



ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST – BALVONIE PARK ASSOCIATION

Land comprising two fields between Braes of Balvonie, Inverness and the A9 (Coordinates: 57.453409, -4.1654117 and 57.458095, -4.1677728).

An asset transfer request has been made to The Highland Council by Balvonie Park Association. The request is for ownership of land comprising two fields between Braes of Balvonie, Inverness and the A9, for development of a community woodland, orchard and allotments for community use.

Representations about this request have been made to The Highland Council and these are detailed below with personal information redacted. A copy of these representations will also be given to the organisation making the request.

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

1. I would like to note my support of the above application, as feel there are many possibilities for community development which may come from ownership of the asset.
2. Inshes & Milton of Leys Community Council gives its unqualified support to this asset transfer request which will be of considerable benefit to the local community while ensuring that this area remains available for the enjoyment of residents from elsewhere in the city.
3. SSEN Transmission has business targets to achieve a no net loss in woodland cover resulting from our developments. In addition, we also have a target of achieving no net loss in biodiversity in non-irreplaceable habitats from all projects gaining consent from April 2020. In line with our strategy for compensatory planting, whilst we endeavour to replace removed woodland and biodiversity as close to the impact as practicable, there is the requirement for off-site planting. We are working with landowners and local not-for-profit groups to identify suitable planting schemes to deliver not only the required areas of woodland but also other benefits such as biodiversity. Our forestry team are currently in discussions with the Balvonie Park Association community group to potentially support woodland creation on the land between the Braes of Balvonie and the A9.

4. We approve the asset transfer.
5. I fully support this application for Asset Transfer. With the continuous increase in new settlements, it is of the utmost importance that proximity wooded/park areas are preserved and new ones created for the community. The more that after the felling (for maturity) of Balvonie Woods 2 years ago (extensively used at the time by the community for dog walking and relaxation but now a chaotic fenced no-man's-land), and Bogbain woods still in a regrowth phase but mainly moor and shrub-land already encroached by a planned development, we are left with the fields alongside the A9 objects of this asset transfer and the Hazledeen owned agricultural land as proximity nature areas. Thus the creation of a rewilded, wooded park area proposed by the BPA with the support and funding from SSE would assure that the community will be able to enjoy these Nature-areas at least for the next 20 years that would be guaranteed before any felling of then mature trees.

I trust the decision of the CAT team which will be, I am certain, in the interest of the local community and Milton of Leys residents.

6. I fully support the asset transfer of the land to the Association. This should have happened long ago as was promised so as this valuable asset for the community could be completed, as these projects can take some time to become fully available. I would like to see a green accessible link to the Inshes district park as was once proposed to have an active travel route from Bogbain wood down to Walter Scott Drive and beyond this would be part of this route. All the proposed ideas in the documents are welcome for the area, not the multitude of houses being built or in the planning process without any meaningful facilities for the residents, many promised facilities by the developers have not come to fruition or are totally inadequate or not fit for purpose (the play areas), this area when developed will provide some of this.