhall community as the local church halls are only available to parishioners where other services aren't available at weekends or are not child friendly.

I understand that some in the community are concerned that this may set a precedent for future generations to continue to carve away land for other uses. I fundamentally disagree with this position as any transfer of land has to be supported by the majority of the community with an objective of providing benefit to the community.

The proposed nursery and community space in a corner of the park, building upon the current nursery footprint, is an exceptional request for a vital provision for the community.

Overall I believe the majority of Blackhall community are supportive of the land transfer and can understand the significant benefit that the CAT will allow the Blackhall Community Trust to deliver.

Kind regards

Stuart Pinkerton  
<REDACTED>