



*The City and Royal Burgh of  
Elgin  
Community Council*



19/12/18

The Board of Elgin Sports Community Trust (by email)

Dear [REDACTED] and colleagues,

**Community Asset Transfer of an area of land at Lesser Borough Briggs.**

Thank you all for attending our December Community Council meeting and for the presentation you gave on the current and proposed future activities of the Elgin Sports Community Trust.

The information you gave was very informative and alleviated various concerns that members had about the future of the piece of land under discussion at Lesser Borough Briggs. There were concerns about a previous proposal that it would really be used only by Elgin City FC which would benefit a very narrow range of members of the community and which would be against the "ethos" of Common Good. There were further fears that if it was taken over by Elgin Sports Community Trust that other groups might effectively be frozen out due to block bookings and future bookings. It seems that block bookings will not be allowed and a system will be put in place that ensures others will be able to access the pitch which you expect to build.

---

Members are aware that there have been various proposals for that piece of land over the years and up until this point the Community Council continued to support the proposed commercial use contained within the "Elgin : City for the Future" Strategy. However, there seems less and less likelihood of that aspiration ever coming to fruition and in fact, the idea of having a hotel built there seems to have died a death.

The view that the area would be best put to good use for the benefit of the community rather than simply being used intermittently without any form of structure or strategy for its use was put forward after you left our meeting. The majority of members felt that the idea of creating an income stream from the land and investing any profits into other sports facilities in Elgin and possibly the wider Moray was commendable and therefore of benefit to the broader community.

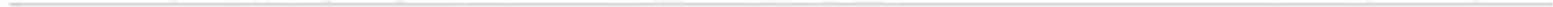
We understand that to allow your plans to progress and to allow the Elgin Sports Community Trust to apply to the appropriate funders to improve the area of land as a first step towards an all-weather 3G pitch, it needs to be under the ownership/control of the trust.

That seems to require either a very long lease or ownership under a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process. As the Community Council believes that there will be a benefit to the wider community from that happening, we are supportive of either outcome ensuing as a CAT exercise but would prefer a long lease (with possibly a peppercorn rent). The reason for this preference is that, in the event of the trust failing at any point, our preference would be for the land to revert to Common Good as opposed to what is written into your constitution. We understand that what is contained within your constitution is the norm and that in such circumstances the asset would go to a like-minded group. However, we believe it would be extremely unlikely there would be a group with similar aims, hence the preference to return the land to Common Good status.

We also look forward to maintaining contact with the Elgin Sports Community Trust through regular updates by whatever means is most appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

 (On behalf of the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council)





8<sup>th</sup> February 2018



Reference :- Elgin Sports Community Trust. (ESCT)

We hereby write in relation to proposals for the area of land at Lesser Boroughbriggs, Elgin and provide our full support to the Trust on this proposal.

We have outlined our reason below:-

Moray District Welfare Football Association (MDWFA) cover one of the largest geographic areas of Welfare Football who are affiliated to the Scottish Welfare Football Association.

Our objectives are to legislate for and foster the game of association football

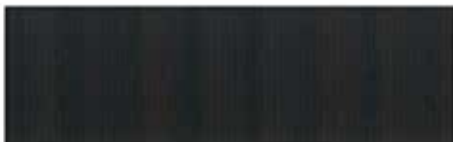
Moray Council under current financial pressures are unable to provide facilities and this would be best placed under a Charity like ESCT who can gain alternative funding to provide a facility that can be available for the entire community.

---

Moray Community Planning Partnership "Moray 2026-a plan for the future" notes that their aim and purpose to improve life for those living and working in Moray " One of their five priorities is Healthier Citizens with the main areas identified are to reduce incidence of obesity, and improve mental health and wellbeing.

These requirements are carried through into the recently published Moray Plan 2020.

---





MDWFA historically within Elgin had over 12 teams contesting our league over 7 pitches and we now have only 1 available pitch.

There are many reasons, though one of the major contributors is less kids playing outside football upon poor facilities and we must return to fostering football at all levels and must encourage Health as the principle ethos.

Other than Elgin City which cover Youth football from the ages of under 9, there is only Elgin Boys Club which cover a very small period each year. We have 1 Junior team in Elgin and the nearest other is Burghead. There is no participation for Youth football other than with Elgin City and Lossiemouth.

There is a huge gap with football development which is currently lost, and we must encourage this to foster to ensure we have a future bloodline of football within our area.

Historically there was a development process from Youth to Welfare to Junior to Highland League and beyond, though we do not have the younger age coming through the ranks in greater numbers.

Elgin City currently have 10 youth teams from Under 9 to under 20 who train approximately twice a week and play a match game each week as well as their community sessions at weekends and during the school holidays. Each week they undertake approximately over 200 children which must be acknowledged. Currently they train on over used pitches or have to travel some distance to train which is not ideal.

One of the attributes is poor facilities in and around Elgin. Within Elgin we have 2 pitches at Pinefield though only 1 pavilion. Dovecot is upon a wetland and is unplayable for large parts of the year. There is a new facility at Glasgreen though this is of poor quality and MDWFA will not book this facility due to dog walkers and broken glass.

When you bring in the current teams using these facilities from MDWFA, Forres Welfare, Female football, Youth games, New Elgin Juniors, social games the current available facilities are under extreme strain, without taking account of the training requirements.

There are 3G pitches at Aberlour, Fochabers, Buckie though nothing within Elgin, though we have witnessed the benefits of first class facilities that has recently been provided at Macduff.



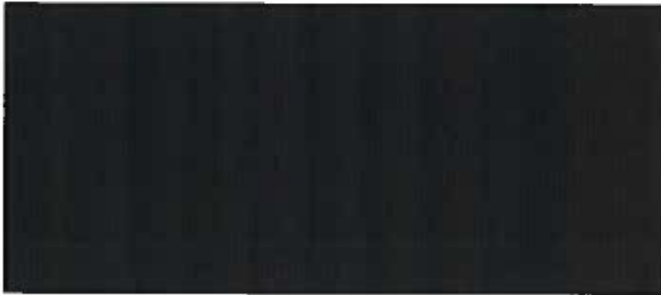


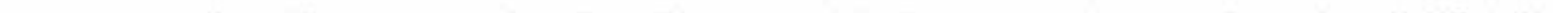
In discussions with Youth coaches of Aberdeen FC they have also indicated that they have experienced kids going to Dundee due to their lack of suitable facilities, hence their new proposals.

This facility will not only be used by football it can be utilised by all sports who wish to train and will be a huge benefit to Elgin and Moray.

ESCT should be encouraged with this proposal to bring forward enhanced facilities to ensure a greater number of children than that already undertaken and MDWFA provide their full support behind this proposal

Regards







# Health & Social Care Moray



[www.hscmoray.co.uk](http://www.hscmoray.co.uk)

1/11/18

## Letter of Support for Elgin Community Sports Trust (ECST)

The Moray Integration Joint Board (MIJB) was formally established on 1st April 2016. The MIJB is responsible for prioritisation and oversight for delivery of a wide range of Health and Social care services based in the community. The integrated delivery of health and care is now known as Health and Social Care Moray and is made up of the services traditionally delivered independently by NHS Grampian and Moray Council.

The vision for Moray is 'to enable the people of Moray to lead independent healthy and fulfilling lives in active and inclusive communities where everyone is valued, respected and supported to achieve their own goals'. This complements the Scottish Governments Health and Wellbeing National Outcomes where "people are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer."

The current situation in Moray is a positive one overall, with the majority of people living well and already caring well for themselves and their families. However, we need to build on this together. With an aging population and an 1.5% increase in obesity by 2023 the future of services and our ability to future proof Moray in a way that means there is a strong emphasis in helping people to help themselves will determine our ability to have the right services available to meet your needs when you really do need help of a more complex nature.

Through co-production and collaboration with the ECST, this partnership offers a mechanism not only to develop a sports facility used by health and social care community groups but to offer an alliance for further community development such as Mens Shed which supports Morays Health and Social Care agenda.

The ECST is offering a community funded and community led facility which is a preventative approach offering a successful, sustainable and cost effective model which will create a flourishing, resilient and connected Moray for all generations.

Yours sincerely,



The integrated health & social care partnership of  
Moray Council and NHS Grampian  
Pam Gowans, Chief Officer  
Moray Council, High Street, Elgin IV30 1BX



