



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Jackson Carlaw MSP
Member for Eastwood

Councillor Tony Buchanan
Leader, East Renfrewshire Council

16th August 2021

Dear Councillor Buchanan,

Protect Crookfur Park from development
By E-Mail – tony.buchanan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

I am contacting you in your capacity as Leader of East Renfrewshire Council in relation to the plans that have been brought forward to develop Crookfur Park into two artificial football pitches and other associated infrastructure.

In June, I initiated a public consultation on the plans for new development at Crookfur Park 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.

The initial plans that emerged through the meeting of the council's Cabinet Committee on 4th March of which you are chair has caused a great deal of alarm to members of the local community who fear that the local authority could ultimately sanction the development plans on this popular local greenspace.

As the MSP for Eastwood, I am clear that Crookfur Park should remain as a greenfield site in its current form and I am calling on you as Leader of the Council to commit your Administration to ruling out the development plans for this particular greenspace.

During your tenure as Leader of East Renfrewshire Council, much-loved local greenspaces including Broomburn Park, Shawwood Park and Huntly Park have faced the threat of development and it was only through successful campaigning efforts that the local authority were forced to not explore these proposals any further.

For the council to now approve a paper through Cabinet that includes the possible submission of a future planning application for widespread development on Crookfur Park, shows a real disregard for just how valued Eastwood's greenspaces are by our local communities.

From the plans 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.

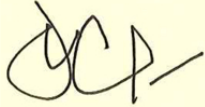
A piecemeal approach that involves much-loved greenspaces such as Crookfur Park being put at risk causes a great deal of frustration amongst residents and simply leads to a high level of public distrust in the council on the part of the affected local community. It's vital that local sports clubs are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

As Leader, I would urge you to commit East Renfrewshire Council to the retention of Crookfur Park as greenspace and confirm the development plans for artificial football pitches on the land will not be taken any further.

I have attached an executive summary of my public consultation results and I have also written to the Director of Environment on the matter.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JCP', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jackson Carlaw CBE MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Eastwood

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