

**From:**

**Sent:** 13 October 2021 10:40

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns <[kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Mackie Rugby Football Club and relates to the land of Forest Park, Stonehaven

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Dear sir,

Please, please, please do not let this purchase go ahead. It is a totally unsuitable position for such facilities. Currently, the space is used by a multitude of people (many of whom are vulnerable) who will lose access to those facilities. It will inconvenience those living next to it - think parking, flood lights, noise, destruction of view.

They would be better off on part of the Ury Estate. Don't let this thing go ahead - it only benefits one particular group of people and not the whole community.

Yours faithfully



**Archived:** 25 October 2021 10:16:31

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 14 Oct 2021 07:31:08

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Save our park

**Importance:** Normal

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Dear Kincardine and mearns,

I don't know where to start but I have been a resident at [REDACTED] for 45 years. Myself, my family, my parents have all used and still use this park on a daily basis.

I run there, walk my dog, my children played there and now my great niece and nephew play there and use this for a safe route to school.

How this can be an acceptable plan for surrounding residents and others is beyond me. I have struggled with mental health issues and I can't drive at the moment and it's the only place I can walk to. I realise the need for rugby pitches but there are an abundance of places in the surrounding area.

Absolutely gutting and quite a disrespectful move for the surrounding residents.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**Archived:** 22 October 2021 18:27:37

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 14 Oct 2021 07:42:43

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** save our park

**Importance:** Normal

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Devastated to hear and read of the loss of our park we have been resident,s here for 45 years and we use it every day plus many times a day  
grandchilden to swings walk our dog and a hundred per cent we clean up it,s apark for all ages so hand,s off [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 22 October 2021 16:14:10

**From:**

**Sent:** Thu, 14 Oct 2021 08:43:08 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Mill O Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

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To whom it may concern

I wish to frustrating and furiously

Object to the plans to remove a hugely

Multifunctional green space that is our given right to have in our area! My children attend the primary school it gives them a safe route to and from school away from the busy adjacent road! There is a play park for my toddler and it is a fantastic dog walking area too! That gives me so much reason to voice my complete outrage at such a request! There is so many other unused areas of green space in this town how dare it be considered to deny a community full of residents/school pupils/dog walkers/childrens play area for one club of rugby that only benefits them a small amount of people surely cannot be justified!

Regards

[Redacted signature block]

**Archived:** 22 October 2021 16:16:49

**From:**

**Sent:** Thu, 14 Oct 2021 10:00:33

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Mill O Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to ask you to protect the grass area at Mill O Forest from becoming a fenced off area for rugby club use only. This is our local piece of green space and we use it many times a week. It is an essential community green space.

Mackie Rugby Club deserves a place to train and play, but this is not the correct place for them. Please help them find a more appropriate site for their pitches.

Yours sincerely,



**From:**

**Sent:** Thu, 14 Oct 2021 13:18:31 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer Request - Forest Park, Stonehaven

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Afternoon,

Can I put objection/raise concern for this request, based on safety grounds and reduced health benefits for children.

My daughter is currently a pupil at the nearby/bordering Mill O'Forest school and we use the park for access daily:

- as significantly safer than crossing and walking up Woodview Place (rat race with cars at school times, numerous car incidents and child near misses recently), additionally not as congested a path to walk on (ability to side step out of the way of others, so allows for social distancing)
- to access the play park after school, which daughter is currently allowed to do with friends (by walking through the park on own and meeting parents there), this wouldn't happen due to safety concerns about walking alongside roads (opens questions about road safety and children's personal safety)

One of the reasons for picking Mill O'Forest, was it is the only school within Stonehaven to have access to green space (both within grounds and nearby), Forest Park is used by the school use on regular basis for their Mill O'Miles and other activities; so would have a major impact on all positive work the school has been doing over the last couple of years on health benefits, as well as the loss of the regular physical benefits, if access to space is removed, given the option:

- walks in safe green space versa along dangerous polluting roads (suspect school will be forced to drop the health walks).

Also if access through the park is not available, does this not raise more security issues for the school grounds/property and pupil safety, from members of the public accessing school grounds, as current fence doesn't prevent access, as very easy to jump over or doesn't surround whole grounds (also proposal suggest using school as overspill which means modifying current playground for access, removal of all school items to such as play train, bridge edge, so again impact on school children)!

Additionally we use the park on a daily basis for walking our dog, as allows us to have easy access for meeting up with others socially, without having to drive outwith Stonehaven (living on the West side of town, nearest and only park available).

Am aware of the issues of sport facilities in Stonehaven (as have been coach for SYFC girls teams for several years and currently having to limit numbers and operate a waiting list), but there must be alternative options available and maybe have to consider not sole use facilities (again SYFC is an example of this, as we utilise Astro Turf, Mackie Academy, Leisure Centre, Minerallwell & Baird parks – but outside space is shared with multiple other football clubs and groups, so always a juggling act for space and coaches having to store team's kit in garages/etc), dedicated space would be a luxury and numbers are significantly higher for SYFC in comparison (also intake includes surround areas such as: Portlethen, Newtonhill & Inverbervie) to Mackie RFC.

Am all for encouraging sports but this for what at best would only be utilised in evenings or weekends, seems to be at the cost of health and safety children and other park users; for the expanding population size of Stonehaven, there is already too few green spaces and safe options available for children to play, with many families unable to afford the properties within the town with decent sized gardens.

Additionally unlike other sporting organisations within the area, Mackie RFC although there is some female representative is a predominate male club, which means as a parent to a young girl, it is very difficult to explain why essentially her play space is being taken away to an organisation that isn't equally represented.

Regards,  


**Archived:** 22 October 2021 16:25:30

**Sent:** Thu, 14 Oct 2021 14:33:32

**To:** [Kincardine and Mearns](#)

**Subject:** Re: Objection to Rugby Pitches

**Importance:** Normal

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Good Afternoon,

I object to the rugby club building a pitch, club house & massive fence around a public park!

Not only is this a massive eye sore but this park was actually starting to look good after the removal of the fence. My whole family uses this daily, walking the dogs, kids playing & just generally for a stroll! My niece & nephews school use this land for school activities! As for the residents who's houses back onto this is just terrible, noise pollution will rise. The congestion is going to be crazy! I live just around the corner and drive mill o forest road everyday. It's bad enough during school hours let alone training & match days!!

Thanks

██████████

**Archived:** 22 October 2021 17:55:59

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 14 Oct 2021 20:55:57 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Objection to the asset transfer request of Mill O'Forest park

**Importance:** Normal

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to register my objection to the asset transfer request of Mill O Forest park.

This is the only park space that is in within easy walking distance of our 4 year old son and it's loss would be of great detriment to him. If this is not available then it is likely we will have to drive elsewhere. While other parks are arguably within walking distance, they are not within easy walking distance of younger children.

Equally, it strikes me that is is an incredible place for children of Mill O Forest school to play and meet friends after school. The prospect of my son having this withdrawn from his childhood saddens me greatly.

The space as it stands is very inclusive and available to all. I would lament its destruction and transformation into an exclusive space only for those interested in rugby.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Archived:** 22 October 2021 17:58:20

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 15 Oct 2021 18:59:20 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset transfer request

**Importance:** Normal

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Good evening,

I d like to let you know that I am strongly against the plans to change the land at forest park from green space to rugby pitches.

I have 3 children who regularly use this area. They and I feel this is a safe place for them to play. We d be very disappointed if this change happened. Other than mineralwell which is quite far away for my children to travel to play in there would be nowhere else close by for them to enjoy!

I hope this does not go ahead.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 October 2021 12:00  
**To:** [Kincardine and Mearns](mailto:kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) <kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Forest Park

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Dear Aberdeenshire council,

I would like to raise concern about the asset transfer for Forest Park. I'm a resident and my garden backs onto that park. I moved to the Area and am paying more rent than I can afford for my kids to get use of this park as they have multiple hidden disabilities and need the outdoor space. I made the move specifically to get my kids access to the outdoor space.

I am on your council house list getting nowhere. I am renting a two bedroom house but need a 3. The park was the thing that helped my kids cope with the overcrowded situation.

The news that it will be taken away is going to be devastating for my family. I'm working nightshift when the proposed meeting is on at the scout hut regarding this so am emailing my concerns and query to you.

My address is

[REDACTED]  
My name is [REDACTED]

I greatly appreciate your help with this matter.

I'm also curious who to ask about how/when/of this will be able to reduce the council tax banding.

As not having a Park will reduce property values in the area will reduce its desirability. This should reduce the amount of council tax I have to pay for the area as it's a less desirable area. And when property values reduce the council tax band should too. I would like to make enquiries about this. If you're able to point me in the direct direction I would be very grateful.

You're sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
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Archived: 22 October 2021 18:00:31

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sat, 16 Oct 2021 12:57:52

To: Kincardine and Mearns

Subject: Fwd: Proposed Asset Purchase – Forest Park/ Mill O Forest Park

Importance: Normal

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## **Proposed Asset Purchase – Forest Park/ Mill O Forest Park**

Whilst I am in full agreement that Mackie FP Club requires to find a new site for their training and match facilities, the proposed asset transfer of this park would mean the complete transfer of a valuable local resource to one individual group, excluding others. I have three main objections to the siting of the rugby club at Mill O Forest Park on the following grounds.

### **Loss of amenity.**

This park is the only parkland/sizeable green space on the south side of the railway track. It is the nearest available parkland for the housing estates of Forest Park, Brickfield, Riverside Drive and the new Dunnottar Park. The younger children's play park is widely used by the residents of these estates and also beyond, with some people preferring to drive here rather than face the parking issues at the beach play areas. On the other side of the railway and down town there are parks at Mineralwell, Baird, Queen Elizabeth, Redcloak, Farrochie and in addition, the playing fields at Mackie Academy.

During these Covid times the park was used by many ages for outside recreation and particularly beneficial for play dates and recreational walks etc when meeting indoors was not allowed. Three or four personal trainers also used the park during this time with their clients.

Whilst Mill O Forest school does have its own playing field, it too makes use of the park for cross country training etc. With more and more outdoor activities being promoted for schools it is possible that they too will wish to make extra use of the park, weather permitting.

The actual grass park is sadly lacking equipment for older children and youth and much more use would be made of it if there were facilities provided. The one goal post (avec massive hole) does nothing to entice football activities. In actual fact, most evenings this older age group can be found in Mill O Forest's playground where they can ride bikes on the tarmac, use the school climbing equipment etc and all with the aid of the school security lighting. Security fencing has recently been erected at the Forest Park side of the school playground and rumour has it that the whole playground will be enclosed and then unavailable to others. Where are these older children supposed to go? The park is a valuable amenity and requires to be made far more inviting to our young folk.

On the question of demographics, Dunnottar Park Estate is new and will have a high proportion of children and youth in comparison to the other estates. However, the age profile of these estates is changing as members of the older generation are moving out and younger couples with children moving in. Of the last 5 properties for sale in Forest Park, 3 were of over 70 year olds moving out. The same picture is probably true of the other estates which were all built in the late 60s and 70s.

### **Transport/Roads Access**

Forest Drive runs parallel to the railway line. Forest Park is on the south side of that road. There is only one pedestrian footpath on the park side of the road. Entry onto Forest drive is via the 3 way traffic light junction with Arduthie Road then Brickfield Road or alternatively via the awkward winding road through Spurryhillock industrial estate to Broomhill road. There is already heavy traffic at these junctions at school start and closing times. Parents trying to deliver their children currently use the school entrance at Woodview Place, park on Forest Drive, use the Park car park or regrettably use the nearby streets in Brickfield and Forest Park, much to the annoyance of the residents.

The draft plan of the proposed Rugby pitch has omitted to show some important items currently in situ. The local bottle bank is located just within the existing car park and would occupy some 2-3 proposed parking spaces. Several Forest Park estate residents currently use the car park rather than parking on the street within the estate, again reducing the number of potential spaces. More importantly is the fact that a bus shelter next to the entrance of the car park has been omitted. This bus stop is a fare stage at which buses frequently sit to change drivers or wait if ahead of schedule as they cannot do so in Barclay Street because of congestion etc. Those who have to

overtake these parked buses know how difficult it is with a partially blind summit ahead of them. The club has mentioned this bus stop however in their written submission but also states that on match days, they will cordon off areas behind the bus stop for visiting coaches. One could conceivably have to overtake a line of some 2-3 parked buses. They also state that if required they will also use the local school car parks in addition to their own car park and Forest Road. They themselves anticipate occasions of much increased activity. Presumably also other members of the public will not be able to use the car park then to visit the bottle bank or children's play park on match days. The potential additional traffic and parking issues on club training nights and match days will surely cause substantial problems for all using Forest Drive.

When Mackie rugby club previously used the park for training purposes, cars lined Forest Drive on training nights. On busy occasions the car park was used but cars could at times also spill into the housing estates nearby. Traffic has increased over the years, and added to with 200 plus homes at Dunnottar Park. Forest Road is already much busier than it was when Mackie Rugby previously used the park some years ago.

### **Proposed plans**

The plan shows that the area required by the rugby club will basically fence off most of the park. I'm not sure if they wish to take over the car park itself but as I have previously stated, several local residents currently use the parking facility and the bottle bank is well used by both pedestrians and car users.

Several parents currently use the car park then walk their children through the park to school. These parents avoid the busy and annoying drop off points around the school. In addition local Forest Park estate children and others from Dunnottar Park and Malcolms Mount walk to school using this same path to school. This pathway will be lost within the fencing that is to be erected. The revised walkway, or perhaps better described, corridor will follow the line of the SSE site fencing then the wooden fencing of those properties on the boundary of the park. This means walking through a corridor just a few meters wide with 3 mtr wire fencing / 2 mtr wood fencing on the outer perimeter of the park and 5 mtr wire fencing on the club side. I walked this route which will have only one entrance and exit and found it to be some 300 plus adult steps, more for a child. This could be very frightening to young children and will probably lead parents to take alternative routes to school. Walking along Forest Road would not be an option I would personally choose due to the speed and amount of traffic. Likewise, I'm not sure many parents would wish their children to make their own way to the play park from Brickfield or the lower end of Forest Park estates via this route. I would also question the security aspect of this walkway for both the local resident's properties and the path users. It will be impossible to see all of the walkway from one entrance to the other.

The Rugby club development plans seem to fill the complete park area but do not allow any scope for further growth. Included within their submission for this transfer is their desire for expansion of the club and it's numbers. I wonder if they would soon find themselves restricted because of this actual size of this particular site.

I apologise for my lengthy discourse but do feel that this proposed asset transfer is inappropriate and detrimental to those residing at this side of the town where no other similar facilities are available to us. The rugby club does deserve to have a secure dedicated site but Mill O Forest Park is not the correct location.

 resident and daily park users.

**Archived:** 20 October 2021 15:34:11

**From:**

**Sent:** Sun, 17 Oct 2021 14:54:58

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Public Park Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

Dear Sirs,

further to the application for asset transfer of the Mill O Forest Park to Mackie Rugby Football Club, we would wish to object to this application.

It is inappropriate to have two fully active rugby pitches this close to existing residential properties - this type of facility is best sited outside the town's residential centre.

It is a loss of public open space that is actively used by the local residents, as well as the adjacent primary school. The current park is well used by the local community for general dog walking, physical exercise, play and enjoyment by all as well as the adjacent primary school for cross country running - all of these activities would be lost through the transfer to Mackie Rugby Club by the introduction of the secured fencing and the single use of the space.

The nearest equivalent open space is Mineralwell Park / Baird park which is over 1.5 mile away, limiting the access for the immediate local community.

It should also be noted that the open green space to the east of Mackie Academy is proposed to be used as the site for the development of future Primary School/Education space - if confirmed this would further reduce the amount of public open space to the western portion of Stonehaven, although Mackie Academy may not regard this as public open space.

The removal of the fencing along Forest Drive (Circa 2019/2020) and the replacement bollards was a very positive move, opening the space between the highway and the park and removing the unsightly fence. The proposal of enclosing the park with a larger 5m high fence would be a negative and unsympathetic response and would be seen as a negative contribution to the local community. It may also be questionable as to whether this height of fence would be sufficient to prevent a kicked rugby from leaving the site and potentially affecting pedestrians, vehicles and properties located around the site.

It is also noted that as drawn the two pitches are to the minimum dimensions for an official pitch - 94m in length (100m being the maximum), with the In-Goal area at 6m deep to either end (again the minimum i.e. the In Goal Area should be between 6 and 22m), but with the southern pitch both In-Goal areas are tight to the boundary allowing little or no run off space.

There would be an increase in traffic and undoubtedly an increase of on street parking, not just on Forest Drive but more likely within Forest Park. The 'small' coach drop off space indicated within the existing car park appears inadequate and not fit for purpose i.e.

the maneuvering space for cars would be taken up by the 'small' coaches and these may also have difficulties in turning within the space.

The note stating that Coach Parking and Drop off are 'To be Agreed' would appear to be a fudge and missing the fundamental premise that this is the incorrect site for the location of a rugby club where visiting teams and supporters would be expected to meet and park.

Within the Community Proposal document there is a suggestion to potentially use the Mill O Forest Primary School car park as an overspill parking area - this is doubtful due to the distance to the proposed pitches access points - again this is more likely to create a parking issue within Forest Park - particularly as noted within the Mackie RC Community document it refers to the annual Mackie Mini's tournament which "...is famed for being the largest in the North East of Scotland welcoming over 700 children from 12 clubs."

We trust that you will take these comments in full regard of the consideration of the Asset Transfer.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 22 October 2021 18:34:49

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 18 Oct 2021 13:45:30 +0000ARC

**To:** [Kincardine and Mearns](#)

**Subject:** Re: Forest Drive Park

**Importance:** Normal

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Good evening

I am writing in relation to the proposed asset transfer of Forest Drive Park to the Rugby Club.

I lived in [REDACTED] for 24 years and as a child we played in the park - tig/man hunt/rounders. I also did cross country in the park.

I have a two year old boy who now loves this area. He does not hold hands well when walking and doesn't always enjoy being in the pram so this park is a nice short journey from where my parents live.

There is no water or hills like there is at the Witchies/woods which make it a much safer area. My son loves running around in the field and often spends more time on the field than in the play park.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this land.

The rugby pitches would be so close to the houses in forest park. While it would be great for the rugby club to have their own facilities this is not the right place. The town really lacks in facilities for local groups - gymnastics, dance schools, athletics etc. Perhaps this could be the time to develop an area of land that could be used to facilitate all amazing talent that we have in the town.

I really hope the right decision is made here. Please save the park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 22 October 2021 18:03:16

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 18 Oct 2021 20:29:13 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset transfer request Forest Park Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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Dear sir / Madam

I am writing to object to the sale of Forest Park Stonehaven to Mackie Rugby Football club

My reasons for objecting to this sale include:

- Forest park is currently used regularly by my family including my two children who are aged 7 and 4 who attend Mill O Forest Primary school and nursery. The grass allows them to safely exercise after school, this will not be possible if the park is sold to the rugby club.
- Forest Park is used by adjacent schools for recreation including cross country running, if the park is developed this will not be possible.
- Mill O Forest nursery school use the park, recently for their sponsored walk which was enjoyed by my 4 year old daughter, the walk raised £1046.50 towards nursery funds.
- Forest park is the only accessible park for prams in the local area and was often used by my family for this reason.
- Forest park is regularly used by our childminder, who takes groups (including my children) of various ages there for exercise.
- There is currently a recycling facility in the car park of Forest Park, this will be lost.

Forest park is currently described as "a protected recreational open space as an amenity for the settlement" in the Kincardine and Mearns settlement statement, the sale to the rugby club will remove this amenity from the settlement and place it under the control of a select few. And this sale rather than empowering the community will deprive them of a well-used resource.

I feel strongly that my children will not have the opportunity to exercise safely and completely free of charge after school or at any other time of our choosing, as the small play park that the rugby club propose leaving will not allow for meaningful exercise in an open and safe green space.

The Rugby club could move to Mineralwell park, where they could share their facilities. The access issues that currently exist to Mineralwell park could easily be resolved by installing a set of traffic lights. This solution would give them a permanent base without removing a park that is enjoyed by people of all ages and physical abilities.

Please acknowledge receipt of this representation.

Thank you

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 22 October 2021 18:05:13

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tue, 19 Oct 2021 06:51:53

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Objection

**Importance:** Normal

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Re proposed asset transfer of Forest Park

I want to say I do not agree on the proposal for Forest Park to be the new ground for Mackie rugby. These are my reasons

- the club out grew this park many years ago hence why they stopped using it
- there is no room for the club to expand and further develop this space, the whole point of getting your own ground
- this park always flooded in winter it would take a lot more than 100000 planned for the proposed ground works
- this is a residential area, the parking, noise and withdrawal of the green space they and the 2 surrounding schools use is unacceptable
- the club have other more suitable sites on offer, a fact not being disclosed

My sons have played for mackie rugby for 18 years, my husband coached with them, I would love for them to have their own ground where they could expand and improve on their current facilities but this planned grounds is not the right one for them or the community. Other avenues need to be explored otherwise I foresee huge problems ahead for the club and the community around this area. You are completely closing off a well used open park which is not right. It was the club's choice to give up the pitches at mineralwell park, money that was provided by both SRU and football association, a big mistake and again a fact not being publicised by the club so people are mistakenly given the impression the club have no other options.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Archived:** 22 October 2021 18:07:34

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tue, 19 Oct 2021 09:09:59 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** FOREST PARK

**Importance:** Normal

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**We are writing to strongly oppose the proposed plans** which seem to have appeared overnight, with regard to the Asset Transfer Request relating to Forest Park / Mackie Rugby Football Club to take away the whole of the land of Forest Park, Stonehaven.

Forest Park has always been, and continues to be, a much loved and well used green space for local residents of all ages. The park provides a source of exercise for all levels of fitness and is a popular social meeting area, which during COVID times has been a lifeline for many people who may be suffering from mental health issues. To even consider removing this privilege is a disgrace! The park is also used by staff/pupils from Carronhill School as well as the local Mill O' Forest Primary School, being perfectly situated and safe. We regularly see families with elderly relatives enjoying a peaceful stroll around the park, which has well established shrubbery and trees now for us all to appreciate.

The idea of taking such an important and beautiful park away from the local community without any prior warning or discussion is beyond reprehensible and shameful by Aberdeenshire Council. All the changes proposed in these plans are completely outrageous for a residential area. High prison-like fencing with locked gates to keep the public out . . coach parking / overspill parking . . flood lighting . . club house . . and so on. It is clear that no thought at all has been given to local residents of Forest Park and the surrounding areas. There are many families also from nearby housing estates, new and old, who have only a short walk to benefit from this open picturesque park. These plans of course would inevitably reflect on house prices in the future.

The small play park which has been situated within Forest Park for approximately 22 years now, also provides disabled apparatus for children with special needs. This is a very popular and safe area currently, but where are these families to park their cars for easy access to this park now with their young children?

Having spoken with many people since these signs materialised last weekend, we have heard an overwhelming NO to any progression of these plans. A residential area with nearby schools and limited parking is not the place for a club (which Mackie Rugby Football Club themselves state) "boasts to be the 2nd biggest in Scotland in terms of membership, with 1200 members". We sincerely hope that human decency and common sense prevails here so that a more suitable area is found allowing the Rugby Club continued growth, but not at the expense of the rest of the local community. We sincerely hope that our voices are heard in this matter.

**From:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 20 October 2021 15:46:37

**From:**

**Sent:** Tue, 19 Oct 2021 16:26:08 +0000ARC

**To:** [Kincardine and Mearns](#)

**Subject:** Re: Green space at Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

I would like to register my strongest opposition to the plans allowing change of use for this park. Why can't Mackie Rugby Football Club improve the area they already have on Slug Road? This plan has safety implications and will deprive the local people, especially children, of an area which can be used for exercise and improving mental health.



Sent from my iPhone



Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

Aberdeenshire Council

Viewmount

Arduthie Road

Stonehaven

AB39 2DQ

**Land, Forest park, Stonehaven**

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed plans which seem to have appeared suddenly within the park, with regard to the Asset Transfer Request relating to Forest Park v Mackie Rugby Football Club.

Forest Park is a lovely community and has always been, and continues to be, a much loved and well used green space for local residents of all ages. The park provides a source of exercise for all levels of fitness and is a social meeting area, which during COVID times has been a lifeline for many people who may be suffering from mental health issues which includes myself. I wouldn't have got through this terrible couple of years without it on my doorstep. I live alone and it was a great mental health cure to me through these times. I met people in the park and was able to have communication through lock down. I go to the park 3 times a day for exercise for my well being as I have a few health conditions

To even consider removing this privilege is not acceptable within the area which is not only used by Forest Park residents but also as far as Carron Den, Malcolm's Mount, Brickfield Road and Riverside Drive areas.

This facility is also used by Carronhill School pupils as well as the local Mill O' Forest Primary School and Forest View centre, being perfectly situated and safe. I regularly see families meeting relatives enjoying a peaceful stroll around the park, which has well established shrubbery and trees now for us all to enjoy. I feel with the growth of trees and plants that it is good for the environment and well being of all creatures – rabbits, birds and insects, with the world trying to tackle the climate change this would be reversing the good of.

The idea of taking a beautiful park away from the local community without any prior warning or discussion is beyond reprehensible and disappointing by Aberdeenshire Council. All the

changes proposed in these plans are completely unacceptable for a residential area. High fencing of 16 feet which goes up to the gutters of the houses with locked gates to keep the public out. It is clear that no thought at all has been given to local residents in Forest Park and the surrounding areas.

The play park which has been situated within Forest Park for approximately 25 years now, also provides disabled apparatus for children with special needs. This a very popular and safe area currently and was used with money from Children in Need at the time so children with special needs could use it.

I have spoken with many people in surrounding areas and even at downtown Stonehaven since these signs materialised last weekend and not had positive feedback from people.

Other people and myself do agree Mackie Academy Rugby Club do need a site of their own but Forest park is not it. We already had issues when they used the park a few years ago with parking and blocking the roads. The car park is small and we would end up with having serious issues with parking which would not be good health and safety to the community especially children.

Unfortunately for me this is a no go situation, there are some legal things to think about here also with the car park being on the people of Forest park's deeds to allow us access and also the 2003 Act that allows public access for people who have lived within Forest park for over 20 years being able to still have access they have been getting previously. Not so simple as selling the ground I wouldn't have thought

I have lived in Stonehaven all my life and I'm sorry to say that I am disgusted with this proposal and what could happen to Stonehaven Community going forward. Very disappointed in Aberdeenshire Council.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A smaller black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the sender.

**Archived:** 26 October 2021 16:39:21

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, 20 Oct 2021 13:14:45

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset transfer request by Mackie Rugby Football Club.

**Importance:** Normal

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Dear Sir/Madam

I see no reason for the proposed land transfer by the Mackie Rugby club to the Forest park area.

The area is used well enough by residents of Stonehaven for exercise by residents and dogs with no traffic or light problems.

Bringing in this rugby club to a residential and school area can only lead to major disruption when their occasions demand.

Football brings little disruption to Baird Park or the Mineralwell as residents are well isolated from activities but I certainly don't think this would be the case of bringing rugby to Forest Park.

Let the rugby club improve their own area off the Slug road as they are rightly keen for improvements. One would not deny them that.

I hope this proposal is rejected out of hand.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 22 October 2021 18:14:13

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 21 Oct 2021 09:39:44 +0000ARC

**To:** [Kincardine and Mearns](#)

**Subject:** Re: Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

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Hi

I just wanted to express my objection to the current proposals for the rugby club plans to acquire Forest Park. As a Stonehaven resident (though not living directly by the park), my family and I have used the park for various activities over the years; including running, games, teddy bears picnics (jointly organised by the 3 school nurseries in Stonehaven). The area is a valuable community resource - especially for the local residents and the two schools next door. With additional new housing being built nearby at Carron Den Road, the park will be required by the public even more. Additional housing is going up all over Stonehaven and the green spaces that our town currently have should be protected for the use of all.

I appreciate that the rugby club makes a valuable social and sporting contribution to the town and would benefit from their own space, however I do not believe that this is the right one for our town.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 22 October 2021 18:22:40

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 21 Oct 2021 10:18:32

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Proposed asset transfer of community land at Forrest Drive

**Importance:** Normal

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I write to object to the proposed sale of community green space at Forrest Drive to Mackie Rugby Football Club.

Recent events, numerous lock-downs, have shown just how important public green spaces are for peoples well being and mental health. This is an important green space used by many families many of them disadvantaged.

The proposed development is totally unsuitable for this piece of land as it will not only detract from the amenity of the area but be a source of public nuisance to surrounding residents, the vast majority of whom will have no involvement in the rugby club.

This public green space should remain open to public access and nit be sold for the benefit of the few.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Archived: 22 October 2021 18:25:36

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thu, 21 Oct 2021 19:41:18

To: Kincardine and Mearns

Subject: Forest Park Land Asset Transfer

Importance: Normal

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From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

## No Rugby Club.... No, No please No!

Rugby Clubs are great but this is completely the wrong place.

Our reasons why this Land Asset Transfer should not be allowed to go ahead are:

- This has been a well-used public space since Forest Park was built in the 1970s and the loss of it will compound the issue of Mill O' Forest Primary School fencing off the green space at the school which had also been a public green space in excess of 4 decades.
- Loss of green space, which has proved to have been crucial during the current pandemic, together with loss of Eco habitats.
- Increased traffic along Forest Drive & Forest Park.
- Increased parking along Forest Drive, Forest Park and Mill O' Forest Primary School car park – this will undoubtedly create 'unsafe' car manoeuvres in areas where many children play.
- Light & noise pollution to many houses on Forest Park whose back gardens will be hard up against the Rugby Club fence. Residents of Forest Park wishing to enjoy their gardens may have their leisure time spoiled by excessive noise from rugby players and supporters.
- Horrendous 5mtr fence – will be like looking through a fence into a prison exercise area.
- The value of Forest Park properties will inevitably drop.
- Lack of safe area for families to use – which has been very popular with local residents for years and especially during the pandemic.
- Waste of council tax payer's money already spent on recently constructed perimeter bollards and planting in the park adjacent to Forest Drive.
- Finally, this is a residential area with a well-established public park, just because the rugby club have nowhere else to go shouldn't mean that their pitches are foisted on us with no thought for residents. This is the only accessible green space within the vicinity. Many local elderly, disabled and young children cannot travel to other distant green spaces.

Regards,

[REDACTED]



**Archived:** 25 October 2021 14:35:58

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sun, 24 Oct 2021 10:16:45

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer Mackie Rugby Club at Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

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Dear Sir/Madam,

By chance I was made aware of this proposal recently.

I then was able to find the small notice detailing the proposal near an entrance to the Play Park.

I would have expected details of something as significant as this to be sent to each property within Forest Park. This immediately suggests efforts are being made to have this transfer completed by stealth and without the scrutiny of residents!!

The assertion that the area is mainly used by dog walkers is incorrect as I often walk through there and see adults and children playing, especially in the summer months. What alternative is being provided to accommodate these people?

The proposal states this area is already well catered for with open spaces. I cannot think of another similar area close by of a similar nature.

I also note an ugly 5 metre high fence with gates is to be erected around the site.

Why is this necessary as it doesn't happen at Mineral Well where football and cricket pitches are provided and the area can be used by others when no football or cricket is taking place?

The proposed fences are more suited to a prison camp or detention centre and will be totally out of character for this residential area.

The suggestions for parking may appear realistic, but from experience I am sure they won't be.

I wrote regarding parking when the Family Centre and Nursery were proposed on the Mill of Forest School site.

Despite being told this was a valid point and it would be raised at a meeting, nothing was done and now we are faced daily during school terms with parents driving into Forest Park to drop off and walk with children to the school. This causes congestion in the narrow roads in Forest Park and inconvenience when drivers feel it is permissible to turn in private driveways.

I would suggest this will also occur during rugby training and matches, especially these 'special events' which are referred to. More traffic equals more road use and deterioration.

What is proposed to stop this happening?

The roads within Forest Park are already poorly maintained with many areas of damaged road surface.

In addition the suggestion that those who use the current car park at the rear of some houses in Forest Park have sufficient 'off road' parking isn't backed up by any detail.

More likely they will park on the road in Forest Park causing more congestion.

A larger car park should be created within the site boundary to avoid on street parking either within Forest Park or on Forest Drive by attendees at rugby events.

It would be good to think that the views and recreational needs of Forest Park residents are given careful thought, rather than allowing this important 'Green Space' to be given to one specific club for their sole

use to the exclusion of local residents.

I assume the club have a connection to Mackie Academy (from their name), therefore Mackie Academy should take responsibility for providing pitches and facilities for 'their' rugby club.

To summarise:

1. I have no objection to rugby being played in this area.
2. I object to this publicly owned land, virtually being gifted to a specific club to exclusion of others who enjoy this open space. The area should be available for all residents to use.
3. The fencing proposed is totally inappropriate for this area and should be dispensed with to allow all to use the park.
4. Parking for large numbers of cars/buses needs to be provided within the site boundary to cater for all vehicles attending large or special events.
5. There are adequate open spaces at Mineral Well and Mackie Academy to accommodate Mackie Academy Rugby Club.



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Original Message

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 24 October 2021 19:40  
To: Kincardine and Mearns <kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>  
Subject: Save our Park

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir / Madam

Was very disappointed to hear and read that Aberdeenshire Council was thinking of selling Forrest Park area off to the Mackie Rugby Club. I as a pensioner living in Brickfield and owning a dog who like myself is getting on in years it is always a pleasant walk round the park where I can let him off the lead away from traffic to have a run around .being a sensible owner I always pick up after my dog.

It is amazing the amount of people you meet walking there dogs especially older folks, and you can always stop and have a blather . It would be a disaster for this green area to be fenced off and not allowing people the pleasure of walking round the Park. It is not ideal for parking it was bad enough when they used to train there before the moved around to Redcloak .

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 27 October 2021 12:25:53

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 25 Oct 2021 10:05:06

**To:** [Kincardine and Mearns](#)

**Subject:** Re: Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

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Dear Sirs

I write regarding the proposals for change of use at Forest Park, that it will become a fenced rugby pitch for use by Mackie Rugby Club. These are my objections -

- this is a well used park by locals for playing, exercise, dog walking etc. It is also utilised by the schools of Carronhill and Mill of Forest
- this is the only park in this part of Stonehaven. It's removal would impact on those near by as they would no longer have an outdoor area, the closest would be by Redcloak or Mineralwell. The area of course is called Forest Park.
- residents will be disturbed by additional traffic, noise and flood lighting
- erection of fencing would be an eyesore in what is an attractive area that has been improved with additional trees etc, thus having a negative impact on residents and the area
- the removal of parking will effect residents who park there. It is also used by those visiting the park and playpark.

Additional comments

- I note that the play area is to remain. This is a popular playpark especially with younger children, the removal of parking could create a safety issue with having to park in the road.
- It is a disgrace that Mackie Rugby Club has been evicted from their present site. It is part of the councils remit to ensure that there is adequate protection in place for these facilities and that there is suitable support available to such clubs. The council should be actively engaged with the club in finding a new location and liasing with land owners where necessary. I am especially disappointed with the council for rejecting the request to locate to Mackie School where there is sufficient space and parking. This would be the obvious choice and also benefit the school which is seriously lacking in sports facilities. I would request that this suggestion is revisited asap. (It would be reprehensible for the council to use this space for housing I would like noted).

I hope you will consider my points. To summarise, you need to get the club a new site ASAP but not at the expense of the users and residents of Forest Park.

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 27 October 2021 12:30:36

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 25 Oct 2021 11:51:00

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Proposed Transfer of Forest Park recreation area to Mackie FP Rugby Club

**Importance:** Normal

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to lodge the strongest possible objection to this proposed asset transfer. While I understand the club's need to find a new home this in no way justifies the complete removal of a vital asset from the residents of Forest Park. My three children spent many happy hours in this park with their friends in all kinds of recreational activity and it's the only area local to us which is accessible and safe for children to play in. This year I have spent time in the park with all 5 of our grandchildren, flying kites, throwing frisbees and playing football - all activities which help them avoid becoming part of the obesity epidemic plaguing Scotland. It is unthinkable to me that the interests of local children would be sacrificed exclusively for the interest of one club, however valued it is in the community. I'm sure that many of the residents of Forest Park would be prepared to help the rugby club find a more acceptable solution, either by providing support or by a financial contribution but this asset transfer is certainly not the answer,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**Archived:** 27 October 2021 12:32:02

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 25 Oct 2021 13:04:35

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Mill' o' Forest Park-Proposed Asset Purchase

**Importance:** Normal

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Good Afternoon,

I am writing to you about the Proposed Asset Purchase of Mill o Forest Park, I have many reasons of objections about this. I have been a resident in [REDACTED] for 37 years staying in 3 different houses. When they used the park before with only one pitch parking was a big problem. They used to park on Forest Drive along the road and up on the grass verge on the side of the railway line. We used to struggle to get passed, being on a bus route this was a huge problem for them as well. The car park was very busy and people using the play park and rest of the park couldn't get cars parked. The parents came into the estate to drop off kids also parking to watch. We have a problem with school parking here during the day, a child has been hit, a couple of residents cars been damaged and an ambulance couldn't get down the street for parents blocking the road. The police and Councillor Dickinson are aware of this. The club has grown so much since then, where are all these cars going to go? Where will everyone park on match days? Mackie Academy has good car parking unlike Forest Park and they still overflow onto many nearby streets.

Taking this park away from the children they will have nowhere else to go. The school has a fence they don't want the children there. They are not allowed in Carronhill so where are they ment to go? We have no other green space.

I walk round the park with my dog and meet the same people about the same time every day. Some of these people can't walk far for them this park is an important part of the day as it is mine. Speaking to these people help my mental health. Which I have struggled with since Covid.

Having a clubhouse on your doorstep is not what I want, if I wanted to stay next to that I would have bought a house beside a pub, we have stayed here for so long because of the green space. We will have the noise at weekends not ideal when kids are using Hamish's Park. Hamish's park will not be suitable to use at weekends, when Mackie RFC are using the pitches. A Play park in the middle Of a rugby ground is not good.

The fences are so high they will make us feel there is a prison camp next door, even the high fences will not keep a rugby ball out. We also have the lights at the end of your garden, you only have to look at the ones they use just now and see how bright they are, shining into your bedroom.

Again I say I am not against Mackie Rugby Club I am just against it being in the field using our only green space we have. There are other areas available outside Stonehaven that are available for this. The rugby club have also said this is not big enough for them.

I know that myself and other residents are very keen to raise money to improve our park, something that our whole community will benefit from not just a select group. Hopefully you take these points on board when making a decision and how much people in the community this will affect taking away out only green space in this area.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 27 October 2021 12:33:29

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 25 Oct 2021 13:18:40

**To:** [Kincardine and Mearns](#)

**Subject:** Re: Park

**Importance:** Normal

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I am sure you are well aware of the Rugby Clubs interest in the park at Forest Drive

This park is used by so many of the locals who live nearby and also further afield

The park is used by Mill o Forest school for cross country ,Forestview for games ,sports ,BBQ during the year Carronhill School use it for sport .The local tug o war team have use it for practice and competition Young mothers with babies in prams do an exercise class to name just a few activities.

The houses at Dunnottar Park don't have the privilege of having or getting a park area and are also making good use of the park.

I myself use the park daily for exercise as it's lovely and flat During COVID lockdown that was my daily exercise as this was a great help for my mental health as I live alone Since then I have used it daily and have met lots of people of all ages who enjoy our park

I feel if the Rugby Club are allowed to take over the park the people of Stonehaven are going to loose our last remaining green area at this end of the town where all the house building is taking place.

This park has been used for40+years by local adults and children. Why change something that is well used by a great deal of people

Thank you for taking the time to read this

Regards [REDACTED]

21st October, 2021

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to express my surprise + concern at the possible selling of land currently used as parkland alongside Forest Drive.

Two sides of the proposed site are bordered by / close to residential houses. There will be much noise + disruption for the people living in these properties during construction + very delicately once it is all completed.

The park area is essential to locals - not all of whom are able to have access to transport to other park areas.

In these 'unprecedented times' all



Local parkland has been essential for the mental + physical wellbeing of the community so please don't consider transferring it to the use of a few.


Yours Faithfully





25<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.

Dear Area Manager,

I wish to protest at the suggested asset transfer and sale of our local park in Forest Drive to Mackie Rugby Football Club. We live on  estate on the edge of Stonehaven and this is the only park and public open space within walking distance for children. Stewart Milne is still building a variety of dwellings on this estate and it is due to increase in size considerably. There is no park or open space within this development. We use the park frequently with our 3-year old granddaughter and we would have been quite 'lost' during the lockdown earlier this year if we hadn't been able to access this park and open space. Our granddaughter's nursery was closed and we were looking after her 3 days a week.

I do not see the need for Mackie Rugby Football Club (MRFC) to move to this public open space. They already have lots of members and teams of various ages using the Redcloak pitches on Slug Road. I understand there is plenty of space to expand their facilities there. In fact they have been improving the facilities there in the last few years. I read in the latest President's report on their website that they have built a fitness suite with the help of a 'community grant award' from Aberdeenshire Council. Why the sudden change of plans and waste of this new facility?

The current proposal would be awful for families in our area. It would lead to increased traffic with such a large number of members coming and going, also to light and noise pollution. There is no proposal to build a bigger car park but the Mackie RFC submission suggests the current car park would be used, including for coaches! The car park is not well maintained at the moment and has large potholes in it (which our granddaughter loves to splash in!). I would not like to see increased traffic here with young children using the 'Hamish' playpark next to it. The chances are this car park will not be sufficient for the increased traffic and there will also be lots of parking on Forest Drive and in surrounding streets – again causing noise and vehicle pollution in an area with young families and elderly people.

There is already a lack of safe open space within the town for families to use. This is currently a multi-purpose area designed for informal use. As designated protected sports land it makes no sense to restrict its use to one sport, which already has good facilities within the town envelope. Local schools and local organisations use this park in spring, summer and autumn. All year round we have noticed carers picking up their children from school will often walk across it to collect children or park in the car park and walk to collect their children from school. Quite often in dry weather the children will then have a time of play in the 'Hamish' park or on the grassed area. Given the national problem of increased obesity in children and adults it does not contribute to any improvement in health outcomes to stop this park being used publicly. It's worth adding that the Mums and other carers also have a time of social interaction – so missing in our current time - and which is known to be good for mental health. The family benefits here too. If the Council was to invest in some of the area

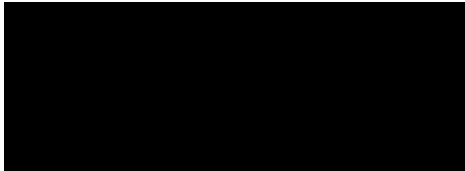
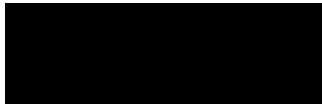
being 'all weather' I'm sure it would be well used and again improve health outcomes in the area.

It would be terrible if the only open space in our area was fenced in and locked. A 5metre fence would be ugly and oppressive. There are many homes facing or backing onto this green area. The addition of lighting would make it look almost prison-like? We need more green open spaces, not less!

The suggestion of a clubhouse for MRFC members is also opposed. The noise level would be unacceptable to local residents and would again increase the amount of traffic before and after events, late at night. I see there is an application for a 'temporary' clubhouse. Why would anyone want to invest in a temporary clubhouse? I think we can be sure it would be developed into a permanent clubhouse. Either would have negative, detrimental effects on local residents.

I am asking Aberdeenshire Council to reject this application from Mackie Rugby Football Club to purchase Mill O'Forest Green Space and to preserve it for use by all sports and the local community.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.A black rectangular redaction box covering contact information, likely a phone number or email address.

**Archived:** 28 October 2021 16:47:25

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, 27 Oct 2021 12:58:46

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Re: Forest Drive Community Asset Transfer Concerns

**Importance:** Normal

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Good evening,

I am writing to you as a concerned local of the Stonehaven, part of the Kincardine and Mearns Area.

It recently came to my attention that the park on Forest Drive - [REDACTED] - is under threat from a Community Asset Transfer request. Mackie Rugby Football Club have applied to take ownership of this space including the car park for £1 from Aberdeenshire Council - they will then build a fence around the park and residents will no longer have access to the park.

This quite frankly breaks my heart. The park holds so many fond memories for me and many others. I am a Scottish internationalist in athletics who has put Stonehaven on the map, representing Scotland in the 2018 Commonwealth Games. This very park is where I ran my first race in the Mill O' Forest Primary School cross-country championships and ran many happy laps in my years training with the primary school team. This is a tradition that continues today with the successful primary school team still using the park for their weekly training sessions. By taking away the park, the talent of many youngsters may remain undiscovered, which is really sad. I continue to use the park for many of my training sessions now, as grass is a lot softer and forgiving on my tired muscles and joints. It was particularly helpful during the coronavirus lockdowns when the running track at Aberdeen Sports Village was closed. All of my training took place in the park, as well as the odd hill sprint up the nearby and slightly less forgiving Woodcot Brae. We all know the benefits of exercise on mental health and having the park was a saving grace for my mental health during the lockdowns, as it allowed me to continue training. Without it, I would have walked away from the sport.

As an athlete, I fully understand the importance of the Mackie RFC finding a new home. I am a rugby fan and love how much the club is growing and creating opportunities for locals. However, Forest Drive is not a suitable place for their new home. By closing the park off, it would be benefiting the health of the minority instead of the majority. If a more suitable option was to be found, everyone would be happy and could reap the benefits of the healthy lifestyle that exercise provides. The club is growing and would soon be too big for Forest Drive.

Another concern I have regarding the situation is the parking. As a resident of Forest Park, I have witnessed many close-calls during school drop off and pick up time. On one occasion a child was hit, and many cars have been bumped. It was a concern on another occasion when the ambulance could not get through due to the traffic. This problem is only going to be exaggerated by Mackie RFC taking over the park. On match days and training nights, Forest Park is going to be chaotic. When the rugby club previously trained at Forest Drive, there were cars coming into Forest Park to drop people off and you had trouble getting through. The club is much bigger now, so this is an accident waiting to happen. This problem will be replicated in the surrounding streets.

The thought of not having access to a park I have used all of my life makes me very sad. It holds many happy memories. The high fence around the perimeter will only add to the sorrow, as it will make me feel like I am living in a prison.

I ask of you to do what is right and reject this proposal. Everyone can be happy in this situation if a more suitable home is found for Mackie RFC.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 28 October 2021 16:52:24  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thu, 28 Oct 2021 12:48:01  
**To:** Kincardine and Mearns  
**Subject:** Stonehaven Mill O Forest Park  
**Importance:** Normal

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I am witting with objection to the planned assets transfer request requested by Mackie Rugby Football Club.

The public park at Mill O Forest was put in place at the time of building the adjacent housing estates to give the people of that areas somewhere safe for their children to play and exercise not to be handed over to a private enterprise. They then have the arrogance to suggest that they could then use the surrounding streets and primary school carpark as overspill parking for their private enterprise, clearly showing that they have no consideration for the people who live in the surrounding area. Increased traffic at the weekend would be extremely dangerous and would also cause further parking problems in an area which already suffers from this problem.

Our park at Mill O Forest is not the right place for this development and I cannot understand why Aberdeenshire Council is even considering this as there is already Rugby pitches at the Academy and also at Redcloak that are more suitable.

Further reasons for this been an ill thought out proposal.

- Lack of playing fields for children to play safely in this area if this goes ahead
- Parking - the mention of over spill at the Mill O Forest school, the road to the school is a dead end street with residential on street parking ,with residents who already have limited parking
- Noise, pollutions and disruption to local very nearby housing
- This is only one of 2 parks in Stonehaven that the community can use for other activities

What other areas have been considered? Why chose something in the middle of a school area full of children playing and exercising.

Why is this not being located on the out skirts of the town, like Redcloak or the academy where there is plenty of parking and space, rather than ruin a nice a neighbourhood with unnecessary traffic, a giant 8 foot metre wall and more important green space that is used for many activities for the community.

**The past year and half has proven how open space and green area have never been so important than now, for everyone to enjoy.**

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Archived: 29 October 2021 14:03:13

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thu, 28 Oct 2021 17:42:14 +0000ARC

To: Kincardine and Mearns

Subject: Park at Forest Drive

Importance: Normal

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To Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing this email to express my opposition to an asset transfer request to Aberdeenshire Council by Mackie Rugby Football club and relates to the land of Forest Park Stonehaven.

A primary concern is it's the only public level play and exercise area of this side of Stonehaven, as a local family we are frequently at this park playing games, teaching our children to ride a bike, exercise and walking our dog. This is a safe environment for us and our small children. This was also an attraction for us to move to [REDACTED] was having that accessible green space on our door step. It isn't just used by families but also used by other organizations. [REDACTED] Forest View Day Centre [REDACTED] use this Park frequently as we know it's a safe place for our service users to take part in different activities. Also it is on our door step which is great for those that have mobility problems. My daughter also uses it regularly with the school/friends and Carronhill Primary school use this park regularly too.

Another issue is the increased noise and light pollution would be substantial for residents whose homes back on to the park. It is said that coaches may be sometimes be parked on Forest Drive, a main bus route and a busy road most of the time. All buses use Forest Drive road since Brickfield Road was stopped being part of the bus route.

Finally from memory the traffic congestion on Forest Drive was horrendous when the Rugby Club had access for training. This was when the Rugby Club was a fraction of the size it is currently. By hearing from Richard Baird of Rickarton, Ury and Lochwood at a local meeting it seems that the rugby Club still has a facility to use on the slug road and its current lease will be extended if necessary on an annual basis so that the club continues to have a pitch to play on until they can find a permanent home.

We are all for promoting local sports and encouraging youngsters but this idea would lead to depriving families of a very popular area and creating more problems.

There must be more viable options that could be put forward.


**Archived:** 29 October 2021 14:06:11

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 28 Oct 2021 18:23:43

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Objection: Asset Transfer Request by Mackie Rugby Football Club

**Importance:** Normal

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### Asset Transfer Request by Mackie Rugby Football Club

I wish to object to the Asset Transfer Request ("the request") made by Mackie Rugby Football Club ("Mackie RFC") in respect of land at Forest Drive, Stonehaven

I grew up on Forest Park, Stonehaven and maintain links to the area by virtue of visiting my elderly mother on a regular basis. As a child, I can remember the original area of land being converted in the late 1970s to become a park from the open area of grassland that it once was to the area of general parkland it is.

It is clear that Mackie RFC do play a valuable part in the local community. However, having read the details of the request by Mackie RFC, and whilst there are some merits to their request, I do have a variety of reservations and do not consider that this is an appropriate request worthy of support.

1) The area of land requested under the proposal is disproportionate and will forever change the character of the area. At present, the land is accessible to the entire community 24/7 for a diverse variety of leisure and recreational purposes including, but not limited to, walking, running, play, pet exercise and informal sports. \_\_\_\_\_

The proposal includes outline detail for future construction of two competition standard rugby pitches, 5 metre high fencing, floodlighting, clubhouse/changing facilities and storage. This will mean that the area of land is no longer accessible to all but instead will be reserved solely for use by Mackie RFC and NOT accessible to the wider community at any other time resulting in a significant loss of amenity to the wider community.

Moreover, Mackie RFC propose to fence off the area of land with tall high security fencing preventing any other use of the land by other stakeholders in the community. Removal of access from this area will prevent residents of Forest Park and other surrounding residential areas use of this recreational land with Mackie RFC expecting those affected to travel some distance elsewhere in the town to access other areas which will become over utilised with resulting safety & traffic concerns.

The second of the two proposed pitches is also located in very close proximity to a number of homes in Forest Park, resulting in potential noise complaints during times of training and matches. No mention is made in their request of any noise abatement strategies and how these would be monitored.

2) Despite the statement of Mackie RFC to the contrary, there is not adequate parking on Forest Drive to support the likely volume of traffic at times of training and matches, leading to parking disruption and traffic violations, I have seen at first hand how busy Forest Drive can become when traffic parks all along it from Forest View Centre to the entrance of Forest Park, and overspill of parked traffic from visiting clubs and supporters can reasonably be expected on match days into Forest Park itself impacting residents negatively. I do not believe that Mackie RFC have carried out an adequate & robust study of the effects of traffic in the area that their request will result in..

3) , Mackie RFC has shown in their financial plan their various estimates of costings (without providing documentary evidence) and timescales, but I do not believe that they have demonstrated adequately how robust these assumptions are, nor allowed any realistic contingencies for variances and cost overruns. They have used a flat 20% variance assumption however costs of labour & materials for many items have risen greater than 20% in this post-pandemic world. As a small membership organisation, the club is entirely reliant upon fundraising and grants, having little financial capital of its own and no mention is made anywhere in their ever hopeful project capital cost assumptions of how any substantial cost overruns would be funded.

This could result in the area of land being transferred to Mackie RFC, then only being able to partially complete the project before running out of funding resources, This would be an unsatisfactory state of affairs leaving both the club with unfinished/inadequate facilities and the wider community with the loss of amenity.

For example, the club themselves state that the area of land requested will require extensive groundworks and drainage installation. It is my recollection that the park has buried beneath it high voltage cabling that diagonally crosses it from the electricity substation area to the west towards the Forest View centre location. It is not apparent that Mackie RFC have considered the possibility that the drainage installation will interfere with cabling or that their expensive competition standard pitches may have to be dug up to add, repair or replace high voltage cabling in the future.

4) With flood lighting installation from elevated poles, it will be key to ensure that local residents are not affected by light pollution from two rugby pitches located in close proximity. I am sure that local residents are only too aware of the animosity created over the years between anglers and tennis enthusiasts in another area of Stonehaven on the subject of floodlighting. No mention is made anywhere by Mackie RFC for what they plan for a lighting study to help ensure that any floodlighting would be sufficient, not excessive and not disruptive to locals.

Regretfully, I cannot offer any support for the request by Mackie RFC and I consider that their plans are not suitable and in keeping with the area of land that has been an established amenity park for their entire community for over 40 years. I consider that instead it would be better for Mackie RFC to concentrate their efforts to look for alternative locations in Stonehaven and the surrounding area for their future home.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Archived:** 29 October 2021 14:09:36

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 28 Oct 2021 20:15:39

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Proposed Rugby Pitches Forrest Road

**Importance:** Normal

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Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager  
Aberdeenshire Council  
Viewmount  
Arduthie Road  
Stonehaven  
AB39 2QQ

Dear Sir,

Proposed development of rugby pitches at Forrest Road Stonehaven

I wish to object to the proposal to change the open ground at Forrest Road to rugby pitches .

This area provides an open green space for the residents and children of Brickfield ,Forrest Park and Dunnottar Park .

It is the only green space for the residents in this part of the town of Stonehaven.

When my [REDACTED] bought [REDACTED] house in Dunnottar Park The builder Stewart Milne stated in his sales info that he wouldn't be providing a green space in the development as there was a green space at Forrest road.

Why should this proposed development deprive the local residents of a great green space for the sake of a couple of rugby pitches for a few rugby players who would only use it for matches and training . The public at present use it everyday.

My grand children learnt to ride their bikes there and regularly use the area for exercise.in a safe environment.

To erect a fence round this area, will deprive children and adults and future generations a green space to play and exercise on..

This proposal should be rejected. Its would be a bad decision to allow this development.

The area also provides one the main routes to and from Mill of Forrest school used daily by many pupils attending the school.

At present the car park beside the hydro sub station allows parents to drop off and collect them in a safe environment .

The roads round the school are very busy at school times and the route across the grassy area provides a safe alternative route.

The safety of the school children must be a priority.

This proposal should be rejected

This proposed development is shoehorned into a space that is far too small . Two proposed rugby pitches have been squeezed into this space. The proposed development is way too big for this space.

It is too close to the existing houses ( a problem they don't have at Redcloak) and despite the proposed fencing, balls will land in adjacent gardens with the potential to cause damage or injury.

The proposed development far too large for the existing space and too near existing housing and should be rejected

The rugby club have until 2026 to find a new home.

What about returning to the Mackie playing fields . There is plenty of space for 2 pitches and changing facilities are already available.  
No adjacent housing

In Stonehaven we are surrounded by fields. Is there not an opportunity to find a bigger site more suitable to the rugby clubs needs than this small site.

The proposal for Forrest Road must be rejected for the reasons stated above

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 29 October 2021 14:17:22

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 28 Oct 2021 20:50:45 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Cc:** Cllr Wendy Agnew; Cllr Ian J. Mollison; Cllr Alastair A. Bews; Cllr George W. Carr; Cllr Sarah Dickinson; Cllr Alison Evison; Cllr William Howatson; Cllr Jeff Hutchison; Cllr Colin Pike; Cllr Dennis Robertson; Cllr Sandy Wallace; Cllr Leigh Wilson

**Subject:** Objection to Asset transfer of park land by forest park

**Importance:** Normal

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Hello,

I am writing to object to the transfer of ownership of the park land by forest park to the Stonehaven Rugby Club.

I grew up in [REDACTED] and my [REDACTED] still lives there. During my childhood I used the park on a daily basis and I know other children and families use it now as I see them in the park when I visit my [REDACTED].

The issues I have with this proposal are as follows:

1. Their plan includes erecting a 5/6 ft high fence around the perimeter of the park. This will be an eyesore as who wants to use their back garden when there is a giant fence staring at them. Also I am certain this will effect house prices as who will want to purchase a house with that size of fence out their back garden.
2. The SRC claim to have checked usage of the park and claim it is empty but do not state when this was done. If they picked a time a day carefully (i.e. 6am on a rainy Sunday) it will be empty. However anyone could do the same for Aberdeenshire council offices or the existing rugby grounds. Should these area be sold off because they are under used?
3. Noise and light pollution will increase significantly during construction and then on match usage and will have a detrimental effect on homeowners nearby.
4. Parking for the RFC seems to be contained to the small car park area at the top of the street but during busy match days coaches and visitors will need to park elsewhere. This will mean that forest drive (a main bus route) will be filled up with vehicles making passing difficult, not to mention that people getting on & off buses will have a more difficult time as the bus stop will be difficult to get into. However when forest drive is full visitors will park in forest park, making residents lives difficult, it's bad enough on school mornings when parents drop off their kids.
5. The rugby club seems to be making the case that this land is urgently needed but the owners of the land they currently use have confirmed they can continue to use it until more suitable land is found.
6. It seems that nearby residents who use the park will be expected to travel to park areas further away. This maybe ok for younger or fitter people but what about the elderly who use the park, also in this time of green policies concerning CO2 can the SRC & Aberdeenshire council really believe that people jumping into their cars and driving 5 minutes down the road is good for the environment!!!
7. Their plans include a club house which will be used for functions and other events but what about the effect on homeowners nearby. Does anyone want to have to listen to a rugby club party going on till the early hours of the morning especially if they have children. Also what assurance can the rugby club give

about drunken behaviour near these homes, does anyone want to wake up and find vomit or other substances on their doorstep the morning after a party

I have the greatest respect for Stonehaven rugby club but don't believe this land is suitable for their plans, it should be kept as it is for all to use, not just the rugby club.

I hear that the rugby club keep getting outbid on other land area, perhaps they could apply for national lottery funding to purchase land, other similar organisations seem to have done so in the past.

Kind Regards

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.A black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the sender.

Archived: 29 October 2021 14:18:33

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Fri, 29 Oct 2021 10:01:00

To: Kincardine and Mearns

Subject: Re: Stonehaven playing field – proposed development by Rugby Club

Importance: Normal

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to register my deep objection to the proposed development at Forest Park Playing field in the strongest possible terms. I think that the Council would be neglectful of its duty to meet the needs of the community if it allowed the Rugby Club to go ahead with its plans. In order to be clear, I will set out the reasons for this below:

1. The playing field is a communal green space that is enjoyed by everyone in Forest Park (and many who live outside this estate); it is a vital part of people's *physical and mental wellbeing* and has proved its value during the recent COVID-19 lockdowns.
2. It is used by many people, of all ages, for physical exercise and recreation – not everyone has a car, or is physically able to get to the countryside surrounding Stonehaven.
3. It provides a safe family space for children who are too old for the 'Hamish' playpark to run and play football, tag, fly kites, etc. My garden backs onto the field and I see these activities every day.
4. If the Rugby Club proposal goes ahead, the nearest green space is at the 'Witchies'. No parent in their right mind would let their child play there, as it is too secluded and there is a lot of deep water at the bottom. This, together with the increased parking that the Rugby Club proposes represents a significant danger to our children. *If the Council accepts the proposal, they will be directly responsible for endangering the children of this community.*
5. The proposal of a 5m locked fence around the field is ridiculous! It effectively shuts the community out so that an exclusive number of people can pursue their interest – not everyone likes/plays rugby, but *everyone* likes, values and uses the playing field.
6. The addition of floodlights will create light pollution and the extra parking/number of people using the facility will create noise pollution, both of which are totally unacceptable.
7. The Rugby Club intends to build an all-weather pitch at the field. It is well-documented that these pitches are extremely environmentally unfriendly:
  - i. they use a huge volume of plastic
  - ii. pieces of the astro turf break down and contaminate the soil for centuries
  - iii. they have a huge carbon footprint.

We are days away from the most important climate change summit of our lifetime. Does the Council honestly consider this proposal to be in keeping with the general move towards restricting/removing the immense amount of damage we are causing to the environment?

8. The playing field itself is designated as protected sports land by Aberdeenshire Council, therefore it cannot be right that an exclusive sports club can pursue its own agenda with total disregard to the designation of the land, the needs of the community and the wider population of Stonehaven in general.

I sincerely hope that the Council will consider these points (and all of the other objections it receives) very seriously and decline the application from the Rugby Club. If it is not, it is doing a huge disservice to the community it exists to serve.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



27<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

**MILL O FOREST PARK ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST**

**I would like to formally object to the above request, which has been submitted by the Mackie Rugby Football Club.**

**I lived in Stonehaven until very recently and attended both the Mill o Forest School, and Mackie Academy.**

**The field adjacent to the Mill o Forest School is extremely popular, and, as such, is used extensively. Should this land be taken from the Community that uses it, then this would be a complete disaster for them, as they won't have anywhere similar nearby to go to.**

**I urge the Council to reject this proposal, for the good of the Stonehaven Community.**

**Yours Sincerely,**





27<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

**MILL O FOREST PARK ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST**

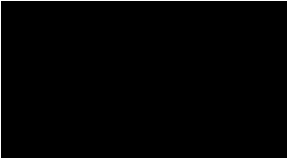
**I would like to formally object to the above request, which has been submitted by the Mackie Rugby Football Club.**

**The field adjacent to the Mill o Forest School is extremely popular, and, as such, is used extensively. Should this land be taken from the Community that uses it, then this would be a complete disaster for them, as they won't have anywhere similar nearby to go to.**

**I urge the Council to reject this proposal, for the good of the Stonehaven Community.**

**Yours Sincerely,**

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.



25<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

**SUBJECT: OBJECTION TO MILL O FOREST PARK ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST**

**I was horrified to read about the recent Asset Transfer Request, made by Mackie Rugby Football Club, associated with Forest Park. This Park is extensively used by a multitude of the people, of all ages.**

**Stonehaven has extremely limited public areas available like this one, so it would be very irresponsible of the Council, to grant approval for the request.**

**Please take this letter as my formal objection to this planning request.**

**Yours Sincerely,**







24<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

**OBJECTION: MILL O FOREST PARK ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST**

**I understand that the Mackie Rugby Football Club have submitted a request to purchase the field next to the Mill o Forest School, for their own sole use.**

**My grandchildren, along with numerous other people regularly use this field, so if this were to be lost, they would have nowhere else nearby to use.**

**This field has been available to the public for many years, and should be left that way. There is a severe lack of available public land in Stonehaven, so we cannot afford to lose this one.**

**Please register my formal objection to this request.**

**Yours Sincerely,**



28TH OCTOBER 2021

Dear SIR/MADAM

I WRITE TO EXPRESS MY CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE OF THE PARK AT FOREST PARK.

THIS IS A PARK I HAVE USED FOR OVER 40 YEARS FIRSTLY TAKING MY CHILDREN AND NOW MY GRANDCHILDREN WHO ALSO USE IT AS PART OF MILLO' FOREST SCHOOL.

I THINK THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT GREEN SPACE AT THIS END OF TOWN FOR USE BY MANY PEOPLE, WALKERS, RUNNERS ETC. AND IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES A PLACE TO JUST SIT AND ENJOY.

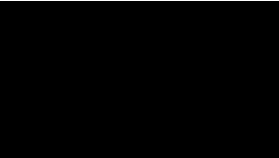
I FEEL STRONGLY THAT THIS IS AN AREA WHICH SHOULD BE FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANY

AND NOT JUST ONE SOLITARY CLUB.

YOURS FAITHFULLY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



25<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

**SUBJECT: OBJECTION TO MILL O FOREST PARK ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST**

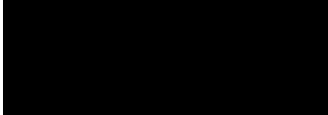
**I am writing to formally object to the Asset Transfer Request, made by Mackie Rugby Football Club associated with Forest Park.**

**The area adjacent to the Mill o Forest Primary School is very popular, and, if lost, will have an adverse effect to many people.**

**Stonehaven has grown in size over the years that I have been living here, and this has resulted in the reduction of areas such as this being available for the public to use.**

**I implore the Council to reject this proposal, for the good of the Stonehaven Community.**

**Yours Sincerely,**



**Archived:** 01 November 2021 11:03:31

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 29 Oct 2021 12:03:43

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer Request by Mackie Rugby Football Club.

**Importance:** Normal

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to you regarding my deep concern over the Asset Transfer Request by Mackie Rugby Football Club for our green public space at Forest Park. I wish to state I have no agenda or ill will towards Mackie Rugby Club who are a fine, well run organisation who contribute greatly to the local community.

When my wife, our two young boys & I moved to our first home of our own at [REDACTED] 44 years ago one of the main attractions was the proximity of Mill o Forest school & the wide green space at the rear of our property, indeed one of the first things I did was to fit a gate in our rear fence to access the park.

Over the years it has been used by all the community for recreational activities. Children of all ages & their parents, runners, walkers, dog walkers enjoy the space. My wife & I have also enjoyed many happy times playing games with our boys & latterly with our granddaughter & grandson. Mill o Forest & Carronhill Schools also use the park for various activities. I note that the council also felt it should be more accessible to the community by removing the fence facing Forest Drive, replacing it with bollards, planting trees & improving the path around the park. The path provides a nice safe short cut for the small children & the staff from the local nurseries accessing the Hamish play park.

More recently it has provided people with a place to either exercise or relax during lockdown. It has been, and continues to be, vital for the mental health of those taking advantage of its green space.

By erecting a 5 metre fence perimeter fence, locked gates, clubhouse & changing facilities with coach parking & turning area it would completely change the park, excluding the public & restricting its use to one club.

Perhaps the "Voice your choice" initiative being driven by [REDACTED] Aberdeenshire Council Sport Hub Officer, who feels that any green space should benefit all of the community, could assist the Rugby Club to find a new home in more suitable area.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Archived: 01 November 2021 11:06:38

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Fri, 29 Oct 2021 14:25:26

To: Kincardine and Mearns

Subject: Forest Drive park asset transfer

Importance: Normal

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FAO [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I wish to register my concerns and opposition to the above proposed asset transfer. In essence this is an application by the local rugby club to acquire a public open recreational space and then run it as a private sports area for rugby players who are members of the club. The park in question has been in Council ownership since around 1975 and has provided a much needed recreational outlet for this sector of Stonehaven; turning it into a private space will deprive the majority of local residents the use of a much appreciated asset. Personally I doubt whether this fits into the Council strategy of improving the physical and mental health of the community.

The application states that the rugby club must vacate their current land in 2026 as they have been given notice to quit when their long term lease expires in that year. This fact is heavily weighted in the documents provided by the club and can be viewed as 'emotional blackmail' to arrive at a positive decision on the asset transfer as soon as possible. However, in a letter to The Bellman on 19<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr [REDACTED] (owner of the leased ground) stated '*I will be extending the lease on an annual basis so that the Club continues to have a pitch to play on until they can find a permanent home.*' Consequently the original tight deadline to provide a satisfactory solution to the club's predicament no longer exists. A breathing space has been created. I acknowledge that this is not 100% satisfactory for the club but it does allow for more consideration of alternatives to Forest Drive park which has many flaws which I am sure will be listed by other concerned citizens in the local community.

The application form states '*include information on the proportion of your community who are involved with the request , how you have engaged with your community **beyond the members of your organisation**, their response and how the community have contributed to the design of the project.*' Unfortunately the club has neglected this essential demand. In fact there has been no consultation with the local community and I fail to understand how the Council can arrive at a fair and just decision without this information. In itself this is sufficient to deny the asset transfer request.

Again in its application the club states '*is noted that it will have impact in removing a green area from the locality, but the area is well catered for open space ....*' Unfortunately yet again the Club has failed to be precise and name these areas. I am unaware of any other open public space in this sector of Stonehaven which covers Brickfield, Forest Park, G S Brown estate, Dunnottar Park and Malcolm's Mount. Coincidentally residents of Dunnottar Park have started making complaints to the developers about the lack of recreational space in their estate; many of the children from this estate are to be found in the Forest Drive park enjoying the safe open space. Does the Council really intend to deprive the local communities recreational space in favour of a group of rugby players, many from out with Stonehaven.

I am disturbed by the lack of financial detail in the application. The 4 year financial forecast merely relates to the on-going existing income and expenditure of the club; there are no details regarding the capital investment and increased running costs that would be associated with this asset transfer. I am highly critical of their proposed extra income stream. The club mentions '*windfarms, Councils, supermarkets, wealthy benefactors, crowd funding, Sports Scotland funding*' and even £17K from the Council's Developer Obligations Fund but there is no hard evidence that any of this extra funding is available. Aberdeenshire Council will be taking a huge leap in faith if it accepts all the necessary funding is in place. I am the Chair of an organisation that has awarded £1.5M in grant funding to Aberdeenshire organisations over the last 4 years and to be brutally honest this application would fall at the first hurdle due to the lack of financial detail if it came before us. I should add that I am not expecting such an application but I am using my experience to highlight the stringent demands on all funding applications.

The Council has over the years extensively and expensively tried to improve Forest Drive park and it is gradually maturing into a pleasant open space with shrubbery and trees. The rugby club fail to mention that in order to progress their plans for two full size pitches they will have to remove at least 159 trees, shrubbery is extra. Not the best example of Green Issues and Climate Control. I suspect that this flies in the face of Aberdeenshire Council's Green policy.

You will gather from the above that I am totally against this opportunistic asset transfer request. Whilst I have every sympathy with the rugby club's predicament, Forest Drive park is not the solution to their problem as, apart from the problems outlined above, it is not big enough, will create major traffic and parking problems and will deny the local community their existing rights to an open space that has existed for 46 years. I trust that the Council will examine the request extremely carefully and weigh the benefits to a small group of rugby players against the disenfranchisement of the majority of the community.

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Archived:** 01 November 2021 12:11:44

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 29 Oct 2021 15:07:18

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer of Forest Drive Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing to strongly object to the proposed community asset transfer of the park land located at Forest Drive, Stonehaven to the Mackie Academy Former Pupils Rugby Club.

This park is an important asset to the whole community in Stonehaven, not just those who play rugby or live around it. Growing up in Stonehaven I used to play in the park when visiting my grandparents in [REDACTED], and then in later years it was an ad-hoc football pitch with friends who lived in Forest Park. Now as a parent, I make the walk to Forest Drive with my own children and we will often end up playing in the open green space, instead of the play park.

My nephews use the park as pupils of Mill O'Forest school and I know many local residents use it who may not be able to physically access more awkward entrances to green spaces at Mineralwell or elsewhere.

Everyone in the town supports the rugby club and wants them to succeed. But it seems incredibly unfair to deprive the wider community of an important asset and take something which is accessible to the whole town, build a fence round it, and only allow it to be used for rugby or activities the club deems acceptable. This seems wholly against the spirit of the legislation which is being used.

I hope the council can take some responsibility and help find the club a new home that is acceptable to all and doesn't remove assets from the rest of the community. The club's current landowner has made it clear (despite what is mentioned in the club's proposal) that they have been offered a rolling lease on their current site so there is still time for a sensible solution to be found. I sincerely hope that the council rejects this transfer request and focusses constructive efforts to find somewhere else.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 01 November 2021 12:13:38

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 29 Oct 2021 19:52:22

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

---

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I was very shocked to find out only from social media that Mackie Rugby Football Club have requested that they purchase the whole of the land at Forest Park for a nominal sum. I believe the intention is to construct two rugby pitches to SRA competition standard, training area, clubhouse, storage and fitness suite. The proposal is also to take over all of the car park but exclude the "Hamish" play park. The tiny public open space shown on the plan is an absolute joke!

The residents of Forest Park and surrounding area are very much against this. First of all I feel we should have been notified of this proposal. A little notice stuck on the park fence with objections having to be submitted in a very short time space is not acceptable. Only when there was an outcry on Stonehaven Chat was the date for objections extended.

I have been told that there were various notices around the town such as in the notice board in the Co-op. When I go there I do my shopping and leave. Mill o'Forest and Carronhill may have been notified but I and many of my neighbours no longer have any connection with these schools. I feel with such an impact on the residents of this street especially we should have been notified either by a flyer through our letterboxes or a notice published in the newspaper. If I intended to do any extension or alteration to my property I would be required to give due notice in writing to my neighbours so they could object if they so desired.

The park is used by many residents and groups regularly. It was said that there was a survey undertaken and concluded that it was greatly underused. Really? When was this survey done and by whom?

My own children and now my grandchildren have enjoyed this park for many years. It is a green and pleasant place for sitting, kite flying, running, rounders, picnics etc. The trees that were planted to encourage nature are now mature. These trees would require to be felled and replaced with an industrial type fence 5 metres in height. It would be like having a prison exercise yard behind our properties. These rugby pitches would be floodlit and cause light pollution and noise nuisance. Also, is it the long term plan for the club house to be used for functions? This too would be a great concern being so near our homes.

It has been suggested that there are parks such as Mineralwell and near the beach that can be used. These are quite some distance from this end of town and would be too far for young children to walk. Going there would therefore entail using vehicles. I thought the idea nowadays is to discourage us from using cars as it is better for the environment.

As well as the loss of the amenities another big problem is traffic congestion. It is said that the car park would be adequate for cars and small coaches. A plan would be put in place for larger coaches. Very vague! Previously when the club used the park for practice Forest Drive was very busy with cars parked on the road and also on the verge next to the railway line. This is a busy bus route with a bus shelter and bus stop. Should the area be used for tournaments etc the congestion would be even worse and no doubt would spill over into Forest Park causing issues in this street and also the streets near Mil o' Forest school.



Of course the rugby club would like a permanent home. However this is certainly not the right place for it. At the moment the owner of the land at Redcloak has said he is willing or the club to continue using it. It is therefore not urgent. There is land at Mackie that could be used. I know there are discussions going on as to where a new school can be situated. Surely on that large area there would be room to accommodate both.

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 30 October 2021 18:36

To: Kincardine and Mearns <kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Forest Park - Rugby Club

Dear Sirs,

I write with regard to the Community Transfer Asset, being Forest Park. I do not live close to Forest Park but feel that I should have my say.

No one doubts the wonderful work carried out by the Rugby Club, but to use an entire green space exclusively for the use of the rugby club, in the middle of a residential area is utter madness. Surely, with this being the year of COP26, not to mention the pandemic, we should be doing all we can to preserve green spaces for everyone, not for the few. This would deprive a sizeable community of a much needed green area, close to where they live. No travel time, no additional pollution, just walk outside and there's a green area - surely this is part of what NetZero is about.

No one doubts that rugby is a good healthy pastime and one that benefits the mental health and wellbeing of young people and is a very enjoyable sport to watch.

I would ask why such a facility cannot be located next to the existing Mackie Academy where there looks to be sufficient land and sufficient car parking outwith school hours? This would be much more sensible approach and much less disruptive to residents. A football pitch is already located within Mineralwell Park - would there be an opportunity to looking at redeveloping and sharing those facilities?

I really do hope that this proposal does not go ahead - it is plain wrong on so many fronts. By all means relocate the rugby club from its current location, but not to the detriment of so many other people.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 01 November 2021 12:18:02

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sun, 31 Oct 2021 16:50:32

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Mill of Forest Park - asset transfer request.

**Importance:** Normal

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Please be advised that I object to the proposed transfer of our well used green public space at Forest Park to Mackie Rugby Football Club.

Whilst I support the rugby club I am dismayed at their proposal to buy our park and exclude the local council tax payers from its use as a green space for us all to use.

Surely there must be land available on the north side of the dual carriageway which could be sold to the rugby club?

Please ensure that the sports land at Forest Park is retained for all sports without restrictions.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 01 November 2021 12:20:02

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 28 Oct 2021 18:30:44

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

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Dear Sirs ,

I would like to let you know that the play park is used by lots of people of all ages.

First of all the school uses the park for running etc.

Youngsters play football and different games.

I use the park walking my dog and there are a lot of people out dog walking or meeting up together to let their dogs run around together. in a safe place.

The older generation have been told to get out and exercise and the park is ideal for them as it is a lovely flat green area to wander around and meet new friends if they are on their own. I have seen them and they love to meet up and talk to different people It is also very healthy for the elderly to get out and that would be of benefit to the National Health saving money by not being ill

I personally use the park once or twice a day most days with my dog also my husband has problems walking and the flat Park is ideal for him.

The Park is needed for the people in the surrounding area and beyond

I do hope the Rugby Club will get somewhere else more suitable

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

Aberdeenshire Council

Viewmount

Arduthie Road

Stonehaven

AB39 2DQ

25/10/2021

Dear Sir/Madam

### **ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST – FOREST PARK, STONEHAVEN**

I write to offer comment on the above request.

#### **LOSS OF OPEN GREEN SPACE**

The demographics of Forest Park, Riverside, Carron Den and particularly Brickfield areas show a high level of families with young children.

I have lived in the Mill of Forest/Brickfield areas all my adult life and as a young child and teenager enjoyed playing with friends in Forest Park.

Now I am the mother of a nine year old boy and six year old girl. My son goes himself to the nearby Forest Park on an almost daily basis to play football with his friends. I regularly take my daughter to the Hamish playpark and frequently and responsibly exercise my dog there.

The loss of this park would mean children from the areas I have highlighted above having to make their way to the Mineralwell Park to enjoy similar open green space to play games and generally run about as children do. This somewhat lengthy journey means that children would have to cross Arduthie Road and then Slug Road both of which are busy roads within the town. Like many other parents this is not a journey I would allow my young children to make alone and due to various commitments not all parents have the time to accompany their children.

During strict lockdown periods and restricted outdoor exercise in the last 18 months many people enjoyed the peace and open space the park had to offer. Given these uncertain times there is no guarantee that this facility may be valued again.

The Rugby Club do excellent work providing a specific sporting environment for young people and children but not all young people and children want to participate in organised physical sport.

Practically every open space in the above housing areas has a “ No Ball Games “ sign discouraging children to play near their homes and Forest Park is their only option. Given the concerns and various reports over the health and fitness of children every opportunity should be taken to encourage them to leave their tablets and game consoles and get outside out and enjoy all sports and exercise. Taking away the only park and green space near them is not going to achieve that.

### **TRAFFIC ISSUES**

The plans show a proposal for coach parking and 41 spaces in the existing car park which is adjacent to the Hamish playpark.

Access to the playpark is from the car park and at present there is minimal traffic flow making it safe for young children to walk and cycle to the park. This would not be the case on Saturday afternoons when the playpark would likely be busy and rugby would be taking place. The risk of conflict between cars arriving/leaving for the rugby and parents and children going to and from the playpark would be high and this risk would be compounded if large coaches arrived and started reversing and turning.

Given the large turnout of spectators at some matches there would be an overspill of parking onto Forest Road which is a relatively busy road and a bus route. At present when cars are parked there it restricts and impedes the two-way flow of traffic especially when larger vehicles are involved. Any parking restrictions or higher numbers of vehicles would just move the problem to the Brickfield area where on street parking is already an issue.

These traffic issues clearly highlight this is not a suitable venue for a sporting facility likely to attract volumes of traffic.

### **LIGHT AND NOISE POLLUTION**

The residents of houses backing onto Forest Park (incidentally not mine) tolerate a level of noise from the park during summer months but enjoy a relatively peaceful time during the darker nights.

This would change with frequent weeknight rugby training all year long and the associated noise and shouting that goes along with active sport. These training sessions would take place under floodlights during winter months again potentially impacting on the expectations of these house owners to enjoy a reasonable level of peace and quiet as they would have had before

To sum up this Asset Transfer Request should not take place for the following reasons –

**Loss of the only open green space freely available to all in probably the most populated areas of the town**

**Significant traffic issues creating potential risks to children and parents using the Hamish playpark during match days and the associated parking chaos.**

**Impact on the quality of life of residents of Forest Park from noise and light pollution**

I fully understand the position of the Rugby Club in trying to secure new facilities to continue the excellent work they do in their favoured sport, but this is not the right location for it.

This request has a negative impact on so many people for several reasons and this far outweighs any positive impact it may have.

Yours faithfully





30th October 2020

KINCARDINE and MGAENS AREA MANAGER  
ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL  
VIEWMOUNT  
ARDUTHIE ROAD  
STONEHAVEN  
AB39 2DQ

I wish to object to the asset transfer request made by MACHIE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB for sale of the land immediately adjacent to the "Hannish" play park

I do not see that the sale of this land to one particular user fulfils the title of how this green space is currently held and will represent a severe loss to the community who live in the immediate vicinity of the area and indeed for those in the surrounding locale.

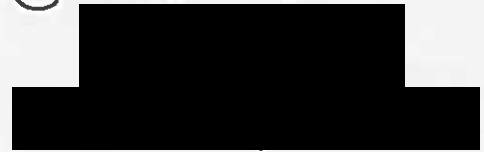
It will lead inevitably to:

- increased traffic
  - light and noise pollution
  - increased demand for parking
- and will reduce further access to safe area for families and other users.

This is an area well-used by local people for a variety of leisure and other activities and is the only space of this kind in the local area and its loss would mean that the health, both physical and mental, of residents would be adversely affected; particularly for the elderly and the young children who use the play park a their way home from school.

Given the current facilities already open to Machie Rugby Club I see no merit in their request whatsoever and urge the Council to reject it.

Yours faithfully,





**Archived:** 04 November 2021 10:48:25  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tue, 2 Nov 2021 11:59:13  
**To:** Kincardine and Mearns  
**Subject:** For the attention of the Area Manager  
**Importance:** Normal

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ASSET TRANSFER

I would like to register my objection to the asset transfer of the land at Forest Park, Stonehaven to Mackie Rugby Club.

The park is within walking distance of my home and I use it on a daily basis to walk my dog. During the school holidays I take my grandchildren there to play football, chase, etc. We have picnics there also. It is a safe environment for them to be in,

This is the only green space this side of Stonehaven and it would be detrimental to everyones mental health to lose this.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 04 November 2021 12:23:17

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tue, 2 Nov 2021 12:07:12

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Save our park

**Importance:** Normal

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Good Afternoon,

I am writing to express my concerns about the Forest park proposed plan. I use this park to run and to walk and also take my dog there. I also work in a local care home service in Stonehaven and we often take our residents here for walks and do picnics and play games. It would be really sad and upsetting if we were to lose this park and I am totally against the proposal.

Kind Regards  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 04 November 2021 12:24:57

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tue, 2 Nov 2021 15:17:56

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset transfer Request Mill o' Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

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To Whom it May Concern.

My name is [REDACTED] I live at [REDACTED] and I am writing to you **inobjection** to the above Asset Transfer plans.

I have been walking my dogs at the Mill O' Forest Park for over 19 years now and as the park is just 5 min walk from my house, its a perfect green space for me to unwind and exercise my dogs. During lockdown the park has been my "absolute sanctuary" and place to destress and as I suffer from stress and anxiety its the perfect place for me to enjoy the greenary and gaze up to the hills as I walk through the park. It really is my favourite place to be.

I would be utterly devastated if I lost this place to go as there is no other green spaces locally I can go to walk my dogs and unwind and enjoy nature.

Please please please, reconsider this applications for the Rugby Pitches. I am sure there are other places they can play without taking away our only green space, this side of town.

Thankyou

[REDACTED]

██████████  
30<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to oppose the loss of Forest Drive Park to the Rugby club. The park is a great asset to the community at the top of Stonehaven being used by many residents as well as groups and schools such as Mill o forest school, Carronhill School and tug of war teams.

Having lived in ██████████ for nearly 40 years, my children used the park all the time for playing football etc. Our house backed on to the park and we had a gate onto it. My grandchildren now play in the park. There used to be a lot of play equipment in the actual park before the small swing park was built. There used to be climbing frames, a roundabout, a concrete square where I played tennis with my children etc. The council took all the play equipment from the park away and left us with an empty field when Hamish's swing park was built. I am glad they are now landscaping the field. Much more could be done by the council to make it an inviting space again. They seem to just concentrate on the lower end of the town for play equipment.

If the Rugby club take over the whole park and car park and only leave the small swing park where will the children run around, play football, play rounders, have a picnic, play with balls and just have somewhere safe to meet their friends nearby without crossing very busy roads. There is nowhere else near.

The park was very well used over the summer and especially during lockdown. Every Monday I met friends and had a picnic in the park, I often walk round the park as exercise with a friend who has mobility issues and play with my grandchildren in the park often going for a toddle round the path with a scooter on dry days.

I oppose this asset transfer because -

1. The loss of green space at the top of the town. The park has been landscaped recently and looks great. We have very little green space and parks at this area as most are down town like the beach and Mineral Well Park.
2. Parking - There is not enough parking in this area. The car park in the plans is far too small. No plans for parent and child spaces. Forest drive

is a very busy road and not suitable for children going to play in the park. There is a primary school nearby and in on a busy bus route. Drivers change busses outside the park so busses are often stationary for a while there. A lot of parking on the road would make it impossible to pass, especially if it was minibuses which would block the road. We do not need more traffic in the area - it is bad enough when parents are parking to pick up their children from the school.

3. Noise pollution - the houses nearby would be affected by the very loud noise. Some residences have small children and work shifts. Are the rugby club going to pay for the triple glazing needed? Complaints may result in noise abatement notices to the Rugby club.
4. Light pollution - I take it that flood lights would be needed in the winter, lighting up residents gardens which would disturb them.
5. 5 m fence - it would feel like a prison! Even the small swing park will have a huge fence around it, losing the pleasant, fun, welcoming park we have now. It seems to be going right to the boundary of the park, stopping residence using their back gates to the park by trapping them in.
6. A clubhouse in the middle of a residential area is certainly not in the right place with added noise, parking etc.
7. Right of way - residents have been walking through the park for the last 44 years to get to the school and the shops at the other side. More folk use it as the path was upgraded and new homes built at Dunnottar Park as the catchment area was increased. A fence recently put up at the primary school has the gates open as its grounds was also a right of way.

While I agree that the Rugby club need an area to play, Forest park in the middle of a housing scheme is certainly not the right place for it. It is good to hear that they have a pitch at Redcloak until they find new grounds. Any new pitch does not need to be within the bypass taking away precious green space from everyone else. It is very selfish of them to even try. They used to even complain about the boggy ground in the winter as its above clay. Drainage costs would be huge.

What is really needed is a large Stonehaven Sports hub like at Banchory which many sports clubs can use. The gymnastics club also need a base. Maybe land at Mackie or Ury could be used for this.

Again I am totally opposed to the asset transfer of our popular local park, well used by local schoolchildren and residents.

Yours Sincerely,

██████████

30<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2021

Kincardine v Mearns Area Manager  
Aberdeenshire Council

Viewmount

Adulthie Road

Stonehaven AB39 2DQ

Dear Sir,

I am writing to give my support  
to the Save Forest Drive Park group.

It is a community asset for so many  
people in that part of Stonehaven and  
should not be sold to Machie Rugby Club.

Once lost the community would not  
easily get it back. Please don't lose it.

Let us keep it for all of Stonehaven.

Yours sincerely,  


Kincardine & Mearns Area Manager  
Aberdeenshire Council  
Viewmount  
Arduthie Road  
Stonehaven  
AB39 2DQ

**FAO: Bruce Stewart**

Dear Sir,

Reference: Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

Proposed asset transfer request by Mackie Academy Rugby Football Club relating to land of Forest Park, Stonehaven; with the construction of two rugby pitches to SRU competition standard, training area, clubhouse, changing rooms, storage, and fitness suite. The proposal will also include the car park but exclude the 'Hamish' play park.

I write in connection with the above asset transfer request under the community empowerment act. I have examined the proposals, site plan and other related documents and wish to object strongly to the purchase of the land; and the proposals set forward by Mackie Academy Rugby Football Club. Having lived in Stonehaven since birth and now live in the vicinity of Forest Park, I regularly use the park for walking, running and for recreation with my two nephews.

I wish to object to the asset transfer request on the following grounds:

1. Loss of vitality and green open space amenities for the whole community to enjoy and use as they desire.
2. Very limited green space would be left accessible at any time by members of the public, 95% of the current park would be fenced off, the proposed layout being inappropriate for the area; a mass of green metal fencing.
3. The design and appearance of the proposed 5m high overbearing security fencing, which will not only impact surrounding homes but members of the public who may walk around the pathway and pavement on Forest Drive Road. Not to mention the children at Mill o Forest school who will also have a portion of the fence adjacent to their School and playground. In terms of mental wellbeing, the security fence may enforce a certain level of confinement and will not be in keeping with the context or scale of the area.
4. The fencing may in the future be used to house advertising and create visual clutter.
5. Limited / inadequate access to safe parking facilities for users of Hamish Park including access for disabled persons who wish to use the Park. If the car park is secured access will be limited or non-existent. The whole design of Hamish Park was to allow all persons of any ability, access to play and enjoy the facilities.
6. Access and safety issues for vehicle access in and out of Forest Park housing estate.
7. Access and safety issues for bus users embarking and disembarking from buses close to the proposed entrance car park and junction of Forest Park housing estate.
8. Increased noise levels.
9. The removal of trees, bushes, plants which are well established near the entrance to the proposed car park, between Hamish Park and along-side Forest Drive Road.
10. Increased level of vehicle traffic congestion on Forest Drive Road and surrounding streets.
11. Increased traffic capacity causing higher levels of vehicle pollution both near the park and in the vicinity of Mill o Forest School.
12. Increased level of vehicle parking on Forest Drive Road and surrounding streets, Forest Park, Dunnottar Park, especially on training evenings, during tournaments and matches.
13. Increased light pollution from flood lights (I understand the proposed plan includes specially designed limiters to reduce glare or back spill to either roads or residents however these lights will still be exceptionally bright) and have a negative impact on the amenities of properties which overlook the park.
14. The proposals do not have sufficient landscaping in comparison to what would be removed.
15. The proposal may create a precedent making it difficult to object to similar proposals in the future.

The land at Forest Park is a vital amenity for the whole community to use at any time. As mentioned in the LDP

the town of Stonehaven has limited open space within the centre and larger areas of open space at the outer edges, both to the north and south of the community and the change of use proposed would remove another of these important green spaces.

I appreciate having read through the published documents that the Rugby Club have been seeking to find a suitable, permanent home but as yet have not managed to locate or secure land. I believe this location proposed is neither appropriate nor sustainable for the club in the long term as limited space to grow and develop.

It is apparent they have capital funding in place and additional funding streams to complete the work in stages detailed in their proposals but with the restrictions of the proposed location in terms of size, existing communal use and lack of adequate parking; I feel it would be more advantageous for the club to be developing a location where future expansion can be easily accommodated, without detrimental effects on the community as a whole and where parking requirements could be fulfilled without issue.

Under the submitted proposal the Rugby Club mention that creation of a purpose-built facility would allow them to take ownership and create a safe and healthy environment for rugby and potentially other community activities. I think this is great however would like clarification or assurance that this will be open for all clubs in Stonehaven to use and utilise when not in use by the Club.

The Executive Summary mentions the Athletics Club only. It states the Rugby Club may look to hire out use of a permanent club house to smaller groups within the community such as Yoga, Massage Therapy, Pilates, Sewing bee. I presume, as not clear in their summary, this would be fully dependant on securing permission or permanent facilities, ie. A new purpose-built club house.

The club also mentions they have been trying to secure land in the area for over 15 years, however this has proved fruitless as there has always been issues with Developers, alternative development e.g Supermarkets, and the location of the oil pipeline and the general hilly, topography of the land surrounding Stonehaven. I would be interested to understand why no allocation of land was provided and made compulsory when such housing developments detailed in the Local Development Plan for Kincardine and Mearns were approved by Aberdeenshire Council planning department.

I was of the understanding that FM developments were supposed to be ear marking suitable land within the Ury Estate development for use by the Rugby Club. If current developers have managed to negate this for whatever reason, it would be advantageous for this to made compulsory in any future developments.

With regards to disabled access to Hamish Park, the Executive Summary mentions full disabled access from on street parking, shared parking and on Forest Road. I would like clarification if full disabled access to the park from within the proposed car park has been considered as off-street parking on Forest Drive is not suitable for disabled persons to exit vehicles onto a main road and bus route.

In terms of parking, the Executive Summary mentions 41 car parking spaces already established in the current car park (based on current car parking spacing guidelines), with occasional use of coaches visiting, parking in marked out area behind the already established local bus stop. If Forest Drive Road has buses and cars parked along the whole length of the road, as it has in the past (cars) while the Rugby Club trained there several times per week in the evening, other road user and buses struggled to pass safely. On occasion sometimes meeting mid-way alongside parked cars with one vehicle having to mount the grass verge nearest the Railway line to pass safely.

As mentioned, Forest Drive is a bus route and has a north and south stop very close to Forest Park housing development entrance. A-side from a highway safety concern, this will also make it dangerous entering and exiting the housing scheme. The Executive Summary also mentions overspill car parking at Mill o Forest School car park on the odd Saturday matchday when needed.

I appreciate that car parking at this location on a weekend will be much less of an issue than during the week when Mill o Forest School is in operation and it is already busy with parents dropping off children, teachers and staff parking however increased traffic at key times may also deem the junction at Woodview Place more



dangerous for road users. This junction already has poor visibility east and west when entering and exiting due to parked cars on Forest Drive Road. This could be made worse by additional parking on Forest Drive.

The Executive Summary goes on to detail the Current Use of Forest Park as designated protected sports land however according to the Proposed LDP 2020, Appendix 7E Settlement Statements Kincardine & Mearns, the land of Forest Park falls under Settlement Feature Protected Land (P3) – To protect recreational open space as an amenity for the settlement.

I would argue that recreational open space is a little different to sports land. There are many forms of recreation, not all of it sports and most certainly not just rugby. I have nothing against rugby or the Rugby Club but the park should be available for use by the whole community, an open space for recreation – be it for pleasure, for leisure, relaxation, fun and games, entertainment, distraction, sport, hobbies and events.

According to the Scottish Governments Planning Advice Note 65 : Planning and Open Space document – it tells us Open Spaces are important for our quality of life. The Social aspect provides a setting for a wide range of social interactions and pursuits that support personal and community well-being. They allow individuals to interact with the natural environment and provide habitats for wildlife. They can also be important in defining the character and identity of settlements. Connecting them in a green network can provide enhanced benefits for people, the environment and biodiversity. The social value of open space, allows all sections of the local community to interact, promoting a sense of place and becoming a source of community pride, also offering opportunities for people to play an active part in caring for the local environment. Open spaces provide opportunities for sport and recreation, helping promote active and healthy lifestyles, and can open opportunities for environmental education for local groups, schools and individuals.

The environmental aspect provides areas of landscape where wildlife can flourish, with trees and planting playing a vital role in the control of air pollution. Parks provide the public with access to safe, affordable healthy ways to experience and appreciate nature with huge benefits for communities derived from outdoor recreation of all types.

Under Section 15 : Open Space Networks, Local authorities should aim to maintain or form networks of green & civic spaces which: contribute to the framework for development; maintain and enhance environmental qualities; provide a range of opportunities for recreation and leisure; link and create wildlife habitats; and encourage walking and cycling and reduce car use, in line with local transport strategies and Core Paths Plans.

The proposed asset transfer request would remove 95% of the open space amenity (within Forest Park) for the settlement or town of Stonehaven, albeit rugby is a recreational sport, it is not a sport suitable for all members of our community.

There is no denying the Mackie Academy Rugby Club have done a lot for the sport over the past 44 years, from junior to adult age groups and instil a great deal of moral goodness into their members. I agree the sporting facilities in the town would be improved, bringing additional visitors and promotional opportunities to the area however I still feel this is only applicable to those who play, follow or support rugby. Those who prefer other sports and recreational activities will see very little or no benefit from the proposals put forward. 1214 club members is an abundant number however in relation to the whole community population, this is a small percentage.

I recognise the club provides support for various local community groups, be it harbour flood clean up, sandbag filling during the flood, school and community BBQs when requested, stall assembly and take down at Fee' in market. Also at the harbour festival, open air in the square and the summer beer happening. This must be commended and is a valuable input towards the whole community.

As acknowledged in the Local Development Plan 2020, there are many other fields which may be suitable for the provision of rugby pitches, plus club house and all facilities required; in addition, with plenty space for future developments ie. Additional training pitches and larger parking areas with space for coaches to turn and park.

The Rickarton site should also not be written off completely. Ground works will be required at the proposed

Forest Park site as the ground there is clay based and has poor drainage properties. The work required to make this 'good' and suitable for sewing new pitch grass will be substantial and costly so in comparison likely very similar. The Executive Summary mentions the lease would have been too short to secure the clubs future or funding. Perhaps the Rugby Club could elaborate on this as I am sure the current landowner would be amenable to discussing a long-term lease or perhaps even agree to sell them the land with the support of Aberdeenshire Council and the entire community.

Some of the other referenced sites are adjacent to the current field used by the club and should possibly be reconsidered. This location is close to where they play currently, still accessible by all members and could be accessible by coach and road users, made more amenable by the completion of works leading into Ury Estate from the Slug Road. Perhaps the addition of pavements along-side the stretch of road from the Recycling Centre to the bridge over the dual carriageway, may help with upgraded access by foot and bicycle.

If possible, a compulsory purchase order could be sought to assist in the purchase of suitable land required to make this work for all parties. I feel we really do not need more developer housing – instead we need more amenities for the population of Stonehaven. Too many developers have been allowed to build in the past without including provisions in their plans for added benefits for the population of the town. Amenity provision should be at the forefront of all planning approvals to benefit the whole community.

With reference to the Mackie Academy Rugby Club Business Plan, Alternative Sites, LDP Sites, the Rugby Club mentions that those sites in the 2017 LDP or emerging LDP are not being supported by Aberdeenshire Council, in its function as the Planning Authority and so are high risk and not deliverable. I would like to understand why Aberdeenshire Council is not fully behind the Rugby Club and working with them, along with local developers, of which, there are quite a number currently proposing new housing sites in Stonehaven, so we can locate and develop the most suitable location. After all this could benefit the whole town and not just our local Rugby Club.

The Executive Summary mentions that access may be an issue at a site reviewed behind the Economove Business however using a compulsory purchase order for a portion of adjacent land may allow for the construction of a suitable entrance road would be a great solution.

If this was not an option, would it be feasible for Aberdeenshire Council planning department to impose a clause for any future development by the landowner that a suitable entrance road should be built allowing for full and permanent access to the site behind Economove for use by the Rugby Club.

The alternative site behind Fetteresso cemetery would have been more than large enough to accommodate both additional space for the cemetery and provision of pitches and facilities for the Rugby Club. It is my understanding that Aberdeenshire Council outbid the Rugby Club when bidding on this site. It would be great to know if Aberdeenshire Council would be amenable to sharing this site and helping to provide a solution for the Rugby Club and the community.

The other alternative site, which to me is the most obvious site would be Mackie Academy playing fields. A multi-purpose site could be developed, incorporating not just rugby but several other sports all sharing facilities, club house and training space. The facilities could also be used by the school and additional clubs in the town who would welcome such meeting space.

Car parking could also be fulfilled with current parking space available, as most of the training, tournament games would be out-with School hours. New proposals for a new Secondary school and Primary School at this site could also be taken into consideration, making sure the design incorporated all requirements and needs – allowing for long-term growth, after-all Mackie Academy will be at 97% capacity by 2022.

The Executive Summary mentions that the landholdings at the Academy were to be retained for any future plans for Mackie Academy, as illustrated by the decision not to have the community all weather pitch situated there. I do not understand why we cannot accommodate all at this site. Most other towns now have purpose-built campuses incorporating schools, sports facilities and community hubs – ie. Laurencekirk, Inverurie, Portlethen.

The Forest Park proposed site has been used by the Rugby Club for many years on and off, I know this because I have grown up in [REDACTED] and lived in the town all my life. I was and still am a frequent user of the park, I remember when it had many pieces of equipment including round-about, swings, monkey bars, metal climbing frame, benches, concrete pitch which we used for basketball and tennis. We played football there, rounders, frisbee to name but a few activities we enjoyed as youths. Appendix 10, Standards for Open Space in the proposed LDP 2020, recognises the need for neighbour-hood green space and community play areas / recreation areas with equipment and some informal areas.

It also mentions requirements for Local Parks, as strategic 'green lungs' of a town, with semi formal and informal open space for walking, wildlife, picnics and enjoyment of the scenery for all the family. A sense of country in the town, often also an expression of civic pride; with proximation to population clearly also significant. Forest Park is local for many residents on this side of Stonehaven with others from further afield travelling to use the space. It would be great to see this Park upgraded for use by the whole community with all-weather pitch, basketball court, badminton / tennis court, cycle track, running track, communal seating areas, allotments for example. Not limited to one sport which may not be suitable to everyone's taste.

The Executive Summary seems to focus on dog walkers and the exercise of their dogs which is a little unfair. Yes, it is used by dog walkers however this is certainly not the primary use of the park nor the only use of the park. The Rugby Clubs current fields are used by dog walkers, which I have seen regularly early in the morning and through-out various times of the day.

I understand this is a health and safety issue which it can be on any green open space but not something that can be easily avoided today - Unless you erect fences and lock people out. The Rugby Club mentions that there are many other alternative sites for walking dogs which I agree with however there are not many alternative sites for children to safely play and for people to enjoy open green space. Mill o Forest School playing fields have been fenced off, perhaps for the same reason I mention above which is acceptable, however if locked this takes yet another green space away from the Stonehaven Community.

Forest Park, Dunnottar Park, Riverside Drive, Malcolms Mount, Brickfield, Provost Barclay housing developments predominantly house families with Children who will have no open green space nearby which is accessible and safe in terms of location from their homes. Not all families have access to cars and can take their children to Bairds Park or Mineralwell Park at the opposite side of Stonehaven.

The car park adjacent to Hamish Park provides safe access for all to enter both Forest Park playing fields and Hamish Park. I was of the understanding that the car park was originally part of the Forest Park housing development and written into each homes title deeds as a space for parking large vehicles ie. Vans and work vehicles. I am not sure when Aberdeenshire Council took over the maintenance of the car park and claimed this as their land but likely when the height barriers were erected at the car park entrance some years ago.

As acknowledged in the Executive Summary, the Lifelong Learning and Leisure service recognise in their recent pitch strategy that there is a lack of provision for rugby pitches and the need to support the club in finding new pitches. It also suggests Aberdeenshire Council agreed that this would be a suitable site with the Council Estates, Area Manager and Landscape Services all having indicated in terms of site options for Asset Transfer, that this is the only one they can support in Stonehaven. This alludes that a decision has already been made without sufficient public consultation and literally no engagement with the local community.

In reference to 4.3 Restrictions on the use of the land in the Executive Summary, I would argue that the proposal does provide open space unless you are a Rugby Club player or member who can use the open space – otherwise the proposal does not provide open space for the community unless you count the path / walkway around part of the proposed site. I cannot see how this proposal provides the community with increased recreational space, unless, as mentioned you are a player or member of the Rugby Club.

I would like to ask for clarification on what other open space there is available in the Forest Park area as mentioned by the Executive Summary. If they are referring to Dunnottar Woodland Park, this is not within walking distance for most and certainly not suitable for unsupervised playing by children, who otherwise would be well accommodated within the Forest Park. The grass land area behind Riverside Drive housing development is privately owned and alongside the Carron River, so really not a suitable alternative play area

for children. Mill o Forest school playing fields are fenced off with locked gates, Carronhall school playing fields are the same so again, not suitable for access to all.

With regards to the Business Plan, Risks of Proposal SWOT analysis, I appreciate the Rugby Club are in a strong position, both financially and in terms of possibilities this proposal would bring to the club and members. The opportunities for the community however are in part probable but not definite. It mentions allowing access to the space for boules, running, yoga, pilates, athletics, tug of war, with increased income opportunities for the club with indoor, outdoor functions, rentals, parties, and a bar. If it does go ahead, it would be great to see it available for use by other community members and clubs but there is no definite suggestion or assurance this will be the case.

In summary I have no issue with the Rugby Club as an organisation, who evidently works hard for all members, in promoting rugby as a sport in Stonehaven and further afield and is clearly a valuable asset in our community however I believe this is not the most suitable site for their club for the reasons mentioned herein.

However, if the asset transfer request is successful, I would ask the Council to consideration of the following measures and for the Council to use its powers to enforce: -

1. New 'No waiting at any time' (double yellow) markings along Forest Drive Road, Forest Park, Dunnottar Park or perhaps between the hours of operation at evenings and weekends to lessen the impact of parked vehicles.
2. Full access to the car park area so visitors of Hamish Park can have unrestricted access at any time and to ensure that safe disembarking and embarking from vehicles.
3. Bus stops are moved further down Forest Drive Road away from the entrance to the park predominantly for safety and to reduce congestion.
4. Full access to the pitches and facilities are available for any Stonehaven Sports Club, Youth Group, Schools and Organisations when not in use by the Rugby Club.
5. More sufficient landscaping design, inclusion of replacement trees, bushes, shrubs, and plants where permissible on the proposed plans.
6. Restricted operating hours during Autumn / Winter months to lessen the noticeable light pollution and noise from members, spectators, and staff as a consideration for those with young children who live in proximity of the pitches in Forest Park housing development.
7. A reduction in the height of the perimeter fencing in keeping with surrounding area and to ensure the design / construction of the fence helps to lessen the connotations of incarceration.

I would be grateful if Aberdeenshire Council would take these objections into consideration when deciding this Asset Transfer Request along with the considerations should the Asset Transfer be successful. I would also ask for acknowledgement of my letter and notification of the final decision if possible.

Yours Faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and contact information of the sender. Below the main redaction, there is a smaller, separate black rectangular redaction box.

**Archived:** 04 November 2021 17:46:52

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, 3 Nov 2021 15:00:08

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Concerning sale of park area alongside Forrest Park Housing estate, Stonehaven.

**Importance:** Normal

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I would like to register my firm objection to the proposed sale of the park area alongside Forrest Park Housing estate in Stonehaven.

It is facility originally set aside for use by the residents of several nearby housing estates and is the only open and safe grass area serving that region of Stonehaven.

It is an area that I personally use when my grandchildren visit - it being a safe and perfect place for them to kick a ball and generally run around. It also makes an ideal nearby spot for the more elderly of us to take a stroll and keep healthy.

I'm lead to believe that the Rugby club do not consider the park to be an ideal site for their requirements. Hence I do not see the logic of converting the park, which has been an area ideal for local residents, into an area that is merely "better than nothing" for the Rugby club.

regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 04 November 2021 17:48:12

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, 3 Nov 2021 16:39:07

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Save Forest Drive Park - For the attention of the Area Manager

**Importance:** Normal

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For the attention of the Area Manager,

I am writing to you, in order to object to the proposed Asset Transfer Application by Mackie Academy Former Pupils Rugby Club.

The rugby club has previously used the Forest Drive Park for matches, and the 'mini rugby', but did not find it ultimately suitable for their needs and relocated to Redcloak. Why should it be any different now?

As I believe it, the proposal is to purchase 'Publicly Owned Land' from Aberdeenshire Council for the Rugby Clubs 'exclusive sole use' and then to construct two SRU Competition Standard rugby pitches and a training area with pitch lighting, Clubhouse c/w changing rooms, storage & fitness suite, and a car park with 41 spaces with coaches utilising the existing car park. All within a 5m high perimeter fence. Leaving only the 'Hamish' play park left for the local community.

I do not believe that the provision of parking, as outlined in the Application, is adequate and the suggestion to use Forest Drive Road and Mill o' Forest School is not practical. This proposal will have a detrimental effect on the local residents. It is bad enough already during the week with cars parking for Mill o' Forest and Carrohill Schools without having this burden at on the weekends too.

We moved into our house in [REDACTED] in 1985. Our two children were born in Stonehaven and attended Mill o' Forest school. We were regular visitors to the park over the years and now go there with our grandchildren. The original swings and roundabout etc were steadily removed over the years until the Hamish Play Park and the walking path were developed. Making the Forest Drive Park once again a great area for the local community and residents to use; Children playing, runners & walkers, dog walkers etc.

However, I do fully support the rugby club in their ambition to find a suitable piece of land, as a permanent home, and in which they can invest their time, effort and funds but Forest Drive Park is not that place. Aberdeenshire Council should be imposing 'enabling measures' on the various Housing Developements in the area to ensure that this becomes a reality for the local rugby club.

In addition, Aberdeenshire Council should rather be looking develop the Forest Drive Park to the benefit of the local community and residents. The recent failed Planning Application by [REDACTED] for the land between Riverside Drive and the Carron Water, contained areas for the cycle club to build 'a bike pump track' and the Horizon Group to have their 'poly tunnels' for growing their seeds & bedding plants. The Forest Drive Park would be a much more appropriate, safer and secure area for these ammenities to be located.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 04 November 2021 17:50:02

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, 3 Nov 2021 16:59:38 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Save our park

**Importance:** Normal

---

I am writing with regard to the asset transfer of FOREST PARK To the Rugby club. My family and I use the park regularly for dog walking, playing with a 3 year old and, [REDACTED] it's often the only place that I can get outside exercise. There's also the issue of Covid, we are still being advised that meeting outdoors is the preferred thing to do. Where do you propose that would happen?

With regard to the park not being used much perhaps if a little money had been spent repairing the playpark and perhaps adding to the lone, small goal post.

Parking is another issue. If the car park is removed from public use where then do families, especially those with special needs children go. The park was made with them in mind and is now being taken away.

Has a fund been set up to cover the drop in value of the houses in Forest Park? My house is one that would have at least a 5m fence behind it and I can't see this being a selling point .

Surely there's a more suitable venue for the rugby club.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 04 November 2021 17:51:06

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 4 Nov 2021 11:32:08

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Save our park.

**Importance:** Normal

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The proposed Rugby site if granted, would be situated in a quiet residential part of Stonehaven.

The park at present is used by a variety of age groups. The activities range from an elderly gentleman, doing his daily run several time around the field, toddlers and children kicking a ball or running across the field, dog walkers, those just sitting on the bench, the school for cross country practice to the tug of war team using it in the summer months.

We have enough problems in the area with parking before and after school. These problems will become greater due to the car park, backing onto Forest Park being locked.

Having suffered the noise from 3 Sunday competitions for the tug of war teams, I dread to think what noise will be generated from 2 pitches in action, from the club house and plus spectators when there are matches taking part.

Not only will the rugby club be using the facilities, they will be hired out. More noise.

The local residents will suffer from noise, huge fences, bright lights, parking issues, extra exhaust fumes from additional cars 7 DAYS A WEEK.

Sitting or working in my garden will not be a pleasurable experience.

I feel sorry for all living along the perimeter of the field, particularly the elderly and very young. Mental well being of residents has not been considered. This being even more of an issue due to covid.

It seems, as this has been a very underhand job.

**WHY HAS THERE BEEN NO NOTIFICATION OR COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE LOCAL RESIDENTS?  
THANK GOODNESS FOR FACEBOOK.**

Was the fence put up on the Forest Park side of Mill o Forest School all connected to this?  
Thus preventing easy and safe access to the field, to those living in Provost Barclay area.

I think it is a great club and they do a lot of good work. The site is too small for what the club requires, for their future growth and development. Therefore a more suitable site needs to be found. This is NOT the right place.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 November 2021 16:15  
**To:** Kincardine and Mearns <kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** SAVE Forest Drive Park

---

For the attention of the Area Manager,

I am writing to you, in order to object to the proposed Asset Transfer Application by Mackie Academy Former Pupils Rugby Club.

The rugby club has previously used the Forest Drive Park for matches, and the 'mini rugby', but did not find it ultimately suitable for their needs and relocated to Redcloak. Why should it be any different now?

This area is not the area they need or really want, it is just the area they think they can get and try and make it fit their needs.

As I believe it, the proposal is to purchase 'Publicly Owned Land' from Aberdeenshire Council for the Rugby Clubs 'exclusive sole use' and then to construct two SRU Competition Standard rugby pitches and a training area with pitch lighting, Clubhouse c/w changing rooms, storage & fitness suite, and a car park with 41 spaces with coaches utilising the existing car park. All within a 5m high perimeter fence. Leaving only the Children's play park for the local community.

I do not believe that the provision of parking, as outlined in the Application, is adequate and the suggestion to use Forest Drive Road and Mill o' Forest School is not practical. This proposal will have a detrimental effect on the local residents. It is bad enough already during the week with cars parking for Mill o' Forest and Carrohill Schools without having this burden at on the weekends too.

We moved into our house in [REDACTED] in 1985. Our two children were born in Stonehaven and attended Mill o' Forest school. We were regular visitors to the park over the years and now go there with our grandchildren. Many years ago I spoke to [REDACTED] about the state of the path and he promptly managed to get it improved to benefit the local community. Hence, Forest Drive Park once again became a great area for the local community and residents to use; Children playing, runners & walkers, dog walkers etc. There is no other park on the west side of Stonehaven that the residents can use.

However, I do fully support the rugby club in their ambition to find a suitable piece of land, as a permanent home, and in which they can invest their time, effort and funds but Forest Drive Park is not that place. Aberdeenshire Council should be imposing 'enabling measures' on the various Housing Developments in the area to ensure that this becomes a reality for the local rugby club.

In addition, Aberdeenshire Council should rather be looking to develop the Forest Drive Park to the benefit of the local community and residents. The recent failed Planning Application by [REDACTED], for the land between Riverside Drive and the Carron Water, contained areas for the cycle club to build 'a bike pump track'. The Forest Drive Park would be a much more appropriate, safer and secure area for this amenity to be located.

This park should not be allowed to be for the exclusive use of any club but should be left for the use for any Stonehaven resident however young or old they might be.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 04 November 2021 17:11

**To:** [Kincardine and Mearns](mailto:kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) <kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Asset Transfer Request by Mackie Rugby Club Made to Aberdeenshie Council Relating to Land of Forest Park,

Dear Sir/Madam

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I am writing to you regards the above proposed plans in which Mackie Rugby Club would construct two rugby pitches, training area, along with a clubhouse and changing rooms on the land of Forest Park. They also plan to make use of the car park.

Whilst I bear no hostility to Mackie Rugby Club, I feel very strongly that they have made the wrong choice to construct rugby pitches.

This peaceful green spot is used regularly for leisure and sport by the residents of Forest Park. Many of us and our families use the park for playing with our children or grandchildren and walking our dogs.

Mill o Forest School and Carronhill School would lose the use of the park for their sports days which would be a shame.

Apart from losing the use of the park, the residents would have to endure a lot more noise and traffic. Residents who back on to the car park would also find it very difficult to find a parking space.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 16:15:47

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 4 Nov 2021 20:56:39

**To:** Cllr Wendy Agnew; Cllr Sarah Dickinson; Cllr Dennis Robertson; Cllr Sandy Wallace; Cllr George W. Carr; Cllr Ian J. Mollison; Cllr William Howatson; Cllr Alison Evison; Cllr Alastair A. Bews; Cllr Leigh Wilson; cllr.i.hutchison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

**Subject:** PUBLIC GREEN SPACE ADJACENT TO FOREST DRIVE, STONEHAVEN

**Importance:** Normal

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Dear Area Manager [REDACTED] and Area Councillors

As a 40-year resident of [REDACTED], Stonehaven I wish to formally **object** to the proposed asset transfer of this Council-owned land to Mackie Academy Rugby Football Club in a move which would turn this public green space into a security-fenced, lockfast and floodlit private rugby ground.

As a keen former rugby player who played regularly from 13 to 41 years of age, captained Moray RFC at Elgin and achieved selection for two Scottish North and Midland District Trials, I am greatly impressed by the ambition of this hugely successful local club and am fully aware of its pitch problems at Redcloak, so I certainly do not object lightly to this proposal. However, it is telling to note that neither of the two other former senior rugby players whom I know personally through playing against them in the past and who are also long term Forest Park residents, supports this proposal either, where most folk would normally expect all three of us to do so.

This development would simply be in the wrong place for the wide cross-section of the general community for whom this grassed area is vital public space when nothing else is available elsewhere on this southern side of Stonehaven, including Forest Park, Brickfield, Riverside, Malcolm's Mount, Bernham, Dunnottar Park and beyond.

This proposal has already generated more disquiet amongst my quiet-living fellow residents than I can ever recall in my four decades here and I concur with their dismay over related loss of recreational space and pathways (the principal concern), along with issues of parking and potential nuisance (noise and illuminance). Having actively supported [REDACTED] in her fundraising for the much used Hamish's Playpark installed 24 years ago, I am pleased that its future is assured irrespective of the outcome here.

It was apparent from a recent packed public meeting of local residents at the Scout Hut, that there is virtually unanimous support for the growing rugby club's commendable attempt to establish itself elsewhere in the vicinity of Stonehaven, but equally unanimous agreement that this is simply not the right place to do so. I hope that due recognition and consideration is given to the large petition underlining how strongly we adjacent ratepayers feel about this.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 16:18:09

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 5 Nov 2021 12:00:32

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer of land at Forest Drive, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

---

To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for 24 years and use the park regularly not only with my own children but also when I look after my cousins children and to walk my dog (on a lead).

This area is safe for my use because of location compared to other areas nearby. The children get access through Mill O Forest school to the field or the play park meaning they do not need to walk along the edge of the busy main road. Quite often if we are out in the car driving home we would stop in the car park to let the kids play. I believe we are also going to lose the car park so where will it be safe for me to park with the children? This is easy walking distance from my house and I feel safe to let the children walk their on their own. If the field changes use it will be no longer safe for the children to walk on their taking away their independence.

As my family grows/I get older I would use the park for walking the circuit! This enjoy to try and get myself fitter, it's all flat so works well for me!

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because firstly they plan to build the club house near the play park. You will have people under the influence who could potentially cause trouble there. They are taking over the car park which isn't the biggest! Where is the overspill cars and buses going to park? Forest Drive? Surrounding streets? This would make this road very busy and a hazard.

The pitch lighting will be a nuisance to residents looking onto the field as for the noise too. I'm sure the value of property there will drop.

Yes the rugby club need new space but the field in Forest Drive is not that space, why can't they be allocated space in the new Mackie Village Development ?

Please save our park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 16:19:50

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 5 Nov 2021 12:12:28

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Dear Green space

**Importance:** Normal

---

Dear Sir /Madam

I was more than disappointed to learn about the proposal of Forest Park being taken over by the Rugby Club which seems to have surreptitiously arranged to purchase the land as an amenity transfer from the council before any Forest Park resident knew anything about it.

While I do realise that the Rugby Club need their own grounds surely there must be somewhere more suitable for their needs on the outskirts of town so that the locals in the community do not lose our dear Green space.

We have been very fortunate to have stayed in [REDACTED] for more than 40 years & in that time 3 generations of our family have enjoyed using the park for various activities.

Our sons regularly played football there with our neighbours & our younger son used it to train for his cross country races. It gave them their first opportunity to gain some independence as they were allowed to play there without needing a parent around as it was so close & safe. Our daughter would take her dolls pram for walks with her chums & we often had communal picnics

When our grandchildren visit we regularly fly kites or play football or Frisbee there & sometimes other children like to join so it is a very sociable place. During lockdown it gave people the opportunity to meet socially at a distance so that was a boost to mental health & who knows what the future holds in relation to lockdowns in future so to lose that would be dire not to mention that using it for regular exercise as folk do must help in the fight against obesity which we read is a very grave national problem.

It would be so sad to think that future generations will lose the chance to enjoy our dear Green space if the Rugby Club enclose it all.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 16:21:23

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 5 Nov 2021 14:24:00 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Fw: Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset transfer from Aberdeenshire Council,

I would like reject to such proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for over 11 years and one of the main things that attracted me to my property was the grass and play park just on my own doorstep. Many of the houses in Forest Park have slabs in their back garden, but with the field and grass just right behind our houses, it's used on a daily basis. In my said deeds for my house, it also states that the car park can be used by my household and any vans should be parked and drive ways, how can his happen if it's taken away? My street is a nightmare for parking currently and used by parent dropping off kids to school if that car park is taken away, you will be making Mill o Forest an unsafe place to drop kids off too.

This area is used by all my household and visiting family members, My Grandma is 84, lives in Stonehaven and disabled. I pick her up taking her to the field and she can happily take her dog for a slow walk, with seats that she can sit on as she needs, there is nowhere else like this is Stonehaven, It's a perfect walk round for her. You could just not take away from our health but the elderly also who rely on this flat field, with easy access to car park to walk their dog, or just enjoy some fresh air.

My children are 18, 12 and 6, and all 3 use the park and field, it's a safe environment for them to use. As a family we use the field and goals to play football and walk the dog 3 x times a day. My 12-year-old every weekend meets and plays with his friends, and my daughter uses the park to meet and have play date with her friends.

It would be such a loss to us the local residents to lose this important green space at the heart of our area, the local schools also use the playing field, for cross country training, practice of sports day, and the nursery to take the children from nursery safely to the park. Carronhill also use this space to cross safely from their school to the park.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because nearly every reason i can think of its not suitable. The noise, my daughters window looks on to the field, last thing she needs is light from flood lights shining through her room, the noise of the men training (we've heard them when they've trained before and that's only one team) it could be heard through my whole house of men grunting and the whistle. It impossible for enough spaced to accommodate what they are asking for? I would like to know where then they will park? In the residents' streets, the main street on Forest Road, taking up spaces with families and young kids trying to access the park. It will be such a dangerous move to so many lives.

Then there is the ugliness of 6ft fences all up and around it and the building to be made and put right behind my house, with the extra to resident, of people going to and from them, car doors and the cars leaving.

I understand the rugby club need require a place, this is just not the right place.

Please listen to the local residents and people of Stonehaven when we ask for this transfer of land not to happen.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 16:23:05

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 5 Nov 2021 15:27:30

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Forest Park objection

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED], Stonehaven for 11 years and used the park all that time for various reasons.

This area is safe for my use because there is easy access (flat no steps), and immediate parking to the playpark and green areas compared to other areas nearby. It is a unique green space suitable for all physical abilities including wheelchairs.

As my family grows/I get older I would use the park for walking, a few times a week. This park is important to me because there are few easy access green spaces in our area, critical for peoples mental health and the environment for all abilities. I have a son with a disability and used the playground itself for years as he was able to use it, other parks he struggled with. He is now older but we walk around the park with no fear (I have back problems) of having to navigate hills or steps.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area as it will bring light and noise pollution, congested parking and cut us off from a critical space. I do not see why the needs of a few (rugby) should come first over the needs of several hundred residents who use this area for a variety of purposes. The rugby people will all drive into this area causing chaos for local residents parking wise, surely for this reason they should be placed somewhere on the boundary of Stonehaven, not in the middle of a residential area. In addition let's not forget the environmental benefits of having a green space (with wild areas).

Please save our park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 16:25:20

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 5 Nov 2021 16:54:35 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

---

To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in Stonehaven all my life and used to live in [REDACTED] for 35 years and now at [REDACTED] and used the park for lots of different uses. I grew up right next to it so used to play there from a baby right up to now as a parent. Picnics, football, learning to ride my bike and just being a child in a nice green space.

This area is safe for my use because it is close to the school and in a great space by houses and family compared to other areas nearby which are too far and I certainly wouldn't let my children walk by themselves but we have family in the area so it's on their doorstep. The park itself has a wonderful Play park but the open space makes it suitable for the kids learning to ride their bikes and picnics etc.

As my family grows, I would use the park for a social safe place for my son to meet his friends and play. It's also such a safe way for the kids to walk home after school instead of walking through the houses. This park is important to me because it provides a safe waking place for kids after school, wonderful play area for kids with football, bikes and great for walking your dog. We use it for an exercise area for our dog. We have also used the area for picnics in the park after school while the children play so it's a very sociable space too. I used it so much as a child and love the fact my son uses it also.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because it would be heartbreaking to take away such a lovely, green space and use it for a sport that only a group of people can enjoy. I don't feel it would be right to build clubhouse, facilities etc in this area right at the housing estate and school/nursery. The noise from training and match days will be awful and the parking would certainly be a huge issue. Even with additional parking, Forest Drive would be a nightmare on game days.

I feel the Rugby Club should maybe look at using the sports facilities in Mineralwell Park. Why they can't utilise that space, football pitches, cricket pitches etc is beyond me. Use that space without impacting the children. Plenty of parking doen there already. Use some mo way and widen the road access.

Taking away the space that so many children use is just unacceptable.

Please save our park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]



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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 05 November 2021 19:03

To: Kincardine and Mearns <kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager,

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for 44 years and used the park for personal exercising, playing with my own children, safely learning them to ride their bikes etc, now going to play football with my two autistic grandchildren and exercising my daughters dog.

This area is safe for my use because it is within easy walking distance, don't have to cross busy roads, nice and level compared to other areas nearby.

As my wife and myself grow older and possibly not able to walk further distances we like the idea of having our local park to use for a nice safe walk.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School. The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because it will only add a lot more traffic congestion to an already congested area, the excessive noise to adjacent nearby homes, and the glare off massive floodlights engulfing homes and infringing on peoples privacy.

Please save our park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 16:28:56

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 5 Nov 2021 21:03:46

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for 37 years and used the park for playing with my own children when they were younger and for walking the dogs. I have been a Childminder for the past 26 years and use the green space on a regular basis with my mindees. I meet with other Childminders and we have fun games and picnics with the Children also.

This area is safe for my use because it's flat and is within easy walking distance for the little legs of my mindees. It's safe to access as there are no roads to cross. It is also super close for exercising the dog when time is limited. Compared to other areas nearby you need to go downhill, only to have to climb that hill on the way back. The under 5year olds struggle with walking long distances to access other green spaces and the braes we need to climb on the way back. I too am getting older and it is no fun trying to push a pram or double pram up a hill just to allow the children access to green spaces, which they do on a daily basis.

I hope to continue to use the park for many years to come, not only for myself but for my grandchildren and also for the children I mind on a daily basis. This park is important to me because it gives me freedom of the only green space close to my home to do many things including kicking a ball about with my grandson who loves the space to really kick a ball about without being told to 'watch you don't hit this' or 'watch you don't damage that'.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because mainly it will take away a green space that is used by many many people for many different things, let alone the volume of traffic on residential streets, excessive parking, extremely bright lights and noise, all in a residential area, are all reasons why the rugby club should be somewhere else.

Please save our park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 16:31:16

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 5 Nov 2021 22:42:49

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer Request - Objection

**Importance:** Normal

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Good evening,

I am writing this as I have recently realised that the threat to Forest Park from this inappropriate Asset Transfer Request for the land from Macke Rugby Football Club (MRFC) is genuine. I have signed a recent door to door petition which is against this proposal and also shown support to the recent local event that was televised but I genuinely didn't think the proposal had any real chance of being granted as it is to me seems so ridiculously scaled jamming 2 full size Rugby pitches into a space directly next to a busy road and a housing scheme whilst also robbing the local community of much valued and heavily utilised urban green space.

I was actually prompted to look into this in more depth following a request from Mill O Forest PTA to advise on a survey whether we would be for or against this proposal from a parent of a Mill O Forest pupil so I went online to review all documentation as I wanted to see what impact it may have or if any benefit would be offered to Mill O Forest School and was astounded to find the only time the school was mentioned in the MRFC business plan was that they may utilise its car park as overspill on matchdays. This immediately alarmed me and further reading confirmed to me that it's a very inwardly focussed proposal where MRFC promote themselves and their needs whilst dismissing at every step any possible impact that this massive project may have on the local area, community and current users of the park.

I genuinely do have the greatest sympathy for Mackie Rugby Football Club's ongoing desire for a fixed home, looking at their documentation they appear to be a very well run organisation with strong leadership and I can see they do provide a fantastic club for those who want to participate in rugby but this area of land is completely the wrong place for numerous reasons.

MRFC show various areas of land they have assessed and make comment how the land requires **less cost to them** to develop than other plots they have looked – yes that's because it's been well looked after by Aberdeenshire Council for the last 40 years – works funded by the council tax we all pay.

MRFC dismiss any parking issues – again far too easy to say but not a reality. I remember when they used to train at the park in the evenings and the whole area on Forest Drive would be nose to tail with cars, making the stretch of road between Forest View and Forest Park opening treacherous to say the least with limited visibility. I can only imagine that this will be even more chaotic looking at the amount of groups on their website who would train and the timing of their sessions with parents dropping of and picking up etc. One accident being caused by this would be one too many but cars can be repaired one child heading to Hamish Play Park not seeing a car due to parked vehicles would be a real risk that is unnecessary and unforgiveable.

MRFC advise they will little or no impact to the residents of Forest Park, that is utter nonsense. The construction works alone would have a huge impact with noise, the construction phase would also have a huge disruption on the road network looking at the amount of groundwork's being muted. On completion the light pollution to residents when floodlights are in full operation would be immeasurable no matter how clever you think you can be with directional lighting or baffling of the light – I have seen this at other urban development's of similar ilk. The installation of a huge 5 metre high fence will dominate the skyline of the residents unfortunate enough to back onto the park, you may say no one is entitled to a view but to some people it's the most important part of their home, being able to look out at a tranquil space seeing dogs being walked, kids having fun in the park, watching the trains go by – mental health and well being will be affected. I also guarantee 100% that although not being a rugby expert there will be high kicks and stray balls landing in gardens and on the road, that may seem a strange thing to mention but if a ball cause's one accident on the road this is completely avoidable. Final thing is and as we are all adults we know the language on the park and during training can be 'industrial' not a nice background noise if you are sitting out enjoying the evening sun with your young children in your own back garden.

Going back to the impact to Mill O Forest School as I have said the only interest MRFC seem to have in the school is the use of their car park. No comment made of the school losing access to some fantastic green space for such things as the Mill O Mile, safe cross country runs or just the ability to take the young children outside to a nice safe green space very close to the school.

Finally I note with almost bewilderment that there is an offer of £1 on the table to 'purchase' this land yet this will quickly become the biggest asset that MRFC would have. I could be cheeky and offer £2 just to keep it the way it is.

I do hope that Aberdeenshire Council do not see this as an easy opportunity to reduce their grounds maintenance burden and realise that it is their responsibility as elected representatives of the community to put the whole community first. More so now than ever before urban green space has proved to be so valuable and should be nurtured, protected and where possible enhanced not offered out to be developed and removed from being a genuine community space.

I urge you to make the right decision.

Kind Regards

██████████

██████████

██████████

██████████

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 16:36:36

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sat, 6 Nov 2021 14:54:47

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Cc:** Cllr Wendy Agnew; cllr.s.dickinson@sberdeenshire.gov.uk; Cllr Dennis Robertson; cllr.s.wallace@aberdeenshire.go.uk

**Subject:** Re. Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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Sir/Madam,

Re. Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for 5 years and an additional 10 years in the Stonehaven town area my family and I regularly use Forest Park for recreation and as a walking route.

Public parks are a valuable public amenity that must be preserved for future use and enjoyment of the whole community, not just a select few. A public park provides a safe space for the community to meet, connections to be made, children to play and to get physical exercise. Following a prolonged period of restrictions due to COVID, the value of an outdoor space and the mental health benefits provided by green spaces cannot be underestimated. Not everyone has the luxury of a large garden and as public spaces are increasingly sold, fenced off or access restricted our public parks become an ever more precious resource. Research has linked access to parks and open spaces with health benefits and greater social inclusion (Ref. kingsfund.org.uk & designcouncil.org.uk) two areas of focus nationally as a result of the pandemic.

Parks also provide vital environmental benefits and in a year where Scotland hosted the COP26 we have all heard a great deal about the importance of climate change, biodiversity and air quality. I would hope the council would take every opportunity to enhance local biodiversity and plant many more trees in public spaces rather than allowing these areas to be fenced off and maintained for private use only.

Finally, I grow increasingly concerned about the amount of traffic in our town and more specifically the lack of adherence to speed/parking restrictions. Increasing the volume of traffic (and parking issues) in an area with a significant residential population does not make sense. Allowing this asset transfer has the double whammy of increasing traffic flow and volume in addition to displacing the community from the park grounds.

I appreciate there is tremendous pressure on local councils to reduce spend but parks are at the heart of our life and childhoods. To reduce access to this park would be denying future generations of all the benefits they bring.

I sincerely wish the Rugby club every success in finding a suitable site for the rugby pitches but I don't believe Forest Park is the right location. I urge the members not to grant the asset transfer.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## KINNEFF TUG OF WAR CLUB

Kincardine & Mearns Area Manager  
Aberdeenshire Council  
Viewmount  
Arduthie Road  
Stonehaven  
AB39 2DG

I write on behalf of Kinneff Tug of War Club in connection with the proposed transfer of Forest Park to the Rugby Club. Kinneff have trained in Forest Park since about 2009 when we vacated the Cowie lade field at the councils request to allow construction of the allotments. We continue to maintain and improve the area, topdress to level area and seeding on an annual basis to provide a good pulling surface. Kinneff trains at Forest Park twice a week from April to September with training days on a Sunday when mens and ladies teams travel as far as Ayrshire, Drumnadrochit, Caithness and all points in between attending. To look at the area just now there is no physical evidence of any activity but the wooden slats are covered with grass and the training pole is removed in the winter to clear the area for the residents.

We realise that tug of war in Scotland maybe regarded as a pub sport but we are competing against semi professional teams from across the globe with 3 gold medals from the British and Irish championships and a silver from the Europeans in 2019. We will be travelling to the Worlds in 2022 looking for gold so good training facilities are vital.

Archived: 12 November 2021 16:41:05

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sun, 7 Nov 2021 16:28:37

To: Kincardine and Mearns

Subject: Community Asset Transfer request - Mill O Forest Park

Importance: Normal

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Hello,

I would like to note my very strong objection to the proposal for Mackie FP Rugby club acquiring the land at Mill O Forest Park. My reasons for objecting are as follows:

#### **Accessibility**

This is an accessible space on level ground. It is a space that is enjoyed by people who find it hard to walk in other open spaces in Stonehaven, for example Dunnottar Woods and Mineralwell Park. With the car parking area, it provides an open space that can be easily used by people with mobility limitations. With accessible spaces becoming increasingly important with an ageing demographic, this proposal would remove a valuable accessible space within a residential area in Stonehaven.

While it is admirable that the rugby club aims to promote health and wellbeing in Stonehaven, purchase of this land would deny use of this space for those who have no alternative access to open spaces on level ground.

#### **Play park**

The play park is an accessible space at the top of Stonehaven. Currently, the car park experiences none of the overcrowding frequently occurring in the car park in Queen Elizabeth Park and thus provides an opportunity for children and families who need a quieter, level space that is easily accessed by car (for example families with additional needs). Having a rugby training facility adjacent, would make this a noisy and busy play park which will be much harder to access by car.

#### **Car Parking**

With limited parking in the current adjacent car park, Forest Drive has been identified as a location for car and coach parking. However, Forest Drive cannot accommodate large numbers of vehicles and traffic is likely to increase in residential areas close by. Parking will also be reduced for those using the play park which is, again, an accessible space in a residential area. Importantly, having a large amount of traffic beside a play park is a significant safety concern.

#### **Open spaces**

Mill O Forest Park is an open space used by children playing. It is well used by children who live in close-by housing in Brickfield. Brickfield has many flats with shared gardens, and other properties with very small gardens (e.g. those in Brickfield Road). This proposal will remove access to this open space for these children and their families.

#### **Fencing**

Fencing off the park will be visually unappealing. Fencing was recently removed from the roadside area in-keeping with the council's policy to increase open spaces. A very large fence with only a small section to walk around will be very unpleasant for local residents.

For all these reasons, I am strongly against the proposed community asset transfer.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 16:45:16

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sun, 7 Nov 2021 16:51:40 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Save Our Park

**Importance:** Normal

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Kincardine & Mearns Area Manager  
Aberdeenshire Council  
Arduthie Road  
Stonehaven  
AB39 2DQ

6<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write in response to the above proposal & wish to express my family's strong opposition against this ground being sold and turned from leisure and recreational ground into a locked private sports ground.

I would like to start by expressing my support for the Stonehaven Rugby Club for everything they have and currently do for the community of Stonehaven over many decades. They provide a club that welcomes & promotes all skill levels to not only train but are given an opportunity to match play at the weekend regardless of skill level. The club actively partakes in local social events and gala's to not only fundraise for the club but attract new members old & young. This outstanding club should be supported by Aberdeenshire Council to secure suitable ground for their long-term stability.

As a homeowner and resident of [REDACTED], Forest (Drive) Park is somewhere I visit regularly with my grandchildren. This is also the park that my own children used, while growing up as this park is perfect in shape, landscape, and fencing to allow our children sufficient freedom, protected from the main road (was prior to the removal of the mesh fence and replacement with a dozen 3ft posts) but to remain still in sight of us as parents /grandparents regardless of location. My children remember playing in this area; being given the freedom to safely go by themselves and with friends was a stepping-stone to independence. I want my grandchildren to be able to have the same equal opportunities and freedom. If this section of land is transferred to The Rugby Club, the closest green space of equal size for them and the many children who use this area will have to travel to Mineral Well, crossing various busy roads, to a north facing area, shrouded by trees, which has a significant impact on accessibility & their safety.

As our children develop, this park again offers huge holistic attributes (socially, physically and mentally) in a safe & free environment. Supporting evidence of this is that Mill O Forest School/nursery & Carronhill School frequently use both facilities to meet the Get It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) wheel "Confident Individuals" Active section. "Having opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation, and sport which contribute to healthy growth and development both at home and the community". Another section within the GIRFEC wheel is the Effective Contributors - Responsible section "Having opportunities and encouragement to play active". Reading through the entire GIRFEC wheel there are numerous key development aspects that the park offers, but a private sports facility will not and will have significant detrimental effects not only on children, but adults and families that use the park also.

The Children's commission 2018 stated that all children require having sufficient free green space to help promote mental wellbeing and physical ability to prevent obesity. There are a high percentage of children that due to lack of facilities available in their community spend more and more time indoors playing computer. The play park and large grass area at Forest Park provides a large area for children and their families to enjoy the fresh air and interact socially.

UNICEF also said "Children have a right to play. It is crucial to their development". I feel that by removing this free space will have significant detrimental impact. The people who do play rugby also have the right to play but I just feel that this is not the appropriate space for them. I do support their need to find new space.

Systematically the local representation and Aberdeenshire Council are asset-stripping Stonehaven of all its assets and reducing the



council's responsibilities to an unacceptable or sustainable level. The area of ground known locally as the "Witchies" has already been sold to a private resident for a "nominal fee", Carlton House to flats, Housing offices to be sold, Green Hut, Town Hall and outdoor swimming pool are being looked after by community groups, ground next to the cemetery out-bid the Mackie Rugby club to build low-cost housing, Forest View potentially going to be closed and or utilized as part of this application, closed or closing 2 of our swimming pools that were not being offered to the community, but being utilized by the leisure centre to cater for the ever growing demand for swimming lessons along with all the additional housing being built with little to no additional facilities and amenities. When is Aberdeenshire council going stop pillaging all the lands for financial gain and start developing new facilities and amenities to keep up with the ever-expanding housing and population? I was very surprised when I attended the Save Our Park meeting at the Scout Hut to find that the Stonehaven Rugby Club has already reached stage 4 of its initial application? I do not feel the way this application has been submitted and processed has been in a manner that encourages equal opportunity for those that oppose this application and suitable time to react and respond in the given time period. Nor do I feel the local authority have followed their own protocol of neighbour notification. Even speaking with the local sports council representative, she was unaware of the application and was only after being forwarded on a video call invitation that she became aware of the application and how far the application was already.

As per the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – asset transfer: social value guidance commonly used in this type of application I would like to highlight key points in this document where this proposal would not meet listed criteria in the above document.

1.1 – Stonehaven Rugby Club currently have suitable ground that is accessible to members in the short to medium term that has been more than suitable for the club for all this time (the landowner has offered an extension on a year-on-year basis till they find a suitable & affordable site.). They have the funding and support to privately purchase ground for sale in the past, but like any bidding purchase, it is not guaranteed to be the winning bid. It doesn't help when the local council are aware of the club's needs and out bid them on at least one of the proposed sites for more low-cost housing.

1.2 – Changing Mill O Forest Park from leisure and recreational ground to private sporting ground will not "make better use of", as the only people that will benefit from this will be paid members of the club and visitors on training and match days. There are far more children, adults, families, other sporting clubs, schools and groups that already attend & benefit from this park versus members that might train and play at the grounds. Considering this park has had little to no money invested in it since "Hamish's Park" was built, it is one of the cleanest, friendliest parks in Stonehaven. Mill O Forest Park would seem to be the 3rd largest remaining leisure and recreational park left in Stonehaven but is the cleanest even though there has been very little money spent by the council since "Hamish's Park" was completed. The reason for this is not due to the council's high level of services provided, but the care and respect of the ever-increasing surrounding house-owners and visitors. Mineral Well park is full of abusive and intimidating youths drinking alcohol. I recently found a syringe and needle in Redcloak Park and Mackie Academy fields are full of dog excrement even though there is meant to be no dogs allowed and it is strewn with litter from the Mackie pupils.

1.3 - I, or a community group of residents would also be interested in purchasing the park ground, to keep it as a free leisure & recreational ground and better the play/exercise facilities on the ground as per section 5.1.

1.5 – The proposed price the Mackie Rugby Club is offering is not "Market Value" and with the lack of community benefits offered and not a "good use of public resources", does not justify the proposed discount. As a marker for the value, the price of the ground per acre should be compared against what the Aberdeenshire council paid for the cemetery ground that had planning permission for housing.

3.1 & 3.3 – By approving this proposal it will not promote (82 Asset Transfer Request: Decisions 3c) social, regeneration, economic, public health, social or environmental well-being to the community, only to the private members & club itself and to appease Aberdeenshire Council with their lack of investment in new sporting ground development within the town. There is no environmental wellbeing at all by this proposal and will be a complete eye sore in the middle of a housing estate with a huge carbon footprint, producing noise and light pollution. Looking at other local towns (such as Ellon), they have moved their Rugby and sports grounds to the outskirts of the town to mitigate the said concerns and allow for future expansion. This will create detrimental socio-economic disadvantage, public health and wellbeing to all surrounding residents, children, adults, families, schools and other sporting groups that already currently use the grounds. As I am sure you will be aware of now, there is a huge interest in this proposal being rejected and just the talk of it is creating disturbance with the community due to its proposed location. The loss of the safest, 3rd biggest and cleanest remaining recreational space left in the town will be detrimental for the majority.

Below are listed some of the additional concerns that that other local towns have faced and resolved by moving sporting grounds to the outskirts of the towns to mitigate and allow for expansion with success.

**Safety** - The additional road traffic that the MFC will generate particular at training and match time will be unacceptable and unmanageable even with the proposal. This was already a problem when MFC used the park and was only one pitch every alternative weekend.

**Fence** - mental wellbeing in own homes looking at a 5m steel fence that will completely spoil the hillside views.

**Noise pollution, disturbance and breach of the peace** – not being to enjoy or relax in own back gardens. After match celebrations and private functions. Is an Alcohol licence application going to be submitted?

**Light pollution** – into the rear of every single house facing the park from intrusive LED or Halogen lighting. The additional cost of black out blinds or curtains for all rear facing rooms.

**House value depreciation** – The sell ability and value of the houses are going to be lesser for the ones that back onto the field, opposed to being more favourable.

In conclusion, I wish to register my strongest possible opposition to this proposal and would like the local council and local councillors to

reconsider their plans. They should develop a more appropriate and coherent plan for sports development in and around Stonehaven without depriving the town's people of any more assets.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 16:49:45

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sun, 7 Nov 2021 17:04:31

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Forest Park - Community Asset Transfer proposal

**Importance:** Normal

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to put forward my objection to the Forest Park Stonehaven community asset transfer.

As an older member of the community, I value the space at Forest Park. I have impaired mobility and am able to use this space to walk with my daughter on flat ground. Walking has great therapeutic and rehabilitative value, and with the car park adjacent, this is the only space in Stonehaven where I feel safe to walk.

If this space was lost to community use, I feel I would not have an accessible open area in Stonehaven. I have no doubt that loss of this land would be of detriment to many older members of the community, and those with limited mobility, like myself.

Thank you for noting my concerns.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 16:51:35

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sun, 7 Nov 2021 18:27:10

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

---

Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for almost 22 years (Stonehaven for longer) and used the park for much longer than that.

This is a safe space for many, many people compared to other areas nearby. It is the only place completely accessible for pushchairs and wheelchairs, which is extremely important for those of us who work at Mill O'Forest and Carronhill schools.

This park is important to me, personally, because I have spent many, happy times with my own children, learning how to ride their bikes, flying kites, having picnics, playing rounders.....to name a few happy memories. I know we are one family in many, hundreds who see this space as their own garden.

As part of our school, we use it for bike ability, an extremely important asset to each child, I'd hope you'd agree. Sports days, cross country, sponsored walks, outdoor learning and many other things.

It would be such a tragic loss to the local residents and schools to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community. It would be detrimental to our mental health to lose such a commodity.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because at the very least, so many children have had this safe space accessible for their very first taste of 'freedom' whilst growing up, my children included. Not to mention the increased traffic it would bring, the noise level, the eyesore of such a huge fence and the fact that it would completely destroy a beautiful green space.

It is simply not at all suitable to send these very children and families off to sometimes inaccessible spaces near water, darkened, remote areas like the woods, crossing busy roads to get to mineralwell park away from the safety of our area.

Many of these children are afforded the freedom to walk to school and to play at this park because we pride ourselves on this safe space we are so fortunate to have on our doorstep.

Please save our park. It is at the heart of our community.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 07 November 2021 19:48  
To: Kincardine and Mearns <kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>  
Subject: Asset transfer—land at Forest Park Stonehaven.

To the Kincardine & Mearns area manager.

I am writing to you to share my dismay in learning of the plans to allow Mackie Rugby Club sole ownership of this land. I have lived in [REDACTED] for 30 years and it has been a much loved and used green space by me, my grandchildren growing up. I have met all ages of people using our park from mums and babies to meeting 90 year olds enjoying the tranquility of it. The park has been a great asset over the COVID virus while everyone has been trying to isolate.

The downside of the plans is unsafe parking near a children's play park. An accident waiting to happen. The intrusion of floodlights in residents homes. A noisy club house at the end of the garden. The devaluation of properties. The overspill of parking into Forest Park.

It will be such a loss to so many of us. Please save our park.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 17:04:00

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 10:12:24

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for 5 years and used the park regularly with my children.

This area is safe for my use because it is close to the school and has a large open area. It is flat and suitable for buggy's, bikes and scooters. It is within suitable walking distance of both home and school. The park is ideal for the children after school. They also use it as part of their Millo mile and time out of school for activity which is extremely important for their mental and physical health. The car park beside the park allows parents to drive and park at the school without disturbing the streets around the school.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because the land is already well used. It is a green space which should be kept for the benefit of the whole community. The loss of the area would be a huge detriment to the school and local residents.

Please save our park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 17:06:16

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sun, 7 Nov 2021 11:09:05

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Att. Kincardine & Means Area Manager

**Importance:** Normal

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Asset Transfer of Forest Park

I wish to register objection of Forest Park Stonehaven asset transfer to Mackie Rugby Club.

I am almost 75 years old and regularly walk to the park for exercise with my dog. There is no other park within walking distance of my home. Loss of this park will adversely affect my health.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 07 November 2021 15:39

To: Kincardine and Mearns <kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Milo park

Good afternoon I am objecting to ruddy club asset transfer of the park. My house backs onto the park. this will have a major impact on my mental health due noise parking and having a 5 meter fence with flood lights at the end of my garden. My kids use this park they are not able to travel to any other park. Can you suggest another park close by please that they can walk to by himself and I can see him from my house?? The club house will be out the back of my house and that will be a major impact on noise.

[REDACTED]



**Archived:** 12 November 2021 17:12:00

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 12:30:48 +0000ARC

**To:** Cllr Dennis Robertson; Cllr Sarah Dickinson; Cllr Wendy Agnew; Cllr Sandy Wallace; Cllr Alastair A. Bews; Cllr Ian J. Mollison; Cllr Alison Evison; Cllr Colin Pike; Cllr George W. Carr; Cllr William Howatson; Cllr Jeff Hutchison; Cllr Leigh Wilson; Kincardine and Mearns; Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot

**Subject:** Reference: Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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**Reference: Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven**

To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager, and to local councillors,

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council.

I have examined the proposals, site plan and other related documents and wish to object strongly to the purchase of the land; and the proposals set forward by Mackie Rugby Football Club.

I wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in Stonehaven all my life, firstly Brickfield, then Forest Park and now [REDACTED]. I used the park all throughout childhood, when there was things to do in it, we had use of a long jump, tarmacadam where we played basketball or football in the park itself, plus on school sports days we used it too, and as I got older took my nephews there for a kickabout or just to sit and have lunch. I also took walks there throughout the coronavirus lockdown, sat and watched the rabbits and birds, and just enjoyed the green open space without having to walk too far. Many more did the same!

If this idea goes ahead it would take away the only flat area that we can safely walk to from our estate. The dunnottar woods and minerawell park are not an option because of health issues.

I fear for the traffic if these plans get the go-ahead as I know for sure that the small car park will not be suitable for all the cars, local and visiting. Seeing the traffic issues The rugby club already have up at redcloak does nothing to calm my fears. With 2 bus stops also in near proximity i fear it's an accident waiting to happen.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School. I am disgusted that the park will be fenced off, leaving a very small area for the public to use, as it is definately not used by only dog walkers that i have read in some posts on social media. Kids use it before school and most days after school. At weekends when you pass there is always walkers in there, or families doing activities during the better months.

I would love to see the park back to what it once was, rather than a big fenced off area that's unusable to members of the wider public. It would be great if Aberdeenshire council could re-instate the basketball court, or the sand long jump, maybe even a small patch for allotments where the older residents who use the park for daily exercise can sit and watch the wildlife. I sometimes stand and watch the tug of war lads practice there in the evening, which is great to see.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area, mainly with the traffic and parking concerns. Noise pollution was also be a factor as families that I personally know live backing onto the field, so sitting out in the summer months in the peace and quiet would therefore be an issue as the Rugby Club are not the quietest bunch if you have ever passed redcloak during game time.

Also in the dark evenings, the lighting would resemble blackpool illuminations as when you pass redcloak of a practice evening the lights are visible from the A90! The families that i know who back onto the forest park greenspace have young children, so these bright lights would be an issue.

I beg you and the fellow councillors to please reconsider this asset transfer as it will upset alot of residents and children who do use the park. I myself have nothing against the Rugby Club in Stonehaven, in fact it's a great community driven club that has produced several Scotland call up's over the years, but I just feel strongly that the Forest Park land is NOT the answer to their predicament. There is surely somewhere else locally that is not surrounded by a housing estate.

Please save our park.

Please save our Greenspace

Kind regards

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address line 1]

[Redacted address line 2]

[Redacted address line 3]

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 17:16:46

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 13:42:53 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Forest Drive Park

**Importance:** Normal

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To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to register my opinion against Mackie Rugby club buying the land between Forest Drive and Forest Park in Stonehaven. I am a resident of [REDACTED], and I believe this will be a big disadvantage to my family and neighbours.

It is a well used and important green space in the area. I walk my dog in the park several times a week and I take my 3 year old son to the playpark very often too. We have picnics there in the summer and have snowball fights in the winter.

It has been a real asset to the local community during the COVID pandemic, as we have been able to meet friends and family outside as regulations were lessened.

It is often waterlogged and muddy during bad weather, so it isn't used as often then, but as soon as it dries up again, then there are always people walking around.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 17:19:11

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 13:44:31

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in Stonehaven for 14 years and used the park for all of those years, for exercising, walking my dogs and family time. I actually live closer to Minerwell but prefer to use Forest Park as it's level, cleaner and nicer friendlier people (it's not surrounded by teenage kids on weekend evenings that like to hurl abuse while I'm trying to run and lose weight). We have used this park with each of my niece and nephews, 4 years ago we started a tradition of a waterfight with super soakers for my nephews birthday in the summer and he wants to continue this tradition (albeit last year we couldn't due to covid). Both nephews then grew to play with their friends in this area, without adult supervision, playing football, rounders, tag etc, but the same won't be possible for my niece when she gets old enough. I even just nip along sometimes to meet my sister and catch up while we do a couple of laps walking around the park and this started during lockdown when we couldn't visit each other.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O' Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because the green spaces in Stonehaven are getting smaller and smaller. The noise and lights will be a distraction to nose of the residents at forest park too. My 6 year old nieces bedroom looks on to the park and she goes to bed at 7:30 on a school night. How long will practice run in the evening? Will they hire out the clubhouse at the weekend for parties etc? As that will bring the area down. Will they have people controlling the parking when events are on? As it's too dangerous for that many vehicles in that area, especially around a play park, which probably won't get used at weekends due to the amount of people in the area at the time. This has not been fully thought through at all.

Please save our park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 17:21:30

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 14:11:23 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Cc:** Cllr Wendy Agnew; cll.s.dickinson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk; Cllr Sandy Wallace; Cllr George W. Carr; cllr.i.hutchison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk; Cllr Leigh Wilson; Cllr William Howatson; Cllr Ian J. Mollison; Cllr Alison Evison; Cllr Alastair A. Bews; Cllr Colin Pike

**Subject:** Save our Park

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager.I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the rejection of the proposal. I have lived in [REDACTED] for 35 years and have used the park regularly during this time with my children and now my grandchildren. This area is very safe and wheelchair friendly unlike other areas that have been suggested we could use which are not as safe with many dangers including water, steep drops and busy roads to cross an accident waiting to happen if we loose our safe park. The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this residential area as the noise, parking and floodlights would be very disruptive for the residents of Forest Park especially young children trying to sleep with bright lights shining in their bedroom windows as it is bedroom windows that back onto the park .It would be a terrible loss to the local community and both local primary schools if we were to loss this accessible and safe green space. Everyone agrees that the rugby club needs a home but it should be in a suitable location and not in a residential area which is totally unsuitable.  
Please save our park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 12 November 2021 17:23:01

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 14:21:14 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Re rugby club takeover of park at forest park Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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Having lived for 45 years in the same house in [REDACTED] Stonehaven and enjoyed the open spaces to the front and rear of our property we now find we have the possibility of enjoying the green space behind us through a fence more appropriate to a penal colony than a green space to be enjoyed by the public at large. Having seen the vehicle turn out to a match at red cloak there is no way on earth the car park at forest park is large enough to cope meaning forest drive and probably forest park both become car parks on match days totally spoiling the whole ambiance of forest park for the residents. My kids and now my grandkids enjoy playing in the only green space top of the town and now it is under threat. As well as this being a very short sighted idea as who knows what will come next if it goes ahead, function suite followed by bar perhaps and the whole reason for living in forest park has gone. I also can't imagine that the price of property will remain as is after the changes proposed go ahead.

We think it a totally wrong and unfair proposal to be railroaded through on the local population.

The car park at moment is used daily for delivering schoolchildren safely to school

And are picking up time. We see daily meetings of various people enjoying the space and can confirm the park is well used by all ages.

We totally oppose the proposed change of use.

[REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 08 November 2021 12:30  
To: Kincardine and Mearns <kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>  
Subject: Forest road park

To whom it may concern

Re the park on Forest Drive, I really must protest that it is being sold and members of the public who do not do sports will get no further use of it.

My husband is disabled and is in a wheelchair, it is the only green place that has a path which is suitable for walking round with a wheelchair in the area, if we go anywhere else in Stonehaven we have to take the car then get out for a walk which is not good at all for the environment. Please think again about the sale of this land.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 10:22:06

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 15:30:28

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Forest park stonehaven transfer of assets

**Importance:** Normal

---

Dear sir/madam. May I start by saying that the only community residential area green area which is to be transferred assets to be used only to a private owned club, would not as I see it benefit in anyway.

Also the Scottish law transfers of land assets, says that only if beneficial to the community transfer should be done. And it to be finalised by ministers and give us a chance to claim the land for the stonehaven locals. All of the people I have spoken to are willing to pay and we would all take on the job of looking after park. And would pay out of our own pockets to keep forest park as it is meant to be used by the people who live there. Also many volunteers that would cut grass do the greenery up date. Football area older kids area etc. hope this rule to be followed. As there was no warning or locals given any chance to oppose. And especially not the local people who like myself have houses near the park. My family moved into house and the park like many home owners surrounding the park was one of the main reasons. I have lived here long enough to be here when they rugby club used the park. Back then there was a lot less cars and there has also been many new housing, back of forest view lilly Loch, dunnotor new houses and others developments on green land. I remember the parking up all our streets, school children and many people that do shifts not being able to sleep when they did evening training which could go on till after 10pm. Then it was the foot people coming in to collect their cars chatting loudly and all the cars noise. Then weekends terrible, when you had worked all week and just wanted to relax in gardens again traffic and noise. Since then there are a lot more cars and it is already hard enough to get a space at home. I am two streets away so I can only imagine what it would be like for the people with their back gardens adjacent to the park. The club have said that it is not used only dog walkers but this was done during the covid pandemic and does not give an accurate representation. And complete rubbish and frankly in my opinion an underhand way of doing business. As far as I am one of the many people who use the park every day, rain snow wind basically Scottish weather I have good understanding of park users. This is also the only flat accessible park for wheel chair users. Using the car park if they have carers or family members. I know this from recent experience as my mum developed cancer and had to use wheelchair but as the pain was so great the park accessible by car and could sit a bench picnic etc as a short distance from car. She hated being unable to do things and stuck in the house and enjoyed watching all the activities and the green area. I also until I gave up work to full time care for mum a manager of an adult disability day centre in Aberdeen and we would come down to stonehaven for day trips and use the local amenities shops restaurants. Etc. The people who use park. Bike groups the elderly walking stick group, picnic groups, kite flying, baseball, rounders, the tug of war teams who just recently had international teams. Kids, adult football groups who are not in the private clubs. Adults, a lot of mentally ill people find the park beneficial, older and people who have lost family members who may want only see people while using the park. I met an elderly man then other day who with his wife used the park daily, she has passed away but he stills buses park and is his only life line as he put it, he actually started to cry with the thought of losing Park.. That tugged very deeply at my wee heart. children and adults with learning, physical disabilities. Child minders, Mother's and toddlers groups who can have some older kids in field and younger ones in kids park or beside them on benches, the schools. Use field for various activities, mum's who breast feed. Use picnic area tables. Young couples and many other groups or individuals enjoy the park. Like myself when younger would be left to play in the safe park area while mum went shopping, or worked late this is still practice of many parents guardians to this day people travel to stonehaven but like most of the residents find the beach and harbour area sometimes just to buy so they come to the park. Holiday makers I have met from all over the world. Some of which that stayed with you only because of the green area at forest as they found to busy for them in summer in other areas. Many come back to stonehaven and have passed onto others from other countries. We are meant to be exercising more and this would be the last area for a lot of people to do so. All of which brings money economy to stonehaven.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Archived:** 15 November 2021 10:26:12  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 16:15:31  
**To:** Kincardine and Mearns  
**Subject:** Mill of Forest Park  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Dear Sir/Madam  
Love

Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in Stonehaven for 23 years and used the park for taking my grandkids to the mill of forest school, and for using the play park

This area is safe for my use because [ \_it is easy to use\_\_\_ ]compared to other areas it is Flat, and within easy walking distance, don't have to cross busy roads, etc ]

As my family grows/I get older I would use the park for walking. This park is important to me because it is local and easily accessible.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because the general public would lose a great asset, these areas cannot be replaced. Surely the Rugby Club can find a better alternative without depriving all sectors of the public to this vital piece of land.

Please save our park.

Kind regards  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council. I wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for the last 15 years and used the park with my 2 boys and family for recreational play and exercise.

My children like this park as it is large enough to run around with kites, cycle round and play ball games. It is a large enough space to have picnics and allow the children to run free. My son loves to play with an air rocket which needs lots of space not full of trees making this ideal. The large park is flat making cycling easier for my children and being so close to home is ideal as without the need to cross busy roads or travel too far.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School. Not to mention a loss for Stonehaven and the environment.

As quoted by "Greenspace Scotland" Greenspaces are the 'green lungs' of our towns and cities which contribute to improving people's physical and mental health by providing places for informal recreation and 'breathing spaces' to take time out from the stresses of modern life. Aberdeenshire Council have pledged to promote biodiversity in their county by nurturing these greenspaces so they should include the Forest Park area in that pledge. Quote from Aberdeenshire Council Managing our Green Spaces leaflet "Across Scotland, every local authority has a legal duty (under the Nature Conservation Act 2004) to further biodiversity conservation. This means that Aberdeenshire Council must actively take actions every year to support our local wildlife. Changing the way we manage our grass areas to support more wildlife is just one positive action Aberdeenshire Council is taking to improve our local environment." This proposal does not reflect the positive actions outlined in this leaflet.

I understand that the Rugby club need new grounds and I fully support them in this mission but there could be more suitable locations in the surrounding farming/waste land areas of Stonehaven without removing one of the last green spaces our community has in the north of the town.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because it does not have adequate parking facilities therefore resulting in cars parking in all the surrounding streets including Provost Barclay Drive and Forest Park. We have already seen an accident with a child due to adhoc parking at Forest Park and this was without the increased usage that is being suggested.

Please save our park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25397/managingourgreenspacesforpeopleandwildlifeleaflet-june2020.pdf> )

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 10:30:32

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 13:32:43

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Stonehaven Park - Forest Drive

**Importance:** Normal

---

Hello,

I wanted to email to communicate my view on why I am against losing this park for the general public's use. This park is used by so many people as luxury green space within the town. The school next door uses it, dog walkers, children playing, toddlers, teenagers, adults, families having picnics, girlguiding groups and I could go on and on. This would be devastating for the local community.

I have nothing against the rugby club however I do feel an out of town site would be best for everyone concerned. Please don't take away what limited green space we have left in the town.

On a side note, I feel it's a shame that the council can't identify the need for quite a few local clubs to come together to form a suitable community hub with proper facilities for the towns residents - rugby, gymnastics, athletics etc could share and equally benefit from a central hub of sports facilities.

Thank you for reading,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 10:32:05

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 16:58:32

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager,

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I lived in Forest Park for 5 years and have only recently moved to [REDACTED], however we still use the park everyday to walk our 2 children to school and walk our dog, plus our children regularly play there after school and at the weekend.

This area is safe for our use because compared to other areas in Stonehaven it is within easy walking distance of our house, plus a lot of our children's friends play there too.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because of the lack of available parking, plus the noise and light pollution for the local residents would be unbearable!

Please save our park.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 12:13:56  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 19:00:21 +0000ARC  
**To:** Kincardine and Mearns  
**Subject:** Mill o Forrest Prl  
**Importance:** Normal

---

To whom it may concern,

I would just like to put in writing my complete distain for the proposal to take away the mill o Forrest park from the Stonehaven community to place it at the sole use of one organisation.

It is completely ridiculous that this proposal has been muted without the full cooperation and consultation of local residents. The council is here to serve the whole of the community not one organisation just because they no longer wish to use the land they currently lease. The owner of said land has granted a year to year extension of the lease until suitable land is found elsewhere. The council has in years past had numerous chances to include the rugby club in their local development plans but has chosen to ignore their needs. This is not the fault of those living around this park and they should not have to pay for council mismanagement. To suggest that this asset is transferable to one organisation is completely ridiculous and it very much should never go ahead.

On any given day you have the very young to the elderly and everyone in between using the park in its current state. Would the council consider these able and not so able bodied individuals and where they are to get their exercise should this proposal be forced through?

We ought to remember that the council is funded and elected to represent the whole community not the few, as good as the work is that the rugby club does, it does not mean that they can arrogantly and with council backing claim land that they are not entitled too. This proposal should be scrapped and a better location that does not hinder the wider community should be sought.

Kind regards  
A long time user of said park

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 10:33:35

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 19:34:00

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

---

I would like to lodge an objection to the use of this area for the sole use of the local Rugby Club.

This is one of the few green spaces in the area and we use it to both walk our dog and take our visually impaired son on a safe walks. It should be available for the wider community to use as intended as an open space for all and not fenced of for use by one group.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 10:35:22  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 19:50:07 +0000ARC  
**To:** Kincardine and Mearns  
**Subject:** Forest Park asset transfer objection  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Please consider this email as an objection to the proposed asset transfer of Forest Drive Park to Stonehaven Rugby Club.

As residents who live nearby and use the park everyday on our walk to school, we are concerned about this proposal. This is not the place for such a development.

If the rugby club do get the park, the traffic on the surrounding roads will be horrendous. The loss of the car park will significantly impact on families using the play park, residents who park their cars there, parents ensuring a safe drop off/collection of their children to school and residents using the recycling bins.

Mill O' Forest school use the green space for cross country (saves a longer trip to Mineralwell), the school and nursery use the green space regularly for other outdoor education activities as well as Dunnottar nursery.

As residents of [REDACTED], Forest Drive Park is our nearest and well loved play park and green space. Experiencing green spaces during childhood and adolescence has proven physical and wellbeing benefits including improved cognition, motor skills and lower risk of obesity.

Please consider the wider community rather than the few rugby club members.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Dear Sirs,

I write in objection to the proposed asset transfer of Forest Park, Stonehaven made by Mackie Rugby Football Club.

Whilst I applaud the rugby clubs achievements in Stonehaven in creating a club suitable for all ages and abilities within the town, I have strong reservations about them setting up camp at Forest Park for the following reasons:

1. This is the only area of public open space on that side of the town. The plans proposed by the rugby club would take this great area away from everyday public use; an area which is used by many people including dog walkers, runners, youngsters and Mill O'Forest primary school. Segregating the area off from the public would not allow the green space to be inclusive for all and would not allow the area to be used by local residents when not in use by the rugby club.
2. The proposal is excessive for the site. If the club is currently operating with only 1 pitch, why do they need 2? How often are 2 matches on at the same time to warrant the need for 2 pitches? The club currently use the playing fields at Mackie Academy at the weekend. Can they not make more use of these pitches for other classes/matches? There is plenty of parking at the school for all attendees including an area for bus parking.
3. In the statement the club states that they have previously used Forest Park but that the ground conditions were poor and so propose drainage works to the site. How intensive would these works be? Would they have any implications on the drainage of the wider area?
4. Taking away the use of the car park from public use makes the playpark less accessible for families.
5. Cordoning off the playpark with 3m high fencing will make it uninviting. I regularly take my daughters to the playpark. The proposals would make me reconsider, especially on match days/all weekend.
6. The car park is not large enough for the proposal. Plans indicate bus parking in the car park but this will be hard to achieve since it is not wide enough to allow buses to turn around. The insufficient level of parking will lead to an increase in on street parking in turn resulting in traffic congestion and affecting the timings of the local bus service.
7. The proposed 5m high fencing around the whole site would be an eyesore particularly along Forest Drive.

I do not object to the proposal if it is in the right area but Forest Park is not the right place for this proposal and therefore I urge the council to reject this request for the asset transfer.

Yours sincerely



**Archived:** 15 November 2021 10:48:59

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 20:40:21 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for 28 years and used the park for several activities.

This area is safe for my use because it is close to my home and I feel comfortable using it for exercise and relaxation due to it being an open space but enclosed space compared to other areas nearby. This area is more suitable for my needs due to area it is in. The park is outside the back of my back garden which has a gate I can access the park. I have grown up in this house and the park has been used by myself and the different generations of my family. The park is a safe space for children to run around safely away from roads or water. The park is a great open flat space where I can run round to improve my health without the worry of bumping into people, having to run on the busy roads and be close to home. The park has been hugely important to myself and many others during lockdown as it's a great safe space to meet with others whilst socially distancing. I have been able to meet friends and vulnerable family members for walks there without the worry of passing on germs.

I also worry about how the park would look with a fenced off pitch. I have always been so grateful and thankful for the view from my home. I have spent many evenings in my garden enjoying the sunset and the being thankful for the peaceful view I have. I would be so saddened to lose that.

As my family may grow in time and I get older I would use the park to spend time with my family and friends. I would like to continue to use the park to exercise and relax which would not be possible if it is fenced off. This park is important to me because it's park of my home and local community. I have always been so thankful to have this wonderful space out the back of my garden.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area due to many reasons. I am a firm supporter of the rugby club and have been part of its community since I was very young. It has also been part of my family for generations. I do not believe this is the right place for a fenced off rugby and a club house. I do not believe the ground is big enough to hold two pitches comfortably. I would be happier if there was just one pitch at the far end away from the houses. I am aware of the behaviour that comes with a drunken night out. I am concerned there will be more noise, lights and vandalism (urinating on fences) due to there being a bar in the club house. I am also concerned regarding the lights that will be used as security. I am concerned re noise and parking on the weekends. The weekend is the only time I get off, like many in the area and the noise of early games and late night BBQs and social events will cause such disruption to the area.



Archived: 15 November 2021 10:57:17

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Mon, 8 Nov 2021 20:58:50 [REDACTED]

To: Kincardine and Mearns

Subject: Fw: Forest park open space proposed asset transfer.

Importance: Normal

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 7 November 2021, 21:37:42 GMT

Subject: Forest park open space proposed asset transfer.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you concerning the Asset Transfer from Stonehaven Council to the Mackie Rugby Club.

Firstly I would like to say that I understand that the Rugby Club need to find a suitable area for their club, but I am strongly against it being the whole area of Mill Of Forest Park. I have many concerns over this proposal, as this application is not considering what our local community needs.

Parking

The car park is used by residents of Forest Park. In our deeds it is mentioned the car park can be used for parking vans and additional cars rather than on property parking. Why can the council asset swap this car park ?

Also many parents when dropping off and picking up their children from Mill O. Forest School park their avoiding the busy road.

Parking on Forest Drive with coaches will cause an issue as there is not enough road space left for two way traffic. Also there is a bus stop at either side of the road, one being at the entrance of the car park. The buses often sit there two in a row to swap over drivers. As this road is a busy bus route I can only see this causing congestion and frustration for drivers.

5 metre high perimeter fencing.

This will look terrible and very intrusive for the existing properties. Walking in this narrow strip of land will feel very claustrophobic. And I don't think people will use it especially in the darker nights as you will not feel safe.

What about all the existing plants and trees that have been planted in the last few years ? This has improved the park greatly along with the hard standing path introduced a few years back. As the ground can be very soft when it rains.

The noise that will come from the park during the evening and at the weekend will be awful. If your house backs onto the field and you have children trying to sleep at night or you work shifts and have to sleep during the day the noise will really disturb them.

Mill Of Forest Park is the only green space in this area. It is used by many adults for walking exercise have lunch friends on the benches and safe place for children to play. Mill O Forest School use it for playing games and the children train for their cross country. Forest View use it for their sports day and playing games. Tug of War use it for training and for tournaments.

After everything that has happened over this last 18 months with covid, having green open space that you can walk in is vital for our mental health. Mill Of Forest park is a public park that should be for all of the community to use not just for one particular group.

Thank you for taking the time to read my e-mail. I hope you can consider my concerns when making your decision.

Look forward to your reply.

Regards  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 11:03:25

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 21:10:55

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Save Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

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Hello

I'm writing to you to put forward my concerns about the proposals by the rugby club for Forest Park. Before I begin I must stress that this is in no way against the rugby club. I think it is vitally important for Stonehaven that the rugby club finds a new and permanent home. But that home should not be Forest Park. I have lived in Stonehaven my whole life & have moved to [REDACTED] in the last year. We chose to move here because of the quiet street & the closeness of the park and primary school, ideal to raise a young family, and spent the summer having family picnics with friends, playing with toys & my daughter actually took her first proper steps in the park (not meaning to pull the heartstrings). In fact... a mere 28 years ago I was taught to ride my bike in that park by my father & grandfather. This park has huge sentimental value to me. It is not just with my daughter I use this park. During the pandemic it really became a lifeline to me for meeting up with friends & working out outdoors, it was one of the few social events we were allowed. It has become so apparent how important it is for my mental health that we have green space to relax in. So doing a quick google map search, using the 4 other open spaces listed on Aberdeenshire Council website, I would have to walk with my 2 year old more than 2 miles round trip to access green space if these proposals went through:

Minerwell Park - 1.5 miles

Queen Elizabeth - 1.6 miles

Redcloak - 1.5 miles

Edinview - 1.2 miles

At these distances, as my daughter grows up, there will be no green space she can safely access without having to cross major roads either across town or downtown, This is the same with all children on this side of the railway line. Hardly fair

Since we have moved we have noticed that parking and cars can be a bit of an issue in the surrounding area around school drop off/pick up. It is of great concern to me that the parking situation will be further exacerbated by the building of two rugby pitches. It will be 315pm essentially 7 days a week. How is it going to be guaranteed that the safety of the Forest Park and surrounding areas will be a priority? Even now there are reports of car damage, cars parked over drives and a child being hit by a car by the school runs. Will only make things worse.

Next aspect that I would like to point out is the noise and light pollution. I have been to enough rugby matches in my time to safely say that this is not a quiet sport. In fact, if it is adults playing at the weekend, the play park will be unusable due to the noise, swearing & rowdy nature of rugby. I often take my nephew to the park early on a Sunday morning as he has sensory issues & cant handle loud noises, the rugby club will not allow for this. Furthermore, the club house.... will alcohol be permitted? The floodlights will essentially shine in peoples bedroom windows during the week/at weekends. The people who have gardens backing onto the rugby will have no opportunity to enjoy their garden.

I think the main argument I have seen on social media is that the park "isn't used"... I just want to stress that yes it is used less in these months, but it is a much loved park. We could maybe make a bit better use of it... could fundraise for a community garden, a cycle path or something to bring the community more together. Fencing it off with a 5m fence is not exactly community spirit. With the cost of living rising and job losses etc, not everyone will have the money to put their children to clubs. Where will they go to play if this goes ahead?

Apologies if this was a bit of a ramble. I hope you have taken the time to understand our point of view.

Thank you

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 11:07:26

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 21:31:39

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset transfer request of green public place

**Importance:** Normal

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To whom it may concern

I am raising my strong object to the above proposed asset transfer of the land of Forest Park to the Rugby Club by Aberdeenshire Council. The reasons for this objection are detailed below.

The loss of the ONLY green public space for the residents of the surrounding area, the nearest one would be either Mineralwell or beside Red Cloak which is not suitable for people with mobility issues and unable to walk any distance. People with mental health issues who may find it difficult to go out with their local area, young children who can play safely in the park as they are too young to go any distance themselves.

The huge negative impact on those living beside the park through increased pollution from cars, buses, noise and light. Living next to pitch lighting with constant traffic coming and going is not ideal for residents mental health and well being. There are a number of properties that look directly onto the park and have back gate access onto the car park, how will residents access their property if they cannot walk through the car park. There is also frequent local and Aberdeen city bus service with a bus stop at the top of the park beside the car park. This bus stop is used to change over drivers and because of this procedure the buses can sit there for sometime. Buses also sit there if they are ahead of schedule. Given the car parks' proposed sole use of the Rugby Club requiring coach parking and drop off and turning of vehicles this would be difficult to manage with various large and small vehicles trying to come and go in the same area. Given this current car park is to be gated off for the sole use of the Rugby Club, what about the recycling area which is used frequently and the use of the car park to enable disabled persons using "Hamish" Park, to get as close as possible. Does this mean they will have to park on Forest Road to access these facilities. Not ideal. At what direction will this transport for the Rugby Club arrive from, if under the bridge by the station again this will cause increase of congestion in a built up area and more pollution. Forest Road is to be used as an overspill for parking, as advised this is a bus route. Also Mill o Forest school car park, more congestion in a built up area.

My understanding of a asset transfer is to benefit all of the community in Stonehaven and not just one group, as in the recently opened Montrose Playhouse / Cinema and Art Centre. This community transfer has been welcomed by the community of Montrose and a derelict building transformed into an amazing asset for all within and outwith Montrose.

Given the way in which this proposal by the Rugby Club and Council has been carried forward, it does appear that local residents and wider community have been kept in the dark, eg the community found out through social media, and very little time to put forward objections. This is a shameful way to treat those who elect this council. The proposal includes a 5 metre high fence perimeter fencing, given the height of Rugby goal post will this stop any rugby ball going out of the area?, locked gates preventing all in the community using this right of way area which has been used for many number of years. Given the limited space of the park how can the Rugby Club expand their facility in the future. On this site they intend to place a temporary club house, with a permanent one in the future, changing facilities and fitness room and storage this will have even further impact on residents living beside the park.

The most important aspect of this awful proposal, how can Aberdeenshire council truly say they are committed to working toward net zero carbon when they are prepared to give away a valuable public green space the ONLY public green space in this area therefore completely dismissing local residents who continue to pay council tax for less and less services. I for one look in dismay at the continuing disappearance of our green spaces, wild open countryside being lost to yet more high end housing. We are supposed to be working towards net zero carbon but it does not appear those who are in power to make decisions affecting all of the community are taking this seriously. This loss of habitat is one of the major reasons for the decline of our wildlife and increased pollution from vehicles has a huge implication on climate change. How does this assets transfer sit comfortably with the continuing destruction of much needed green space. To construct two Rugby pitches and all the other requirement of this proposal means taking away precious green space, cutting down shrubs and over a hundred trees, some recently planted, trees are important in combating climate change. Everyday we here about the devastating impact of climate change. We are currently hearing more of this through the COP 26 conference in Glasgow, only couple hours down the road. Is Aberdeenshire taking this seriously?

Despite the perceived idea by Aberdeenshire council and the Rugby Club that this precious green space in this community is not used, it is and is very much so, by families, children playing football, disabled, those with reduced mobility, people having picnics, exercise, runners, walkers, dog walkers, Mill O Forest School, Carronhill School, the tug of war team and the residents of Crudenlea who are taken to the park by staff.

Do not forget we are still living through a pandemic which has been with us for almost two years. This park has been a godsend in helping with the issue of mental and physical health and general well being. I use this park daily to through walking, taking my grandchildren out, having picnics with them and going safely to "Hamish" park which was provided by money raise through Carronhill School for disabled. I do not understand why this park needs to be used for something why can't it be appreciated as it is. Wide open space for all to enjoy. If it has to be developed why not to promote well being and mental health and help the environment, though further rewilding, setting up allotments, encouraging beekeeping, setting up a poly tunnel greenhouse, which has been done at Mill O Forest School thus benefiting all in the community.

While I understand that the Rugby Club require premises and have been looking for sometime, given this is a residential area I think the park is totally unsuitable. It would be a suggestion to Aberdeenshire council to assist the Rugby Club to find somewhere more suitable, given that there has been for sometime vast areas of countryside around Stonehaven rapidly disappearing through the building of yet more "high end housing" maybe some of this land could be given to the Rugby Club as a way of giving back to the community by those companies who appear to be given planning permission readily.

This proposal should not go ahead and a more suitable location sought for the Rugby Club to continue to provide a sport facility in Stonehaven that does not cause a devastating impact to the wider community by to the loss of an important public green space.

I would sincerely hope this is not another case of a public assets given over to private hands by Aberdeenshire Council and is therefore lost to all in the community.

Kind regards

From a local resident who frequently uses this precious green open park

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 11:19:37

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 22:05:15 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager.

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club, who would like to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council. I wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I lived in Forest Park for 27 years and have used the park for 35 years. I grew up using the park and there are even videos of me learning to walk there. After moving to [REDACTED], myself and my young family use the park multiple times a week, with my own children enjoying the benefits of the park, the same as I did at their age. We regularly meet Grandparents there and friends, who also have young children. Although we enjoy the playpark, we spend most of our time using the green space.

We use this park, rather than others in Stonehaven, for a number of reasons. Firstly and most importantly, it is a safe environment for the children to play in. They have more freedom to roam independently compared to other parks. Also, it is very accessible. The parking allows me to bring scooters or bikes easily, and also allowed me to and use my double buggy. It is much more effort to visit Mineralwell with small children, especially as we usually have to park at the Leisure Centre and cross the road. In the past I have parked up near Bath Street or in The Glebe to avoid down town, especially during the busy summer. It isn't much fun pushing a double buggy up the hill back to the car as I'm sure you can imagine. If we are visiting family, we can also walk safely through Forest Park to reach the park without crossing any busy roads.

I am also aware of the importance that the park has been to my Mum and her friends during lockdown. The green space allowed them to go on socially distanced walks or meet with friends, benefiting their mental health during a tough time. I firmly believe in the importance of green space for children to enjoy being children in, without having the structure of an organised activity or club. They need space to choose what they want to do for themselves, be it ball games, kite flying or just sitting with friends. I know of many families who use the park regularly and the benefits the freedom of the park bring to them.

Stonehaven is a very busy place, with new developments in the town. Green space is needed to allow its residents to enjoy the town fully, as well as to be aesthetically pleasing. There is no other open space like this in the area. People need green space for their own wellbeing. We regularly see people of all ages out running, walking with friends or walking dogs.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community. As a local teacher and as an ex pupil at Mill o' Forest, I am also aware of the many benefits that this space provides for the local schools.

I support what the Rugby Club do for Stonehaven, however strongly believe that the proposed asset transfer is not suited for this area. There is already a problem with parking during school drop off and pick up times in Forest Park and Forest Drive. The proposed car park is not suitable, consequently forcing there to be parking in other areas, including residential areas. At present Forest Drive is a busy road with cars and buses, leading to more even more congestion. There will also be noise and light pollution from this proposal due to its proximity to a residential area. It would not be accessibly by the whole community due to the fence. The Rugby Club need somewhere fit for purpose which will last.

The park is important to my family. I have spent a lot of time there growing up and continue to do so with my children. It would be a shame for future families to miss out on this space.

Please save our park,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 11:23:59

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 22:25:41

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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Dear Sirs

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in Brickfield for over 40 years and used the park for exercise originally with my dogs over the years, but after surgery I now use the park as a marker for my walking progress.

This area is safe for my use because I don't have to worry about crossing busy roads and because I feel more confident when walking with my cane around the park

As I get older I would use the park to safely exercise on my own . This park is important to me because it is a much loved and well used community asset.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because of the parking, noise and lights that would follow if the rugby club should gain ownership!

Please save our park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**Archived:** 15 November 2021 11:26:23

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 22:26:41 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in Stonehaven for 44 years and used the park for exercising my dog and also use the park and swing park with my grandson.

I am registered as disabled and have difficulty walking so I appreciate that the park is close to my home and is flat and even. It provides me with a safe area to exercise and also spend time with my family.

This park is important to me because it has been a park as long as I can remember and serves the people of the town well as it is.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because the rugby club should be situated at the Mackie Academy because the facility could be used by the School on a regular basis and bring on the younger teams, there is also adequate parking unlike the proposed development at forest park which also has lots of children close by in Brickfield, Forest park and Riverside Drive who would have to play in an area of major congestion on match days and late training nights.

Please save our park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 11:28:42

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 17:04:13 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Save are park

**Importance:** Normal

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To whom it may concern

I am writing to tell you how this park is important to me and my family. I have a three year old son with [REDACTED], and he has a love for being outside. He also enjoys watching trains and buses to where the park is set on the main route for both. During lockdown the park was a life line for me and my family so my son could get out and have a run round the park while seeing his favourite forms of transportation. I feel it would be a shame for this area to be fenced off as it's one of my sons favourite places to go.

Many Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 11:30:06

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 19:35:05

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Mill of Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

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Dear Sir

Please do not take this park away from the community. It is a great space for young children to exercise & burn off energy. I hope the Rugby Club find a new facility and go from strength to strength but not at the expense of other members of the local community.

Yours

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

06/11/21

Dear Sir/Madam

Ref. Asset Transfer of Land at Forest Park to Mackie Rugby Club.

I am writing to voice my objection to the proposed Asset Transfer of land at Forest Park to Mackie Rugby Club and I would like this letter to be formally recorded and considered as part of the report to be prepared by the area committee advising on acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

Can I say I am a great rugby supporter and have nothing against the Mackie Rugby Club, I think the club is a great asset to the town but I think the land at Forest Park is the wrong location for rugby pitches for the following reasons.

The Forest Park is the only safe green area in that part of the town and is used by many people for mental well being, exercise, dog walking, picnics in the summer time, kids playing football etc etc and it is used by the schools in the area and also the tug of war team use it for training.

Light and noise pollution.

The existing car park would be inadequate on training days, match days and tournament days and the surrounding streets and grass verges would be overwhelmed with cars parked all over the place.

If the rugby club do take it over they propose to erect a 16 feet high fence all round the park which would be an eye sore and horrendous to residents who overlook the park.

The lack of public toilets in the area would also be a problem for residents who may find people relieving themselves up against their fences which would be disgusting.

I have stayed in [REDACTED] for over 30 years and can remember when the rugby club used to use the park but had to stop using it as the field used to churn up into an unplayable mess and the playing area did have drainage installed but made no difference so they had to move to where they are now.

It would be a great loss to the people of Stonehaven and the schools if the Mackie Rugby Club did take over the Forest Park and fence it off to everyone with a high fence including the small car park next to the park which is used by the residents of Forest Park and parents taking their young kids to the play area.

Please save our park.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6th, November 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Asset Transfer-Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish my objections stated in this letter to be formally recorded.

I wish it to be noted that I do not have any objections to the rugby club , just the proposal of where they wish to move to .

I have lived in [REDACTED] for over 32 years and in that time have used the playing field for all that time , whilst my daughter was growing up and even she used it as an adult. I have also used it whilst recovering from illness as it was easy to access for me to exercise .

This in my mind is not a suitable area for the Rugby Club to use there are more suitable areas around Stonehaven which are not in a residential area.

I have listed some points below:

: This is a well populated residential area where a large number of families with small children live and they use this playing field and play area on a daily basis.

: This park is used by lots of people, from dog walkers ,children playing, in summer people have picnics , football is played here, tug o war teams use the park ,families playing with their children .

:What will happen to the well established trees ? Will they be removed?

:The removal of car park , car park being locked.

:The impact on residents with the noise, floodlights and the heavy amount of traffic both in car park and on the main road .

:Safety issues for children especially with increase in traffic.

:The removal of this large green open space which is well used throughout the year.

:Having a pavilion built at the back of your garden fence.

:Public toilets for spectators , or lack of public toilets where do they go ???

:Drainage of playing field was an issue when the rugby club used to practice here before . The ground was so churned up and the locals were unable to use the park after any practice sessions. This I believe is the reason the rugby club moved to where they are just now .

:This is a well used park by all ages .

:The way we found out about this proposal was thru Facebook not even an official notification?

This in my mind is not the right area for the rugby club.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 11:36:02

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tue, 9 Nov 2021 08:47:06

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

---

Dear Area Manager,

I wish to voice my concerns over the proposed rugby club at the back of Forest Park, Stonehaven.

My elderly in laws have lived in [REDACTED] since it was built. I don't want them living their retirement days with constant stress and concern re traffic, congestion and noise.

They enjoy the green space at the back of their house and do not welcome a rugby club to the area.

I can see the stress this is causing them already and wish to reject any proposals of change to the usage of the park.

With thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 11:38:47

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tue, 9 Nov 2021 10:49:36

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** forest drive park

**Importance:** Normal

---

I write with my deepest concern regarding the rugby club's proposals for Forest Drive Park.

Our property backs onto the park which was one of the main reasons for purchasing the property way back in 1987.

We have been so used to utilising the park - our boys used to play football every possible moment, now they bring their children who look forward so much to playing in it. We are so lucky to have this lovely, open green space and it makes us extremely sad that this may be taken away from us. It fills me with dread that when I look out my back window I will be faced with a 5 m high fence.

The park is enjoyed by all ages for various activities and during the pandemic it was a beautiful calming green space to enjoy a stroll and meet up with family and friends. It is so beneficial to people's mental health.

Another grave concern is the issue of parking. Forest Park is a residential area with very limited parking. As the existing car park is very limited in size there is a concern as to where all the cars and coaches will go on training and match days.

After the viewing the proposed plans there is a small triangular area at the back of our property - how will this be maintained?

Overall we are all for the rugby club flourishing but think this small area is not suitable if the club want to keep expanding.

I trust these points will be taken into consideration when decisions will be made.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

I am writing to object to the proposed Community Asset Transfer request of the park at Forest Drive. I wish my objections to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

The park at Forest Drive is an important green space at the heart of our community. It is the first place my children were allowed to go on their own, giving them a place to play where they could learn to be independent in a safe open environment. They met their friends, played football, rode their bikes, flew kites and model aeroplanes, safely, close to home. My sons used the park when they were in the Scout Movement for sports nights and wide games because it is the only large flat public area near the Scout Hut.

Personally I walked in the park when recuperating from an operation. I was unable to drive and felt anxious being far from my house. The walkway in the park provided a peaceful outing for me to regain strength in a relaxed green environment. More recently, during the Coronavirus lockdown, I regularly met friends there, helping to address loneliness and social isolation.

The area known locally as The Witchies has been suggested as an alternative recreational space. This land is owned privately, is not safe for children to play unsupervised and not flat. The school playing field nearby is now fenced off and not able to be accessed. Our accessible green spaces are disappearing at a time when we should be encouraging active lifestyles and mental well-being. Not everyone wants to play rugby. Some people might want to play football or rounders or fly a kite or ride a bike, or just run about! There's not a lot of room to do any of these things in the tiny public space which would remain in the south east of the site.

'Hamish's Park' was designed as an inclusive park, where disabled and abled children can play together. The proposals show that the adjacent car park will become rugby property for use by rugby players and their buses. It is not safe to park on a bus route to unload your children, and possibly pushchairs or wheelchairs, but this is what parents and carers would have to do.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill School.

I believe the Rugby Club did a survey which showed the park is hardly used. The result could be dependent on many things, such as weather, school hours, time of day. None of the parks in the country are busy all of the time!

As stated on [Aberdeenshire.gov.uk](http://Aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

**'The overall vision of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is to: "provide high quality multi-functional open space that is easily accessible, safe, welcoming, rich in biodiversity and sustainably managed for the future; which encourages a sense of belonging, and enhances the quality of life of those people who live, work in and visit Aberdeenshire".'**



**'The open spaces of Aberdeenshire contribute greatly to the quality of life of the residents whether it is for active or passive recreation, or just enjoyment of the open air. enhance opportunities for biodiversity/wildlife'**

Forest Park has recently had over 100 trees planted and has areas of uncut grass to encourage biodiversity. If the proposals go ahead, these areas will be removed. We should be encouraging tree planting to combat climate change, not clearing this type of areas. The space will not be multi-functional and will not enhance the quality of life of people in the neighbourhood, due to noise pollution, light pollution and increased traffic.

In the future I would like to see things in the park which would encourage a wider range of people to use it. A pump track could be built, to be used by cyclists, skateboarders and wheelchair users. Pump tracks are relatively cheap to construct, and could be great for encouraging people to exercise outdoors in the fresh air. It might particularly appeal to young folk and teenagers, who may not want to be part of a more structured sports club. Kinneff Tug Of War team regularly train in the park during the summer and held a Training Day competition there. Perhaps the park could become their official home.

Stonehaven Horizon Group could use an area of the park for their poly tunnels, as I believe they soon have to leave their premises.

A set of goalposts, rugby posts or basketball hoops would encourage more children in the neighbourhood to play there.

I appreciate that the local rugby club want to find a home. They did train in this park before, but their pitch was not fenced off which meant that on 'non-rugby' days the park was still able to be used by anyone. Indeed the children often played rugby on the pitch, or used the rugby posts as football goals. That is quite different from their current proposals for the site.

It is unrealistic to think that 41 spaces in the car park will be sufficient for players and spectators coming from their large catchment area. Realistically, people will travel by car, as they do now at the site at Redcloak. Parking in the surrounding residential streets will be a hazard and inconvenience for the residents.

The club provides rugby provision within Kincardine and Mearns. According to Mackie Rugby Football Club's constitution:

**Definition of Community (area) The club which is based in Stonehaven and within the Aberdeenshire Council Kincardine and Mearns Area:**

**Stonehaven - Mackie Academy and feeder primary schools**

**Portlethen - Portlethen Academy and feeder primary schools**

**Laurencekirk - Mearns Academy and feeder primary schools**

**This covers a local community area from Portlethen in the North, to Luthermuir in the South and in land to Banchory Devenick.**

Their 'community' covers a large area and a proportion of their players will have to travel, regardless of where their pitches are laid. It makes no difference to visiting teams where the pitches are, and may indeed be easier if a larger car park is provided. I find it hard to believe that there is no land that is more appropriate for their use in Kincardine & Mearns. There

must be a more suitable area, which is big enough to support their long term plans. According to their proposal, they wish to secure and develop the club, and expand with more participants. Does it make sense to move to an area which, they say, they will soon outgrow, while depriving a community of very precious space used by a variety of groups of people?

The club **will not** be homeless as stated on page 4 of their written proposal. At a public meeting, the landowner stated that he **will not** evict the rugby club from their present site until they have secured land. The club will continue to have the use of that land on an annual rolling contract while they search for a new home. They have been assured that they will have to fold.

The park at Forest Drive is not the right place for a development of this size. Please think carefully about what the local community will lose – an accessible green space which can be used by everyone.

Please save our park.

Regards,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.



6th November 2021

To whom it may concern,

I was very disappointed to learn of the plans to sell the green space at Mill O Forest to Mackie Rugby Club. I have lived at this address for over 10 years and in that time have been a regular user of the park. Before I had children, I used to play rounders and have picnics with friends or walk the dog, always picking up after her as I find it a disgrace that some dog owners don't. Since having children, we are even more frequent users of the park as our own garden is small and ball play often results in a ball over the fence disturbing neighbours. We use the open space at the park to play football and rugby and for the kids to play with the dog and have races. We fly a kite there on windy days and make snowmen in the winter. When my daughter mastered her bike without pedals (aged 5 at the time) she would cycle round the park whilst her brother (2.5) and I used the play park or went slowly round the path on his balance bike or on foot with the dog. It felt so safe to do this due to the open space and always being able to see my daughter, even when she was at the furthest end of the park. We wouldn't be able to do this if there was a 5m fence directly on the inside of the path as I wouldn't be able to run to her aid if she fell as well as my view being restricted. I know that the plans involve leaving the existing play park but I wouldn't feel happy to take my children to the play park whilst an adult rugby match or training was taking place. We all know that there is often foul language and at best, very loud shouting involved in coaching and/or spectating. My children would find that overwhelming. It would be even worse for any children with autism or noise sensitivity using the park.

It is awful to think that the seasonal and limited use of this green space by Mackie Rugby Club would take priority over year round use by all. The fact that the rugby off season is the summer holidays, when the park is most used would make it such a waste. When we first moved here there were rugby posts up in the park and youth teams used to train there. I don't understand why that stopped to be honest. I was a little relieved when it did stop as the amount of litter (mostly empty water and energy drinks bottles) that were left behind after training was a disgrace and quite the danger to wildlife and dogs. Provided that the Rugby Club were more responsible with that, there is scope for occasional use of the current facilities without excluding everyone else.

The green space at Mill O is barely big enough for the proposed pitches, as is evident by the inclusion in the plans of such a high fence to try to stop the ball from going onto the road or into the gardens of homes in Forest Park. I doubt that the fence will be enough to stop that and the potential risk to life and property damage should surely be enough for this proposal to be

rejected. The noise pollution to those same homeowners also makes this proposal an insult to local residents.

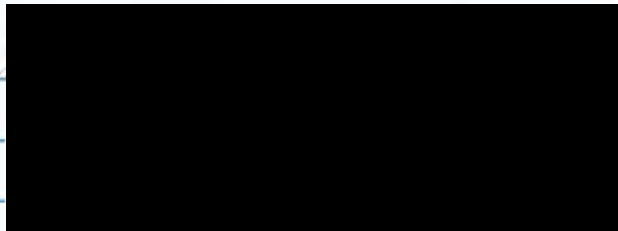
I understand that Mackie Rugby Club needs new facilities but I do not think the green space at Mill O is in any way appropriate. There is lots of open space on the Mackie Academy site. Is there not scope for this to be of use to Mackie Rugby Club with the added advantage that the school pupils would benefit from the facilities at times that the Club don't use them? Mackie Academy has long been in need for redevelopment. Surely that redevelopment will make it more of a community campus like Portlethen and the inclusion Mackie Rugby Club could be part of those plans, with temporary siting on the empty green space on site in the meantime? Or has that proposal been refused in favour of a licensed Club House off school grounds?

Regards,



A very disappointed local resident

Dear Alexander



Dear Aberdeenshire Council,

I don't want you to allow the rugby club to steal our park. They won't even use it all the time. we use it nearly all year round to practice our ball skills, ride our bikes, walk our dog and e.t.c

We want our park to stay as it is and not be turned into two rugby pitches with five metre fences around them. If you let the rugby club take our park then we won't be able to go and enjoy ourselves there. **SAVE OUR PARK!**

Kind regards,



**Archived:** 15 November 2021 11:44:23

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tue, 9 Nov 2021 08:12:00

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset transfer mill o forest park

**Importance:** Normal

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed asset transfer of mill o forest park to the local rugby club. Not only is this site not suitable for such a use, due to the lack of parking and the disturbance games would cause to locals due to light and noise pollution and congestion, but it is also fundamentally unjust to take a multi use area enjoyed by many and turn it over for use only by the few. As a resident of brickfield I walk my dog here every day. I see runners, kids playing, the elderly meeting on benches, families playing rounders and flying kites, as well as many dog walkers like myself. The park was a haven during lockdown for those with mobility issues who can't go far from their homes for exercise. Please don't take this green space away from our community. Whilst I'm sure the rugby club does great work for the minority community that use it, land can and should be found elsewhere, perhaps on the ury estate, to accommodate them.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 09 November 2021 16:32

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns <kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Cllr Wendy Agnew <cldr.w.agnew@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Dennis Robertson <cldr.d.robertson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Sarah Dickinson <cldr.s.dickinson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Sandy Wallace <cldr.s.wallace@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr George W. Carr <george.carr@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; cldr.i.hutchison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk; Cllr Leigh Wilson <cldr.l.wilson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr William Howatson <cldr.w.howatson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Ian J. Mollison <cldr.i.mollison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Alison Evison <cldr.a.evison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Alastair A. Bews <cldr.a.bews@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Colin Pike <cldr.c.pike@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Proposed Asset Transfer of Mill O Forest Park

To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

We are writing to you in response to the proposed Asset Transfer of Mill O Forest park to Mackie Rugby club from Aberdeenshire Council.

We wish this representation to be formally recorded and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee, advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

We have lived in [REDACTED] for over 30 years and use the park on a regular basis. The park is the only safe and easily accessed green area in this part of the town. It is used by many different groups of people for a variety of reasons. Our children played in the park and learned to ride their bikes there as well as playing safely with their friends. We now use the park for exercise, dog walking and entertaining young visitors who come to stay.

This park is perfect for our use as it is a wide open, flat surface that is within very easy walking distance. It is a safe environment because there are no roads to cross and there are no water hazards.

As we, ourselves, get older we find ourselves using the park for relaxation and improving our mental health. This has been particularly important during the recent Covid restrictions.

This would be such a loss to the local residents if this green space were to be taken away. It is also used regularly by the local schools, nurseries and play schemes.

If this proposed Asset Transfer goes ahead it will have a significant and detrimental impact on our life -

\*increased noise and light pollution

\*increased traffic congestion

\* if the club is licensed this could result in late night anti social behaviour

\* loss of a local green space

\* residents looking at a 5 metre high fence

\* restricted access to Hamish's Park

\* restricted or no access to glass recycling

\* increased parking on Forest Drive which is already a busy road with poor visibility when buses are stopped there.

Please consider these points and save our park.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 11:50:14

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tue, 9 Nov 2021 21:59:20

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal. I urge the Committee to reject the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for 5 years and used the park for recreation and exercise (especially during the pandemic), to entertain a friend's child in an emergency child care situation, for dog walking, and as a safe and direct access route to the station. I moved to Forest Park in large part for the peaceful surroundings and for easy access to this public green space.

This area is safe for my use because it's flat, with good lines of sight and multiple exits for myself as a lone woman. There are also local people around and constantly passing traffic, and so I feel safe. The park provides a place for children to play safely, well away from the busy Forest Drive road.

This park is important to me because it provides a place to be able to exercise, and to socialise with people I get little chance to know with a full time job. As an accessible green space during COVID it was invaluable as a community asset to feel that I was not alone and isolated: without it my mental health would have suffered. I enjoy its benefits not just when I am in it, but as I pass it each day.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community, which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because:

- 1) The local community would lose an essential public right of way to access local schools and public transport options. The proposed 5 m security fencing would detract from its current value as a community asset and isolate vulnerable and lonely members of the community.
- 2) Local residents would also be forced to make special additional trips to recycling facilities to recycle glass (which isn't easily carried by hand).
- 3) Levels of traffic generated would overload the local roads and become more dangerous. Forest Drive is already too narrow to allow on street parking and two directions of travel, especially with the bus route, causing repeated swerving of cars to allow oncoming traffic to pass. The road access is totally unsuitable for the busy traffic the club would generate on weekdays and at the weekends, at concentrated times like the start and end of matches/training sessions.
- 4) The Rugby Club's proposed usage would provide insufficient space for parking of cars and coaches. Busy school drop off/collection times are already problematic parking-wise on Forest Drive, and Forest Park was never designed to provide on street parking to residents, let alone parents or supporters ferrying kids to training sessions from across Aberdeenshire.
- 5) The proposed lighting would be very unhelpful for residents backing onto the park as it is extremely powerful and used at night, disturbing sleep patterns. The lights in their current position are distracting for drivers on a busy and fast main road, despite their position in a farming/industrial area.
- 6) The park isn't large and noise generated by the Club's previous (infrequent) usage has been a concern to residents. The rental of the Club's new facilities for parties and other functions, along with the probable near daily use of the pitches for training and games would be extremely detrimental to the peace of this residential area.



7) The children's play area, created as a result of a community campaign, would be much diminished in terms of its value to local families as a secure place to play because it would be marooned in the midst of busy car and coach parking and the security fenced facilities. I would imagine it might feel like playing in a prison yard.

The Rugby Club's proposal, if accepted, deprives local residents of many ages, activity levels, and interests, the only accessible public green space for miles, to serve the interests of a claimed ~300 members, many of whom have appeared to be poorly informed about the Club's plans. The club's CAT application doesn't anywhere claim the unanimous support of their membership community. I would urge the Committee to consider the petition being prepared by Save Our Park, signed by hundreds more local residents, as an indication of the greater value of the land at Forest Park compared to the Rugby Club's estimation of its value (£1). Local dog walkers feel the Club's public comments about the park's present usage have been dismissive and disrespectful of our communities' needs. I would also like to draw attention to the poor communication of the Club's plans (requiring an extension to the public consultation period), untrue claims about the sports usage designation, and the poor co- operation of the Rugby Club with other local organisations concerned with widening access to sport in Stonehaven (the Community Sports Hub, Live Life Aberdeenshire etc.), who together have opportunities to achieve this for many sports in a more powerful way that respects the local community rather than depriving local residents of a much-loved public local asset. I would respectfully suggest that the club's leadership is not a community body who have proven themselves trustworthy to manage such a valuable community asset for the wider good. Far from achieving community empowerment (as this act was designed), the Club's CAT application would disenfranchise and remove power from our local community, to its huge detriment.

Please save our park so that the wider community can continue to enjoy the park's social and broad recreational benefits.

Kind regards

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

Kincardine & Mearns Area Manager  
Aberdeenshire Council  
Arduthie Road  
Stonehaven  
AB39 2DQ



Date: 05/11/21

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write in response to the above proposal & wish to express our family's strong concern against this ground being sold and turned from leisure and recreational ground into a locked private sports ground.

I would like to start by commending the Stonehaven Rugby Club for everything they have and currently do for the community of Stonehaven over several years. They provide a club that welcomes & promotes all skill levels to not only train but are given an opportunity to match play at the weekend regardless of skill level. The club actively partakes in local social events and gala's to not only fundraise for the club but attract new members old & young.

As a homeowner in [REDACTED] and a resident in [REDACTED] with 2 young children that attend Mill O Forest School, Forest (Drive) Park is somewhere we visit every day in the summer and every second day in the other seasons. During this time, we as a family ride our bikes, play football, fly kites, play Frisbee and have free fun. As a parent, this park is perfect in shape, landscape, and fencing to allow our children sufficient freedom, protected from the main road (was prior to the removal of the mesh fence and replacement with a dozen 3ft posts) but to remain still in plain view of us as parents regardless of location.

As a child I remember playing in this area. Being given the freedom to go by myself with friends was a fantastic feeling. I want my children to be able to have the same equal opportunities and freedom that I did. If this section of land is transferred to The Rugby Club, the closest clean, safe green space of equal size for them and the many children who use this area will have to travel to Mineral well, crossing various busy roads. Thus, alone has a significant impact on accessibility & their safety.

As our children develop, this park again offers huge holistic attributes (socially, physically and mentally) in a safe & free environment. Supporting evidence of this is that Mill O Forest School/nursery & Carronhill School frequently use both facilities to meet the Get It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) wheel "Confident Individuals" Active section. "Having opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation, and sport which contribute to healthy growth and development both at home and the community". Another section within the GIRFEC wheel is the Effective Contributors - Responsible section "Having opportunities and encouragement to play active". Reading through the entire GIRFEC wheel there are numerous key development aspects that the park offers, but a private sports facility will not and will have significant detrimental effects not only on children, but adults and families that use the park also.

The Children's commission 2018 stated that all children require having sufficient free green space to help promote mental wellbeing and physical ability to prevent obesity. There are a high percentage of children that due to lack of facilities available in their community spend more and more time indoors playing computer. The play park and large grass area at Forest Park provides a large area for children and their families to enjoy the fresh air and interact socially.

UNICEF also said "Children have a right to play. It is crucial to their development. We feel that again by removing this free space will have significant detrimental impact". The people who do play rugby also have the right to play but just feel that this is not the appropriate space for them. We do support their need to find new space.

Systematically the local representation and Aberdeenshire Council are stripping Stonehaven of all its worth and reducing the council's responsibilities to an unacceptable or sustainable level. The Witchies sold to a private resident for a "nominal fee", Carlton House to flats, Housing office to be sold, Green Hut, Town Hall and outdoor swimming pool is being looked after by community groups, ground next to the cemetery out bided the Mackie Rugby club to build low-cost housing, Forest View potentially going to be closed and or utilized as part of this application, closed or closing 2 of our swimming pools that were not being offered to the community, but being utilized by the leisure centre to cater for the ever growing demand for swimming lessons along with all the additional housing being built with little to no additional facilities and amenities. When is Aberdeenshire council going stop pillaging all the lands for financial gain and start developing new facilities and amenities to keep up with the ever-expanding housing and population? I was very surprised when I attended the Save Our Park meeting at the Scout Hut to find that the Stonehaven Rugby Club has already reached stage 4 of its initial application? I do not feel the way this application has been submitted and processed has been in a manner that encourages equal opportunity for those that oppose this application and suitable time to react and respond in the given time period. Even speaking with the local sports council representative, she was unaware of the application and was only after being forwarded on a video call invitation that she became aware of the application and how far the application was already.

As per the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – asset transfer: social value guidance commonly used in this type of application I would like to highlight key points in this document where this proposal would not meet listed criteria in the above document.

- 1.1 – Stonehaven Rugby Club currently have suitable ground that is accessible to members in the short to medium term that has been more than suitable for the club for all this time (the landowner has offered an extension on a year-on-year basis till they find a suitable & affordable site.). The club has unfortunately spoiled the relationships of many jobs and local area businesses that the club paired with over the years and seems to be repetitive. They have the funding and support to privately purchase ground for sale in the past, but like any bidding purchase, it is not guaranteed to be the winning bid. Doesn't help when the local council are aware of the club's demand and out bided them on at least one of the proposed sites for more low-cost housing.
- 1.2 – Changing Mill O Forest Park from leisure and recreational ground to private sporting ground will not "make better use of", as the only people that will benefit from this will be paid members of the club and visitors on training and match days. There are far more children, adults, families, other sporting clubs, schools and groups that already attend &

benefit from this park v's members that would train and play at the grounds. Considering this park has had little to no money invested in it since "Hamish's Park" was built, it is one of the cleanest, friendliest parks in Stonehaven. Mill O Forest Park would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest remaining leisure and recreational park left in Stonehaven but is the cleanest even though there has been very little money spent by the council since "Hamish's Park was completed. The reason for this is not due to the council's high level of services provided, but the care and respect of the ever-increasing surrounding house-owners and visitors. Mineral Well park is full of abusive and intimidating school kids drinking alcohol. My sister found a syringe and needle in Redcloak Park and Mackie Academy fields are full of dog excrement even though there is meant to be no dogs allowed and is strewn with litter from the Mackie pupils.

1.3 - I, or a community group of residents would also be interested in purchasing the park ground, to keep it as a free leisure & recreational ground and better the play/exercise facilities on the ground as per section 5.1.

1.5 – The proposed price the Mackie Rugby Club is offering is not "Market Value" and with the lack of community benefits offered and not a "good use of public resources", does not justify the proposed discount. As a marker for the value, the price of the ground per acre should be compared against what the Aberdeenshire council paid for the cemetery ground that had planning permission for housing.

3.1 & 3.3 – By approving this proposal it will not promote (82 Asset Transfer Request: Decisions 3c) social, regeneration, economic, public health, social or environmental well-being to the community, only to the private members & club itself and to appease Aberdeenshire Council with their lack of investment in new sporting ground development within the town. There is no environmental wellbeing at all by this proposal and will be a complete eye sore in the middle of a housing estate with a huge carbon footprint, producing noise and light pollution. Looking at other local towns, they have moved their Rugby and sports grounds to the outskirts of the town to mitigate the said concerns and allow for future expansion. This will create detrimental socio-economic disadvantage, public health and wellbeing to all surrounding residents, children, adults, families, schools and other sporting groups that already currently use the grounds. As I am sure you will be aware of now, there is a huge interest in this proposal being rejected and just the talk of it is creating disturbance with the community due to its proposed location. The loss of the 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest, safest and cleanest remaining recreational space left in the town.

Below are listed some of the additional concerns that that other local towns have faced and resolved by moving sporting grounds to the outskirts of the towns to mitigate and allow for expansion with success.

**Safety** - The additional road traffic that the MFC will generate particular at training and match time will be unacceptable and unmanageable even with the proposal. This was already a problem when MFC used the park and was only one pitch every alternative weekend.

**Fence** - mental wellbeing in our own homes looking at a 5m steel fence that will completely spoil the hillside views.

**Noise pollution, disturbance and breach of the peace** – not being to enjoy or relax in own back gardens. After match celebrations and private functions. Is an Alcohol licence application going to be submitted?

**Light pollution** – into the rear of every single house facing the park from intrusive LED or Halogen lighting. The additional cost of black out blinds or curtains for all rear facing rooms. House value depreciation – The selling ability and value of the houses are going to be seriously reduced because the “private sporting facilities” will be no asset to the surrounding domestic area especially properties that back onto the field, opposed to being more favourable.

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 12:00:29

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, 10 Nov 2021 11:19:40

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for 1 year and used the park for walking my dogs, taking my daughter to the park to play football, fly her kite and to use the green space for general outdoor play.

This area is safe for my use because there is houses around the area compared to other areas nearby with other children that live in the area, it's not next to water and it's in easy walking distance to my house.

As my family grows I would use it for the same as above - taking my son who is due in March to play outdoor activities. This park is important to me because it's the only green space relatively close to where we live that has a kids park in it.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because there is more people that use it on a daily basis for many reasons than what the Rugby football club would use it.

Please save our park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Archived: 15 November 2021 12:01:58

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wed, 10 Nov 2021 11:11:22 +0000ARC

To: Kincardine and Mearns

Subject: Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

Importance: Normal

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Hello

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of the land at Forest Park, Stonehaven. I currently live in [REDACTED], Stonehaven and during the spring/summer/autumn months use the Park almost daily to allow my Toddler the free run of the grass area on our way home from school drop off at [REDACTED]. As a family we regularly use the field for picnics/football/rounders with friends due to the pandemic and encouraging our friends and family to meet outside and it is such a safe area for children. During our visits I have come across many children who live in the nearby Brickfield/Forest Park and Dunnottar Den estates. Often without their parents as it's a great open green space where they can safely walk to nearby their homes. These children are running free, in fresh air, keeping active and busy. Always a joy to see. Now I note the actual play area is not being touched but I would be sure that I wont allow my children to use the play area on match/training days and I am sure parents wont be so keen for children to play unattended as there will be a significant increase in traffic. This area is the only green space left in that area of our town. The alternative for children to kick a ball/ride bike in a vast space will be Mineralwell or Redcloak park. This is far to far away from that side of town.

We moved to [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] in 2020. Part of our decision to relocate was due to the Rugby Festivals held at Mackie Academy. On these days despite there being 2 large car parks at Mackie, ample on street parking in Edenview Estate those attending the Rugby matches were parking on Slug Road blocking crossings, on pavements on Slug Road, over peoples drives in Edenview. They had absolutely no consideration for others or safety. There will not be enough parking on those plans to accommodate the club at Forest Park. Those living in Brickfield/Forest Park are going to be dealing with inconsiderate parking every weekend and possibly during the week. Just before the pandemic there was a little girl knocked off her bike crossing at the Zebra Crossing due to the Rugby parents being parked on the Z lines that the parent and child had to come onto the road for visibility to cross and she was clipped by a car. The club needs extensive parking for what they are planning.

I agree the Rugby club do great things for the many youths that use it. However, we cannot lose green space that is used by so many.

Kinds regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 10 November 2021 11:54

To: Kincardine and Mearns <kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Asset transfer Forest Drive Park

Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for almost forty years and used the park for playing games and football with my children, nieces and nephews, children I have babysat for and also my grandson. I still walk around the park for local exercise and walk my grandson's dog there too.

This area is safe for my use because compared to other areas nearby I do not have to cross any main road to get there and can be accessed within minutes walking. There is plenty of room for children having a football match and elderly folk who enjoy walking their dogs and watching the children have fun without any danger of the elderly being hit by balls.

The park was a safe place when my children were young as I knew they could access it at Forest Park without having to cross main roads and there were plenty of folk in homes nearby who kept an eye on any strangers who may have been around.

I never had any worries knowing that they were playing in a safe area.

The children who live there and use it now have the same safety that my children had.

Parents can relax more knowing that their young children are not having to go down to Queen Elizabeth or Baird Park or even the Mineral Well without adult supervision.

As my children have grown up we have had great fun with my grandson spending time at the park playing football, running, flying kites and walking his dog. This park is important to me because it is a lovely safe place to enjoy light exercise and have fun watching the local children get out and enjoy fresh air and burn off excess energy. It's also a lovely park to enjoy a picnic in the warmer weather and many people use it for this.

It's the only park nearby for the residents of the recently built estate at Carron Den and they have a zebra crossing to enable safe and easy access to the park for exercise and fresh air and in this day and age of computer games etc we have to encourage children to get out and play as much as possible and where better than a safe park on Forest Drive.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.



The local tug of war team would also miss out on the use of this green space for their practice evenings.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because the park would be outgrown by the rugby club in a very short time as it is certainly not big enough to accommodate the plans that they have proposed for the future.

When the rugby club used the park in the past they created mayhem with parking issues and that was merely for training. It will be ten times worse if there are matches on and why should the residents have to lose the car park they have a right to as noted in their title deeds.

Local residents should not have to put up with blinding lights shining into bedrooms where they are trying to get young children to sleep. There is also the noise pollution which would affect those residing near the pitches.

Please save our park.

Kind regards

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A black rectangular redaction box covering the address area.

## **Community Asset Transfer request Forest Drive Park, Stonehaven**

Dear Councillor,

I am writing to you to let you know that I object to the Community asset transfer by Mackie Rugby Club to site 2 rugby pitches with changing rooms and a social club at the above location.

I would like my objections to be formally recorded and included in the report.

I have a number of reasons for my objection, however before I site these I would like to make it clear that I support the rugby club which provides a well used sporting outlet in our community. My issue is that Forest Drive Park is an unsuitable location for what is proposed.

My reasons for this are as follows.

Forest Drive Park is the only green area at west Stonehaven and currently serves the residents of Malcolms Mount, Canmore Park, Mill O' Forest, Brickfield Road Dunnottar Park and Riverside.

Removal of this amenity would mean that families would have to travel to the beach area of Stonehaven, an area which now appears to now be the designated focus for leisure and recreation for the town.

This area is over a mile from Forest Drive Park and despite good intentions; nobody is going to walk there. They are going to jump in the family transport adding CO2 emissions to the atmosphere and increasing the towns Carbon footprint. Forest Drive Park is within reasonable walking distance of the residential areas I have mentioned above.

Over a number of years, leisure and recreation facilities at Forest Drive Park have been systematically removed.

To the Councils credit, a large number of Oxygen providing trees were planted and a wild garden area was created.

Should the above proposal be approved, what will happen to these trees and wild area? They will they be ripped up and destroyed.

The current play area, Hamish's Park, was provided by private funding, this proves my point that a need was identified and was successfully met after the Council decided to remove play items from the park.

I would suggest that rather than take away community green space at the west of Stonehaven, consideration should be given to increasing the number of leisure and recreation areas and Forest Drive Park is ideally suited for this and such things as a skate / BMX or Pump track could be an option.

Last weekend I took a run out to Redcloak, where Mackie Academy Rugby Club currently has their pitch and changing facilities. A game had just concluded and I counted over 40 vehicles in the car park, with more entering as vehicles arrived to take players and spectators away.

Two facts immediately sprang to mind.

At least 40 persons had travelled to this location and if they could travel to Redcloak, then they could travel to any location. The Rugby Club catchment area includes Portlethen and Laurencekirk. Are we expected to accept that there are no suitable areas for rugby pitches between these locations and that Forest Drive Park is the last resort?

If Aberdeen Football Club had to propose moving to Kingswells sometimes you have to travel to get what you want and the Rugby club are no different in this respect.

Secondly the car park at Redcloak, which appears much larger than the one proposed for Forest Drive Park, was so busy with vehicles, that I doubt if there would be sufficient space for a similar or greater number of vehicles to safely use Forest Drive Park.

The risk of injury to a child or any person by being struck by a vehicle manoeuvring in the confines of the small car park is greatly increased.

I would now like to bring your attention to the change in demographic that would be created should this request be permitted.

Firstly as I understand it Hamish's Park is designed as an inclusive park for children.

The present car park will no longer be accessible from the current entrance. Children some with mobility issues will have to access the park from Forest Drive using what I can best describe as a very narrow muddy path completely unsuitable for wheelchairs etc.

In these days of inclusion for all, I think that this feels more like exclusion for many and access for a few.

There are plans to build a Social Club. My experience as a Police Officer with over 30 years service has shown me that locating a Social Club providing alcohol, on the edge of a dwelling area dramatically impacts on the safety and wellbeing of the residential community.

Add to this the detrimental increase in noise and waste pollution, with the potential for disorder to that area and these issues alone should be enough to show that Forest Drive Park is the wrong location for this application.

Looking at the proposal; Mackie Academy Rugby club has to provide evidence of what public consultation they have carried out.

My understanding is that they will carry out a consultation once the proposal has been passed. This is not what has been required of them and I wonder what other requirements they have failed to instigate.

Forest Drive Park is the perfect area for what it is. A park! It is used by all members of the community who come from various parts of the town and surrounding area, but it is mostly used by the local community, many of whom are elderly and are often without transport allowing them to go further afield.

It is an open space currently available to anyone and not one specific group.

In my opinion more should be done to this park to make it better for the people who use it and people who are yet to use it.

This is actually my main objection to the proposal. An amenity currently available to anyone will be removed and will be replaced by something which will be accessible to a few.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views and I would ask you to vote against this proposal which is not for the common good of the people of Stonehaven.

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 12:11:29

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, 10 Nov 2021 20:24:53 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

---

To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manger

I am writing to you in response to the proposal of Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for 20 years and use the park for dog walking and when my children were younger as an open space to play sports with them. My nephews use it when they visit to play football in.

It is a safe area as it is entirely open so you can see at a glance what is going on in it. It is also a great natural habitat for wading birds, with Oyster Catchers and Curlews using it often. In the summer it is alive with house martins and pied wagtails.

Due to being right on the doorstep it allows people who can't walk far get some nature and the mental health benefits this brings are well documented.

This space is used by Mill o' Forest School for Cross Country and Carronhill School often have a walk through it on the Way to Hamish's playpark.

This park is well used by neighbouring residents and is often a way of socialising with people from nearby as you walk round it together.

When this park was used for rugby training before Forest Drive was lined with cars and the pavements were covered in mud/ grass from the boots.

Mackie Rugby Club is a great community asset but taking away from a neighbourhood green space that is well used is not the place for their club. Flood lighting behind people's houses and the parking of cars and Coaches on what is already an increasingly busy road with the development of Dunnottar Park is not appropriate in this area.

Please save our park.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 12:12:42

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tue, 9 Nov 2021 19:41:26

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Forest Park Asset Transfer

**Importance:** Normal

---

Dear Area Manager,

I am emailing to lodge my concern and to ask for this asset transfer not to go ahead.

During the pandemic I think everyone realised just how important green open spaces near our homes are. We cannot lose an open green space that is close to so many families in the town. It is not the fault of families and children who use the park that the rugby club needs new premises.

I often walk up there as one of the many routes to walk around the town and when my children were younger we would go regularly to meet with friends there.

This is prioritising one activity over all people who live near the park and this is the only park in the south of Stonehaven.

Kind regards,  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 12:18:11

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, 10 Nov 2021 12:38:59 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** objection to asset transfer by Mackie Rugby Football Club relating to the land at Forest Park Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

---

Dear Sirs,

I'd like to state my strongest objection to the proposed asset transfer by Mackie Rugby Football Club which refers to land of Forest Park, Stonehaven.

In my view it is too small an area to build the 2 x full size pitches/clubhouse/changing rooms/storage and fitness suite on this green community space would be a huge loss of amenity for this community. It has huge implications for the neighbouring streets, in particular the Forest Park residents and Provost Barclay Drive residents in terms of noise, parking and crowds on match days/training.

The small car park beside the swing park is not big enough to hold all of the cars attending the rugby matches. I assume the intention is to have 2 x rugby matches playing at the same times on some occasions which would lead to even more congestion. The traffic will overflow onto the Forest Park Streets and also the Milo'Forest School Car Park which causes a nightmare for residents. The residents have to put up with the school traffic on a daily basis where there is speeding and parking across drive ways/on yellow lines and at weekends and holidays they get a well deserved break. The rugby matches being held at weekends and/or evenings and the training session will lead to constant traffic in and around this area. There needs to be a proper traffic and parking assessment carried out.

The intended club house also brings with it the potential for alcohol and rowdy behaviour in what is a quiet and safe family orientated environment in Forest Park. There is likely to be bad language and aggressive behaviour on match days – not all match days - but there will be and residents using their back gardens will suffer this on nice days.

I personally would feel it unsafe to allow my children to go to the swing park if the proposals go ahead as with the fences from the back gardens of the houses on one side and the fence of the rugby pitch on the other it will create an intimidating environment and teens are likely to gather here - there is already trouble with youths targeting the school nursery garden sporadically. I also would not like a club house being so close to a family residential area and a swing park.

This park has always been used as a community resource for children, adults and families where they can run, cycle, have picnics, fly kites, walk around, walk dogs, play football and by building the pitches/clubhouse would fundamentally change the use of the land by the community from green open space to one that is restricted. My son recently took part in a sponsored walk around this green park with his nursery and last summer every week I saw primary school children using it to run around as part of their P.E.

The Rugby Club may suggest that they will open the locked gates up to other groups who may wish to use these pitches but that doesn't allow for the general public use. The only other areas like this land is Mineralwell park and Mackie playing fields but these have other groups using these for different things and it would be too busy in these areas without Forest Park land.

Furthermore with climate change at the forefront of everyone's minds this week (COP26) there are approximately 100 trees proposed to be destroyed yet no like for like compensation is given for this act as there will be no more space to plant more.

In my view it is entirely different selling land that is disused, from selling this land that is and always has been used. The land has always been used for recreation in one form or another by the community and that should continue. It allows hands on activity by local people. Especially now as there is less land for this than previously.

I urge each councillor to go and view this land and the surrounding neighbourhoods. Hopefully you will see that this green open space is somewhere that we should protect and not one that should be destroyed and built all over.

I do think that the Rugby Club do great things for the youths of Stonehaven but I don't think this is the right piece of land for them to use.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 12:19:47

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, 10 Nov 2021 12:55:15

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset transfer

**Importance:** Normal

---

Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for almost forty years and used the park for playing games and football with my children, nieces and nephews, children I have babysat for and also my grandson. I still walk around the park for local exercise and walk my grandson's dog there too.

This area is safe for my use because compared to other areas nearby I do not have to cross any main road to get there and can be accessed within minutes walking. There is plenty of room for children having a football match and elderly folk who enjoy walking their dogs and watching the children have fun without any danger of the elderly being hit by balls.

The park was a safe place when my children were young as I knew they could access it at Forest Park without having to cross main roads and there were plenty of folk in homes nearby who kept an eye on any strangers who may have been around.

I never had any worries knowing that they were playing in a safe area.

The children who live there and use it now have the same safety that my children had.

Parents can relax more knowing that their young children are not having to go down to Queen Elizabeth or Baird Park or even the Mineral Well without adult supervision.

As my children have grown up we have had great fun with my grandson spending time at the park playing football, running, flying kites and walking his dog. This park is important to me because it is a lovely safe place to enjoy light exercise and have fun watching the local children get out and enjoy fresh air and burn off excess energy. It's also a lovely park to enjoy a picnic in the warmer weather and many people use it for this.

It's the only park nearby for the residents of the recently built estate at Carron Den and they have a zebra crossing to enable safe and easy access to the park for exercise and fresh air and in this day and age of computer games etc we have to encourage children to get out and play as much as possible and where better than a safe park on Forest Drive.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School. The local tug of war team would also miss out on the use of this green space for their practice evenings.



The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because the park would be outgrown by the rugby club in a very short time as it is certainly not big enough to accommodate the plans that they have proposed for the future.

When the rugby club used the park in the past they created mayhem with parking issues and that was merely for training. It will be ten times worse if there are matches on and why should the residents have to lose the car park they have a right to as noted in their title deeds.

Local residents should not have to put up with blinding lights shining into bedrooms where they are trying to get young children to sleep. There is also the noise pollution which would affect those residing near the pitches.

Please save our park.

Kind regards

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted address line 1]

[Redacted address line 2]

[Redacted address line 3]

[Redacted address line 4]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 12:22:22

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, 10 Nov 2021 13:07:21

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Mill of Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

---

Dear Area Manager,

I'm writing on behalf of my family to object in the most strenuous way to the proposed Asset Transfer of Mill of Forest Park to Mackie Rugby Club.

Let me begin by saying that I'm a Football Coach for Stonehaven Youth FC and fully support any sports club to get the best possible facility to engage and encourage our youngsters to enjoy and develop their sporting abilities.

However, handing over Mill of Forest Park to Mackie Rugby is not the solution in this case. Our family has used that park for the 16 years we have lived and enjoyed Stonehaven. We have spent countless hours at the children's play park as its the best equipped in Stonehaven for the younger age group. How anyone can actually imagine that play park could continue to operate within the proposed new environment is beyond me. I'm sure you will be well aware of how well the car park is used for that exact function and losing that and proposing to maintain the play park will drive the parents to parking on the road and increasing the dangers on what is already a "faster than should be" strip of road.


A very broad spectrum of the community use that valuable piece of land from the pre and early school years at the play park to older kids having a kick around of football and rugby. Countless numbers of dog walkers use the park as well as the older generations out having a stroll.

Displacing a huge range of the community to suit one very specific group is quite wrong and there will be a huge backlash against the Council if this goes ahead. I believe the asset transfer would just be £1 which simply adds insult to injury.

We are counting on you and your colleagues to do the right thing when the vote comes and continue to find the Rugby Club a suitable home elsewhere.

Very Best Regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



9<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager  
Aberdeenshire Council  
Viewmount  
Arduthie Road  
Stonehaven  
AB39 2DQ

Dear Sir

**Proposed purchase of land adjacent to Forest Drive by Mackie RFC**

I wish to express my extreme concern with regard to the above matter. Although I do not live immediately adjacent to the park, I value it greatly as a pleasant and easily accessible area in which to relax and enjoy gentle exercise, it frequently featuring as part of one of my daily dog walks. I believe that the sale of this land to the Mackie Rugby Club would be a gross betrayal of the local community, the members of which place a high value on this amenity.

My disquiet is based on many factors some of which I outline briefly below.

- The park is popular with a wide variety of people of all ages – parents with small children; elderly locals who cannot venture far from home; people with disabilities which inhibit free movement; local children; dog walkers; the two schools which closely abut this land.
- Ease of access to this park is one of its great advantages: it is level; the paths are relatively even and there is a car park. These are all important features for those using wheel chairs, children's buggies and anyone with mobility issues.
- It is well documented that people's physical and mental well being are positively influenced by "green lungs" within their community. This is exactly one of the plus points of this area, and I have heard of several people who are distressed by the thought that they might lose their dearly loved amenity.

If this proposed change of use goes ahead it will have a detrimental effect on the local community on so many levels.

- There will be noise and light pollution.
- Increased traffic will endanger small children and pets.
- This traffic will also create parking problems for the residents.
- Increased traffic (cars and buses) will pollute the atmosphere.
- The takeover of the land will have a negative effect on the value of houses adjacent to the park.

It has been suggested that there are alternative open spaces for the local community to use. Where are these spaces? There are none suitable within easy reach of those who use the park on a regular basis. The nearest green area is probably between Riverside Drive and the River Carron: an area which is vastly unsuitable due to its distance from the area beside Forest Drive, its topography, the very limited access and total lack of opportunity for parking. It would be of no use for the local lads who like an informal kick-about in the park before tea – or anybody else who just pops into the park for a few minutes. In addition, in these days of COP26 and saving the planet, is it justifiable to ask people to use their cars simply to access a green space somewhere else in the town?

Why has this park been earmarked by the rugby club? Has it no imagination? Is it because the land is being “sold” for a derisory sum? Surely there are other potential sites for the club to set up camp. For example, there is a lovely large, level area on the corner of Slug Road and Farrochie Road, an ideal site considering its proximity to the club’s current location. What is wrong with Mineral Well where there is already a strong focus on sport?

It seems to me that it is grossly unfair that a minority group such as the Rugby Club should be allowed to have such a devastating effect on the large number of people who love and use the park on a regular basis. The Club will not be using the space every week and month of the year, whereas many of the locals go in there every day. Furthermore, there is no realistically viable alternative to this much valued and well used open space.

When making a final decision about the future of this space please give due consideration to the very many people who will be heartbroken if they lose out to the rugby club

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 10 November 2021 17:25

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns <kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Cllr Wendy Agnew <crr.w.agnew@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Sarah Dickinson <crr.s.dickinson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Dennis Robertson <crr.d.robertson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Sandy Wallace <crr.s.wallace@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr George W. Carr <george.carr@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; crr.i.hutchison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk; Cllr Leigh Wilson <crr.l.wilson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr William Howatson <crr.w.howatson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Ian J. Mollison <crr.i.mollison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Alison Evison <crr.a.evison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Alastair A. Bews <crr.a.bews@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Colin Pike <crr.c.pike@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Save our Park

To whom it may concern,

I am emailing to raise my concerns about the proposal of the Mackie Rugby Football Club taking ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council.

The Mill of Forest Park is a valued piece of green space enjoyed by the community. From dog walkers, to families, to seniors like myself who use this space for their daily walk or exercise, the loss of this space would have a negative effect on us all.

The installation of the rugby pitches would mean the complete loss of the open park space, car parking facilities for the play park, as well as the bottle bank.

I ask that you reconsider this proposal and look elsewhere for a green space. Somewhere that will not disrupt the surrounding community and their everyday lives.

Thank you for your time and I hope that you take this matter as seriously as I do.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 10 November 2021 20:29

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns <kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Cllr Wendy Agnew <cllr.w.agnew@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Sarah Dickinson <cllr.s.dickinson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Dennis Robertson <cllr.d.robertson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Sandy Wallace <cllr.s.wallace@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr George W. Carr <george.carr@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; cllr.i.hutchison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk; Cllr Leigh Wilson <cllr.l.wilson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr William Howatson <cllr.w.howatson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Ian J. Mollison <cllr.i.mollison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Alison Evison <cllr.a.evison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Alastair A. Bews <cllr.a.bews@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Colin Pike <cllr.c.pike@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Asset transfer Forest Park

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10<sup>th</sup> November 2021

For the attention of the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Save our Park**

---

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for 27 years and now [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for 1 year. I regularly jog around the field while round visiting my elderly parents. I have enjoyed using the park with my nephew for playing football and flying a kite.

As I get older I would continue to use the park for jogging. As for my elderly parents who live in [REDACTED] this would be an ideal green space for them to enjoy for walking as it is within walking distance and away from traffic.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O' Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suitable to this area because of the safety concerns for children due to the lack of parking for the play park resulting in cars having to use Forest Park and Forest Drive. This could also increase the risk of potential accidents to happen with the bus stop and the increased traffic parking on Forest Drive. If the Rugby club was also to use this space it would be extremely problematic with their cars and buses. Furthermore, on training days and the rugby club using this space there would be a higher level of noise pollution.

Kind Regards

Your Faithfully

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 10 November 2021 20:33

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns <kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Cllr Wendy Agnew <cldr.w.agnew@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Dennis Robertson <cldr.d.robertson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Sarah Dickinson <cldr.s.dickinson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Sandy Wallace <cldr.s.wallace@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr George W. Carr <george.carr@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; cldr.i.mollinson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk; cldr.i.hutchison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk; Cllr Alison Evison <cldr.a.evison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Leigh Wilson <cldr.l.wilson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Alastair A. Bews <cldr.a.bews@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr William Howatson <cldr.w.howatson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; Cllr Colin Pike <cldr.c.pike@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Asset transfer Forest Park

[REDACTED]

Aberdeenshire Council  
View mount  
Arduthie Road  
Stonehaven  
AB39 2DQ

10th November 2021

For the attention of the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

Dear Sir/ Madam

Reference: Proposed Asset Transfer by Mackie Rugby Football Club relating to the purchase of land at Forest Park Stonehaven.

I write in connection with the above application. I have examined the plans and I know the site well having lived here for over 30 years. We have used the car park and the field itself for playing with my children and crossing the park to take them school and hopefully will be able to do the same with my grandchildren. I wish to strongly object to the asset transfer of the Forest Drive Park to Mackie Rugby Football Club.

The proposed change of use is particularly ill-considered:

Forest park is a greenfield site used by many residents for recreation such jogging, walking dogs, playing sports, and other leisure activities including cross country by Mill' o Forest primary school therefore making the site exclusive to the rugby club is of detriment to everyone in the local area. This is of particular importance as there is no other green space for leisure purposes for those of all ages in this area.

Additionally there is a safety issue for children given the lack of parking for the play park which would force cars to park onto Forest Drive and into Forest Park housing estate. Given the bus stop at the top cars would be parked all the way down Forest Drive and children could be hit by traffic when going to and from the park. This would be especially problematic when the rugby club is also in use with cars and buses coming in and out of the car park.

The increase in traffic would also pose congestion issues on Forest Drive and Into Forest park estate. There is limited residential



parking in Forest Park estate itself without additional traffic from those wishing to use the play park or overspill from rugby club car park. Furthermore this would increase noise and pollution.

The proposed plan will also be detrimental to the health and well-being of everyone. The area is a local green open space used for a variety of purposes detailed above. However the residents looking out onto the proposed plan of a 5m fence will be affected as instead of looking out to the open space you will be faced with a fence round the entire field and will feel hemmed in.

There will be a large increase in noise on a regular basis due to traffic on training days and especially on match days with proposed coaches turning at the bottom of our back garden . Additionally, the noise itself from the actual rugby players and spectators given the general increase in number of people using the space at any one time. This would be of particular problem in the summer when you wish to sit and relax in peace in your own garden.

The park should continue to be available for everyone of all ages and perhaps providing an outdoor gym and more picnic benches for families to use.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Kincardine & Mearns Area Manager  
Aberdeenshire Council.  
Viewmount.  
Arduthie Road.  
Stonehaven AB39 2DQ

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

To the Area Manager.

I have been aware regarding the land of Forest Park, in Stonehaven through friends and neighbours.

I have used the park many times with my friend's dog. I very often see families kicking a ball, having a picnic and a lots of dog walkers. In general families having quality times.

It would be awful if the park was to be turned into two rugby pitches with clubhouse, changing rooms and fitness suite etc... for the residents living around Mill O Forest and for everybody in general. A lot of families will be deprived of this beautiful park which is a calming place.

A car park with 41 spaces will increase traffic and pollution. We are supposed to save the environment.

I am against any proposed plans.

Your faithfully.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 11 November 2021 at 13:15:32 GMT  
**To:** [kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** Mill o Forest Park

For the Area Manager.

Having lived in [REDACTED] for forty years and enjoyed a great neighbourhood and surroundings, I object to the proposed asset transfer of the land to Mackie Rugby Football Club.

I appreciate that there are many rugby players in the town as we have watched, in the past, as they trained on the park several times each week and encouraged an ever increasing number of young players on Saturday mornings. I have to mention that Forest Drive was lined with players' cars during these hours and that was only at practice sessions, so the thought of proper games with additional cars for spectators and buses for visiting teams conjures up a parking nightmare for all surrounding streets.

This park is an area which I have used more recently in lockdown as an area to clear my head and get out of the house for some time to myself. It is the only open space on the level in this part of our town. I am fortunate in that I am still able to walk up the steep hills throughout Stonehaven but appreciate that some day I will not be able to do so and will join the many people who use the park for their regular daily exercise.

Our grandchildren live in NZ but when they visited they spent quite some time playing in the park as children should do. It was even a novelty for them to see trains going past. It is a safe place for our younger ones with no need to cross roads. We used to watch children playing in the open space at Carronhill but that has been securely fenced off. Mill o Forest play area is out of bounds during school hours with a gated fence around the area and can be very unsuitable for play on wet days, so this park is the only place for local children to play and run free.

To have our park fenced off to the public and floodlit is unthinkable. Nobody would want to walk along the remaining narrow alley left between the fences. There is no space.

I know that our park is used as a meeting place, often after school, for young folk from all the surrounding areas not just Forest Park but Malcolm's Mount, Brickfield, Dunnottar Park, Riverside Drive and it's good that there's an open space for them to meet. There is NO other place.

Finally, I believe that the proposed plans show that the bottle bank will be removed from the carpark. I object to yet another removal of a well used amenity for the surrounding area.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 14:17:23

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, 10 Nov 2021 17:06:24 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Forest Drive Park

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for 42 years and used the park for my children's safe playing area, picnics, children's parties, exercise, dog walking and group social events

This area is safe for my use because it is near my home, flat, and no roads to cross compared to other areas nearby . It is the only green space/ park at this side of town.

It is used by residents of Forest Park, Brickfield, Riverside Drive, and new estates being built as well as Children from Mill o Forest school and Caron hall.

As my family have grown up my grandchildren use the park and as I get older I use the park for exercise with friends and neighbours and for picnics. This park is important to me as new estates are being built around us, it is vital to keep this area for recreation purposes. The car park was built at the same time as the estate and is used for excess car parking and commercial vehicles which are not supposed to be parked on the street in Forest Park estate.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area.

There will be a 5 metre fence, an eyesore. It will prevent residents using their gates onto the park.

There will be flood lights and noise pollution.

Car parking will be a problem and may overflow into Forest Park as it did before when the rugby club used the park.

Recently planted trees will be destroyed which is unacceptable.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is used by so many people

Please save our park.

Kind regards  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 14:22:43

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, 10 Nov 2021 18:11:30

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Objection to Asset Transfer - Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

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FAO Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for over 30 years and used the park since I was a child. My friends and I would regularly play football/cricket/rounders/catch and even flying model planes there too. I then took my young daughter to play games and learn to ride her bike there. I still use it regularly.

The Park is an essential green space to the surrounding area. It's easily accessible, safe and has been very important to people during the pandemic. I know a number of people in the estate with accessibility issues who have found it a life saver. It's used daily by joggers/dog walkers and for general exercise. It's also used by the local primary school, I see excursions from Forest View centre take people with special needs there. Nurseries also take children to the park and it is used by Carronhill. Now that Mill o' Forest school park is fenced off, having a flat open space is very important as a safe play area for children.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community. In fact, as the local area has grown and the number of residents increased with new housing, it's disappointing green spaces and facilities have decreased.

I am also concerned by noise and light pollution as well as Parking issues. The Rugby club utilised this land once before and abused it. They completely tore up the field, spread massive amounts of mud all over the pavement/road and parked on the road by the gate causing a traffic issue. They refused to use the car park and they also situated an eyesore of a shipping container at various locations.

I received no notification and saw no signs relating to this. I only found out through a neighbour who found out on a social media platform.

According to the Asset Summary: Transfer Guide: section 10

"The relevant authority must tell people who own, rent or use the land or building about the request, and put up a notice where people can see it. They should also put a copy of the request and all the papers on a website for people to see"

Please save our park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 14:24:42

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, 10 Nov 2021 19:54:54 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer of Land at Forest Park Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager,

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Club to take ownership of Forest Drive Park as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council.

I have lived in the area for all 24 years of my life and have shared many memories within Forest Drive Park. It is a green, safe space for many within the area. When walking there I often run in to the same people who reside in the area and it is there only source of socialisation throughout the day. To take this away would have a massive effect on a lot of residents, regardless of how they choose to use the area. In my opinion, being able to go and walk your dog in a safe nearby space holds just as much important as the rugby team having an area to practice. Exercise is exercise, and to place value on one more than the other is incredibly unfair.

Being a paediatric nurse that works 12 hour shifts, coming home and being able to take a short walk to Forest Drive park as my nearest green space is very important to me. Without this area I wouldn't have the time to walk to another suitable location after shifts without being stuck out in the dark at night. As a young woman in the current climate, walking out late alone is not something I would enjoy doing, meaning I would have to drive instead. I enjoy a walk after my work and welcome the fresh air after being stuck in a hospital for hours on end, so I feel like the loss of this area would definitely impact my mental health.

Having attended Mill O' Forest school as a child I know how highly valued this park is by both the staff and the pupils. It is often used for not only sports events such as cross-country, but also for recreational time outside. In addition to this, Carronhill school also feels the benefits of the green area and to build 2 rugby pitches with a large 15ft fence round it in the middle of the route towards their nearest play park, which is actually purposed for children with special needs, seems extremely distasteful. Even with a small path going around these proposed fences, it would make these trips for the staff and the children much less enjoyable, limiting the opportunity of engagement with the nature that already exists within the park area.

I hope that the Mackie Rugby Club do find a new home for their training, however I think it is clear that Forest Drive Park is not suitable and I urge you to rethink this current proposal. In reality, I think it is obvious that this space cannot be used without affecting all the residents within the local area. For example, it is widely recognised round Stonehaven that parking causes a lot of problems around Mackie Academy itself when the Rugby Club are playing. With both the Stonehaven team and competitors needing access to parking, it is undeniable that there will not be enough space to accomodate all these vehicles without spilling over in the nearby streets and outside resident's properties. Clearly a larger space is needed for this club and the current proposal really feels like a rushed, temporary solution which will undoubtably raise problems that will need addressed further down the line.

Please save our park which you can see by the recent petition and meeting with the community council, is loved by many. It would be such a huge loss to Stonehaven as a community.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Resident of:

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 14:26:22

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, 10 Nov 2021 20:22:48

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Save our Park

**Importance:** Normal

---

Good evening,

I'm writing about the proposed asset transfer of the park at mill of Forest by the rugby club.

I am against this, Myself and my family use this park multiple times for a variety of reasons in a week.

This being the only flat park in Stonehaven that I can take my father in his wheelchair.

Staying in [REDACTED], I will be greatly affected by the large amount of cars there will be parked along Forest drive as there is not enough room for two cars to pass safely never mind larger vehicles trying to get through. This was a problem when the rugby club used it previously, the club is has grown so much since then.

If you pass redcloak on a match day you will understand my concerns.

I also have to ask how you would feel having a club house built in your back garden.

Best Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 14:27:53

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, 10 Nov 2021 23:49:09

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer Request by Mackie Rugby Football Club

**Importance:** Normal

---

Hi, may I raise concerns regarding this request. It's super that the Club have means and impetus for such a development. This would point to their ability to complete such a development elsewhere.

The planned development would deprive many groups of the facility for both organised and ad hoc sports. If Aberdeenshire wishes to divest itself of maintenance costs for this land, why has it not been made available to the wider community as an Asset Transfer? The community has shown it can organise (if informed).

This is one of the only parks with safe parking adjacent to flat footpaths giving direct unshared access to less able people of all ages.

Such unfettered access is crucial for building confidence and growing interest / aspirations - be it with elderly using walking aids or partially sighted developing tricycle skills. En route to confidence, mental health is stimulated with social interactions with differing age groups.

I ask that you reconsider options for this park to serve the wider community across the sports spectrum rather than one specific sport.

Thank you for reading.

[REDACTED]



**Archived:** 15 November 2021 14:29:36

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 11 Nov 2021 08:39:23

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Park space at Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

---

[REDACTED]

As senior residents of [REDACTED] we wish to protest against the proposed plans for our green public space at Forest Park. We make use of that space, near to home, to walk and enjoy the exercise as we walk around the path when the grass is wet and across the grass as a short cut to the station or to go further down Forest Park. It is good to see the young people enjoying ball games and the dog walkers exercising their dogs chasing and careering around the space the park affords.

As well as the above reasons we will include many more points as follows:

- \* use of the park space by the rugby club would increase traffic to the point where it would be unsafe.
- \*there are 138 houses in Forest Park with an average of two cars per household which makes it a fairly busy street without the influx of many more cars.
- \* the car park is already well used by the parents of children using the play park and overspill for the car owners and visitors coming to Forest Park.
- \*loss of this parking space would have a huge impact on the people living in the street.
- \* the light and noise levels would increase and alter our peaceful environment.
- \* we would fear that increased traffic would impact on every area of grass in the street as well as in all the areas in which they plan to park their vehicles.
- \* the area would look like a prison exercise yard with a high fence surrounding it which would not be aesthetically pleasing
- \*there would not be a safe area for families to use.
- \* the schools around the park would lose the use of the park which would impact on their ability to have a large outdoor space for activities.
- \* we are convinced that the taking over of the park would just be the start as the Rugby Club advance their plans to provide a club house which would presumably be used out with games times causing more parking and noise problems.

Please accept this as our formal objection to the proposed plans by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take over the precious green space which the people of Forest Park and surrounding area have enjoyed for the last 45 years.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]  
Kincardine & Mearns Area Manager  
Aberdeenshire Council  
Viewmount  
Arduthie Road  
STONEHAVEN  
AB39 2DQ

Mr [REDACTED]

I have lived in Stonehaven since 1970, at [REDACTED] in my parents' home until 1986, various other addresses in the town until moving into [REDACTED] in 1991 and right now we are moving into [REDACTED] again. In the thirty years at Forest Park some I've spent a considerable amount of time barbecuing and looking over my back fence at the green space area known as "Land at Forest Park" in the Asset Transfer Request from Mackie Academy Rugby Football Club. This activity in itself was for me a way of de-stressing after busy weeks as a Guidance Teacher at a Local Secondary School and most definitely helped my mental health.

At the moment it appears to me that we are being faced with two unacceptable options that this request has presented.

1. Fencing in the Park with a very high security fence for the preferred or more realistically, the sole use of MARFC
2. Finding MARFC homeless and at risk of them having to fold.

I cannot support granting this request at this time and I will endeavour to explain my reasons for this.

I am also aware that this has become a divisive issue and that two "sides" have evolved. The "Save our Park" side and the Rugby Club side. I do hope that this issue will not be settled simply on counting the submissions on either of these sides. There is enough support on both to warrant a postponement of a final decision. Most people in the "Save our Park" camp have plainly stated that they are not anti-MARFC, I hope this respect is reciprocated by MARFC. Both sides have canvassed for as many representations as they can. I have a foot in both camps, a long term Forest Park resident and I am a life member of MARFC but I have not been active within the club for more than twenty years. My position is that the request should be refused at present and a third option sought, however if this is truly not achievable as a prospect then in two years time the request from the club should be re-submitted and then I would reluctantly support it as I find option 1 only slightly less desirable than option 2.

### **What I have used Forest Drive Park for.**

I frequently walk round the park; the relatively recent path has made this possible however it could do with some maintenance as it does become wet and muddy. The path was constructed as part of the Hamish Park project to enable wheelchair users from Forest View Centre, Carronhill School and Mill O Forest School to access the play park from those sites. I do use it as a running route even though I am not very fast. I have rolled Easter eggs with my family down the slight slope near the previous swings. I have had a casual kick about there. I was an active playing member of MAFPRFC until 1995 and have both trained there and even played there usually at the annual match with the crew of HMY Britannia. I can vouch that there would need to be considerable earthworks to make it fit to play and train for Rugby; should the request be successful. I've flown a kite there, when my daughter was younger I regularly took her to use the old and new play parks.

My Barbecue area is situated right against the fence at the back of the park. It affords beautiful views of the park and Cheyne Hill beyond. However I am able to converse with lots of my neighbours and other locals in the park, and really enjoy doing so. I am also able to see what folk get up to in the park.

### **What I have seen others doing in Forest Drive Park**

I see lots of people walking their dogs. I cannot give numbers but there must be hundreds and Dog walking as a physical exercise and mental health routine deserves respect. I see people having picnics in good weather. I see lots of families spending time together, parents playing with their children, children playing with other children. Several sports people of different interests use the park to train; I would hope that MARFC would allow those individuals to continue to do so. I've seen others flying kites, model aircraft and more recently drones. Children are often taught to ride their bikes in safety. Proud parents and grandparents can be seen pushing prams and push chairs. In short it is a family friendly green space which is well used. It would be a big loss behind a fifteen foot security fence.

### **What I would like to see in Forest Park**

The park could be enhanced of that there is no doubt. Currently part of Hamish Park is fenced off, I assume because it requires repair. The removal of the chain fence along the Forest Drive side has made the place much more pleasant and accessible. The final removal of the container placed there by MARFC to store equipment for training has also improved the area and made it safer for children. I am a plot holder with Stonehaven Allotment Association and think there is scope for some of the ground to be used as a community Allotment, in my opinion for the use of service users of Forest View Centre, Carronhill School and Mill O Forest School. These groups have struggled to use the Baird Park site due to distance. Sets of goalposts would be a welcome addition. The threat to the Park has awakened people's interest in its usage and I'm confident that the local community would support enhancement of the park with actions.

## **What I object to in MARFC's physical plans**

Firstly I am not clear as to whether this request means that planning permission is approved or will be granted automatically so initially I will state my objections to the practical

### **Objections**

1. Fencing off the whole project with a fifteen foot security fence.

Limiting the general public's access is wholly undesirable to the park in my opinion, because of the current uses I have already stated; however it would be an inevitable consequence of the club developing the ground. Having played Rugby myself and looking at the plan the club has displayed I have no doubt that even a 15 foot security fence will not stop touch kicks landing in some gardens and onto Forest Drive at the other end.

I also would object to the erection of a 15 foot fence close to my back fence regardless of where I lived and I cannot believe that official planning permission would be granted for the fence. Looking out at a 15 foot fence is not good for anyone's mental health.

2. Parking

The club's Business Plan states that there is space for 41 cars in the existing car park and "there is ample on street parking along Forest Drive which has been used without issue for many years". I would dispute the "without issue" statement and the use of the word "ample". When the club previously utilised the Park, Forest Drive was reduced to single track road no passing places and the increased capacity of two pitches would make matters worse. The number of cars attracted to Mackie Academy currently, when the club hold events there is witness to the number of spaces required. The school has two large car parks yet frequently cars are parked on the pavement on the Slug Road and within Edinview estate. The plan also states "we would create a turning circle within the facility" this isn't visible on the site plan.

3. Upheaval during the development.

This would be considerable, disruptive and unwelcome.

4. Isolation of the Hamish Play park

While the plans clearly state that the park won't be part of the asset transfer, it will be surrounded and would be a much less pleasant facility because of that.

## **Unease at the Club's Strategies**

I have not played an active part in the clubs fortunes for many years but I am a Life Member of Mackie Rugby club and have been a member since the early 1980s. I admire the club and am proud of it and its activities. I am certain that Stonehaven and the surrounding area would be impoverished should the club fold because of the lack

of a home. I know the club is desperate and as a result may have felt it necessary to “play its cards very close to its chest”. However some of the statements made in their submissions are contestable and a little disparaging towards others interests.

The club is being granted some flexibility from the current landlord of the remaining pitch; therefore this decision does not have to take place immediately. The club have stated in their plans that “Following a positive response to this application, the rugby club will engage with the community themselves, and with the help of a local professional body to ensure all the required consultation takes place”. Personally I find this order of action as being quite simply wrong and almost insulting. The posting of the notice regards the C.A.T. request was the first knowledge of their intentions for many. I must assume that this is standard acceptable practice in pursuing an Asset Transfer and the club has not breached any procedural rules. I think they really should have canvassed the immediate neighbours of the project as a matter of courtesy and in the interest of future good relations. This application is at stage 4 and Stonehaven Community Sports Hub was ‘disappointed’ that the club had not kept them informed of the progress of the application. The plans were on display at a Club Open Day in August 2021 but that event was not widely advertised beyond the club’s website. The club may have approached the Community Council but they did not receive unanimous support from that body. Indeed on November 9<sup>th</sup> the Community Council passed a motion opposing the transfer. I think that MARFC know or knew that there would be considerable local resistance but due to the critical nature of their situation have had to pursue the CAT request seriously.

### **It’s not the right place**

If this is truly the only option for MARFC to attain a two pitch facility it must be the best. However for all sorts of reasons I think that the club could be saddled with an unsuitable site for their future activities and growth. I recognise that nothing is impossible in terms of land works but even though it is a relatively flat site the quality of the soil is not adequate. I worry that a solution may be to raise the playing surface and that would have privacy issues for the local residents. There would be no scope for extension or expansion but wouldn’t this also be true of Mill O Forest and Forest View? The current pitch at Redcloak involved significant earthworks to flatten it which in turn led to a very good-quality surface after some work (I was House and Grounds Convenor for a couple of seasons in the late 1980s). A flat site is not essential for the club’s purpose.

I was once told in another capacity, that “the Council simply didn’t have any land to give away”. I am aware of how difficult it is to acquire land in the Area. The price of land is directly affected by the designated land use and when development is permitted, the prices rise. After the “Save our Park “ meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup> I think there is a groundswell to put pressure on our local Councillors regards the Local Development plan to include an area to be designated as Community use or “Not for Housing or Development”. I recognise this may be a ‘pie in the sky’ dream. It would mean a sort of green belt corridor beyond the bypass. However it would also make the land beyond it more desirable for development but would also push development further out in to our rural surroundings. This sounds like the aim of Stonehaven Community Sports Hub and I will back their activities to the hilt especially with a view to creating a permanent home for MARFC.

In short I would simply ask you not to grant this request now. I hope that a third but acceptable option can be arrived at. If it cannot, then, I would expect the club to resubmit the request in a year or two when their case would be clearer to all local residents. In that sad event I would have to throw my support behind MARFC with a heavy heart and deep disappointment in our ability as a town to come together and establish good quality sports facilities for the long term future in and around Stonehaven.

Kindest Regards

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 14:37:55

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 11 Nov 2021 16:45:10 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** ASSET TRANSFER - FOREST PARK

**Importance:** Normal

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Area Manager

I would like to add my voice to the many many others opposing the proposed transfer of this park to Stonehaven Rugby Club.

I use this park at least 4 times a week with my grandchildren, recently teaching one to ride his bike, another her first walk without reins. We fly kites here, we let the little ones just run.

I also walk the dogs here regularly.

The proposed changes would not allow any of these activities.

The closing off of the park would also mean that the older children would be denied the independence of going to the playground unsupervised as the safe route through the park would be denied.

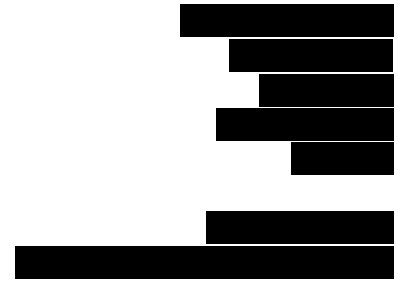
The upset to Forest Park residents with regards to parking, high fencing, floodlights and the inevitable 'antisocial behaviour'. Doesn't bear thinking about.

Please on our behalf could you please think long term and ensure that the Rugby club get an appropriate site that will be sufficient to accommodate the 2nd largest club in Scotland.

The shoehorn fix that is proposed is obviously not suitable long-term for an ever expanding club and losing this park would be a terrible loss to the Stonehaven community young and older.

[REDACTED]

Kincardine & Mearns Area Manager  
Aberdeenshire Council  
Viewmount  
Arduthie Road  
Stonehaven  
AB39 2DQ



Dear Sir/Madam,

In Reference To: Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

*Proposed asset transfer request by Mackie Academy Rugby Football Club relating to land of Forest Park, Stonehaven; with the construction of two rugby pitches to SRU competition standard, training area, clubhouse, changing rooms, storage, and a fitness suite. The proposal will also include the car park but exclude the 'Hamish' play park.*

I write in relation to the asset transfer request under the community empowerment act. I have read through the proposals, site plan and other related documents and wish to object strongly to the purchase of the land; and the proposals set forward by Mackie Academy Rugby Football Club.

I wish to object to the asset transfer request on the following grounds:

1. loss of green open space amenities for the whole community to enjoy and use at any time.
2. 90% of Forest Park would be fenced off with a tiny space left for any public use.
3. The proposed fence is very high and will evoke the feeling of imprisonment for those who walk around the path and those Children in the School playground.
4. The proposed fence is also unpleasant not fitting into the area, a green blot on the landscape.
5. Access into and out of Forest Park housing scheme may be affected plus increased safety issues.
6. Access into and out of the car park – if secured, users of Hamish Park will have to park and disembark from Forest Drive Road, which is not suitable or safe for Children.
7. Disabled access and parking for those who wish to use Hamish Park. As above, not safe on Forest Drive Road and the whole point of Hamish Park was for use of all abilities, easy access.
8. Public safety and Vehicle safety for road users passing parked vehicles on Forest Drive Road.
9. Increased parking on Forest Drive Road, Forest Park, Dunnottar Park, Woodview Place in evenings, weekends and when tournaments are held.
10. Increased levels of pollution in and around this area, near a School, with the extra vehicles and traffic.
11. Increased noise pollution when in use.
12. Increased light pollution when in use.
13. Increased traffic along Forest Drive Road, Woodview Place and Forest Park housing schemes in evenings, at weekends when matches, training and tournaments take place.
14. The removal of young trees and bushes planted along the North-West perimeter.
15. The proposal may create a precedent making it harder to object to similar proposals in the future.



The open green space in Forest Park is vital for everyone in our current environment, both for mental wellbeing, for exercise and recreational activities. It should be available for use at any time, by anyone without restrictions. Open spaces promote healthy lifestyle, exercise, socialising, sport, other recreation not to mention their role in providing a sense of place and community.

Having lived in [REDACTED] housing estate since 1990, I know from personal experience and from passing most days while out walking, it may not be full of people at every hour of every day but there are always a collection of people using the space for exercise, walking, children playing and people walking dogs. The change of use proposed would remove another open green community space from our town which would be unfortunate.

The Rugby Club is clearly a great asset for our towns youth and have no objection or issue with the Club itself, I just feel this site proposal is not the best option for the club nor the community.

With all the recent, current, and proposed developments in Stonehaven, it would seem to make most sense to incorporate provision for Rugby pitches within some of the new housing developments. Alternatively, perhaps Aberdeenshire Council can provide suitable land as I believe they have recently purchased the field behind Fetteresso Cemetery.

This site would allow for multiple pitches, space behind the current cemetery for extension of existing site and great access from the A90. It would also be accessible by all on foot, by bicycle or car as existing infrastructure is already in place.

Alternatively, with the clue in the name of the club, Mackie Academy must surely be considered as a priority. Aberdeenshire Council should be proposing a multi-purpose campus including provision for new secondary school, new primary school, club house and pitches. All of this could be built on the current Mackie Academy sports field land. Parking would not be an issue as the Rugby Club train in evenings and weekends primarily when School is not in use. Other towns in Aberdeenshire Councils catchment use this approach with success, Portlethen, Laurencekirk and Inverurie.

It would mean everyone in the community could use the facilities, the pitches could be shared but still fenced off but available for all clubs and organisations when needed. Changing rooms could be used by the Academy, the Rugby Club, any other organisations. The Club House could be used by all for many activities, hired out to local groups, hired out for social use, generating added income for the community.

Mackie Academy is almost at full capacity, and this is with the 'temporary' C block cabins which have been there well over 20 years. Although windows were replaced in the most part, the building is still not as suitable for use as it should be. A new development here could be a start, a launching pad for later development of the Academy. We need to be using joined up thinking here and encompass as many community requirements as we can in one purpose-built site.

The proposed site at Forest Park is the main green space for residents of Stonehaven on this side of the railway line and up the top part of the town. It would be great to see the facilities

within the park upgraded and brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. 31 years ago, when I moved to [REDACTED] housing scheme, the Park was full of play equipment, it had a running track, a concrete pitch for basketball, tennis, and badminton. There was a long jump sand pit, benches, swings, round-a-bout, climbing frame. This allowed for many sports and activities along with football, rounders and space for walking and cycling.

The surrounding housing developments old and new, are generally housing families with Children who would be left with no open green space nearby which is accessible and safe in terms of location from the family home. For those who do not drive, the nearest open green space would be Mineralwell or Bairds Park, at the other side of the town. Even Mackie Academy playing fields are some distance for those without a vehicle, or those with small Children.

To summarise, I have no issues with the Rugby Club and think they do great things for our Youth Community, however the proposals put forward I must object to for the reasons mentioned previously and believe this is not the most suitable site for their Club to grow and develop.

Should the asset transfer be approved, I would ask the Council to consider imposing some of the following measures:-

1. Improved traffic management at the car park entrance, including movement of bus stops and traffic calming measures.
2. To ensure full unrestricted access to the car park area for visitors to Hamish Park.
3. To grant full access to the pitches and facilities so they are available for all Stonehaven Schools, Groups and Organisations when not in use by the Rugby Club.
4. To ensure better use of landscaping to dampen the effects of the proposed high fencing.
5. To ensure limited hours of operation are in place to reduce the light pollution and noise for those who live in Forest Park housing development who directly back onto Forest Park.
6. To ensure adequate parking restrictions are put in place in surrounding streets to prevent club members and spectators parking nearby for convenience, rather than using designated over spill car park (Mill o Forest School) when Forest Drive car park is full.

I would appreciate if Aberdeenshire Council would take these objections into consideration when deciding this Asset Transfer Request along with the considerations should the Asset Transfer be successful.

Yours Faithfully,

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 14:50:13

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 11 Nov 2021 17:24:46

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer

**Importance:** Normal

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Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park Stonehaven

To the Kincardine and Mearns  
area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of the land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information to be considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I was born in Stonehaven and have lived here all my life (almost 64 years). I spent my childhood growing up in [REDACTED] and have watched as the town has increased in size over the years. We only had to walk a short distance to be in the countryside and although that can still be done there have been so many housing estates built since my childhood swallowing up the green space.

After I married, I lived in the Old Town for a number of years and by that time I had several siblings living in [REDACTED]. My two children spent many hours in the park playing with their cousins. I have lived in my present house in [REDACTED] for 35 years and I know how much the children in this area enjoy playing in 'Little Hamden' which lies behind Woodcot Park (I played there too with my cousins). I'm sure that many children in Forest Park and the nearby Brickfield area value the green space which is so easy to access for them without having to cross major roads.

My son, daughter in law & two granddaughters live in [REDACTED]. The girls played regularly in the small 'Hamish's park' and also the area which the Mackie Rugby Football Club are proposing to take over. This park has been so good as the children got older and wanted to venture a wee bit further than their own garden. Parents in the area felt it has always been a safe place for the children to go to with no busy roads to cross to get to it.

I feel quite upset at the thought of yet another green space disappearing behind a high locked gate/fence. It was such a treat when the Council, not too long ago, removed the fence that was already there. They put in a lot of bollards along the pavement side and landscaped the area which is so good for birds, insects etc. It is such a pleasant area for the elderly in the community to go to meet up with others and pass the time with a chat and walk. I walked passed it regularly during the lockdown last year and there were always people in the park. I'm sure it must have been beneficial for their mental health knowing that they could go and walk around it.

Loosing this area would be felt so badly by the local community. I believe Mill O' Forest Primary School and nursery and also nearby Caronhill Special Needs School also use the park. The effects would be quite detrimental to many people.

I strongly believe the Asset Transfer is not suited to this area due to the volume of traffic it will generate. The parking issues will be also be a major problem. I remember how it was when the Rugby training took place there before with cars parked all along the pavement edge and sometimes on the grass verge below the railway embankment. The noise generated on training nights for the residents in Forest Park would be terrible not to mention the light pollution!!

I know the Mackie Rugby Football Club would like their own permanent grounds but I strongly feel that this area is just unsuitable. Surely a more suitable area could be found on the outskirts of the town or within the new development at Ury estate.

Please Save Our Park

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Archived: 15 November 2021 15:02:55

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thu, 11 Nov 2021 17:27:04 +0000ARC

To: Kincardine and Mearns

Subject: Asset Transfer Request - Land of Forest Park, Stonehaven (objection to)

Importance: Normal

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to the asset transfer request submitted by Mackie Rugby Football Club which relates to the land of Forest Park, Stonehaven.

I'm unclear on how the process of "Community Empowerment" differs to normal planning application process and I am concerned the land transfer process is less open and the following issues may not be suitably considered.

**Impact on Open Space:** This development would go against the aspirations of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan to protect open spaces around Stonehaven (ALDP section 4.6).

The proposal is on protected land as designated by the ALDP 2020 Stonehaven P3 "to protect recreational open space as an amenity for the settlement", this alone is sufficient grounds for rejection. The ALDP PR1.1 & PR1.6 only permits developments on the protected open spaces if the development is both essential and cannot be located elsewhere. Neither of these prerequisites have been met, a rugby club is not essential in any respect and while another site has not been found at this time, it could be located elsewhere i.e. there is no reason in must be located here.

***ALDP PR1.1** We will not approve developments that have a negative effect on important environmental resources associated with air quality, the water environment, important mineral deposits, prime agricultural land, peat and other carbon rich soils, open space, and important trees and woodland. In all cases development which impacts on any of these features will only be permitted when public economic or social benefits clearly outweigh any negative effects on the protected resource, and there are no reasonable alternative sites.*

***ALDP PR1.6** Development will not normally be permitted on any area of open space, including outdoor sports facilities and buffer strips along watercourses, unless the new use is ancillary to the use as open space. Important areas of open space are identified as "protected land" within Appendix 7, Settlement Statements. Exceptionally, the development of essential community infrastructure may be allowed if it will not result in a deficit of open space of the type affected within the settlement, as evidenced by the Open Space Audit, or prejudice the continuity of a green-blue network. Where loss of open space occurs as the result of a new development then replacement must be made of an appropriate type, quantity, accessibility and quality within the settlement. Any new development that adversely impacts on the use and/or provision of sports pitches will be required to provide suitable replacement to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority. In such cases Sport Scotland will be consulted.*

**Impact on Access:** The fencing around the site is directly on the existing right of way, used by the public daily, this violates the following ALDP requirements:

*P2.6 Existing and potential public access routes (including core paths and other routes, such as public rights of way) should be protected and new developments must include appropriate opportunities for informal recreation and promote walking or cycling as a means of transport.*

There are trees by the roadside of the park which will presumably be removed. This would not be aligned with ALDP PR1.8:

***PR1.8** Where development is considered appropriate, damage to existing trees must be minimised and there must be no unnecessary fragmentation of existing or potential woodlands networks. Compensatory planting must also be undertaken to an agreed standard in order to mitigate the impact of the removal on landscape, sequestered carbon, character, amenity and ecological diversity.*

**Impact on Parking:** The games are typical held on weekends when the local residents are typically at home and their cars are parked in the streets. This proposal has the potential to increase traffic and parking issues especially at weekends which will negatively affect the local resident's access to their homes. The proposal must be reviewed by Aberdeenshire Roads Department before being granted.

**Impact on Noise & Disturbance:** Noise associated with the rugby games and training will increase disturbances to the local residents, especially at weekends and evenings when they are trying to relax.

**Impact on Light Pollution:** New lighting is proposed, allowing the club to play at night-time which may cause further disturbance to the adjacent residents. To the best of my knowledge, there has not been a professional assessment on the light received by adjacent properties. While the plan states this will be designed by a specialist, it is not demonstrated nor can it be guaranteed at this stage adjacent residents would not be negatively impacted.

#### **Conclusion**

No justification has been provided for this development on existing open protected land which is used by the community daily. This transfer should be rejected.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 16:22:34

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 11 Nov 2021 18:22:04

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Mill of Forest Park/Mackie Rugby Club

**Importance:** Normal

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To whom it may concern.

I am against the proposed Asset Transfer. My reasons

1. This is a public park used by many. A safe place for children to play. A safe place for adults of any age to walk, to play, to dog walk and there is no other public park in this area of the town. Residents need this recreation area to maintain physical and mental health.
2. The car park needs to remain for public use as it used by those using the children's playground.
3. This is a residential area surrounded on 3 sides by family houses. This proposal would cause excess traffic and parking too much for the area. Too much noise.

I do feel for the rugby club as they are a great asset to the town but surely the Council can help them find appropriate land outwith a residential area.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 16:23:55

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 11 Nov 2021 19:33:06

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** ASSET TRANSFER – LAND AT FOREST PARK,STONEHAVEN

**Importance:** Normal

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ASSET TRANSFER – LAND AT FOREST PARK, STONEHAVEN

To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager,

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council. I wish for this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I would first like to say that the green space at Forest Park holds an important position for community members directly surrounding the park and those that live further away. Having moved to [REDACTED] in 1991 I myself have used the Park as a child for dog walking, meeting with my friends and playing. During my time at Mackie Academy I regularly walked home from school through the Park. As a Scout in my teenage years we used the area for wide games and activities. Now, as my mother still lives in [REDACTED], I take my 2 children to the park for walks and to play football, fly kites, and for them to run free in a natural, open space, which is safe for their outdoor adventures. This space benefits them by providing an area to exercise, enjoy nature and have fun. It is invaluable to my mother, who uses the space regularly to walk her dog, meet with other dog walkers, and take her grandchildren play. It is a local, convenient and safe space for my whole family to enjoy. It is within easy walking distance to my mothers house, which allows her to visit the park multiple times during weekends when her grandchildren stay for sleepovers. There are no busy roads to cross, no water nearby to worry about, it is a flat area large enough for the children to roam but contained enough to keep them safe.

As my children grow I see the park as a safe, convenient and close location to allow them to play unsupervised. There is no other open space within walking distance that I would feel comfortable allowing my children to play unsupervised. Removing this community asset and confining it as rugby pitches would reduce the access children have to nature, thereby surrounding them further in a built environment and prescribed activities/spaces. Children love and benefit from spending time in green spaces and this park provides the perfect location for this. I hope to continue to walk and play with my children, my mother and her dog at the park for many years to come. And realistically as we all grow older the need for an easily accessible area for walking becomes more important.

It would be a huge loss to the local residents and community to lose this important green space which is at the heart of the community and also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery and Carronhill Special School.

I would like to add that the Mackie rugby club is a valuable asset to the town, however the proposal to transfer the Forest Park land from community space to rugby pitches is misplaced as the area is unsuitable for the purpose; there is a lack of parking (insufficient for training days and matches), the surrounding residents, many of whom are elderly or young families, would be subject to intrusive noise and light, and confining the area to enclosed pitches removes the facility from the many local residents who use it daily. The responsibility of finding a suitable location for the Rugby Club lies with the Local Development Plan and councillors, who should ensure that the needs of the club are addressed in the future vision for the town rather than removing a valuable, well used green space from public use through an Assessment Transfer Request.

Thank you for considering my response and I hope you can begin to understand the hugely important role this green space has held in my family's past, what we love about it at present and how I hope to continue to enjoy it in the future.

Please save our park.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 16:26:53

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 11 Nov 2021 19:53:46 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council.

I wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for over 20 years and use the park every day of the year for leisure activities. Indeed, my children have used the park for the same period; as a safe place to play as children and latterly as adults, as an ideal area to run, walk and exercise.

As a woman, often unaccompanied while exercising, this area is not far from home and is well populated when I use the field. I feel safe in the park. I use the park daily as part of my physical and mental wellbeing regime. I particularly admire the recent landscaping – the Council planted trees and tore down the high fencing, creating a haven for wildlife and a welcoming place to enjoy fresh air.

It would be a huge loss to the local residents if we were to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community (which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School). The park is a rare public place amongst hundreds of houses. It is a place where young and old can exercise freely, aiding physical wellbeing and encouraging keeping fit.

Closures of nearby parks (ie Macdonald Road/Burns Terrace) has meant that Forest Park is the only local park for families and children living in nearby flats. I am certain that there are a few hundred people who live in the immediate area who use the park, but very, very few of these people would use rugby facilities if the park was sold. I truly believe that the sale and transfer of use would mean that the people who are local and use the park now would miss out; while others who would have to drive to the park and do not currently use the field for recreation would cause congestion and traffic problems.

Does it make sense to close the park to hundreds of people who live in the area, but allow it to be used by hundreds of members and visiting players and spectators from outwith Brickfield and Forest Park?

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because the volume of traffic would be unacceptable. I have helped out at rugby tournaments and there are so many visitors arriving in cars and buses that volunteer marshals are asked to control the traffic. This would not work at Forest Park. Residents on Forest Road have to park outside their houses and this already causes problems with traffic flow and poor visibility turning onto the street due to parked cars. It would be dangerous and cause horrendous congestion problems if the proposed plans were granted.

I hope you consider my points above as justifiable reasons for not agreeing to the sale and transfer of the park and, therefore, I am asking you to keep the field as it is – a beautiful, green space which was planned and designed for use as a park at least 45 years ago. Please let it be here for at least another 45 years.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 16:29:10

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 11 Nov 2021 21:19:19 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Save our park

**Importance:** Normal

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Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for 14 months and use the park on a daily basis for exercise for my dog and my family, we all so use it for playing games with our children, having picnics and my daughter goes there to socialise safely with her friends.

This area is safe for my use because there is no busy main roads to cross or walk along compared to other areas nearby. I feel this area is very safe as it is open and not closed off in a way that if something happened quite a lot of people would see. It is not near water and I feel happy to let my children build their independence on going there with friends.

As my family grows/I get older I would use the park for more picnics and meeting other mums there for play dates. Teaching my children to ride their bikes. This park is important to me because I don't feel there is any other green open spaces close by that I would feel safe to let my children go to. I have memories myself meeting friends there and flying kites. I work with people who need support who live not far from the park and it is a great place just to walk with them around with the correct footwear on certain days of course.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because the rugby club shouldn't be the only people that get to use this lovely space. People that don't do sports but enjoy just walking have a right to walking in this space and for people that are elderly or that have children this isn't too far for them it's ideal. We already have issues with the school parents coming into our street and blocking drives and roads what's to say that on match days this won't happen. The noise on these days will all so be unpleasant. When it's dark early the lights will shine into people's windows and if they have babies that they are trying to put to sleep this will become a losing battle for parents. I feel this space is personally not big enough for the rugby club as if they were to grow bigger what land would they take next especially as they are the 2nd biggest club in Scotland.

Please save our park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]



**Archived:** 15 November 2021 16:30:46

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 11 Nov 2021 22:47:05

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Forest park

**Importance:** Normal

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> To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

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> I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

>

> I have lived in [REDACTED] for 14 months and use the park on a regular basis to exercise my dog and for family exercise, we also use the park for playing games with our children, having picnics and my eldest daughter goes there to socialise safely with her friends.

>

> This area is safe for my use because there is no busy main roads to cross or walk along which would be required to get to other green spaces in Stonehaven. I feel this area is very safe as it is open large space safe for me and my children to use, it is not near water and I feel happy to let my children build their independence by going there with friends.

>

> As my family grows and I grow older I would use the park for more picnic and meeting other mums there for play dates, teaching my children to ride their bikes and trach them about sports they have an interest in This park is important to me because I don't feel there is any other green open spaces close by that I would feel safe to let my children go to without supervision. My wife works with people who need support who live not far from the park and it is a great place just to walk with them around.

>

> It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

>

> The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because the rugby club shouldn't be the only group that get to use this lovely space. People that don't do sports but enjoy just walking have a right to walk in this space and for people that are elderly or that have children this isn't too far for them to walk and if flat ground so is ideal. We already have issues with the school parents coming into our street and blocking drives and roads, this I can guarantee will happening on match days as the parking facilities the rugby club have proposed are significantly to small for the amount of people who we be at the matches taking place. I feel this space is not large enough for the rugby club either as the club will outgrow the proposed facility as they gain more members from the coming generations and have no room for expansion on the site they wish to asset transfer.

>

> Please save our park.

>


> Kind regards

>


> [REDACTED]

> [REDACTED]

> [REDACTED]



Dear Councillors,

I am writing this letter to voice my opposition at the proposed changes to the park next to Mill O' Forrest school by the Mackie Rugby Club. I am a local resident who lives right next to the park, in . I use this park often for walking in and believe it is an important public green space for the local residents, especially the children and those living with a disability.


This is the only green space in this part of Stonehaven and I feel it would be socially irresponsible to give this away to any one club whilst excluding everyone else. This would truly be a case of putting the needs of the few above the needs of the many. This park is used by many for walking, dog walking, and football to name but a few uses. This was absolutely vital at the start of the Covid pandemic when we were using this park for our daily exercise to help keep our mental health in check. I also believe this space has potential to be developed to be even more use to the local community with the addition of more trees, more benches more things for children to do.

If the Rugby club are granted this site then this potentially causes multiple issues for the local residents. Firstly, this forces us to have to travel further from home to seek a green space and ultimately will exclude some younger children of being able to play safely in a green space as they are none this side of town. Secondly, the increased traffic, noise and light pollution will cause disruption to quite a peaceful area. I also believe the 5 meter fence will look oppressive and take a lot off the charm off of the area. I would not be surprised if it lowered the house prices for the local residents also.

I appreciate that the Mackie Rugby club have had a hard time finding somewhere to establish themselves permanently and they do deserve support to find a suitable ground, especially for such a well-established club with such a large membership. Unfortunately, I do not believe the park next to Mill O' Forrest is the right place for them. I would question though what would be the issue with the club being situated next to Mackie Academy, which appears to have a large amount of green space that could surely accommodate the club.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter and would urge you to think about our community and decide against giving up this important piece of green space for this area.

Yours Sincerely,



Dear Councilor,

I am writing this letter in the hope of drawing to your awareness the Asset Transfer Request for Mill O' Forrest Park, Stonehaven, into the private possession of Mackie Rugby Football Club (MRFC). It is in my understanding Mackie Rugby Club has sadly, and through no fault of their own, found itself without grounds for the continuation of the club and in search of a new location have apparently found Mill o' Forrest Park to fit the bill. While I sympathize with their plight and agree that it is of the utmost importance that the club is finds a new home, I do NOT agree that Mill O' Forrest Park is the appropriate area for their relocation.

Mill O' Forrest Park is sizable, flat, open green space, and it serves as the only available public space for the dense residential areas of Forrest Park, Woodview Place, Laurel Court, Holy Drive, Provost Stewart Place, Provost Barclay Drive, Taylor Crescent, Brickfield Road, Brickfield Court, Brickfield Terrace, Burns Terrace, New Bigging Drive, Mill o' Forrest Lane and Mill O' Forrest Road – these are to name a few. I'm also aware that the park will used by individuals completely out with the surrounding/local areas.

Recreationally its usage ranges from Jogging, Picnics, Football, Dog walking, meeting/socializing spot and of course it hosts Hamish Play Park for Disabled and special needs children. Personally, I regularly use the park to exercise in the evenings - even more so when in July of this year when I underwent a complete hip replacement, and the park offered a safe, close-to-hand space I could use in my rehabilitation.

In MRC proposal for the park, they made a point of trying to undermine how and the frequency at which the park was used, implying they can use it better but the fact that our park doesn't have one dedicated use ensures its inclusive of everyone and that it's being used for the purpose with which it was intended – to be a space for recreation. Many activities fall under this banner, not just sports. The space was previously used as a Rugby pitch, but the area was still publicly accessible when it was not being used. I imagine this Kept both sides happy. The club eventually left as the land wasn't draining sufficiently so wasn't fit for purpose... ironic that the area is now of such interest to MRFC. Despite this simply consider our recent history with Covid-19 and how it showed the importance of green spaces in not just for physical health but for mental health too, it's perfectly valid and I'd argue necessary for a space to exist with the sole intention of it being a break in Urbanization.

MRFC also claim that Mill O' Forrest Park is the only adequate available land for them within Stonehaven which is honestly shocking if the council has had so little foresight in the management of land that both groups are left with no option but pandering to the council.

The plans for the new rugby club include multiple temporary buildings (porta cabins), flood lights, 5m high 'safety' fence and they hope to build a club house to host and lease out for events. This sounds great, everything you could want for investing in your growing sports club. These are amazing assets to bring to Stonehaven but the area they're proposing to build them in is unacceptable. Almost hard against the back fences of Forrest Park Residents, not only will they lose access to the local park but they'll then have to accommodate noise and light

pollution from the clubs proximity. Even those who live slightly further afield will be affected, as a resident of [REDACTED], I was concerned to read in the clubs proposal that my street was one that could be expected to host "over-spill" parking. Parking in my street is currently horrendous, an accident waiting to happen. There's already too many vehicles and not enough space. I dread to think the chaos park for a club with 350+ members will ensue.

I'm sure both parties in this situation have genuine arguments for their case and I appreciate Mackie Rugby Clubs struggle in finding a new home I just do not feel that our park is an acceptable home for them. I've merely touched on a few points, as to why it's an inappropriate site but I know that there will be many more voices of opposition much like mine.

I'd like to say thank you for taking the time to read this letter and would urge you to think about our community and decide against giving up this important piece of green space for this area.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
11th November, 2021.

I am [REDACTED] and have lived at the above address for 16 years. It boggles belief that the council are contemplating an asset transfer to Inverclyde Rugby Club. You would be robbing the community of a lovely, peaceful green space, to be replaced with a fenced, floodlit and at times noisy rugby pitch (pitches).

None of this will be constitutionally pleasing to nearby residents and the children's play park will in effect be sandwiched between the car park and a 5m high fence.

Laurel Court is a cul-de-sac off Forest View, opposite Forest View centre and near Mill-o-Forest school. The volume of traffic when parents are dropping off and picking their children up from Mill-o-Forest school creates its own problems within the area from Monday - Friday.

To have further traffic and indiscriminate parking on private driveways and weekends is not acceptable. To expect cars to also park along Forest Drive is not acceptable either, as Forest Drive is a very busy road and is the main route for our local and Aberdeen buses.

I'm sure the residents of Forest Park would not be happy to find their homes may drop in value; - who would want to buy a home that has a fenced, floodlit and noisy rugby pitch at the bottom of their garden.

I am certainly not in favour of Mackie Rugby Club  
"acquiring" this asset. What if they decide in a year or two  
it is not fit for purpose, will it revert back to the council or  
will they sell to the highest bidder!!

yours,



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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 November 2021 18:41

To: Kincardine and Mearns <kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Asset transfer request by Mackie Rugby club

Dear Sirs,

I would like to register my objection to the Asset transfer request made by Mackie Rugby Club. I live at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I regularly use Forest park with my 3 year old Grandson -the play park and also the grassed area where he runs around with his friend who lives on the forest park estate .I also regularly walk around the perimeter or through the park with a disabled friend .It would be a great shame to loose this green public space at this end of Stonehaven as it provides a safe area for families to use.The increased traffic and parking will make it dangerous for children and vulnerable adults .I should imagine the light and noise pollution that would be created by the proposed new use would be very annoying for the families living on the Forest park estate.

I hope a lot of thought will be given to this request Kind regards [REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 16:41:34

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 12 Nov 2021 09:42:49

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Mill of Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

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To Area Manager

I am writing in respect of the proposed Asset Transfer of Mill of Forest Park to Mackie Rugby Club. Whilst I understand that the Rugby Club represent a large number of Stonehaven residents and need a more permanent home, I would like this representation to be formally recorded and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

As a long-term resident of [REDACTED], having lived and raised a family here for 29 years, I value the park as the green space my children used for recreation while they were growing up as it was close by, safe and easy accessible to them without having to cross busy roads. As I grow older, and particularly during the pandemic when travel was restricted, I was grateful to have a green space which was close, flat and easily accessible to me. Stonehaven has lots of green space nearer to the sea, but this is at some distance and involves climbing hills on the return journey.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area as the access roads are narrow and involve a sharp bend, the light pollution would be significant when training and matches are being played. I am also concerned about the availability of parking on site and as the current car park is part of the scheme, alternative parking would be on the main access routes and in Forest Park itself which could obstruct residents. There are many children and elderly people living around the site whose peace would be disrupted by the noise generated.

I would like to voice my objection in the strongest terms and suggest that a more suitable site with appropriate access be found for the rugby club and where the impact on residents would not be felt.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**Archived:** 15 November 2021 16:43:58

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Mon, 8 Nov 2021 19:18:29

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Mill of forest field / park

**Importance:** Normal

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Hi there

Sending an email to notify my our objection to the mill o forest fields being used by the stonehaven rugby team.  
This is a community area and used by many people. The rugby team needs to find somewhere else

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 17:04:37

**From:** [Mill O Forest Parent Council](#)

**Sent:** Fri, 12 Nov 2021 09:48:08

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Response on behalf of Parent Council at Mill O Forest Primary School re Asset Transfer Request of land at Forest Park by Mackie Rugby Football Club

**Importance:** Normal

**Attachments:**

[Responses received from the Parents and Carer Community of Mill O Forest Primary School.docx](#);

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**For the Attention of Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager,**

Aberdeenshire Council

Viewmont,

Arduthie Road

Stonehaven

AB39 2DQ

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Asset Transfer Request of land at Forest Park by Mackie Rugby Football Club**

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We refer to the above and hereby submit the below response to the proposed asset transfer request by the Parent Council of Mill O' Forest Primary School on behalf of the Parent and Carers' community.

Please acknowledge safe receipt of the response.

Yours faithfully,

Mill O' Forest Parent Council

### **Formal response**

The Parent Council at Mill O' Forest Primary School invited parents/carers to complete an online survey to ask if the Parent Council should support or object to the Asset Transfer and requested that reasoning behind each response be provided.

The Parent Council received twenty-one responses to the survey via the online survey: 17 objected and 4 were in support.

Some separate written responses were also received by the Parent Council via email from parents and carers.

In total, the Parent Council received twenty-five responses, of which 21 objected and 4 were in support.

In summary, of the responses received, 84% objected to the application by Mackie Rugby Football Club and 16% supported the application.

Within the responses received objecting to the proposal, the concerns set out by parents and carers were:

- The school uses the land as an additional green space, for example, for cross country events, sports day practice.
- Most children and their families would not benefit from the facilities to be built for rugby club
- Children and their families use the green space as a safe route to school
- Families use the green space after school as a safe and accessible place to play
- Traffic and parking were a considerable safety concern, particularly around school drop off and pick up times if these coincided with training or matches.

Within the responses received supporting the proposal, comments submitted by parents and carers indicated:

- Rugby is a sport with sportsmanship and teamwork at its core and the rugby club would be a great asset to have surrounding the school
- The green space is under-utilised, and the school could benefit from the use of the rugby club's facilities

For completeness and for the assistance of the Committee members, we have attached all responses received.

However, it is clear that the overall opinion from our Parent and Carer Community wishes to object to the Application made by Mackie Rugby Football Club.

Many responses acknowledge the contribution that the Rugby Club provides to the town of Stonehaven and express sympathy at the predicament they are presently experiencing. However, it is clear from the comments received from the Parent and Carer Community that the open space at Forest Park in its present form is utilised by families in many different ways. The opinions expressed state that the granting of the application would have the effect of reducing recreational options in an open space for many families and children and would create safety concerns for their children by increasing traffic in the immediate residential area. It therefore seems that on balance, to grant the transfer of the land for the sole use of the Rugby Club would have a negative impact on the life balance of the rest of the community and should not be approved by Kincardine and Mearns Council Committee.

We request that when the Committee are considering various opinions of interested parties, please let it be noted that the Parent Council have reported that the majority of opinion received from our Parent and Carer Community wish to object to the Transfer Request by Mackie Rugby Football Club.

**Responses received from the Parents and Carer Community of Mill O' Forest Primary School**

My children love playing here after school and weekends etc. it's the closest park to us as we are in carron den.

This will ruin a nice area, in which kids can already play safely. The park will become too busy with cars, the car park too full. And the nice green grass area will be sorely missed.

We walk through the park daily to get to school, taking the green space away will leave us with a narrow walkway. My children enjoy running through the park and the freedom that the green space allows. This will no longer be an option. The car park at the park is also a very convenient and safe place to park your car on wet days, this will also be lost to the development. I am in support of a new rugby club but Forest Park is not the place for it.

The park is regularly used and enjoyed by my 2 children after school. The proposed development will be locked and private property which will belong to the rugby club. I feel very strongly that the school should object to this proposal on behalf of our children who are pupils. The sale of the park will make the school experience less fulfilling as the children will have to come straight home after school instead of enjoying playing in the park as they currently do. As the only safe green space in the area accessible at weekends and holidays, the loss will be felt most by our children.

We have the greatest sympathy for Mackie Rugby Football Club's ongoing desire for a fixed home but this area of land is completely the wrong place for numerous reasons. As this survey is specifically for the impact this would have to Mill O Forest School I will base this response to that. I see on the MRFC Business Plan that the only time Mill O Forest School is mentioned is that it may utilise the school carpark as overspill parking on matchdays, there is no mention of the school potentially benefiting from this proposal with offer of use of the facilities etc. Even if there was such an offer forthcoming the facts are the school will lose access to some fantastic green space for such things as the Mill O Mile or just the ability to take the young children outside to a nice safe green space very close to the school - urban green space in this time of protecting the environment should be nurtured and protected not offered out to be developed. I feel the plan is a very inward looking proposal where the only community benefits are for the few who participate in Rugby with not much care of the impact they will create to the area, its residents and all of the current users of this great space. I would be happy to contribute more if you wished any further support in this matter

This area is used by the community which includes schools, families that live in and around the area. The majority of these people have nothing to do with the rugby club. This area would

no longer be able to be used by them. It's the only green area that in this area that is accessible by all whatever the abilities and fitness levels and it is save.

The field is used by your school for extra practice of sports day, used by cross country, and also the staff and the nursery children to have save access to the park by crossing the field. The parking in the area at school drop of times are a nightmare, if they was to take away the car park and field, means many of the older children will be dropped off closer to the school, making the car traffic even worse. Plus as we should try and save as much green space in our community as much as we can.

The park is vital to the local community and the park should be available to all.

I am very concerned about the volume of traffic, having seen the sheer abandonment of cars at Mackie Academy in previous years.

This area is a residential area and would lose the safeness the park allows for all who use the park.

The majority of housing developments in Stonehaven are open plan and these high fences will bring in a severe and negative change to the appearance of how the area will look.

The fence will be very overbearing and change the whole dynamics.

We should consider the existing residents, it's all very well buying a house when such a facility exists but the increased traffic, noise, lack of safe open space, lack of privacy and overlooking, increased potential for loitering and vandalism.

The School and Parent Council should be working with the Council to use the park more. Dunnottar and Arduthie Schools are always out to the beach and Dunnottar Woods. It's a perfect space and the line of sight makes it a very safe space. Active Schools could use this space, it has so much potential. There was a cross country club, future children will not have the same chance to discover interests in outdoor sports.

I would prefer the Council and local community to help lobby other potential sites. It is such a large increase of people, cars and noise to a quiet residential area. The residents already have to put up the School run traffic twice a day for most of the year, not including fairs and events at the School.

I strongly urge the Parent Council to object to the proposals for reasons stated above. The park should be about the benefit for all and not a select minority.

Mill O' Forest school use the land regularly and we encourage pupils to walk across this field as a safe route to school. As a parent I take my children here and use the space for running, dog walking as well as giving my daughters to independently walk to the park after school. I personally would like to see the rugby club having a space of their own but not at the expense of green space used by our school and local people. It may have been different if it was an all weather pitch which the school could make use of during term times and school hours.

During the nicer weather months my son and his friends use the park to have a kick around with a ball, sometimes they use the park. It's somewhere I feel it is safe to leave him for a few hours here unlike the play park at the leisure centre.

The proposal will be a huge asset, not just to the Rugby Club but to Stonehaven as a whole. The Rugby Club do great work in and around the community and deserve the opportunity to have a place they can call their own. Furthermore, if/when the new area is built and the school gets access to the facility then I don't see why the school would object, especially as it won't be used during school hours by the Rugby Club.

This is a vital piece of land used by the school for cross country, the nursery for their Teddy toddle, not to mention pupils from Carronhill and member of the public. The rugby club is a wonderful facility but it's limited in its reach. More people use and access the green space than would use the rugby club.

This is a great asset to have surrounding the school. Rugby is a great sport with sportsmanship and teamwork at its core. I hope the School can use the locality of the facility to encourage more pupils to join the Club's ranks.

The park is very under-utilised today and I'm sure the School could still use the facilities if they were suited to any events or activities Mill O wished to use the space for.

The park is the only green space in the area and is utilised regularly by the school.

The fields adjacent to Mill'O provide a creative outlet for the children for activities such as cross country. The privately operated rugby facility would directly remove the capability for the children to safely participate locally to the school. Additionally, the road network around school is already notoriously busy. Additional traffic and removal of the car parking spaces would compound this problem and could lead to more parents feeling they need to drive their children to school. Unless a formal agreement can be reached with the Rugby club at this stage, securing the school community with access to the new rugby facilities during the school day, I believe the school should object to the proposals. Of course access to the pitch, changing and indoor facilities could significantly enrich the facilities available to our school community. If this can be negotiated and formally agreed now, then I believe the benefits would outweigh the negatives and the school should support the proposals.

Whilst there is no doubt that the project would bring considerable facilities for the public to use, I do not think that the choice of location is appropriate. I think that the site is valuable green space for families and removal of the same would reduce their quality of life in that they would no longer have the ability to walk, play, exercise in the present area. Travelling to an alternative green space may not be possible for them. It is an accepted fact that the ability to spend time outdoors in green spaces is crucial to our mental health. To allow the application to develop the land would be contrary to this accepted Public Health policy in that it would reduce the option for many to spend valuable time outdoors in a green space in close vicinity to their home.

I would have no concerns about the rugby club using the area - I think they did this previously? But I do not feel there is the need for them to have ownership of a well used green area within the town. The park is well used by residents and lots of families from the school. There is no other such area close by especially for those who are unable to drive.

One of few open spaces in this area of the town where children can safely go and play without crossing major roads. Well utilised space by all ages throughout the year. The area isn't suitable for the number of vehicles involved during match days. If Mackie Academy's 2 car parks can't handle the volume of vehicles then how will the vicinity of the Park? It will become a safety concern for the surrounding streets. Doesn't support growth of the Rugby Club. They feel providing a facility will allow for further growth yet this area doesn't allow for any growth. Very short sighted. Where would buses park on game days? The park is accessible for wheelchair users without the challenge of gradients unsuitable for wheelchairs. Many people in the area bought their houses due to draw of a lovely green space, to have this fenced off and inaccessible would be very disappointing and discriminatory against local residents. The school use the ground for cross country practise in a safe environment within the school vicinity, where would this have to be moved to? Surely mineralwell would have safety, staffing and time implications?

Mackie Rugby Football club are a big part of Stonehaven's community. They provide fantastic opportunities for people who live in and around Stonehaven and deserve to have a dedicated space that is accessible. The land currently does not get used to it's potential.

This is one of the only green spaces for this part of town, I understand the rugby club need somewhere but it would increase noise and traffic in the heavily populated area.

the fields and clubrooms could be utilised by the school. it is a great activity to introduce to the school kids and get kids more active. Rugby is a very inclusive sport, unlike other sports such as football, with rugby it doesn't matter your size or ability there is a role for you in the sport. the upgrade of the pitch will mean if the school is allowed access to pitches they will be able to use the field year round as the kids will not be trudging in mud and puddles. There will be no risk of children coming in contact with dog fouling, or dogs, or the public like there is at

present. With the ability to potentially use the fields year round, that means that even in winter when it's not raining they will have access to an outdoor space for gym.

Reasons (\*to object): 1. Removal of additional green space for both school (Mill O'Mile as example) and post-school use 2. Safety grounds - without park only was to access school is via road, which as had numerous incidents and near misses recently 3. Lack of inclusivity for all, especially girls

I think parent council should oppose this development

The reason is that it will result in loss of green space for activities such as cross country as well as other outside sports

It will also be to detriment to those living in this area many of whom may be pupils at the school

I don't believe this is in the best interests of the school community - whilst it may not be the schools position to object as it is not technically an issue for the school, this is land used by pupils in the school community. I have found the rugby club not to be a community inclusive group and understand the proposal will be for their use and access only which I do not believe is in the best interests of Stonehaven.

I would like to vote against the Rugby Club being given the land at Mill O Forest.

This is an important green space that is close to the school that is well used by the public and it would be a sad loss to be taken over by a club.

Just this year I could count well over 50 times that my family has used this park and field and also recently discovered the tug of war team using the field and enjoyed watching them train so it is a great asset and would be a huge loss.



**Archived:** 15 November 2021 16:45:23

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, 11 Nov 2021 20:19:17

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer Forest Park

**Importance:** Normal

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**FAO Area Manager**

I am a resident of [REDACTED] and do not wish to lose our Park. I myself walk in it most days. Although it may not be used by 40/50 people at a time my observations are as follows. It is used by elderly or less able people to walk their dogs who are unable to walk further a field. The bench was used in the nice weather by people just looking out into the park who again would be unable to go further afield. Kids playing football at the goal posts in safety. Mums pushing buggies round the path. The tug of war team. Although these people are not huge in numbers this green space is invaluable to them.

Hamish's Park will not be touched, the car park will apparently be locked. This park was designed for children of all abilities and being able to park right beside it is essential for some.

If this green space is transferred to the Rugby Club there is no other sizeable green safe space in this immediate area.

It would be disappointing if this space is fenced off. The rugby club do need an area but this is not the right area. Parking and traffic will cause issues for local residents. The majority of the space to be used by one Club seems unfair. The noise on tournament days will affect residents. Flood lighting could also be an issue.

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 16:46:47

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 12 Nov 2021 13:28:04 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for 12 years and used the park for playing with my youngest son, walking my dogs, leisurely walks.

This area is safe for my use because my son does not need to cross the main road. It's easy access to get to him. My dogs love playing in the park and again there is no worries about them running onto the road. Also for my son to be able to meet his friend and have a safe place to play football is invaluable to us. Instead of having to drive to the Astro or constantly have my dogs on the lead down Mineralwell or round at Mackie Academy.

As I get older I would use the park for walks and socialising. This park is important to me because it's the one safe place that I know my son can play and be happy. It's the one safe place where my dogs can run about catching the ball and not having to worry about main roads or football games or rugby games.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill Special School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because the parking along that road will be absolute nightmare which my son would have to contend with to meet his friends. Also if there is no parking on the main road, they will park in the estate which will cause no ends of issues. The noise, I love my neighbourhood because it's peaceful and do not want that to be disturbed.

Please save our park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



11<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Sir

**Objection to the asset transfer of the park at Forest Park**

Regarding the proposed Asset Transfer Request of the park / land at Forest Park Stonehaven to the Mackie Academy Rugby Club. I strongly oppose the asset transfer of the park on the following grounds;

- 1) Community open spaces and parks should not be transferred to a single group for their sole use while the rest of the community and park users are excluded.
- 2) As a tax payer I object to the land being sold for £1. A realistic price for the land must be realised for the tax payer under any asset transfer or sale so the money can be invested back into local services to benefit the community. If this land were to be sold to a developer for housing the value of the land would far exceed the £1 offer made by the Rugby Club. The potential valuation for this land is far greater than £1 on the open market.
- 3) Climate change demands that we create more natural, wild and green open spaces and plant more trees and create more wild areas and habitat. The Rugby Clubs proposal is counter to this and they also propose to substantially increase air traffic pollution in this residential area at certain times. Rather than transferring the park to the Rugby Club the council should increase the planting of trees and create wild areas in the park for nature, this will help the council meet its obligation to help with climate change. I believe that the Rugby Clubs proposal and the removal of public green open space goes against the councils own climate change and environmental policies and the councils obligation to provide open green public spaces for all the community to use.
- 4) The park is the only green open space on this side of Stonehaven and there is nowhere else for the current park users to go to exercise, walk dogs and nowhere else for children in the area to safely play ball games, fly kites, play on bikes etc. Sports organisations should be promoting the provision of public green open spaces and encouraging children to play sports and ball games rather than taking the only space they have to play ball games away. The park is also used by the neighbouring school and school children and they should not lose and be excluded from the park.
- 5) Major tournaments and events are proposed to be held at the site. This is a residential area and hosting large sporting events will have a detrimental impact on surrounding residents. This park and residential area is not fit for the purpose of hosting major events and a sports stadia due to the nuisance the crowds and traffic will bring.
- 6) Substantial nuisance will be caused to surrounding residents from traffic, car / coach parking, crowds, noise, litter and light pollution from floodlighting. As a former resident of Forest Park I witnessed the nuisance the Rugby Club created when they previously used the park. The scale of the Rugby Clubs presence would be far greater should they return under this proposal and the level of nuisance it would cause to residents of Forest Park would be unfair and unacceptable.
- 7) The substantial increase in traffic, which the Rugby Club state will include coaches, will make the playground unsafe for children to use.

- 8) The increase in traffic will cause congestion and nuisance to local residents and those passing the park. The surrounding streets will be congested with parked cars. The Rugby Club have stated they will use the school as an overspill car park as they anticipate a high level of traffic. I object to the presumption that they will use the school car park free of charge, this car park is funded by the tax payer who should not have to meet the cost to supply overspill car parking facilities to the Rugby Club. Should this go ahead then as a local council tax payer I expect the council to charge the Rugby Club for use of any council owned car parking at the school. The Rugby Club must contribute toward the use and maintenance of any tax payer funded car parks they use.

There are ample playing fields and available green space at Mackie Academy, including an existing Rugby pitch. I suggest that the Rugby Club relocate to Mackie Academy and invest their money on creating and upgrading the Rugby facilities at the Academy which they can then share with the school. This will allow them to promote their sport directly to the next generation of children and players and it will also make a positive contribution by adding something to the community rather than taking away from it with this detrimental proposal.

Yours Sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 16:49:50

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 12 Nov 2021 15:25:21

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - Forest Drive Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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For the attention of the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager,

We are emailing you regarding the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of the land at Forest Drive Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and information below considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

We have lived in [REDACTED] for 39 years and used the park for the same length of time. This area is safe and suitable for our use because it is the only accessible and flat open green space within easy reach of our home and community, with this distance being an increasingly important factor as we get older and make efforts to keep fit. Compared to, for example, Dunnottar Woods or Mineralwell Park, we do not have to worry about cars and traffic, steep inclines or poorly laid out and maintained pathways.

In addition to using the park for regular exercise, we use the space when our relatives come to visit with their very young children, and pet dog. It is thoroughly enjoyed by all and it is something we also greatly look forward to using should our sons have their own children in the future.

Our own love for, and regular usage of the park aside, it is quite obviously a community asset for local schools, nurseries, and surrounding streets and residences - the latter of which we all know is on the increase in the area. We have family friends who have recently moved to the Dunnottar Park development and the park has quickly become a part of their routine and family life.

Further to this, we have grave concerns about a number of the practicalities involved in the proposed asset transfer. Parking and the associated noise pollution is already a challenge with local school drops, and this would be further exacerbated by traffic related to the rugby club, and its proposed private hiring of the grounds for functions, parties, etc. These private hires would also generate a lot of worry for us, and potential alcohol-induced noise pollution and public disturbances are not something we look forward to putting up with.

Light pollution is also a concern, with the floodlights undoubtedly needed for the project likely to be visible to many residents.

We urge you to do the right thing and reject this asset transfer request.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 16:51:25

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 12 Nov 2021 16:08:33

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Rugby plan objection

**Importance:** Normal

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We, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] wish to submit the following objection to a proposal for an asset transfer in relation to Mill o' Forest Park, Stonehaven.

Mill o' Forest Park has been an important amenity for surrounding residents since the mid 1970s and from the meetings of Stonehaven Town Council I attended as a journalist ([REDACTED]) was under regular debate and was an important element of the planning process carried out prior to the construction of both the Wimpey estate and the local authority and Scottish Special Housing Association homes on the opposite side of the park.

Therefore, the playing and recreational area which is now the subject of an attempted asset transfer, has been a valuable contributor to the quality of life of a significant number of residents and their families and those from further afield, who have traditionally carried out a variety of leisure activities.

However, what is being sought is the removal of much of this community asset in favour of a greater priority for a minority sport which, while important to those who participate in rugby, can surely not be allowed to trigger the drastic erosion of a valued and traditional recreational area which is of great value to the community as a whole. The retention of an existing children's play park is far from adequate compensation for what would be lost if this proposal, which would involve an extensive fenced off area, goes ahead.

Of course, the rugby club is an important element of Stonehaven's sporting scene and its existence has to be preserved if all possible. On the other hand, the preservation of the Mill o' Forest recreation area is also important and its virtual disappearance would have a much greater impact on the community as a whole.

A new home should and must be found for the rugby club at a location which does not jeopardise the existing profile of the town. This asset transfer plan does just that.

We feel that consideration must be given to the following points, namely:

- 1 Both Mill o' Forest Primary and Carronhill School sports are held on the existing park.
- 2 The park has been particularly well used and appreciated during the recent lockdowns when normal exercise options apart from walking were restricted. The park provided a safe and secure environment for both adults and children.
- 3 There will be increased light and noise pollution affecting residents in the proximity of the rugby pitches.
- 4 There is now another large housing development close by, Dunnottar Park, which has no large green space for recreation, so Mill o' Forest Park is the nearest and safest area for this purpose.
- 5 Creation of the rugby pitches would significantly reduce parking availability on Forest Drive which already plays regular host to ordinary service buses undergoing driver changes for example.
- 6 It is all very well to preserve the existing play park, but many parents from outwith the immediate area drive to the play park with their children. Could they use the proposed new car park outwith rugby sessions and if so, how likely is it that space will be available to them when it is in use for ongoing rugby fixtures?
- 7 Increased traffic would present a hazard to local children.
- 8 This green space was deemed necessary for the local residents when it was established. What has changed?
- 9 On a personal note, my wife found the existing park invaluable during recovery from surgery on three separate occasions as it allowed her to safely build up her walking capacity.

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 16:53:18

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 12 Nov 2021 19:49:16

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven - Asset Transfer

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager,

I am writing to you in response to the proposal for Mackie Rugby Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park Stonehaven as an asset transfer from Aberdeenshire Council. I wish for this representation to be formally recorded, and the information therein to be considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

Since 1991 I have been a resident in a house in [REDACTED] which actually overlooks the parkland. The space has indeed been an integral part of mine and my children's lives. As a dog owner, I have regularly used the area for daily walks, and indeed I much appreciated the path Aberdeenshire council put in a few years ago. Although some may say that dog walking is not an important activity, as a single parent I have appreciated the chance to exercise my dogs and my children in a safe, grassed area. As an older resident I still walk my dog regularly round there. As a single person it is even more important to me now, especially for my mental health, as I meet other dog walkers there for a chat and company too.

Both of my daughters, when they were young, used the parkland regularly to meet friends, play and walk through safely to school. It gave me peace of mind that they were playing in a safe open space which was easily accessed. It is very important for youngsters to have such places to play. It also enables them to gain independence and confidence in a safely accessible space where they can practise and try out new skills. There are very few available such places in the local vicinity.

As a grandparent who regularly looks after my two young grandsons, the parkland is invaluable to me as a place where I can watch them practising riding a bike, flying a kite, kicking a ball and many other activities safely, and as I grow older I appreciate the fact that it is a flat, easily accessible area especially for those of us who often have to manipulate buggies. In fact where else is there a safe place without power lines to fly a kite in Stonehaven? It's also a great area for families like my own to have a picnic in an area which is close and safe.

With its trees, bushes, grassland and wild flower areas, it is an important source of wildlife and biodiversity. I am able to educate my grandsons in the variety of habitats and their wildlife which is so important to our planet especially at this time of global environmental discussion.

As a former teacher at Mill O' Forest school for almost 30 years, I am also very well aware of the importance of the parkland as an area that enables pupils to take part in extracurricular sports activities, especially practising cross country in which they have often excelled in competitions. The school participates in an annual cross country tournament on the parkland, which both pupils and parents are able to watch.

The space is also a valuable source for the school's Eco Committee, having played a part in helping them to achieve their 8 Eco Green Flags. Pupils use the parkland for carrying out transport surveys. They take part in the annual RSPB Big School Birdwatch and it is so beneficial for them to be able to use binoculars to identify birds which happily use the parkland for feeding and nesting. Pupils have identified oystercatchers, jackdaw, curlews, as well as the more common - gulls, crows, blackbirds, wood pigeon, doves, starlings and pied wagtails. Pupils also recently took part in a national air quality survey, where the air around their school is deemed to be of good quality, something no doubt has been influenced by the open space of the parkland.

During the spring and summer the park is used regularly by children playing football, running, cycling. The inclusion of benches and tables enable older youngsters to have a more adult place to "hang out" safely, as there are often people walking around the park. The parkland is also a valuable resource for childminders and young parents who can meet up to share advice and discuss issues while their charges pay safely.

I look forward each year to watching the Tug of War club practising weekly. And it has been great to see the number of participants and onlookers who

have taken part in their annual tournament in recent years.

With a further reference to wildlife around the park, it is also a valuable place for bats to feed and roost. As a resident very close to the parkland, I often see them circling and swooping for their food.

What a huge loss to local residents both older and younger; Mill O' Forest School, and its neighbour Carronhill School it would be to lose this very important, precious and rare green space.

Of course I recognise that Mackie Rugby Club are also a very valuable part of Stonehaven and thus do need their own site; however, this should be the responsibility of the local councillors and the future Stonehaven Development Plan. This should be addressed in future plans rather than providing such a site through an asset transfer of a very valuable green space from Aberdeenshire Council to the Rugby Club. The proposal to site rugby pitches and club facilities on the land at Forest Park is misplaced, as the area is unsuitable due to lack of suitable, safe parking for practice and match days, and local residents many of whom are elderly or young families, would be subject to increased traffic, making it unsafe for children to access the play park safely, and creating increased noise pollution and increased light pollution for local residents, many of whom use the parkland on a daily basis for exercise and leisure, both of which are, particularly at this difficult time, so valuable for people's mental and physical health.

Thank you for considering my response and I hope you can understand what a great loss the green open space in question would be to my family and local residents. I truly hope I am able to enjoy creating playdates, playing and teaching my grandsons for a great many years in the future.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature block]



**Archived:** 15 November 2021 16:56:50

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 12 Nov 2021 20:36:22 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal. [REDACTED]

Unfortunately it is very clear that this is not the right place for the rugby club. This park is well used by a variety of people and this proposed asset transfer only serves people who have an interest in rugby. You are well aware that the town of Stonehaven is screaming out for investment in the community and part of that investment is needed for a variety of sports. You have an excellent opportunity to help the rugby club find a larger area where other members of the community could be accommodated along with other sports, such as squash, athletics and many more. A prime example of missing out on an opportunity to get money into the council was when the private squash courts closed down and the area around the current leisure centre could easily have been added to, to generate income. [REDACTED]

The land at Forest Park is used for a variety of purposes, such as walking, kids playing football, families enjoying the tables and seating to enjoy picnics and to see their children in a safe environment while having Hamish's park close at hand. Groups use the park such as for tug-of-war competitions, running, schools sports day and Aberdeenshire Council's Forest View use it to support the people that they care for. There is a variety of fauna, birds and butterflies in the park and all this would be lost with the proposed Asset Transfer. [REDACTED]

You will also be aware of the benefits that having green spaces helps towards improving peoples mental and physical health and this is in no doubt within your council policies. In fact, this very park actually needs investment to improve and encourage others to use the park in tackling obesity, loneliness and other difficulties. Build a better path, such as for walkers and cyclists to share so that you haven't got to patch it up every couple of years due to water damage. [REDACTED]

I have used the park for the past 20 years and when the rugby club used it for training at nights, it was clear even for that small amount of use that the increased volume of traffic had an impact on the area (not taking into account the increased volume of traffic from the new Dunnottar Park development). Cars were parked on the grass verge along by the railway line digging up the grass, cars were doing U turns in the road stopping the flow of traffic and the pavement at times wasn't safe in the morning after they had cleaned the mud off their boots. The light pollution would also be a factor especially for residents backing on to the proposed site. [REDACTED]

I thank you for your time with this request and I can only hope you can please save our park.

Kind regards.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 16:59:36

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 12 Nov 2021 21:05:09

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

**Importance:** Normal

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To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager,

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council. I wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee, advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for 3 years (and nearby streets for 4 years before that). I use the park for playing with my children; we regularly meet friends in the playpark and the play usually spills out in the grassy area where they all have great fun running around. We often fly kites there and the tracks are great for learning to ride a bike on a flat surface with no dangers of cars.

This area is safe for my use because it is flat and easily accessible on foot when you are pushing a buggy and minding a child just learning to ride their bike. During lockdown, the open space was a necessity for children letting off steam at a time when playing in playparks was prohibited. There are a lot of flats in the Brickfield area, and for some families who don't have a garden, this would have been one of the few easily accessible area that they could use. In comparison, Farrochie Park isn't large enough for flying kites, and the hill down to Mineralwell Park is steep when you are trying to push a buggy and child on a bike. The picnic benches are useful for having a snack and the path all the way round is great for running or biking on.

This park is important to me because it is valuable green space that is easily accessible and offers children a large area to play in.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because of the loss of valuable green space, as well as the issues with parking and noise during training sessions and match days. I have seen firsthand the parking issues experienced attending other clubs and am very concerned about the safety aspect from the additional traffic generated, as well as the inconvenience to local residents.

Please save our green space.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Archived:** 15 November 2021 17:01:38

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Fri, 12 Nov 2021 19:39:15 +0000ARC

**To:** Kincardine and Mearns

**Subject:** Forest Park Stonehaven - Asset Transfer

**Importance:** Normal

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Dear Sir / Madam,

ASSET TRANSFER UNDER THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ACT

NOTICE OF ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST

Banchory Stonehaven Athletics Club (BSAC), who have been operating from Mackie Academy and surrounding community parks in Stonehaven, hereby object to the proposal to sell Forest Park for £1 for the sole use as a rugby facility, for the following reasons:

- In principle, selling a community space for £1 and turning it into a single sport facility with no general public access is not good use of a community park or value for the council and ultimately the Stonehaven Community at large. The land was reportedly valued at circa £10m a good few years ago when a supermarket was interested in it and although a completed different proposition at this time it's value is significantly greater than £1. Therefore will have no funds available to reinvest in replacing the playing surface.
- The council is unable to provide playing field facilities for every club in Stonehaven that needs it for £1.
- A public survey and consultation process is about to commence by Aberdeenshire Council via Live Life Aberdeen where they have £1.2m to £1.5m available as part of the Participation Budget which is looking at financing sport and leisure facilities in Stonehaven, where the Stonehaven community will decide how and what the money is used for. Stonehaven community sports hub has been actively involved in this process, were Forest Park was one of the suggested sites for funding, in particular to instal a new drainage system and floodlights. This would potentially allow for multi-sport use including a flat grass 400m track for Athletics use, football and rugby, while at the same time retaining use for the local schools (Carronhill and Milloforest) and for local community use.
- Stonehaven community sports hub is looking into facilities for the Stonehaven community, where council effort should be put into developing sports facilities for all clubs in Stonehaven in conjunction with the sports hub.
- Too much community space is potentially being lost. The current planning process for the relocation of Dunnottar primary school which includes the intention of using part of the existing Mackie Academy playing fields, reducing the playing area within the Stonehaven community. The reduction of the available community playing further by taking Forest Park out of community use will further exasperate the challenge of developing facilities in the Stonehaven community.

Many Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Banchory Stonehaven Athletics Club



11<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Area Manager  
Kincardine & Mearns Area Manager  
Aberdeenshire Council  
View mount  
Arduthie Road  
Stonehaven  
AB39 2DQ

Dear Sir,

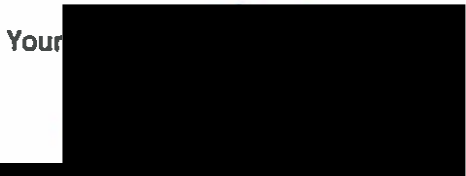
**ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST – MILL O FOREST PARK  
MACKIE FP RUGBY CLUB**

**SAVE OUR PARK CAMPAIGN.**


On behalf of the Save our park campaign I wish to lodge our petition which has been signed by 1165 individuals who are against the asset transfer. These are local residents and others who object to the loss of an open space and publicly owned asset.



Your



On behalf of the Save our Park Campaign.



11<sup>th</sup> November 2021

F.A.O Kincardine & Mearns Area Manager

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to lodge an objection to the proposed asset transfer of the Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven by Mackie Rugby Football Club. This is a well-used public park providing an accessible green space for locals to exercise, play and enjoy the outdoors free of charge all year round. I feel that it would be very wrong to allow the asset transfer as this would restrict the use of the land to only one club and take away this asset from the rest of the community.

I have read through the rugby clubs' proposal and strongly disagree with their assertion that this is a space only really used by dog walkers. Many people use the park every day whether for walking dogs (and themselves), walking, jogging, Frisbee, football, picnics and many more activities as well as just a place to meet up with friends and enjoy the outdoors. In addition, the tug of war club uses the park every year from April through to September for practises and for competition. The park is used by all ages from babies to the elderly, and everyone in between. Due to the flatness of the park it is accessible for buggies, bikes, wheelchairs and those who are unsteady on their feet.

The park is a safe area for the local children to play. As it is a short distance from many houses without the need to cross any busy roads it is safe for children to walk to the park from their homes. I note that the rugby club propose maintaining the play park. However, a majority of children do not just play in the play park but also make use of the wider park to run around and play during their visits here. Selling this park to the rugby club would take this away from children, reducing their opportunities to enjoy the outdoors in a safe environment.

The covid restrictions imposed since 2020 have emphasised the importance of public green spaces to the community for exercise, socialising and mental health. The physical and mental health benefits of green space are widely recognised and evidenced. The World Health Organization report 'Urban greenspaces and health'<sup>1</sup> concluded that green space not only improves health but also research shows that greenspaces can help mitigate the health impacts of socio-economic inequality. The Fields in Trust 'Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces Report'<sup>2</sup> estimated the economic benefit of green spaces as £34.2 billion per year to the UK population.

Aberdeenshire Parks and Open Spaces Strategy – December 2010 states the overall vision is to: "provide high quality multi-functional open space that is easily accessible, safe, welcoming, rich in biodiversity and sustainably managed for the future; which encourages a sense of belonging, and

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/321971/Urban-green-spaces-and-health-review-evidence.pdf](https://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/321971/Urban-green-spaces-and-health-review-evidence.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/research/Revaluing-Parks-and-Green-Spaces-Summary.pdf>

enhances the quality of life of those people who live, work in and visit Aberdeenshire". Again, the asset transfer would go against this vision and in particular the strategic aims:

- 1) To ensure that networks of green and open spaces are well located, designed, and managed, as well as being adaptable, appropriate and sustainable.
- 2) To improve policies and procedures in relation to the management and delivery of open space
- 3) To encourage healthy lifestyles and wellbeing
- 4) To promote community identity and cohesion
- 5) To improve the landscaping and visual appearance of communities
- 6) To conserve, manage and enhance opportunities for biodiversity/wildlife

The park is largely a grass area but also contains a number of trees and 'wild' areas which are not mown. It is used not just by people but also by many birds, bees, insects and bats. If the asset transfer is allowed to go ahead the area will be completely flattened, all trees will be removed and biodiversity will be severely adversely affected. Aberdeenshire Council Environmental and Climate Change Policy (2017) states that the council 'will follow an informed approach to protect the environment' with a commitment to 'conserve our natural resources, enhance bio-diversity and further improve the quality of life and the sense of well-being for all residents.' This asset transfer would go against the commitments set out in this policy.

I found the rugby clubs statement on consultation, section 5, disingenuous. They stated that the Stonehaven Community Council were in favour of this proposal. However, minutes from the meeting in question, April 21<sup>3</sup>, show that Stonehaven Community Council have a number of concerns about the rugby club's use of Forest Park and will await community feedback before making a decision. They noted many of the concerns I have highlighted as well as concerns that the area isn't actually large enough to meet the club's long-term needs. Speaking to my neighbours within the area I cannot find any in support of the removal of the park from public use.

In their application the rugby club state that the park has already been used by the club so there is a precedent. It has been many years since the club used the park and there is a big difference between using a section of the park, the section away from houses, for a few hours a couple of times a week to taking over the park and locking out locals. The proposals would prevent local people from entering the park completely. I understand that the rugby club provides a service to their members but the park should continue to be accessible to all, not just a few.

The Rugby Club state in their application that the choice they face is a binary one; Either Aberdeenshire council approve the asset transfer or the Rugby Club folds. However, this also does not appear to be strictly true. Their current landlord attended a local meeting and stated that he has agreed to a rolling contract with the Rugby Club until they can secure new land. Rather than sacrifice this valuable community asset can Aberdeenshire Council not work with the Rugby Club to secure a suitable home which has the space they require?

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.community-council.org.uk/stonehaven/library.asp>

Many people, including me, use the park as a path to other areas, this will also be lost. In particular, many children and parents use the park path to walk to and from school. The removal of this access will result in additional traffic, both pedestrians and cars, in my street. The street is already busy during school drop off and pick up and an increase in cars and people will only lead to more accidents. I note that Rugby Club propose using a section of road behind the bus stop for coach parking on match days. This would result in space for only one car to pass on the road. Although the road is quite wide when cars are parked along one side there is only space for one large vehicle to pass and, when coaches are parked there is only space for one car to pass. This will result in significant traffic issues on match days and possibly also on training days.

My property backs on to the park so, in addition to my general objections to the loss of a well-used park, I also have more personal objections. Although my personal circumstances probably don't count for much in your decision making I would still like to make you aware of them.

I believe that having a 5m fence behind my property would negatively affect my mental health as it would make me feel like I was living in a prison. The height of the fence would mean that even from my upper floor I would still be looking out through a chain link fence. Whatever mitigations are put in place having flood lighting directly behind my property will impact on me and light up my house to an unacceptable level. As one of the pitches is almost right up to my fence the increase in noise will be considerable. I currently have direct access to the park via a gate in my fence and this access will be lost. The rugby club propose installing drainage. The experience of family and friends has shown that when drainage is installed in one area surrounding areas are also affected, often leading to increased localised flooding. I am concerned that this may lead to drainage issues within my garden. In their application the Rugby Club indicate that they want to open a club house that they will hire out. This is a residential area and the prospect of having a club house on this land with the associated noise and antisocial hours is very concerning. If the asset transfer goes ahead it will adversely impact my mental health and will also lower the value of my property.

Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership has a vision to achieve the 'best quality of life for **everyone** in Aberdeenshire'. This asset transfer would achieve the exact opposite of this vision. It may enhance the sporting life of rugby club members but it would significantly diminish the quality of life for those in the geographic community surrounding the park. Ensuring for this community a worse quality of life with less happy, less healthy and less fulfilled people, living in a less healthy, less safe and less biodiverse environment.

Yours Sincerely,

██████████

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 November 2021 21:10  
**To:** Kincardine and Mearns <[kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Stonehaven Asset Transfer Application

Good morning,

My name is [REDACTED], and with my family am resident in Stonehaven, where my husband and I were both born and attended school, and lived through our university studies in Aberdeen. Until 2 years ago, we lived on [REDACTED], and the nearest safe and bounded park was the Mill o' Forest Park. Naturally, this is where we and all of our neighbours took our children. My daughter still begs to go to this park in favour of all but "the pirate park".

MacDonald Road, Brickfield road and the surrounding areas make up the town's lowest ranking sector on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivations, and I found it unconscionable that the Council have let the Mackie FP's asset transfer application get to the consultation stage at all. The asset transfer would see a freely accessible green space, which contributes to residents' health and wellbeing, to a group (however laudable in their community spirit) who want to lock us out of it. The reasoning that it would form a community recreation ground are flawed in that only those who have disposable income enough to pay for membership to the club will see the benefit of it, and the Brickfield area residents don't make up this demographic. The Local Outcome Improvement Plan specifically calls out the need to reduce socio-economic inequality, focusing on eliminating child poverty, and this application demonstrates a disregard for this aim. The Healthy Eating and Active Living strand of the health and wellbeing aims of the LOIP specifically highlights that "People living in the most deprived areas are more likely to be obese than those living in the most affluent areas in Scotland, due to accessibility and affordability of healthy food and physical activity opportunities". Creating a paywall to access their nearest Greenspace in Stonehaven will further disadvantage those living in the town's most deprived area.

Bearing all of this in mind, I also question why the consultation was restricted to and focused most on Forest Park residents? I cannot deny that they would be inconvenienced by the additional traffic, parked cars and footfall, and by the flood lights' light pollution, however I feel that the voices of the wider community are being sidelined. I would like to request on behalf of the community that you deny this application.

Kindest regards,

[REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 11 November 2021 10:40  
To: [Kincardine and Mearns](mailto:kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) <kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>  
Subject: Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

Asset Transfer - Land at Forest Park, Stonehaven

To the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager

I am writing to you in response to the proposal by Mackie Rugby Football Club to take ownership of land at Forest Park in Stonehaven as an Asset Transfer from Aberdeenshire Council and wish this representation to be formally recorded, and the information considered as part of the report to be prepared for the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee advising on the acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for thirty years and used the park for general recreation, walking and just being in a green open space. I am lucky enough that my back fence looks onto the park. It also affords a beautiful view of Cheyne Hill.

This area is safe for my use because it's an informal wide open space compared to other areas nearby. I enjoy the Woods nearby but sometimes I just need to be in the open. As my family grew up I used the park for safe playing, I was able to keep an eye on them from my garden. This park is important to me because I look over it every single day. The newer residents at Dunnottar Park tell me that they have been informed by our Council that Forest Drive Park is "their Park" when asking where their Park was going to be.

It would be such a loss to the local residents to lose this important and accessible green space at the heart of our community which is also used by Mill O'Forest Primary and Nursery, and Carronhill School.

The proposed asset transfer is not suited to this area because they require a very high and intimidating security fence. The fence won't stop balls coming into gardens. The parking in our estate is already difficult especially when parents are dropping off children for Mill O'Forest. The thought of training lights adding to the spill from the rear of Mill O'Forest makes me shudder. I don't really think the Rugby club want to play there. My husband was a Rugby player when he was younger and they trained there. He had to hose himself down outside because of the stench of the mud.

They will have to spend a lot of money to fix that. I'd be happy to support them in finding another place to go, I know they have tried already but if the town gets behind them surely we can help them?

Please save our park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]