

Community Asset Transfer	Community transfer body (CTB): Strathmore Rugby Club – Community Amateur Sports Club (CH1 1584)	Type of request: Ownership
<p>Application No: Strathmore Rugby Club, Inchmacoble, Forfar</p> <p>Location: Smaller(west most) rugby pitch at Inchmacoble by Forfar Loch</p> <p>Proposal: The pitch has been used as a second rugby pitch by the club for over forty years with club members landscaping the area in the 1970's to create a playing surface. The group would like to continue to use the pitch for rugby training and have an option to develop it in the future for sporting use.</p>		
<p><u>Community Benefit (from application submitted)</u></p> <p>The group currently have mixed teams playing at primary age, male secondary age teams and adult male and female teams (both rugby union and rugby league) playing at the club and our community partner, the Strathmore Rugby Club Community Trust, is developing a rugby academy, walking rugby and inclusive rugby. The rugby academy is designed to develop secondary age pupils as athletes and people by offering coaching and referee qualification alongside a holistic approach to mental and physical development. The walking rugby is for the less able to stay active and enjoy the social benefits of rugby. Inclusive rugby includes both autism – friendly sessions for children and working with Trust Rugby International to create an adult inclusive team. The club supports these projects through free use of its facilities, in particular both pitches</p> <p>Although the main activities taking place on the pitch are rugby training and matches it is used by other community groups The club run fitness groups which exercise outside in the summer and the Trust activities are bringing in more members of the community than ever before. Local football teams, running clubs, Alzheimer Scotland and Forfar Action Network, including this year's Fun Around Forfar Loch event, have also used the pitch. The club have allowed other local rugby teams to train and play on the pitch when required. The club is a member of Kirriemuir Community Sports Hub and Forfar Community Sports Hub and is discussing sharing use of facilities through these groups.</p> <p>During the summer of 2018 the club were a Tartan Touch Hub for Scotland Rugby Union (SRU) which involved people of both genders from 5 – 85 playing non- contact social touch rugby. Due to the popularity of the programme the second pitch was used every week. As a result a women's team is being reborn at Strathmore which will increase demand of the pitches. Following the Tartan Touch success the club has been asked to host 'Guides into Rugby' session by the SRU.</p> <p>The club has maintained the ground as a rugby pitch for over 40 years. As well as cutting grass and marking the pitch this includes seeding and spraying the area, and, prior to the club erecting the fence, keeping it clear of dog mess. The club has also frequently engaged with local prisons for prisoners to come to the club and carry out supervised maintenance of the facilities, this has included tidying up the pitch and banking by the pitch</p>		

Following an agreement with the Head of Technical & Property Services, Angus Council in October 2015, the club erected a fence around the pitch in July 2016 (the next available off season). The fence was required to minimise the use of the pitch by dog walkers as dog mess on the pitch was becoming a health and safety hazard to the junior players. The fence includes a gate at both the rugby club and Lochside path which allows continued access to the public. Since the erection of the fence there has been no dog mess on the pitch allowing safe use by all teams. There is no plans to change this arrangements

The group are considering replacing the grass on the pitch with artificial turf in the future. This is still in early discussion stage with a local business but it would allow all year round use of its pitch by both the rugby club and other community groups.

There was previously a lease agreement with Angus Council for the use of the group but this lapsed over fifteen years ago and the club has since maintained the ground for the benefits of the community.

Benefits of Proposal (from application submitted)

By providing the club with ownership of the ground it will give it the freedom to develop the pitch in the future to increase opportunities to participate in sport and secure future use for the club and the community.

The club have held preliminary discussions with a firm about the possibility of replacing grass with artificial surface. If this went ahead it would be available for use by other community groups, just as the pitch currently is.

The pitch is currently heavily used at present by the club, the Strathmore Rugby Club Community Trust and other sports clubs and community groups. We intend on continuing this.

Capacity to Deliver (from application submitted)

The group have been maintaining the pitch for over 40 years and existed as a club since 1933. They have a strong committee and currently field senior male and junior mixed teams and are currently resurrecting their senior female team. They have a dedicated grounds convener who has been in post for almost 10 years and a grounds consultant has offered to provide specialist advice to improve the condition of the pitch

The club has a track record of continual growth and improvement since it moved to the present location in 1951. An original club house was built in 1955, extended in 1974 (when floodlights were installed) and has since been replaced by a new club house completed in 2006, built and funded by members. In 2016 the new club house was extended adding four more changing rooms, two offices, a physio room and a gym/ development area. The extension was funded by Sport Scotland and Forfar Common Good Fund. In 1981 the club purchased the main pitch and car park from the Earl of Strathmore. On the field the club created its junior section in 1995 with many of its current senior players having graduated from this, and a rugby league team in 2015.

As part of the junior section, the Strathie Sharks, the club has a child protection officer, who ensures all relevant coaches and volunteers are PVG checked.

Since the completion of the extension the club has worked to ensure its sustainability off the field by recruiting a non- executive committee members to provide professional expertise and experience to the committee and a Business Development Consultant (BDC). The purpose of the BDC is to generate additional income which per the constitution is reinvested in to the club and its facilities

The club also have in place appropriate policies and procedures around risk management and health and safety ensuing the safety of members and those using the facilities is ensured.

Funding (from application submitted)

The club have a strong membership and an established bar and hospitality package for home games which has ensured a healthy finance position for many years. Rather than maintaining significant cash balances the club has chosen to reinvest surplus funds into the grounds, buildings and teams to continue to provide rugby to the community.

The club has currently received a modest bequest from a former member and the committee feel that purchasing the west most pitch would be a fitting use of these funds to support its strategy to strength the club.

Scoring from Council Assessment

Community benefit (Score out of 90)

53.8

Financial Assessment (Score out of 52)

24.7

(check diagram below)

Proposed price as set Community transfer body;
£2,000.

What are the rights you are requesting?

N/A

Letters of Support received at application stage : **66** via public survey and **18** letters of support

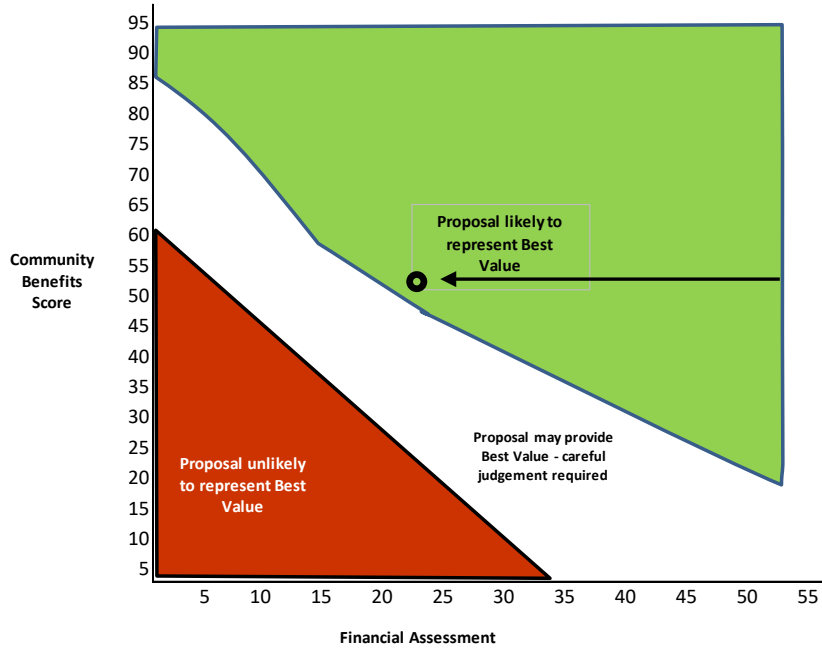
Letters of Objection received at application stage : **0**

Letters of Support received at public consultation stage : **13**

Letters of Objection received at public consultation stage : **2**

These stated a preference for the common good land to be leased however the group wanted to buy it.

The diagram below shows the outcome from the best value assessment based on the community benefit and financial assessment scores. This shows a score in the green area meaning the proposal is likely to represent best value.



Map of area, asset identified by red dot.

