

Subject: Ravelston Park Pavilion & Surrounding Parkland, Edinburgh - Notice of Asset Transfer Request to Blackhall Community Trust  
Date: Thu, 28 Apr 2022 19:41:14 +0000  
From <REDACTED>  
To: [Commercial.Property@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Commercial.Property@edinburgh.gov.uk)

To Whom It May Concern

Ravelston Park Pavilion & Surrounding Parkland, Edinburgh - Notice of Asset Transfer Request to Blackhall Community Trust.

I would like to make representation / recommendation that the land, earmarked at Ravelston Park is **NOT** transferred from the Common Good. Or at least NOT transferred until a replacement piece of land is identified in Blackhall and placed under the "protection" of Fields in Trust, as per their Minute of Agreement.

My correspondence from "Fields in Trust" states that **"We rely totally on partnerships with landowners to enable us to protect green spaces, and Ravelston Park is protected with Fields in Trust through a Minute of Agreement. If a Landowner wants to dispose of all or part of a protected park this requires our Trustees' consent. Edinburgh City Council are aware of this and will be submitting an application through our Field Change Request process. If our Trustees give their consent to a disposal the landowner will have to protect an alternative green space for the same community, of at least the same size and quality as the piece being disposed of."**

During a recent community meeting I asked where this newly protected land would be and the Council members in attendance were NOT familiar or aware of this clause. To this end, this needs to be addressed, and communicated to the people of Edinburgh/Blackhall, prior to any consideration of transfer of land from the Common Good to anyone.

Over the last 20 years or so, Blackhall has had several green spaces built upon next to Ravelston Park, the old cricket ground has been turned into a housing estate and the last wildlife area around Ravelston Park, where the pond is, will sometime soon have 3 large houses built on it. The developers to this area have killed all the life in the pond! It was once a splendid pond but sadly no more! Ravelston Park is the only flat, open space that is left. This "protected" beautiful parkland at Ravelston has been gifted to the people of Edinburgh, with terms that **this land should NOT to sold on or built upon**. It is used by several groups daily, weekly and/or monthly. Myself, I use it several times every day. Every square foot is precious. Once it has gone, it can not be replaced!

I understand that Blackhall needs a nursery, I am wholeheartedly behind that, however this is a failing of the City of Edinburgh Council over the last decade or longer to provide a purpose built facility in Blackhall, that doesn't encroach on protected land.

If the decision is made to transfer this protected land over to Blackhall Community Trust, they will need to raise funds of approx £1M (as mentioned in the architects meeting in Sept 2021), prior to them being in a position to replace the current building and build a nursery and community space. This whole project will enable an additional 10 child spaces at the nursery, so 40 children in total. I don't consider this future proofing the nursery, the space yes but not child numbers. Is this the thin edge of the wedge, will more parkland be required in the future?

There have been several opportunities for the Council/Nursery to purchase properties in the area. The most recent, a former care home on Columba Road This property is

huge! Hadn't been occupied for years, and eventually had, if I remember correctly, a "notice of burden" put upon it. I think this has now been sold to a developer and is likely to be redeveloped into a block of flats, not in keeping with the local area. Such a shame, this would have been an ideal property for the nursery, lots of private leafy, green outdoor space, and lots of potential inside. This would provide space for at least 50 children. As well as a community space. Would it be too late for the Council to make a compulsory purchase order on this property for the nursery? Just a thought.

Yours faithfully

Karen

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