



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Jackson Carlaw MSP
Member for Eastwood

Andrew Cahill
Director of Environment, East Renfrewshire Council

16th August 2021

Dear Andrew,

Results of consultation exercise on development proposals for Crookfur Park
By E-Mail – Andrew.Cahill@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

I am contacting you in relation to the plans that have been brought forward to develop Crookfur Park into two artificial football pitches and other associated infrastructure.

Further to my previous e-mail to you on the matter at the end of May, I initiated my own public consultation on the plans for new development at Crookfur Park in June and issued a questionnaire to households in close proximity to the site in order to ascertain their views on the proposals. The questionnaire was also made available online so that anyone resident in Eastwood who had an interest in the possible development could communicate their views to me.

The paper survey was sent to 2094 households with 1 in 5 responding and 77 percent of those who returned the questionnaire stated that they are against the plans to develop Crookfur Park into a new football facility.

A total of 76 percent of participants stated that they or family members make use of Crookfur Park on a daily, weekly or monthly basis and 68 percent of people who returned a survey believe that a different site should be identified for the football development proposals.

As you will be aware, previous proposals that emerged for development on much-loved local greenspaces including Broomburn Park, Shawwood Park and Huntly Park caused a huge amount of frustration and anxiety amongst people who lived nearby the sites.

The plans for a new footballing facility at Crookfur Park has also caused a great deal of alarm to members of the local community and the results of my own consultation demonstrate that there is significant opposition to the council ultimately agreeing to a future planning proposal that will replace the playing fields with artificial football pitches and other associated infrastructure.

As the MSP for Eastwood, I have reached the conclusion that it would be wrong for the greenspace to be replaced by the artificial football pitches and I am calling on the council not to allow the plans to proceed to this stage.

From the proposals at Crookfur and other representations that have been made to me about sporting infrastructure in the local authority area, I think that there does need to be a wider discussion in East Renfrewshire on this issue in order to ensure that there is adequate provision of facilities for local clubs of all sports.

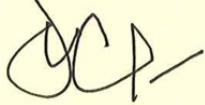
A piecemeal approach that involves much-loved greenspaces such as Crookfur Park being put at risk causes a great deal of frustration amongst residents and simply leads to a high level of public distrust in the council on the part of the affected local community. It's vital that local sports clubs are able to acquire and gain access to appropriate facilities but this

should not be at the expense of greenfield sites when there is significant opposition amongst local residents.

I have attached an executive summary of my public consultation results and I have also written to the Leader of East Renfrewshire Council on the matter.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JCP' with a flourish at the end.

Jackson Carlaw CBE MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Eastwood

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