

Representation 1, Received 03.07.2021

I am writing in response to a notice posted on the Banavie Rugby Pitch fence about a transfer asset request.

I understand that this means that if the transfer goes ahead, all the land (Banavie Rugby Pitch, Car Park and Banavie Locks Play Area) which is currently owned by the community, will then be owned by a private company, Lochaber Rugby Club, who presumably will then be able to do what they wish with it.

I would be interested to know what the advantage of this is to the community, and how Highland Council would be acting in the best interests of the community by giving away a large area of valuable land currently owned by the taxpayer.

I understand that the maintenance of the rugby pitch is expensive for Highland Council, and HC would be pleased to be relieved of the expense. However, if it is simply a case being able to take the rugby pitch maintenance costs of HC's books, would it not be more sensible to sell it, and at least make some money for taxpayers?

I understand that the Rugby Club is quite a popular group in the community. However, it is no more deserving than many other community groups, many of whom are really struggling, and I am sure would also like to be gifted large areas of land.

I also wonder what use the Rugby Club has for the Banavie Locks Play Area. This looks rather like an ideal building plot, and I wonder what safeguards there would be on the transfer to ensure that the Rugby Club did not in the future profit from selling off any of the transferred land.

I am sure that there must some benefits to the community of this proposed transfer which I have not understood, so if you could explain them to me, including what safeguards will be put in place to protect the land from being sold off in the future by a private company, I would be grateful. As matters currently stand, I would like to object to the transfer.

Representation 2, Received 25.07.2021

With regard to the recent notice about the Asset transfer request by Lochaber Rugby Club for the Banavie Rugby Pitch, Car Park and Banavie Locks Play Area I have attached the letter that Kilmallie Community Council sent to the club in November 2020. In particular we would highlight that Kilmallie Community Council would support transfer of ownership if it was associated with clear and binding conditions that prevented any of the land being sold or used for purposes other than community based activities.

Best wishes,

Kilmallie CC Secretary



27/11/2020

Dear Donald,

Thanks for your letter to Kilmallie Community Council regarding your application to the Highland Council for a Community Asset Transfer. I apologise for the length of time it has taken to reply.

Kilmallie Community Council recognises the contribution of Lochaber Rugby Club to the community and supports the efforts of the club to encourage wider participation in sport and particularly your work with younger players.

We wish to support the club to continue your activities but also to ensure that the land remains a community asset.

We understand that you are applying for a Community Asset Transfer for the pitch, car park area and old play park which are currently all owned by Highland Council. These are important assets to the community and we feel that it is essential that this land remains in community use. Thus Kilmallie Community Council would support any transfer of ownership if it was associated with clear and binding conditions that prevented any of the land being sold or used for purposes other than community based activities. If such conditions can be agreed then we would be happy to support the Community Asset Transfer.

We would be grateful to be kept updated on your application and any terms that are agreed.

Best wishes,

Signature redacted for publication by Highland Council