

Why are we consulting?

On 7th March 2019, The City of Edinburgh Council approved a community asset transfer request under Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 by Blackhall Community Trust for an area of land, including the existing Ravelston Park Pavilion, to create a new fit for purpose nursery and a new community facility.

Part 8 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 states that if a local authority wishes to dispose of an area of Common Good land, they must consult local communities before taking any decision.

It will be necessary to seek the consent of the Court of Session to any proposed disposal. Any application to the Court will include information about this consultation and the responses received. It will also have an impact on any likely timescales involved with selling the property should a decision be made to proceed with the proposal.

What will the consultation results be used for?

The results of the consultation will be used as evidence to assist the Court in making their decision

What proportion of the park is subject to the consultation?

The area of land represents 7.5% of the area of Ravelston Park

Why is the park considered inalienable common good?

The piece of land that is the subject of this proposal was gifted to the City in 1921 and has been used as public amenity land for time immemorial and therefore, is considered by the Council to be inalienable common good. The land was gifted with the condition:

“always keep and maintain the same as a Public Recreation Park and not to build on same or any part thereof any building except as are usual or necessary or expedient for the due equipment of a Public Recreation Park.”

If permission is granted then what next?

If the Court grants permission to change status of the land, Blackhall Community Trust will make an offer to purchase the land, following the procedure laid down in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

Will there be an opportunity to comment on the detailed design?

Should Blackhall Community Trust wish to develop phase 2, planning permission will be required before any construction work is commenced. As part of the planning process, further public consultation will be undertaken when proposals are submitted

Are parking issues being addressed?

Parking issues will be addressed by Blackhall Community Trust as part of the phase 2 planning application.