

## 61444 Commercial Proposals for Use of Council-Owned Park Land

A list of all commercial proposals, expressions of interest, or applications for the use of council-owned park or open space land that were considered and refused by the Estates department (or any other relevant department) over the past three years (from April 2023 to present).

A list of all commercial proposals, expressions of interest, or applications for the use of council-owned park or open space land that were approved by the Estates department (or any other relevant department) over the same period, with the same details as above — to provide context for the approval rate and the basis on which decisions are made.

For each, please provide:

The date the proposal was received

The proposal was received by the Estates department on 14/03/2026.

The name of the applicant or organisation (where disclosure is not restricted)

The Ferry Sauna.

The nature of the proposed commercial use

To place a mobile sauna within the Meadows, close to Melville Drive.

The specific park or open space location proposed

To the rear of the Meadows Cricket Pavilion Café.

The stated reasons for the refusal

- We would require tender process and consultation; the requesting organisation refuted this approach.
- We have refused similar requests previously and remain consistent in this approach as a wider consultation on this provision within Parks would be required.
- The Parks team use this garden area for small scale events, storage for Friends of the Meadows & Bruntsfield Links tools/materials, storage for grass cutting machinery and Park Ranger equipment; therefore, access is always required. The position of such infrastructure would prevent this access.
- The garden area has several mature trees whereby an occupation such as this would impact root protection areas.
- The area is near a historic monument which would not permit this use.
- There are no utilities connections within this location.

Whether the applicant was offered an alternative site, process, or route to market

No alternative site was provided.

Any internal policy, guidance, or criteria used by the Estates department (or other relevant department) when evaluating commercial proposals for council-owned park and open space land, including any delegation of authority or decision-making thresholds.

The Council's [scheme of delegation](#) and [Commercial Property Portfolio Strategy](#) are available on our website.