

**Office Use only:**

Asset Ref	
Name CTB	PlayAberlour
ATR Ref	064

ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST

NOTICE OF ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST Representation Submissions / CTB Feedback

Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 sets out that people are to be made aware that an asset transfer request has been submitted. Notification has been published via the [Moray Council website](#), advertised via Moray Council social media sites, notification to any tenant/owner/occupier of said asset and notification at the site of the asset. These notifications explain how representation can be submitted.

When representation is received in response to these notices, the Moray Council must send copies to the community transfer body for comment/feedback. Details of which can be found below. In order to comply with data protection requirements, any personal information will be 'blacked out' from these documents before submission to you.

Date of Representation period (20 working days):	13/01/20 – 07/02/20
Number of Representation(s) received:	48

Date collated Representation sent to CTB:	13/02/20
Date of CTB Feedback to representation (20 working days)	14/02/20 – 13/03/20
Deadline date of feedback submission to CAT	16/03/2020

All comments/feedback received will be published via the Moray Council website for public information.

If the CTB feel they are unable to meet the comment/feedback deadline; they should contact the CAT team to discuss.

1	16/01	Just wanted to show my support for play Aberlour. XXXX, I think the proposal is a well thought out practical proposal of what the community want. They've listened and put a fantastic vision together. Aberlour play Park at the moment is a sorry looking area for residents visitors and children alike. I can't wait to see the progression of this for all to enjoy.
		<i>CTB Response Here</i>
2	22/01	I'm writing to add my support to the Play Aberlour application for a community asset transfer. XXXX I've been appalled the removal and lack of replacement equipment and of the state of the play park is now left in, indeed the only things left that XXXX enjoy using are the brilliant slide and climbing rope frame. I therefore fully support Play Aberlour's application and would love to see their vision of the park become a reality.
		<i>CTB Response Here</i>
3	22/01	XXXX Planning for Real project in Aberlour in 2016. XXXX the 3D map and attended the public sessions. I saw the wide range of people from Aberlour and Speyside putting their hopes and dreams for the community onto the map, written on small flags. It was an inspiring process, to see democracy in action. The lack of progress since 2016 has been disappointing. I don't want to waste time and energy on what could have been, the why's and the who's, I want to focus on moving forward. The business case put forward by PlayAberlour is grounded firmly in the Planning for Real process. I therefore feel that the local councillors should support the project, as it clearly is the will of the local people. XXXX The PlayAberlour proposal supports the health of local people, giving old and young, fit and less-able people an opportunity to exercise free of charge, without transport worries. XXXX. A park with a Changing Place toilet, with great play equipment, with a putting green and other facilities will draw a large number of visitors - both local residents and holiday makers. XXXX from Manchester mentioned the "great play park at Craigellachie" when planning what they wanted to do when they visited me, they had remembered it from the previous year. Families with children will plan their day out around a good park and toilet facilities. This will increase sales in local shops, cafes, etc., and in turn increase employment and the commercial viability of these essential local businesses. In conclusion I would like to strongly express my support for PlayAberlour and politely request that my elected representatives support this project.
		<i>CTB Response Here</i>

4	23/01	<p>We are writing in support of AberlourPlay and their aspirations to obtain a successful Community Asset Transfer of the Alice Litter Park on behalf of the community of Aberlour.</p> <p>XXXX to pledge our support and stress the need for the facility to be brought into community control and care.</p> <p>It our belief that AberlourPlay SCIO has the capacity and professionalism to manage a CAT for the community and transform a tired facility into an accessible and most enjoyable leisure facility for community benefit.</p> <p>A play park has innumerable benefits, especially with regard to individuals physical and mental health and wellbeing. It is a space that enhances community cohesion with the opportunity for people of all ages to come together, in a place of great natural beauty, reducing social isolation and encouraging exercise in a gentle and fun manner. With an ageing population, the fitness gym would become a valuable community resource for Aberlour and accessible play equipment should be standard in each and every play park, not an exception!</p> <p>The benefits of a creative play park are too many to list and we fully trust that the CAT team are more than aware of what they are. With such a play park in existence, social value could be easily measured in less visits to the local GP, less hospital admissions, a reduction in cases of social isolation, an increase in voluntary group membership to name but a few.</p> <p>XXXX it is also our belief that such a facility will encourage more families to visit and stay longer in Aberlour and accordingly spend more money locally. We believe that it will enhance Aberlour's attraction to visitors considerably and benefit Moray as a fast growing tourist destination.</p> <p>Following the recent TBID success of Moray Speyside Tourism, AberlourPlay has much to gain from Moray Council's support. Empowering communities is becoming the norm and a successful means to manage local facilities across the UK. It is recognised to the extent of being backed by local and national government incentives and policies.</p> <p>Moray Council has show that it is very much part of this movement with its commitment to supporting its communities through its facilitation of Planning for Real sessions (PfR). It is testimony to the PfR success that groups such as AberlourPlay have formed, gone the extra distance to become a registered charity (SCIO) and spent valuable time developing a proposal for a CAT.</p> <p>We hope and trust that Moray Council will recognise and encourage AberlourPlay through supporting the CAT with all its necessary stages to its successful completion.</p> <p><i>CTB Response Here</i></p>
5	23/01	<p>I am writing to you in regards to the play park appeal in aberlour. XXXX over the summer months of 2019 XXXX way to ballindalloch castle to pay to play or XXXX craigellachie park to play safely. The state of aberlours play park is disgusting its run down water logged and unsafe! XXXX to look after I just do not feel safe being so close to such a fast running river with no fencing or safety precautions. One of the times I did have help to go to park we met a family from quite far a field and they also were disgusted at the state of the park they had travelled some distance as they thought we still had a nice park.</p> <p>XXXX and in summer months have taken our group to the park to play out rather than being "stuck" in the hall. However last year we were unable to do this as the current park is not fit for purpose.</p> <p>The plans the people for play about have sound absolutely fantastic!! I am so excited by many of the plans! To walk my dogs as a family at</p>

		<p>the park once again and safely stop to play or to take toddlers to the park I feel the play aberlour plans will bring so much more than a place to play to our community but will bring people from far and wide once again it will bring custom to our shops and restaurants once again it will bring people into the village and get them visiting our small shops. I feel the park project will bring so much more than just a park, as someone who has XXXX this all inclusive park and changing facilities would be a game changer! So often we looked for places to take the children out to but ended up having to go separately as not all children could be included in park play this development just opens to many doors for so many people.</p> <p>A Community Asset Tranfer is an absolute must for our community! This project is so much more than just a park.</p>
		<i>CTB Response Here</i>
6	23/01	<p>I have just read the extensive 51 page Play Aberlour document relating to the transfer of ownership of the Alice Littler Park in Aberlour. Myself and my family would fully endorse the changes that they have recommended especially the inclusion of a zip line, skateboarding area and fitness equipment. We have used these facilities in the past in other playparks and think they would be very popular. At the moment my kids are reluctant to use the park as often as they would like as it often very wet underfoot.</p> <p>I think it would be extremely beneficial to the town of Aberlour and would bring in more visitors to the town.</p> <p>I hope you will consider my thoughts and if you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>
		<i>CTB Response Here</i>
7	23/01	<p>I want to express my support for PlayAberlour's bid to take on the Alice Littler Park in upcoming Community Asset Transfer. I feel that their published plans are exactly what Aberlour needs. Their plans for the park will respect the surroundings while bringing it up to modern standards.</p> <p>I used to enjoy taking XXXX to the village playpark; however in the past few years i have had to take my youngest (XXXX) to other play areas. I am very fortunate that I drive and have the means to visit other play areas, however many families do not, so it is hugely important that there is a well-equipped and well maintained play area in the village.</p> <p>I feel that the current provisions at the park for the disabled access area unacceptable, especially as both the Primary and High School in the village have excellent support for learning provisions and are fully inclusive. There needs to be access and equipment that is suitable for wheelchair users etc. to ensure that everyone can equally enjoy the park and the beautiful surroundings.</p> <p>A park that is modern and well used by both locals and visitors would undoubtedly be of benefit to local shops and eating places in Aberlour and hopefully other areas in Moray as well.</p>
		<i>CTB Response Here</i>

8	23/01	<p>I am writing to you in regards of aberlour play park. XXXX and so often walk my dog down by the river; as I walk by I feel saddened by the sorry state of the park and how neglected it has become. XXXX I'd love to take to the park but play equipment is so ran down I cant. The play aberlour team appear to have a real grasp on what the community need and I feel a community asset tranfer is a must! Not only for the park but the trade it would bring to all the local businesses.</p>
		<i>CTB Response Here</i>
9	23/01	<p>Hello , I am asking for your help to upgrade Aberlour play park . I walk my dog in that area often and I am constantly surprised at the distance people come to enjoy Alice Littler park . If you could help to upgrade the play park I think this would enhance our park and encourage more visitors to Aberlour</p>
		<i>CTB Response Here</i>
10	23/01	<p>XXXX I would like to offer my full support to Play Aberlour in their request to gain ownership of the Alice Littler Park. Their plans are forward thinking, modern and fully inclusive. This is just what is needed in Aberlour. The current play area is outdated and dangerous. The fact that this has been allowed to happen under the care of our Community Association is embarrassing. The Alice Littler park needs Play Aberlour and I truly hope The Moray Council makes the right decision for my community.</p>
		<i>CTB Response Here</i>
11	25/01	<p>I am writing to advise that I give my whole hearted support to Play Aberlour to take on and transform Alice Littler Park and to take responsibility for the Bridge. For too long the park has been left to go to ruin the only thing worth saving there is the slide. There has been no change, nothing positive has been progressed under its current ownership and it is a disgrace to Aberlour. Those who have been responsible obviously have no concern for the enjoyment that a park brings for children and adults alike. If you want to keep tourists coming back then it should appeal to all. There is a park side and a large grassy area side so those without children can still have peace and quiet and the grass area can still be used to hold events. I am disappointed that it has taken this long before a decision has been made as during that time the park has deteriorated in to the eye sore it is. Doing nothing is not acceptable and there are those ready to put their heart and sole in to bringing change and I will roll my sleeves up too for this worthwhile cause. For once show progression and allow this park to become some where people want to go instead of avoid. As for the bridge others have washed their hands of responsibility for it and here you have a group willing to take it on , maintain it and have the funds to do so. The bridge is a link to Aberlour XXXX. Please don't forget the children who use this bridge to bike to and from school without it they wouldn't be able to do that and you promote fitness, well being and supposedly listen to children. Have you asked any of them what it would mean to remove the bridge or have a new park? They are our future and not one school has had a survey done amongst</p>

		the children. So as a parent and member of this community I support the development of Alice Littler Park and giving the group the responsibility for the Penny Bridge.
		<i>CTB Response Here</i>
12	26/01	<p>I would like to express my views regarding the proposals put forward for the community Asset Transfer of the Alice Littler Park in Aberlour. XXXX. Years ago - the park was a fine place to go with the kids but it has been in steady decline over a number of years now. Sadly, we no longer go there and often opt to travel somewhere else for a nice visit to a park.</p> <p>Having read the proposals put forward by Play Aberlour - I would very much like to see them take charge of the park and make it a park that we can be proud of and use again. Surely, having a state of the art park, play area and beauty spot will then in turn boost the many local businesses in Aberlour too.</p> <p>I think it's sad that certain members of our local community association seem to be trying to block any efforts by group members of Play Aberlour to make our village a better place. Surely it should be the voices from a community that should be listened to and through the planning for real process - the message that came through loud and clear was that our community want a new park inclusive for all regardless of age or whether someone has a disability</p> <p>I would like Play Aberlour to be given the chance to put their plans in place and once again have a park and area to be proud of.</p>
		<i>CTB Response Here</i>

13	26/01	<p>I am writing to you to express my views with the community asset transfer of the Alice Littler Park in Aberlour.</p> <p>I have read the proposed business plans from both the Aberlour Commuity Association as well as Play Aberlour and would very much like Play Aberlour to be given the opportunity to put their plans into practice.</p> <p>Play Aberlour's proposal is extensive, professional and very exciting. Our park in Aberlour at the moment is dire. We no longer go there as a family as over the years various pieces of play equipment have been removed by Moray Council as it was deemed unsafe the equipment that remains is limited. XXXX. They no longer ask to go to the local park, which is very sad - instead they would ask to go somewhere else for a day out.</p> <p>Play Aberlour have obviously done extensive research and asked lots of groups within the local community - what it is that they would like to see in the park. The prospect of exciting new equipment - inclusive for all ages and abilities, new spaces within the park, rejuvenation of the pathways, safety fencing etc. is all very exciting but also essential if we want a playpark and area to be proud of.</p> <p>If Play Aberlour were given the chance and support from locals to put their plans into action - not only would this benefit our children for years to come but it would also benefit the whole community - local businesses too as people would travel to our beautiful village for a day out with their families, instead of us currently leaving the village for a day out somewhere else.</p> <p>With the two schools in the village - Aberlour Primary School and Speyside High both having an enhanced provision space within them, catering for children with emotional and physical disabilities - it is so exciting to read of Play Aberlour's plans to ensure that the amendments to the park will be inclusive - surely in this day and age this a MUST!</p> <p>I very much hope that Play Aberlour are given he opportunity to put their plans into action. My family and I will certainly support with any fundraising events etc. that are planned for the future.</p> <p><i>CTB Response Here</i></p>
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14	27/01	<p>I am writing to express my support for PlayAberlour's CAT request of the Alice Littler Park in Aberlour. Currently, the play park area is held on a lease by Aberlour Community Association (ACA) and, in fact, has been for over 20 years. The limited amount of play equipment that still remains in situ is poorly maintained and certainly not conducive to exciting play activities. Disappointingly, the play park has become a dog exercising area and not an area that entices children to play. This application by PlayAberlour encompasses the aspirations that were expressed in the Planning for Real process and confirmed by surveys conducted by PlayAberlour together with other feedback.</p> <p>PlayAberlour's proposal for the whole park, including the play park, are imaginative, innovative and, above all, inclusive. People of all ages and abilities will be able to exercise, play and socialise in this revitalised space. However, the traditional putting green and games field will remain but will be well maintained and facilities enhanced to a higher standard than is currently evident. PlayAberlour's successful application will bring the Alice Littler Park into the 21st century rather than leave it firmly set in the 20th if ACA were to be successful with its own bid. PlayAberlour's park will be an amazing addition to the facilities in Aberlour for both residents and visitors alike. Tourism is well served by the food and drinks industries. However, the target audience is the adult population. There is little to attract families with young children to visit Aberlour. PlayAberlour's investment in the Park will remedy that deficit. This will be good for the whole of Speyside not just Aberlour. PlayAberlour's intention to assume responsibility for the upkeep, maintenance and insurance of the Penny Bridge is welcome news. This bridge is not only an iconic feature across the River Spey but comes with a wealth of history and also affords access to Moray's Core Paths. Without PlayAberlour's intervention this bridge is likely to be closed to the public in the near future. ACA have consistently refused to 'take on' the bridge. Therefore, if PlayAberlour do not get the CAT for the Alice Littler Park it is likely that the bridge will be closed in the future. A disaster! For all the reasons stated, I wholeheartedly support PlayAberlour's plans for Alice Littler Park and would urge you to do the same. Let's move away from the past and embrace the future</p> <p><i>CTB Response Here</i></p>
15	28/01	<p>I would like to register my SUPPORT for the Play Aberlour CAT application for the Alice Littler park in Aberlour.</p> <p>The current park is a disgrace and not fit for purpose. XXXX to have a new play park to enjoy and get exercise in as well as the general tidy up of the area for amenity purposes.</p> <p>Please take this email as a register of support.</p> <p><i>CTB Response Here</i></p>
16	29/01	<p>Having submitted a letter of support for Aberlour Community Association's C.A.T. application for the Alice Littler Park, it goes without saying that I do not support a rival application from a group which is open to membership and therefore influences from beyond Aberlour. There is no harm in listening to what visitors say and then acting on viable suggestions, but handing the park to such a constituted group could, in theory, result in loss of local control. The Play Aberlour vision for the Alice Littler Park is ambitious, too ambitious, as the business plan as submitted, does not match the vision, a vision not necessarily shared by the silent majority, few of whom participated in the 'Planning for Real' process. Play Aberlour admits it was given an opportunity to show its ability to fund raise, plan and execute its wish list for the play area. Instead they turned it down, and have done nothing in the interim to help those who have done volunteer work in the park, preferring instead to malign everyone else involved. I mentioned earlier the idea of listening to what visitors say. The volunteers at the Speyside Visitor</p>

		Centre and the Station Tearoom hear many comments about the park. The picture painted by Play Aberlour is greatly at odds with the comments of visitors. That is not to say there is no work to be done, far from it, but those elected to Aberlour Community Association's executive are perfectly aware of what, in the current financial climate is feasible and have a viable and funded plan to begin immediate maintenance and when funding allows, the changes most suited to a riverside park.
		<i>CTB Response Here</i>
17	30/01	XXXX concerning a claimed Relationship between Aberlour and Speyside Rotary Club and PlayAberlour. I refer to the CAT Application made by PlayAberlour to take over the Alice Littler Park and Suspension Bridge across the River Spey (the "Penny Brig"). Ref 064. In Section E of the Application, Moray Council asks for details of the level and nature of support for the request, from the community and, if relevant, from others. Within this Section, at item 3, the Applicants assert that: <i>PlayAberlour has a close relationship with the Aberlour & Speyside Rotary Club (XXXX), which strongly supports our plan and has agreed to help us in three important ways.</i> It also infers that Rotary at Regional and higher levels supports the Application and stands ready to help. XXXX. XXXX knowledge, members have never discussed having any relationship with PlayAberlour and have not agreed to support or help their plan. I consider PlayAberlour's statement made in this part the Application to be factually incorrect and that this fact should be taken into account when the Committee considers the PlayAberlour's Application. I do not speak for anyone other than myself, my motive here solely being to separate fact from fiction.
		<i>CTB Response Here</i>
18	30/01	I wish to object to Play Aberlour's application for a CAT transfer of the Alice Littler Park. Their tactics in trying to secure support via social media have alarmed me to such an extent that I have no faith in their ability to run any project ethically, professionally or fairly. Some of their information is blatantly false, e.g. 'Aberlour Community Association refused to discuss any sort of cooperation agreement with Play Aberlour'. One of their proposals smacks at blackmail. They offer to look after the Penny Bridge 'if and only if, it (Play Aberlour) is awarded Alice Littler Park'. I hope the transfer team can find a less aggressive and more honest applicant.
		<i>CTB Response Here</i>
19	02/02	XXXX. I would like Playaberlour to be able to get the park area in the village. The reason that I would like playaberlour to get the park area is because I think they will take care of the park and do lots of fun things for the kids and nice things for the adults. XXXX showed me the plans from them and the community association. And being honest I think that playaberlour's was better so that is why I am rooting for them. The community association don't seem to have much planned that is thrilling for the kids or even adults to enjoy.
		<i>CTB Response Here</i>
20	03/02	I wish to make observations on this Business Case. Page 4 states "our award winning Speyside Visitor Centre" which is extremely misleading. Speyside Visitor Centre forms part of the former Station Building, ownership of which was transferred to Aberlour Community Association in July 2016 under Community Asset Transfer. At no time has any member of Play Aberlour been involved in the development or running of the Visitor Centre. The claim suggests that Play Aberlour is an award winning organisation when, in fact, it is not and could mislead the wider public. On finances the document is simply a Wish List giving no detail where funding has been agreed. In fact the financial activities lack transparency in that the Organisation has no funds but yet they produced display boards and a Consultation Leaflet – how were these items

		<p>paid for? The Chair Report to August 2018 was received by OSCR on 29th May 2019 but not checked / uploaded until 23rd July. (Checking / uploading normally happens within a week of arriving at OSCR) The Financial Review states: "Deficit – None. Donated facilities and services – None". Despite the amounts involved the Report should have declared how these items were funded. The Financial Projection appears to have been filled in to balance the proposed expenditure without any real proof that funding will be forthcoming. Given the extensive list of equipment etc the Business Case should, at the very least, have included a layout Plan. There could be Planning issues which will need to be addressed. This part of the Alice Littler Park is a recognised flood risk area (the Car Park area was discounted by the Low Carbon Project as suitable for a Charging Unit for electric vehicles for that reason). It should be noted that the footprint of the Playpark, at the original construction, was raised as a protection measure against possible flooding damage. Additional drainage was installed in 2017 by The Moray Council from the chute through the Playpark into the River Spey to resolve issues following installation of the Flood Alleviation works.</p> <p><i>CTB Response Here</i></p>
21	04/02	<p>As the body originally entrusted with the responsibility for governance of the Alice Littler Park, the Alice Littler Memorial Trust would like formally to register its concern with several key points in the PlayAberlour Community Asset Transfer request and business plan submitted to the Moray Council. There are substantive errors of fact and of interpretation within the PA documents which require to be corrected:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ALMT were happy to participate in the Planning for Real initiative in 2016, as a potentially useful strategic planning process. However, the PA reference to the 'sharply and disappointingly limited' response of ALMT to the emergent presentation by representatives of PA in November 2016 fails to give the full facts. ALMT had recognised the validity and suitability of some but not all of the many suggestions for change in the ALP made in the PfR initiative. As a result, the ALMT began a process of costing improvements which would have met some of the more reasonable requests, including the upgrading of paths within the park in order to allow wider wheelchair mobility. (The PA allegation that 'the Trust specifically rejected any changes designed to increase the inclusion of people from a wider range of ages, abilities, interests and backgrounds, whether local or visitors, and anything at all outwith the existing playpark area' is grossly inaccurate.) At the same time, ALMT engaged in a dialogue with XXXX the Planning for Real 'XXXX', and correspondence from this source subsequently changed to being from PlayAberlour. The ALMT did not agree with all the demands of PlayAberlour but did offer to allow them to undertake improvements within the footprint of the play area which we agreed were needed. They refused to do this, demanding access to the whole park 2. The inference that ALMT was somehow remiss in 'being caught completely unaware of a major change in Scottish land law' which resulted in transfer of ownership of ALP to the Moray Council is completely unjustified. As XXXX stated (in a letter reproduced as Appendix 4 in the ACA CAT Business Plan), the ALP was ensnared in tortuous Scottish Land Law legislation that was designed for an entirely separate purpose. As XXXX again pointed out in the abovementioned correspondence, neither party welcomed the development. Having assiduously maintained ALP for over three decades for the benefit of the community of Aberlour, throughout 2017 ALMT explored every conceivable means of preventing loss of ownership of the park, involving protracted communication with MC themselves, with the Justice Directorate of the Scottish Government, with party leaders at Holyrood, XXXX as well as seeking legal counsel.

		<p>Having decided against entering into a ruinously expensive legal challenge to the Scottish Government over the means by which ALMT lost ownership of ALP, in May of 2018 the Trust duly placed its faith in Aberlour Community Association as the foremost democratically elected body in Aberlour boasting the appropriate experience, track-record and financial probity to apply for a CAT to take ownership of ALP. The decision of PA at their very birth to submit an Expression of Interest in a CAT for ownership of the Park to MC at this juncture – subsequently only learned by ALMT from a second-hand source – without communication with ALMT themselves is reflective of the oppositional stance and the adversarial tone that has marked the conduct of PA in their dealings with the established bodies experienced in managing these affairs – in this case ALMT, which in August 1980 had been granted legal ownership of ALP by Sydney Littler. The PA CAT documentation is tangible evidence of PA's intention to promote their own cause by attempting to undermine the credibility of other groups involved in the park's history.</p> <p>The frequency and seriousness of the misinformation presented in the PlayAberlour CAT in relation to ALMT's history and achievements (relayed in their Facebook page) undermines the group's professional standing. More seriously, PA's ongoing failure to provide evidence of concrete plans and financial means completely compromises their claim that they have the wherewithal to take on responsibility for appropriate regeneration of the Alice Littler Park. ALMT would therefore like to reaffirm its formal endorsement of the ACA CAT plan, as published in Appendix 6 of their application submitted to MC in August 2019.</p>
		<i>CTB Response Here</i>
22	04/02	<p>I am writing in support of the bid by PlayAberlour to take on Alice Littler Park by community asset transfer. They have fantastic ideas for the park which will make it accessible and fun for all ages and abilities. They have a forward thinking, open attitude in keeping with what is needed for the future of our village. It is disappointing and a sad reflection on some in our community that they have been met with such negativity, and that they have had to form in the first place rather than function as a sub-committee of the current community association. Aberlour needs to move on and thrive, especially with plans underway for more housing in the area.</p> <p>The park is currently in a dreadful state. Apart from the slide and the climbing wall there is nothing that is safe or accessible for children and families. Even these are not particularly safe, the ground is churned up and sodden in the play area and often smells of sewage. There is a history of drainage problems.</p> <p>We used to visit the park regularly in the past but have not done so for some time, due to its current state. We would also often see families from other areas coming to the park to play and picnic in the beautiful surroundings. Nowadays there are hardly any visitors, particularly to the play area. It is often deserted which is incredibly sad given its potential.</p> <p>As far as I'm aware while the park was in the hands of the community association the entirety has fallen into a sadly neglected state. A fresh look at the park is desperately needed and we are very fortunate to have pro active people willing to take it on and bring into a state where it is busy with locals and visitors alike, who can then support the local shops and businesses.</p> <p>I have seen no such plans for the park from the community association, some of whom sadly seem intent in standing in the way of progress. I would also expect that any locally elected councillors would see the sense in PlayAberlour's plans and be happy to support the progress Aberlour needs. If not then in my opinion they are completely out of touch with what the majority of our community want. You only have to</p>

		<p>look at the planning for real process to see what people clearly wish to happen. I'm hoping that common sense prevails and that PlayAberlour are successful in their bid.</p> <p><i>CTB Response Here</i></p>
23	04/02	<p>ECHC is disappointed to see the emotive language which has been used throughout this application and the ease by which Play Aberlour allocates blame and publicly criticises the Aberlour Community Association (ACA), Alice Littler Memorial Trust (ALMT) and also Moray Council in terms of their management of the Alice Littler Park (ALP). This is not conducive to harmonious relationships within a community.</p> <p>We are also concerned that the future of the Victoria Bridge appears to have become a bargaining tool to be used within the community of Aberlour in order to gain support for Play Aberlour's (PA) application. PA states that "the "bridge should probably already be chained off, or at a minimum display signage stating "pass at your own risk" and that it is PA's intention to "Save" it. However, PA's desire to ensure the future safety of people who use the bridge and the bridge itself is solely dependent on them securing ownership of the ALP - this is in essence emotional blackmail and a completely unacceptable method by which to obtain public support for a Community Asset Transfer.</p> <p>We note that the redevelopment of the ALP along the lines proposed by PA will require substantial investment. PA acknowledges that they have been in existence for a limited period of time and that to date they have no funds available to them and only a wish list of potential funders and anonymous donors, including their Patron. More worryingly, they have not produced a plan showing how they intend to redesign the Park with regards to the location of equipment to be installed nor do they appear to have had any discussions with MC, or received any commitment from them, with regards to any associated planning related matters. ECHC would have expected these issues to have been addressed prior to any CAT application. We would also have expected a comprehensive risk assessment to have been carried out prior to submission.</p> <p>ECHC believes that the future ownership and management of the ALP must be resolved not only for the benefit of the community of Aberlour but also for Speyside as a whole. We are of the opinion that the only way this can be successfully achieved is if the Park is returned to community ownership under the auspices of the ACA – a body which is elected to represent the residents of Aberlour and an organisation which has a proven track record of managing assets on behalf of their community. As a result of an earlier CAT application, the ACA already owns the Old Station Tea Room and Speyside Visitor Centre as well as the public toilets – given that these buildings are located at the front of the ALP, we believe it is entirely appropriate that the ownership of the Park is transferred to the ACA and not a separate entity. We are encouraged by the fact that the ACA's Business Plan clearly identified their Objectives and Measures including a detailed risk assessment, provided evidence of their strong financial position and publicly stated that they would form a dedicated sub- committee which would include Play Aberlour to take forward the regeneration of the playpark area.</p>

		<p>We look forward to an early resolution of the future ownership of the Park. We believe that the Park must be managed and regenerated in a sustainable manner whilst reflecting the wishes of all users of the Park and we have concerns regarding Play Aberlour's ability to deliver on their vision for the Park.</p> <p><i>CTB Response Here</i></p>
24	04/02	<p>XXXX. I'm responding to the Play Aberlour Asset Transfer request ref 064 for the Alice littler Park Aberlour. I do not support Play Aberlour's request for ownership of the Alice Littler Park for the following reasons :</p> <p>There is various inaccuracies in Play Aberlour's Business Case. There is no evidence of funding. There is no evidence of letters of support from their listed funding organisations or mentioned corporates. In Play Aberlour's financial statement there is no funds & no funds have been raised since the founding of the organisation.</p> <p>Play Aberlour say they will take on the Victoria Bridge that crosses the Spey with the liabilities & pay to maintain the bridge. The Bridge is irrelevant to the Alice littler Park & is not on Moray Council's asset transfer list.</p> <p>Play Aberlour have used social media sites to encourage the public to write anonymous letters of support for their cause highlighting the Playpark to reference the state of the whole park. The whole Alice littler Park consists of 3 Areas : 1. The Car park 2. The recreation/ Play park 3. The main arena/ where the Highland Games are held</p> <p>The community knows the Play Park is in need of upgrading which will be taken care of in due course. The rest of the park is in good condition. The comment's made by Play Aberlour on their social media sites have mislead the community of Aberlour to think that the Play park represents the whole park.</p> <p>Play Aberlour also published on social media the XXXX and encouraged the public to write anonymous letters of support to them as well.</p> <p>The Patronage Support is Anonymous with no letter of support submitted.</p> <p>Finally Play Aberlour has no track record, therefore I cannot support this organisation to take ownership of the Alice Littler Park through a Community Asset Transfer . Play Aberlour Have not proven their ability to be a competent organisation that could deliver a sustainable Alice littler Park to benefit the community of Aberlour and beyond on the basis of their business case. This is no more than a wish list.</p> <p><i>CTB Response Here</i></p>
25	04/02	<p>The Moray Federation of Community Halls & Associations' membership comprises over 55 halls and community associations across Moray. Our role is to provide advice on governance, charitable duties and responsibilities as well as the legislative requirements associated with the day to day running of halls and associations. Aberlour Community Association (ACA) is a member of the MFCHA.</p>

	<p>The MFCHA would like to take this opportunity to comment on constitutional matters and in particular with regards to managing conflicts of interest.</p> <p>Clause 73 of the ACA constitution states that each charity trustee (Executive committee member) has a duty, in exercising functions as a charity trustee, to act in the interests of the organisation; and, in particular, must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 73.3 In circumstances giving rise to the possibility of a conflict of interest between the organisation (ACA) and any other party (in this case Play Aberlour - PA): • 73.3.1 put the interests of the organisation before that of the other party • 73.3.2 where any other duty prevents him/her from doing so, disclose the conflicting interest to the organisation and refrain from participating in any deliberation or decision of the other charity trustees with regard to the matter in question (in this case the Alice Littler Park). <p>Clauses of this nature are standard in constitutions and are in fact replicated in Play Aberlour's constitution – clause 36.</p> <p>XXXX ACA Executive Board/Trustees' meetings in order to provide clarification on specific constitutional matters and XXXX the PA presentation to ACA and subsequent follow up ACA meetings.</p> <p>Following the PA presentation given to ACA trustees in April 2019, the ACA held an Executive Board/Trustees' meeting on 22 May 2019 which was attended by ACA trustees XXXX. One of the Agenda items included the Alice Littler Park.</p> <p>However, as two of the XXXX were also XXXX for Play Aberlour (XXXX) and both had been involved in the delivery of the PA presentation to ACA, then clearly under the ACA constitution (clause 73.3.2) neither could "participate in any deliberation or decision of the other charity trustees with regard to the matter in question" – the matter in question related to a discussion amongst ACA trustees about the presentation given to them by PA and ACA's future co-operation with other interested parties including PA.</p> <p>As the conflict of interest was clearly identifiable, the two people concerned therefore had to withdraw from the meeting whilst the agenda item was discussed. It is therefore incorrect and misleading for Play Aberlour to state in their Business Plan that they (PA) "were nonsensically asked to leave a meeting that had been specifically arranged for the purpose of discussing cooperation"</p> <p>At that meeting, the remaining "non-conflicted" ACA trustees then discussed these issues and unanimously agreed to the following motion:</p> <p>"the ACA will progress a CAT for ownership of the whole park, comprising the arena area, the play park area and the car park. Following that, and, under the auspices of the ACA, a sub-committee will be formed with all parties who have a stake in the future of the play park including</p>
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		<p>ACA, Play Aberlour, Health Service representatives, village nursery groups, school Parent Teacher Associations, Highland Games Committee and other interested parties". This wording is contained within the CAT application submitted by ACA for the Alice Littler Park.</p> <p>I trust this clarifies the comments contained within page 4 of the Business Plan which forms part of the CAT application submitted by Play Aberlour in relation to the Alice Littler Park.</p> <p>CTB Response Here</p>
26	04/02	<p>We note that a second asset transfer request has been made in respect of the Alice Littler Park in Aberlour, this time by a group called Play Aberlour. We note that their Business Plan states that they were "purposely formed for the task of accepting responsibility for Alice Littler Park", however no specific reference is made to this Park in their constitution and the organisation now appears to be prepared to expand its remit to include responsibility for "saving Victoria Bridge".</p> <p>XXXX acknowledges that "sample costs" for Playpark and picnic area equipment have been provided as part of this Asset Transfer Request but it is unclear from the documentation supplied where this equipment will be situated in the Park. We believe that an outline Plan of what the Park would look like should have been included as part of this application as this would have enabled a properly informed CAT consultation process to take place</p> <p>Our understanding of the CAT process is that a very strong application should demonstrate strong and sustainable governance as well as financial arrangements. Play Aberlour has only been a registered charity since August 2017 and their application states that at present they have no funds available to the organisation. Given that they estimate that they will need to raise approximately £300,000 in order to deliver this project and that no funding – or promise of major funding - has been secured to date, it would appear that there is a high risk of project failure should Play Aberlour be successful in their transfer request. Failure of such a project would be hugely detrimental to the whole of Speyside.</p> <p>CTB Response Here</p>
27	04/02	<p>XXXX</p> <p>I strongly believe there would be many negatives come out of this organisation being awarded the CAT. I also see numerous issues with the application. There are numerous false accounts that XXXX. My response will highlight the issues I have noted and the concerns I hold.</p> <p>Overall the application is very unprofessional and has several personal grievances with organisations which should be left out of the application and resolved privately. The use of this application to publicly name an organisation and highlight decisions that haven't gone in favour of Play Aberlour is utterly ridiculous and extremely unprofessional. These grievances, through witnessing them first-hand, are personal attacks and have nothing to do with the way in which this application should be framed. The application belittles the work that Aberlour Community Association has done over the last 40+ years which is dishonourable and should be left out of the application.</p>

	<p>Although I agree that the park should be better in a better state and would benefit from some work being carried out on it, I disagree with the way in which Play Aberlour has framed this. XXXX Planning for Real process, XXXX what the people of the community said and Play Aberlour has majorly blown this out of proportion. Many flags were placed around the park area, but this was more to do with dog mess and the dog bin not being emptied, therefore the statement made in the application about thousands of pins during the Planning for Real process being in support of redeveloping the whole park is inaccurate and not in fact what the community highlighted. There was support of the park being done up but to my knowledge not to the extent portrayed through this application- since the process, what the community actually said has grown arms and legs and lost its real focus. Play Aberlour have not listened to the community and what they want, they have spun it in a way in which suits them.</p> <p>Another issue that I find very problematic is the validity of the organisation. The group was only established three years ago, arguably making them a new group and I have reservations about whether the group is sustainable. From my knowledge the group have not been successfully running. As they say in their application, they have not asked their members to be actively involved during the paperwork process which XXXX is unjust and reflects negatively on the way that Play Aberlour works. They claim to be inclusive and listen to the community however have made the CAT application process discrete from their members and has been done by a select few, this to me signals that the group is predominantly run by just a few members. I would argue that this weakens the group and the idea of everyone's voices being heard. The group claims they will work with the community but fail to work with each other when producing this application which is not the way that a community organisation should be run.</p> <p>There are conflicts of interest of members of the group. XXXX of Play Aberlour also sit on the committee of other organisations, which I comprehend in small areas is very common and often not problematic. However, in this instance I would maintain that the relationships between these organisations is negatively affected by these conflicts of interest. XXXX Aberlour the effects of this are very clear. Play Aberlour uses this application to undermine the work of other individuals and groups and these conflicts of interest make it increasingly more difficult for the groups to work successfully together.</p> <p>I also wish to highlight that the question surrounding any possible negative consequences has been entirely avoided (page 12). This to me is concerning as it suggests that the group is not considering any obstacles that may arise. I believe the group thinks this will be a 'walk in the park' so to speak but this will not be the case. The way to combat negatives is through finding a solution, not turning a blind eye which is what Play Aberlour have done in their application. From my experience this response is insufficient.</p> <p>I also take issue with the funding aspect of this whole redevelopment of the entire park, and I am very confident in saying that Play Aberlour do not have enough funds to carryout and maintain all that they propose. The initial redevelopment will be very costly which has only been partly considered. There are no quotes or evidence to back up any costing related to this redevelopment. I also would like to point out that</p>
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	<p>there are no figures even mentioned about maintaining the upkeep of the park once redevelopments have happened. XXXX I fully understand the lack of funding available to organisations, I do not feel that Play Aberlour comprehend this. Throughout their application they claim that they will get a vast amount of funding amounting to £300,000. They openly say they have not started the process to receive any funding yet which is problematic. Funding applications are a long process and require a lot of time and expertise. There is a vast presumption dominant through the application that they will easily achieve this funding which I recognise XXXX is almost impossible. Gaining funding requires evidence and backing and I believe Play Aberlour are not a group that holds this. They have little to no evidence backing up what they will achieve through funding. I would argue that without being able to evidence a significant change they will not be awarded funding and therefore the application and what Play Aberlour claims they will do is full of empty promises.</p> <p>XXXX a huge divide between Play Aberlour and the rest of the community. The group in their application state they will 'bring Aberlour together' however all they have done in the three years since they started is cause rifts between people and the community. Through their application there is a small mention of other groups they claim to work with, however, in my opinion miss out some vital groups and organisations in the village. The group only mentions the Moray Council and Transport Scotland in their 'Bringing Aberlour Together' section and I would strongly disagree that this has anything to do with bringing the community together.</p> <p>I also take very strong issue with the constant mention of the Aberlour Rotary Club. I feel that Play Aberlour only have the support of the Rotary due to XXXX. It is also problematic as it is my understanding through reading the Rotary constitution that the group should not favour one community group over another which has been clearly done here. The Rotary have been mentioned many times through this application showing their support of Play Aberlour. The Rotary constitution also states on page 10, section 1, that "this club shall not express an opinion on any pending controversial public measure" (Standard Rotary Club Constitution). Therefore both groups have gone against this and this is extremely problematic. Members of both groups should be aware of this and acted in a different way. Support from the Rotary should therefore become invalid due to directly going against the Rotary constitution.</p> <p>The mention of the Victoria Bridge is completely irrelevant to the application and should not be considered as part of the application.</p> <p>The Facebook page was initially set up for the skatepark and therefore many of the likes on the page which they claim shows support for the redevelopment of the park are not actually for this. The number of likes on the page is not a true representation of the support they claim to have. The Facebook page has also been used to publicly humiliate the ACA which is completely unprofessional and out of order.</p> <p>The survey they carried out is very inaccurate and does not voice the opinion of everyone in the community. They claim in the application the survey was sent out to EVERY household; however, XXXX not receive one, and, on their Facebook page on 29th January 2020 they posted a status saying that the survey "went through NEARLY" all letterboxes in the village. The information given in the application is very different to what they are saying now. The survey also does not give a true representation of a whole community view as only a quarter of</p>
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		<p>surveys were handed back completed. This does not speak for the whole community and has insufficient responses. The survey also excludes the viewpoint of young people as in the data section of their application there is no mention of anyone under the age of 25 making comment that has been reported on. The majority of the data has been collected from 25-64 year olds excluding many ages and members of the community.</p> <p>These are only some of the reasons that Play Aberlour should not be awarded the CAT. The group have been extremely unprofessional throughout the application process and have caused a significant divide in the community. They claim that they will be inclusive yet have excluded members of their group from the application process, age demographics from their survey and many households from voicing a true opinion. The conflicts of interests and naming of the ACA have caused issue and the group relying on false information to make their application sound better is amateurish. They are working against not with the community. The application is full of empty promises with no supporting evidence for many of their claims. The group do not have the right resources, expertise or funding to be able to give all that they promise, therefore, should not be awarded the CAT.</p>
		CTB Response Here
28	05/02	<p>I was very disappointed to note that a 2nd CAT request form had been submitted for Alice Littler Park and having read Play Aberlour's Business Plan and associated documents, I consider this to be an extremely weak submission compared to the one submitted by Aberlour Community Association. It is clear from the Request form that Play Aberlour, despite being a SCIO since 2017, has secured no funding to date and has produced no evidence that their wish list of proposed funders/financial backers are able to provide financial support to this project.</p> <p>Play Aberlour has not supplied a plan of what the Park would look like should it be possible to obtain the level of funding required and, in addition, they have stated that under "Section 5 Capacity to Deliver" that the process is as follows:</p> <p>Undertake fundraising to meet the goals. Liaise with relevant departments at Moray Council, including Land and Parks, Planning, etc. Apply for permits and schedule construction</p> <p>The Application Checklist on the Heritage Fund website specifically includes a tick box requesting confirmation that "I have any permissions or licences I need" – given that Play Aberlour have clearly stated that liaising with Planning Depts. and applying for permits is the last stage of their process, then I consider their approach to fundraising to be naïve, fundamentally flawed and any application will consequently fail to meet funders' criteria.</p>

		<p>Play Aberlour has also publicly stated that Aberlour & Speyside Rotary has agreed to assist them in “three important ways”. All clubs admitted to Rotary membership must adopt the Standard Rotary Club Constitution . Article 14 Community, National, and International Affairs Section 1 states : Proper Subjects. Any public question involving the welfare of the community, the nation, and the world is a proper subject of fair and informed discussion at a club meeting. However, this club shall not express an opinion on any pending controversial public measure. Given that 2 competing CAT applications have been submitted for the Alice Littler Park, I consider it inappropriate for reference to the level of support being offered to PA by Aberlour & Speyside Rotary to be included as part of PA’s CAT application.</p> <p>I also disagree with and am disappointed in the language used and criticism directed toward Aberlour Community Association in Play Aberlour’s application as well as the comments made on their facebook page by PA themselves. This is nothing short of divisive. It is also unacceptable to state that “ It is important to note that ACA has rejected the outcomes of the Planning for Real process” This is completely untrue and I would refer you to the following link https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/1658861/victory-for-speyside-campaigners-after-two-year-fight-for-pedestrian-crossing</p> <p>The P&J report states “Transport Scotland has set aside money to create a crossing for residents after it was named the top priority in the Planning for Real survey run in 2016.” It continues “XXXX, said: “It’s been the main issue for us because it ensures safety for our elderly popularly as well as younger people.” XXXX quoted as saying ““This is a breakthrough in the community’s efforts with Transport Scotland giving the go-ahead for a pedestrian crossing”</p> <p>I am extremely concerned that PA appear to be using the state of the Victoria Bridge in order to gain support for their CAT – they state that “ The stages of abandonment of the bridge are troubling in the extreme”. This is an alarmist statement designed to cause maximum anxiety and concern to users of the bridge and local residents. PA state they will take “responsibility on behalf of the village” for insurance, inspection and maintenance of the bridge” if, and only if, it is awarded Alice Littler Park” “This is tantamount to holding the community of Aberlour to ransom and is a disgraceful tactic to use.</p> <p>I am totally opposed to any consideration being given by Moray Council to Play Aberlour’s CAT application</p>
		CTB Response Here
29	06/02	<p>XXXX While the PA CAT Request and the Business Case are convoluted by extensive repetition across the two documents, the comments below follow the order in which the specific statements (here italicised) originally appear.</p> <p>A PlayAberlour Asset Transfer Request:</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>‘the process [Planning for Real] revealed the overwhelming wishes of local people that our beloved Alice Littler Park be brought back from its current neglected state’</p>

	<p>The empirical evidence justifying the PA assumption of a radical mandate for ‘a complete renewal of the entire park’ is not to be found within the results of the PFR process, as represented in the Aberlour Community Action Plan. Beyond the generalist priority accorded in the strategic planning process for the park’s welfare to be attended to, the subsequent assertion that the PFR exercise and later the PA Aberlour Recreational Survey justify a radical overhaul of the whole park is not supported by the raw figures and statistics alluded to. In addition, the PA call for wholesale development of the park is directly opposed by a substantial proportion of the community of Aberlour, as set out in Appendix 2 of the ACA CAT Business Plan with the extrapolations of the 2018 and 2019 public consultations.</p> <p>‘maintenance [of ‘Alice Littler Park’] in recent years has been done to a bare minimum standard, and the general condition of the entire park has deteriorated. Memorial benches are in disrepair, weeds and molehills cover large areas, broken tree branches are left on the ground’</p> <p>The maintenance of Alice Littler Park as a whole by Moray Council ‘in recent years’ has in fact been adequate by any objective standards, as indicated by the responses of local villagers and visitors collated in 2018 and 2019, as set out in Appendices 2 and 3 in the ACA CAT Plan. Even against a backdrop of sharpening cuts in finance, last year ACA appreciated the attention that MC paid to carrying out regular maintenance of the grass in the games arena and the recreation area in particular – specifically in advance of major tourist events such as the Spirit of Speyside whisky festival and Aberlour Strathspey Highland Games. The ‘deterioration’ identified in the games arena and the car park is of a cosmetic nature.</p> <p>‘our once brilliant playpark, which has been the responsibility of the Aberlour Community Association for more than 20 years’</p> <p>Under the agreement made with MC under the lease that ACA holds with MC for the Playpark dating from July 1998, MC assumed responsibility for maintenance. The local authority deserves credit for duly discharging this duty in preserving the residual functionality of the Playpark, which still contains 9 separate installations popularly enjoyed by visitors (including swings, which have not, as reported by PA, been removed). The ‘neglect’ of the Playpark overlooks valuable work done by MC behind the scenes in this period, up to the substantial drainage works carried out in 2017 on both sides of the mound denoting the Playpark’s boundary. Due to local authority cutbacks, MC maintenance has indeed unfortunately been reduced from 2018 to health and safety monitoring.</p> <p>Sadly the protracted and repeatedly extended conversation over the ALP’s future over the last two years has deprived the playpark of the attention that it requires, as set out strategically in the ACA CAT, in terms of short-term revitalisation capped with long term planned regeneration.</p> <p>History</p> <p>‘As PlayAberlour progressed its plans, we were expressly directed by Moray Council to try again to work with ACA, and they with us. Through this period we made multiple attempts to arrange meetings, but ACA refused. In May 2018 ACA filed their own Expression of Interest to</p>
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	<p>acquire part of the park, vastly complicating the CAT process. Insensibly, their interest was originally only in the northern half of the park (in front of the station), but not the part they already had a lease on and responsibility for (the playpark itself). In April 2019, we finally made a detailed presentation to the ACA trustees and agreed in principle on several areas for further discussion. ACA then refused to follow through on any such discussions. At our final attempt to work with ACA this past summer, we were nonsensically asked to leave a meeting that had been specifically arranged for the purpose of discussing cooperation. ACA then filed a CAT application for the entire park in September.'</p> <p>This 'history' is seriously flawed in its representation of events concerning relations between PA and ACA over ALP. As repeatedly stated in ACA Executive Committee Meetings (particularly strongly reinforced in the minute for 20 February 2019), ACA has always welcomed potential input from PA over the regeneration of ALP; as repeatedly affirmed at ACA ECMs, this would be afforded under the aegis of ACA, with the attendant financial and practical experience and support and the statutory protection that ACA offers. The ACA's submission of an Expression of Interest in a CAT was done with full authority of the Trustees, and indeed following informed discussions with the Alice Littler Memorial Trust, the original owners of the park, who gave their firm support for ACA's proposal as the body best placed to carry on their historic guardianship of the park following their loss of ownership incurred through national statute.</p> <p>A meeting was held between representatives of ACA and PA on 13 September 2018, with staff from the MC CAT team in attendance, to endeavour to find common ground between the two parties. ACA provided a concise four-part summary of the ACA CAT plan together with full commentary establishing the formal justification underpinning the plan. PA agreed that they 'would outline in more detail their 3 stage proposal to develop and improve Alice Littler Park (including the play area and car park) and share this with Aberlour Community Association'. However, on 4 March 2019, XXXX, MC, confirmed that this had not been received but instead the promotional flyer produced in October 2018 (here dated November 2018) had been submitted. The ACA Park CAT Sub-group has kept the Trustees fully updated on developments with regard to ALP, and their considered advice was always respected and appreciated by the Trustees.</p> <p><i>ACA Trustees were pleased to attend the oral PA presentation on their plans for the park on 23 April; however, it lacked concrete strategic planning and financial budgeting. Following full and thorough deliberation by the Trustees, it was unanimously decided at the ACA ECM on 22 May that, as MC officers had suggested in September 2018, ACA should formally pursue a CAT for ownership of the whole park.</i></p> <p>The claim that 'we [PA Trustees] were nonsensically asked to leave a meeting that had been specifically arranged for the purpose of discussing cooperation' is, again, misleading. ACA must abide by its constitution in particular with regards to managing conflicts of interest.</p> <p>Far from having 'refused to follow through on any such discussions' with PA, ACA has constantly reiterated its willingness to work with all stakeholders, including PlayAberlour, on regeneration of the ALP, as expressly stated in the ACA CAT Business Plan in relation to the playpark:</p>
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	<p>‘The ACA will progress a CAT for ownership of the whole park, comprising the arena area, the play park area and the car park. Following that, and, under the auspices of the ACA, a sub-committee will be formed with all parties who have a stake in the future of the Playpark including ACA, Play Aberlour, Health Service representatives, village nursery groups, school Parent Teacher Associations, the Highland Games Committee and other interested parties.’ (p.14)</p> <p>‘It is important to note that ACA has rejected the outcomes of the Planning for Real process, withdrawing before the final Prioritisation Event. For whatever part of the park they want, ACA has stated they would only seek to maintain current conditions, regardless of the wishes of the entire community as reported in the Action Plan.’</p> <p>The allegation that ACA has rejected the outcomes of the Planning for Real process is manifestly untrue: ACA was actively involved in rolling out the initiative from the outset, and an ACA representative regularly fed back to committee meetings up until January of 2018. While ACA’s record of work within the community of Aberlour has preceded PfR’s strategic planning exercise, it has directly followed through on several of the PfR developmental priorities. A cursory glance at ACA ECM Minutes over the past three years shows that ACA has actively delivered on targets identified in PfR and highlighted in the Aberlour Community Action Plan: facilitating traffic speed surveys, resurfacing of the car park (imminently awaited), promoting the installation of drainage in the Playpark and, together with Speyside Area Forum, fostering improved transport (through campaigning for the extension of the public bus service, the electric hub and the car share scheme). ACA specifically volunteered to take on the priority PfR outcome, now coming to fruition, to have a controlled crossing installed on the High Street.</p> <p>Focus on the playpark ‘Our new playpark will be a thrill for toddlers and older kids, and as inclusive as possible for people of all ages and physical abilities. It will have a mix of replacements for the obsolete or missing equipment, other traditional items, and brilliant new amenities—new play equipment that reaches all age groups and abilities. Not just a traditional playpark, but something for everyone including a fitness gym, musical and sensory equipment, and potentially even sand and water play.’</p> <p>The failure of PA to provide a practical plan to show how this proposal for hyper-development of the recreation area of the park with addition of multiple permanent installations will be accommodated within such a restricted area promotes major concern that the aim to provide a recreational area that is ‘as inclusive as possible for people of all ages and physical abilities’ is regrettable. The notion of participants of all ages crushed together in recreational harmony seems naive; and the principle of seeking multi-layered inclusivity is actually tantamount to the fostering of exclusivity for the legion of local residents and visitors alike who treasure the natural ambience of the park as a whole, as documented in Appendices 2 and 3 of the ACA CAT.</p> <p>Saving Victoria Bridge</p>
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	<p>The future of Victoria Bridge is entirely irrelevant to the present CAT; as the PA map shows, it falls outwith the designated area. However, the unsubstantiated allegation that ‘XXXX of [ACA], we are told, has repeatedly declined to consider the matter’ is untrue. The situation concerning the bridge was subject of thorough discussion at the Executive Committee Meeting of ACA as far back as 28 August 2013, as verified in the minute taken at the time, and the present chair of ACA subsequently entered into lengthy correspondence with key protagonists concerned with the bridge’s welfare.</p> <p>Public health & environmental wellbeing benefits ‘Our own survey found that the two favourite things to do in our park are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take children to the park and playpark—40% • Walks in the park—over 50%’ <p>The MC’s Place Standards Report from May 2019 cited in the ACA CAT Business Plan, predicated on consultation with S1-S3 pupils in Moray, reports on the survey conducted at Speyside High School which demonstrates that contemporary pupils not only share a keen interest in their local environment, but that their passion for ‘natural space’ is the highest scoring single criterion in their response, with ‘play and recreation’ accorded equal lowest ranking. As concluded in ACA’s CAT, in the eyes of the young folk of Speyside environmental regeneration ideally will be manifested in conservation of our natural surroundings in preference to recreational development.</p> <p>Level and nature of support ‘notably, not Aberlour Community Association, which had pulled out of the [Planning for Real] project at this point [June 2016]’</p> <p>This is ill-informed and factually inaccurate. Following the PfR consultation process, ACA took up the community’s key target to progress the initiative to establish a controlled crossing in the High Street, and subsequently PfR remained an agenda item at ACA ECMs through 2017 up to January of 2018. The minute of this ACA meeting of 24 January 2018 refers to discussion on the lack of feedback from PfR and the emergent lack of accountability to the community following publication of the Aberlour Community Action Plan.</p> <p>B Business Case: How we’ll get it done ‘It is the intention of PlayAberlour to raise approximately £300,000 from major funders.’</p> <p>There is no documented evidence that funders will provide the required monies, and PA have declared that they have no funds of their own – also a potential stumbling block to attracting sponsorship. Section 3 (iv) of the ACA CAT indicates the financial probity demonstrable in ACA’s track record in historic governance of its assets; the subsequent summary of the association’s current financial health in Section 8 (i) provides the sound foundation for the pragmatic scheme outlined in Section 8 (ii) to fund future management and development of the park.</p>
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	<p>The rest of the park ‘Underlying expenses for the basic maintenance of the park are modest, on the order of £5000 per year, and expenses for managing Victoria Bridge are around £1500. We can seek funding for these costs from many sources.’</p> <p>The PA financial prospectus is worryingly bereft of substance. The rough estimation of costs for managing the Victoria Bridge, as stated above, falls outwith the ambit of the present application.</p> <p>Key benefits to the community ‘The missing piece is the existence of a park with fine recreation facilities for people of all ages and abilities, including a play and sports areas, fitness equipment and inclusive facilities. Having a first-class park will shine a bright spotlight on Aberlour. Economic development organisations of all kinds will focus on our improved park to showcase and promote the area.’</p> <p>There is no objective evidence that the creation of a multi-faceted recreational development constitutes ‘a first-class park’, or that this will sustain economic growth; indeed the feedback culled from visitors to Aberlour from all over the world as recorded at the Speyside Visitor Centre, represented in Appendix 3 of the ACA CAT, strongly suggests that the largely unaccommodated natural open space which forms the bulk of the area of the park is the principal attraction for visitors.</p> <p>Community Support ‘2272 flags were used by the public to indicate their issues and priorities. Over 1000 of the flags—nearly half—were for improvements and changes within the park.’</p> <p>‘Out of 22 issues identified as "Top Priorities", 8 specifically mention Alice Littler Park and a 9th expresses interest in a skatepark’</p> <p>As stated above, the ostensible demand for ‘changes’ of the radical nature proposed by PA in their Survey from March 2018 is not substantiated by the PfR consultation and by the figures presented in the PA CAT. The failure of PA to reassure the people of Aberlour that their mooted proposal to establish permanent recreational installations in ‘Alice Littler Park’ would be confined to the recreation area caused, and continues to cause, widespread unease. As the ACA CAT public surveys attest, preservation of the natural green space in the park as a whole is a major priority within the community.</p> <p>Letters of support/patronage ‘i) Commitment of patronage from a prominent local figure. ii) Commitments of support from political figures. iii) Letters of support from national charitable organisations and bodies in the areas of play</p>
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	<p>and recreation.</p> <p>iv) Letters of support from many local businesses.’</p> <p>As with many of the key components of PA’s application, this statement is lacking in firm substance. Anonymised commitments are presumably contingent upon PA securing ownership of the park, and therefore are speculative and/or anecdotal. Unsubstantiated references to unspecified support, of ‘a prominent local figure’, ‘political figures’, ‘national charitable organisations’ and the unquantified number of ‘many local businesses’ are spurious within the orbit of this exercise. ACA CAT sets out firm and unequivocal letters of support in Appendix 6.</p> <p>Funding and Financing</p> <p>‘Speyside has a rare abundance of high-visibility Corporates, all of which are ideal partners for PlayAberlour. Among the distilleries, Aberlour (Pernod Ricard) and Macallan (Edrington) are within sight of the park’</p> <p>‘Any larger companies in the immediate area would have a similar interest in improvements at the park, including: Speyside Cooperage, Glenfiddich, Walkers, McPhersons and others.’</p> <p>‘Many local businesses have already pledged support and some have offered to quote work at a reduced rate or as a donation’</p> <p>The cataloguing of local companies who are cited as ‘ideal partners’ and ‘who would have’ an interest in the regeneration of the park by PA is notional and is a putative indicator of support. As stated above, ACA’s CAT includes firm letters of support, reproduced in Appendix 6.</p> <p>Sustainability</p> <p>‘A healthy natural environment is central to the enjoyment of outdoor recreation. PlayAberlour will always consider the protection and preservation of Alice Littler Park’s plants, animals and landscapes, with special care for the adjacent River Spey. Extra attention will be given to the immediate environment during active construction phases.’</p> <p>The PA CAT is worryingly tokenist in its observation of environmental considerations; the proper conservation of the natural open spaces of the ALP is fundamentally incompatible with their plan to develop the recreation area and to populate it with multiple permanent installations. The environmental principles espoused in Section 2 (v) of the Rationale presented in ACA CAT’s Business Case has already taken practical shape in the conservation exercises implemented by ACA in 2019 under the ‘Wildlife and the Environment’ banner promoted in the Speyside Visitor Centre, as outlined in Section 3 (vi) of the ACA Business Plan. In addition, Section 4 (i) Objective 2 Outcome 3 proposes sympathetic and non-invasive ways for locals and visitors of nurturing and benefiting from the local ecology. Full cognizance must be taken of the environmental designations protecting ALP, as set out in ACA CAT Section 4 ii (a).</p>
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		<p>FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER APPLICATION</p> <p><i>'No organisation funds have been raised or spent since the founding of the organisation. Our work so far—research, writing, phone, email, meetings—has not required substantive expenditure.'</i></p> <p>Despite the contradiction inherent to this statement, as indicated earlier PA's lack of income and indeed the complete absence of any substantive financial history is a major concern for a group intent on taking ownership and responsibility for governance of such a valuable property as the Alice Littler Park.</p> <p>Summary Conclusion</p> <p>Alice Littler Park comprises three components which combine to form one of the most highly prized assets within Aberlour: the highland games arena requiring protection from development and currently in need of cosmetic conservation and maintenance; the car park (strangely neglected in PA's CAT), again requiring superficial attention; and the recreation area, in which the playpark requires refurbishment and upgrading as a toddlers' play area. The ACA CAT from August 2019 demonstrates beyond doubt that ACA has the strategic and economic capacity to take ownership of the whole park and to take charge of its management and governance on behalf of, and in consultation with, the community. Furthermore, the ACA CAT shows the rectitude and probity that has characterised its dealings throughout this long drawn out matter, concentrating on the positive channelling of its efforts towards the ultimate objective of safeguarding the future of ALP for the community of Aberlour. The unanimously positive responses elicited by the ACA CAT in the Public Consultation exercise conducted by MC in September 2019 gives powerful endorsement of ACA's case.</p> <p>CTB Response Here</p>
30	06/02	<p>XXXX and I would like play Aberlour to get the park because I have looked at both sides and play Aberlour's plans sound better then the community association, because the community association does not have very much planned for the park but play Aberlour have plans that I think would be good for young and old. I liked the park when I was little but it isn't very good for kids at the moment. I would like to have fun things that me and my friends could do at the park.</p> <p>CTB Response Here</p>
31	06/02	<p>XXXX I remember when the park was built and all the kids equipment was installed. Sadly over the years it has become an eyesore and been neglected to such an extent that my children don't even play there. I feel if Playaberlour wants to take over and maintain the park to the way it was when built surely this is a great idea. This would certainly benefit the village as well if the park was put back to a high standard and safe for children to play.</p> <p>CTB Response Here</p>
32	06/02	<p>XXXX find the Park a nice place to relax on a study break or a nice quite calm place to study. I feel disgusted at the fact that Play Aberlour has f the need to take the calm and peaceful environment away from the citizens of Aberlour and surrounding areas. When I have been sitting in th</p>

		<p>Park either relaxing or studying I have found that the Park is used by a variety of people, from the elderly, to dog walkers, to other students, tourists or workers on their lunch break. I know a large amount of the citizens who use the Park would prefer a peaceful large green space which currently the Park caters for spectacularly! However I feel that Play Aberlour turning the Park into what seems to be a theme park is a very bad idea. Aberlour does not need a theme park, like Alton Towers, what it needs is to allow current users to find peace and tranquillity in the Park and to allow regular users to use it in the peaceful manner which many residents prefer. Having had a look at Play Aberlour's business plan-XXXX, I can clearly see a flawed plan. It is clear they have thought how they intend to raise immediate funds to enable the purchasing of the equipment, although there is no guarantee of funding being secured for their plan. However, Play Aberlour does not seem to have planned how they will gain the funds needed to keep the equipment safe and compliant to comply with current legislation in place. I can clearly see that Play Aberlour are assuming that businesses, that are meant to be donating money to be invested in the Park, are going to be targeted again for the money required for the up-keep of the equipment.</p> <p>This is no guarantee of funding so it is very concerning what will happen to the Park if Play Aberlour manage to put in all their proposed 'recreation' play equipment. Also their Financial Statement states "No organisation funds have been raised or spent since the founding of the organisation". This is deeply worrying as they have clearly stated they have no funds at all, which means if they were able to put in place some or all the theme park like equipment then they would be 100% reliant on other sources of finance, such as local businesses. This is grossly unfair to put this sort of pressure on local businesses as the business community of Aberlour is very willing when it comes to helping out financially. I feel that if Play Aberlour was to ask for the money from businesses then it may discourage the businesses from being so generous towards the community of Aberlour, and even surrounding communities. However finances aside, I know that a number of citizens including myself will be deeply disappointed that the Park has lost its peacefulness and its quiet relaxing natural feel. I feel that if Play Aberlour was to gain ownership of the Park and invest in this theme park idea then they will lose the large green open space, and discourage future generations in spending their time outside in the peaceful, nature packed Park which is booming with wildlife. The Alice Littler Park is an important asset that the community of Aberlour currently have, which should be cherished and protected in its natural state.</p>
		CTB Response Here
33	06/02	<p>Having read Play Aberlour's Asset Transfer Request and their business case, I struggle to see any evidence of any guarantee of potential funding from the mentioned organisations or any letters of support from the mentioned corporate companies.</p> <p>I do not believe therefore that there is a competent business case and so, I am opposed to Play Aberlour taking ownership of the Alice Littler Park through a CAT</p> <p>I would like to reaffirm my full support and confidence in Aberlour Community Association taking ownership of the Alice Littler Park through their Asset Transfer Request.</p>
		CTB Response Here
34	06/02	XXXX, I am deeply concerned at the proposals of PlayAberlour as represented in their CAT for ownership of the Alice Littler Park. XXXX regular users of the park, along with my fellow dog walkers frequenting it two or three times a day in all seasons, as well as enjoying watching the

	<p>rich play of life that it hosts in the tourist season XXXX at Aberlour Community Association's Old Station Tearoom and Speyside Visitor Centre overlooking the park.</p> <p>For two years PA have persistently acted improperly in their attritional dealings over the park which have been riddled with secrecy, misinformation and obfuscation. The basic identity of the organisation's members remains an enduring mystery to the local populace, given that their meetings are conducted outwith the public domain, with no agendas and minutes displayed in the village. PA's high profile on social media belies the group's invisible physical presence within the community; the repeated use in their CAT of the possessive in referring to 'our' amenities such as the Visitor Centre, Tearoom and local naturalists and historians is disingenuous for a group that avoids actively supporting the invaluable voluntary work carried out on behalf of the community under the aegis of ACA, principally at the Speyside Visitor Centre and the Old Station Tearoom.</p> <p>The two promotional flyers that PA have produced in their short lifetime, as reproduced and attenuated in their CAT, have only added to the uncertainty surrounding PA's intentions with regard to the park, concerning what their actual plans are in the first place and where, when and how they stand to be carried out. My principal concerns are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PA's appropriation of the Planning for Real process doesn't as they claim give them a mandate for extensive development of the park. Like many other villagers, I was mortified to find that the priority that XXXX in the strategic planning exercise to the general task of attending to the welfare of the park (the games arena then being subject to radical upheaval in the form of earthworks carried out to establish the Stor Tank) was then misrepresented as part of a concerted call from the villagers to support radical development, ostensibly of the whole area (the PA Survey fails to define which of the park's component parts it is related to: the games arena, playpark or car park, which understandably spread widespread unease among the villagers). 2. The comprehensive claim made at the start of the PA Survey constitutes an entirely false premise for what follows: 'The people of Aberlour clearly wished for Alice Littler Park to be improved and made accessible for all, and for places to be found for other kinds of recreational and social activities.' Conservation and development are radically different exercises, and the Survey failed to offer respondents any direct way of opting for the former option – which surely should have been flagged up at the very start. The stated aim of PA to employ 'well-designed consultation methods' unfortunately has not been fulfilled, as a substantial proportion of villagers feel that their views have been ignored. The claim that 'every decision will be made with everyone in mind' is idealistic to the point of absurdity and doesn't square with the exclusional planning processes underpinning the PA 'Aberlour Recreational Survey' and 'Your Vision for Alice Littler Park'. 3. As the park has become the subject of protracted political negotiations, with MC's escalating cutbacks the playpark has unfortunately been deprived of the regular maintenance that it requires. However, PA's efforts to exaggerate the present shortcomings of 'the ruined
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		<p>playpark’ and to extend this tainted view to their representation of the whole park with similarly emotive imagery, completely defies the reality that the park was, is and will continue to be a beautiful natural haven set at the heart of the village.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The inference that the park is currently not ‘accessible for all’ is a mystifying misconception of a beautifully accommodating public space; and the equation of the perceived call for improvement with the manifold innovations summarily listed in the questionnaire that follows (ranging from sand and water play areas, to exercise equipment, game table, bandstand, barbeques, ‘wheels’ provisions) completely ignores more conventional alternatives (as supported in the ACA CAT public consultations) resting upon conservation of the park’s unique natural attractions. 5. PA’s failure to apprise the public of their actual plans and their efforts to disguise the patent lack of robustness afflicting their developmental and financial strategy has only added to local discomfiture. Their campaign in their CAT (as well as on social media) orchestrated to promote their own cause degenerates into mendacious (and at times personal) indictment of the committed groups and individuals who traditionally have looked after the village, including the park, for generations. 6. The strongest objection that the PA CAT elicits is a fundamental philosophical one. Clearly the authors have no conception of the qualities that make Alice Littler Park such a treasured part of the village. Their attempt to appeal to the public by becoming all things to all men in the industrially contrived vision offering an eclectic list of facilities paraded for the park, with permanent bespoke play stations established for toddlers, teens and adults, cannot be reconciled with the pre-eminent attraction of the park, as invoked by locals and visitors alike, as a natural green space with a perfectly tranquil riverside setting. The rampant artificiality of PA’s disneyworld-like hyper-development ‘business plan’, with abstract ‘sensory stations’ even being mooted as substitutes for the gentle rippling of the river, the rustling of the trees and the birdsong betrays a crass disregard for the unique geography, history and culture that combine to make Aberlour such a special place to live. The playpark undoubtedly deserves regeneration; but why further permanent recreational stations should be allowed to encroach into other green areas of the beautiful versatile space that has been protected for four decades is beyond comprehension. 7. PlayAberlour’s CAT is aspirational and devoid of substance. More worryingly, as the slightness of the CAT entry on ‘celebrating our history and connections’ reveals, it shows disregard for the special magical ethos of the village of Aberlour as embodied in the ALP. PlayAberlour’s claim that it is ‘supported by volunteers’ is conceivable, but the assertion that it has the support of ‘the wider community’ is not borne out by their actions to date, nor by their CAT submitted for ownership of ALP. I trust that my fellow villagers, and indeed the powers that be, will recognise the fatal shortcomings of the PA CAT and will place their trust in the business plan of the ACA, as the democratically elected body that has a proven track record in safeguarding the village’s interests.
		CTB Response Here
35	06/02	I wish to object to the proposal to transfer of Alice Litter Park to PlayAberlour.

		<p>XXXX Everyone worked well together for the benefit of the village. Unfortunately the outlook has now changed with the information of separate committees especially PlayAberlour who claim falsely to have the support of the residents. We have had many promises in a multiplicity of plans but no action. the reality of the ongoing benefits to the village are follows:</p> <p>1 Toilets - open all year one of the attractions for children visiting the park and tourists to the village where the facility is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>2 The Tearoom - run by volunteers</p> <p>3 The Tourist Centre open from Easter till Sept with visitors from all over the world (volunteers again)</p> <p>4 The putting ground. Unfortunately due to uncertainty over the future of the park, did not open in 2019.</p> <p>PlayAberlour claim to be involved in these facilities but have contributed nothing not with the fundraising or volunteering. I'm sure the Committee members are familiar with the quote 'high sounding words signifying nothing'.</p> <p>CTB Response Here</p>
36	06/02	<p>XXXX I would very much like to add my full support to this project . It is clearly time for this wonderful gift from Alice Littler to be brought up to modern standards to reflect the growth of Aberlour in recent years.</p> <p>CTB Response Here</p>
37	06/02	<p>I am writing in response to PlayAberlour's Community Asset Transfer application for the Alice Littler Park, Aberlour. I write to raise objections to the proposals outlined in the request on the grounds of funding for the project and the findings of the group's own research. XXXX</p> <p>Firstly, I'd like to highlight areas of concern in the application surrounding the funding of the bid which, in my opinion, undermines it's legitimacy.</p> <p>- Whilst the estimated funds required and what these funds would be initially spent on are laid out on page 17 of the report, exactly how much of the quoted £300,000 will be spent on each development is unclear.</p> <p>- Alongside this, the sources of this combined estimated quote are vague. "Most of these estimates were sourced from Scotland." (p.17) I ask; from where? From who? and why does the organisation feel the need to revisit and source quotes 'during the next phase'? At very least, I feel the figure quoted is in need of clarification.</p> <p>- To my knowledge, reading the report, any major funder identified by PlayAberlour is yet to be formally approached. The group is expecting an organisation such as the 'Heritage Lottery Community Fund' to foot around half of the total bill yet the expected timescale of that process from application to award is not explained anywhere within the funding section of the application. This, in my opinion, casts doubt around the overall fundraising completion timescale of 2020-21, hindering the project.</p>

		<p>- The fundrasing section of the report seems to suggest that the vast majority of fundrasing work will begin after the CAT transfer. “PlayAberlour will approach Heritage Lottery or Big Lottery immediately upon awarding of the CAT.” (p.17), “We have received a commitment for patronage from a significant local figurehead, pending our obtaining the park.” (p.19). With the organisation being still in it’s early years of development, this attitude flags concerns about the security of the funding outlined. What happens should PlayAberlour obtain the CAT and any of these funding applications be rejected or fall through is not considered by the report.</p> <p>Alongside concerns surrounding the funding of the bid, I’d like to draw attention to some faults I find with PlayAberlour’s recreational survey of March 2018 and it’s findings. I take a keen interest in statistics XXXX. I was intrigued by the report on PlayAberlour’s own research on pages 46-51 of the CAT application.</p> <p>- Firstly, I’d argue that the sample of respondants from the village of Aberlour is too thin to effectively support such universal claims like, “What was clearly wanted was a major upgrade from the status quo, and a plan to secure the future of the park in a way that reflects the wishes of the entire community...” (p.9). After leaflets were posted through every household in Aberlour, the 25% response rate recieved is notable but not significant enough to claim to voice the wishes of the entire village. According to the pie chart on page 48, 52% of all respondants (including online responses) came from Aberlour. Whilst this is a slim majority, the report cannot claim to have consulted every single member of the local community when claiming what the community wants.</p> <p>- The format of the survey itself is not entirely neutral and has a clear narrative which respondants could well be inclined to follow. The survey starts by collecting personal data of the respondent and asking them to report their current usage of the park. Moving forward, the survey then asks the respondent to improve the park. Realistically, respondants could tick every single improvement option on the survey with no real background of what may or may not actually be possible before the survey then hypothetically asks respondants to predict how much they would use the park if their changes were implemented. These questions and their format can be said to contain some bias, whether intentional or not, as the point that the research is designed to make is made abundantly clear throughout questioning.</p> <p>- This, I’d imply, does not lead to morally cautious or accurate results and this is demonstrated by the bar graphs concerning park usage. Respondants would be more likely to follow the narrative set out by the survey as they perhaps feel an expectation to answer a certain way that puts their usage of an improved park (improvements dictated by the respondent) compared to their current usage. A similar point could have been made by the researchers by perhaps asking respondants to rank how highly they see improving the park as a priority to them to further consolidate the ‘Planning for Real’ evidence.</p>
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		<p>- A sense of priority of improvements is not clear throughout the survey results either. People are asked what they would like to see and not how much they would like to see it. This renders the results of little help to the application in arguing what specifically is wanted by the community to be done to improve the Alice Littler park.</p> <p>As observers of these results, we are given no indication of the demographic of respondents. Age is an important factor to consider in deciphering the wishes of the community as various age demographics constitute the community as a whole. The survey itself explicitly includes seven age factors in question 2 for respondents to choose from. I call upon those involved in the creation of the survey to openly publish the frequency tables of the demographic data collated during their recreation survey to further clarify the results laid out in the report.</p> <p>These factors lead me to the conclusion that PlayAberlour's CAT request is perhaps not the most appropriate for the community of Aberlour to provide a sustainable and prosperous future for the Alice Littler Park. I find these issues, concerning the funding of the project and the findings of the groups own survey, to severely hinder the application and I hope these factors are taken fully into account when the issue is considered by council.</p>
		CTB Response Here
38	06/02	<p>XXXX</p> <p>I do not support Play Aberlour's request for ownership of the Alice Littler Park for the following reasons; Play Aberlour became a registered charity in 2017 and have done nothing positive to prove themselves to the village.</p> <p>They have on several occasions throughout their request openly disrespected the Aberlour Community Association and the Alice Littler Trust which have both been established registered charities for more than 30year each. I feel this is a very unprofessional approach and personal feelings should not have come into it.</p> <p>The fact that they have no funding at all and are relying on so many different charities to get them started is worrying this also means that although they are hoping to start upgrading the playpark in 2021/22 there is no guarantee of this happening. Which they have said would happen they have also made these promises to the villagers of Aberlour.</p> <p>The fact that they have even included the 'penny' bridge into their application in completely irrelevant and should never have been included. They have also stated that they have letters of support but there is no evidence of this at all. They also speak about their facebook page and name it in their application as aberlourplayskate it hasn't actually been called this since September 2016 and was then changed again to the current playaberlour in August 2017.</p>
		CTB Response Here

39	07/02	<p>We have the following observations to make</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Northern Scot article of 24 January 2020 was quite obviously sponsored by PlayAberlour and as such gave a detrimental view of the subject. 2. The photograph content was deliberately set to give an adverse impression and as such contains unsubstantiated comments. 3. XXXX have always enjoyed an outing to the facility. The options available are totally adequate and the slide, deliberately omitted in the aforesaid photograph, is the best one on Speyside. 4. PlayAberlour's ambitions are scarcely laudable – more like Disneyland comes to Aberlour! 5. The ACA is a conscientious dedicated group rooted in the community whereas PlayAberlour is a charity – surely this represents a conflict of interest with the intention associated with the ceding of the park to the community by the Alice Littler Memorial Trust. 6. Trees do lose branches in high winds and moles do create mole hills – PlayAberlour appear to magically prevent such natural events! 7. Whilst PlayAberlour may have a point that renovation is required, their disdain and ignorance of the effort by community members who raised the funds for the present range of play facilities is commensurate with being out of touch with the actuality of what is adequate for community of Aberlour. 8. The risks, both financially and practical, associated with PlayAberlour render their CAT application unacceptable. <p>CTB Response Here</p>
40	07/02	<p>I am responding to this consultation in XXXX). I am very concerned about this CAT bid by Play Aberlour (PA).</p> <p>XXXX by failing to pursue the best interests of that organisation.</p> <p>They have employed a cynical and sadly predictable strategy aimed at delaying the ACA's recent CAT bid and discrediting fellow members of the Aberlour Community Association through misrepresenting the views of the ACA Trustees verbally and on social media to the wider Aberlour community.</p> <p>XXXX.</p> <p>XXXX has left me with serious concerns over their ability to work professionally and positively with other community groups on the management and development of the Alice Littler Park. The lack of professional integrity XXXX witnessed on the part of PA trustees, their disregard and disrespect for the Constitution of ACA and XXXX, compounded by XXXX repeated failure to honestly discharge their duties as ACA Trustees lead me to doubt that the XXXX of PA can be trusted to manage a project that is so important to and for all members of the Aberlour Community.</p> <p>CTB Response Here</p>
41	07/02	<p>I am writing to support Play Aberlour's application for their plans with respect to the Alice Littler Park in Aberlour</p>

		<p>As I write I am sitting at the playpark. My twelve year old daughter is playing but is sad at how little there is here, and how it has not been kept up. We LOVE the ideas for inclusive space, for areas for community gardening, and for stimulating play. Adults like to play too! I used to love coming here with her.</p> <p>The plans and ideas PlayAberlour have for this park have my full support and I look forward to being able to be a part of this space's change. We live in Knockando but are regularly in Aberlour. Next year my daughter will be at the High School. Her scout group comes here for activities (Aberlour scouts). It could be so much better than it is. Play Aberlour have a vision and a plan that will make this a happy place to come again.</p>
		<p>CTB Response Here</p>
42	07/02	<p>The playpark in Aberlour would benefit from a sympathetic upgrade but PlayAberlour's plan is little more than a wish list to Santa from a very greedy child who is too immature to see the future consequences should all their wishes be granted.</p> <p>To achieve what Play Aberlour wishes to achieve a larger area of the Alice Littler Park than is now occupied would become a sprawling, cluttered and artificial play area which would require a significant amount of maintenance and expertise to ensure that the equipment was safe. It would need repairs and probable replacements when inevitably things get broken or vandalised.</p> <p>If there was no money to pay for the upkeep of the park; if the 'mystery' donors took to the hills and didn't stump up the cash; if the people who said they'd volunteer vanished into thin air ...where would that leave the park? Broken and derelict - throw in a burnt out car and the vision is more inner city downtown Compton than the lovely wee Speyside village tourists come to visit year on year and the place I have come to call home. And I love it and I fear for it now.</p> <p>What about overflowing litter bins? Yeah - somebody would have to empty the many bins that have been suggested...contractors? You need money for that. Volunteers - no - remember they have their own lives to think about. It takes more than a litter pick day in Hi Viz jackets, a poky stick and a selfie on Facebook to make sure the park is the magical, all singing and dancing wonderland that is being touted. The park would become a pitiful wasteland if the volunteers and benefactors disappeared.</p> <p>Play Aberlour bang on about the derelict state of the park. At the moment there may be twigs, small branches and leaves on the ground - it's winter, people - deal with it - anyone heard of Storm Gareth? Storm Ciara? Anyone? There may be pine cones and tufty grass -there may be molehills! Ok - moles bother people who bother about smooth lawns, golf courses and bowling greens and municipal parks - but moles make a positive contribution to the health of the landscape. Their tunnelling improves soil aeration and drainage. Drainage! Is that not what we want in the park. Improved drainage? Ok Moley isn't going to solve the problem all by herself but every little helps...</p> <p>So - Play Aberlour's objection about the park right now - twigs and branches and leaves and moles!!! All natural, all part of the environment. Metal, rubber, plastic and paint - not so much!!! And they want to fill the park with it</p>

		<p>Play Aberlour have extravagant plans for the park but:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They have no money. Their intention is to raise funds if they get the park. Inevitably this will lead to more delay. What will happen to the park then? And there is no guarantee that they will raise the funds required 2. Their intention is to enlist the help of local tradespeople, large local businesses and community volunteers to maintain the park. Again there are no guarantees - people change their minds, circumstances change - unless Play Aberlour have money in the bank -they have nothing. As for enlisting volunteers :- XXXX; I pick up litter when I see it when out walking the dogs in the park - I don't need an organised Hi Viz jacket event to do it; Many locals in Aberlour do the same without having to advertise the fact on social media! <p>But - the tearoom and visitor centre needed more volunteers last year and XXXX put out the call for support. Very few answered the call. XXXX. So it was down to the people who for years have supported and volunteered in the community to help the village. None of them as far as I am aware were Play Aberlour people. Apart from the Chair and Vice chair no-one knows who PlayAberlour is and where they come from.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Play Aberlour blamed the ACA for the state of the park and the delays in getting something done about it. Their intention is to take over the running of the park as they are desperate to bring it up to 21 century standards and show us all how it's done! Seemingly they were desperate to achieve this - so why did it take them 5 months after the ACA submitted their CAT - to submit theirs. It is not ACA's fault that the CAT has been delayed. It is Play Aberlour's. <p>So what are Play Aberlour playing at? Who are they? Why are they hellbent on keeping themselves anonymous? What is their problem? Everyone knows who the ACA are and they have been working tirelessly for this village and supporting it for decades - they just don't need a Hi Viz jacket and saccharine posts on social media pages to blow their own trumpet.</p> <p>It would appear that PlayAberlour are full of good intentions - but appearances can be deceptive! And we all know that the road to Hell is paved with good intentions.</p>
		CTB Response Here
43	07/02	<p>Not everyone participated in the Planning for real process, so cannot be claimed these are things "everyone wants," for example ziplines and music. Whilst agreeing that ziplines and a skate park might provide lots of fun for certain age groups, it must also be borne in mind that they bring problems of litter, non-attendance at school and anti social behaviour. A high level of monitoring might be required and evidence from other Moray skateparks and ziplines could be investigated.</p>

		<p>The proposed use of plastics is of concern at a time when all are being encouraged to reduce use of plastic.</p> <p>Throughout the CAT the use of the word "our" is not correct. eg our Highland Games ground, our putting green, our Speyside Visitor Centre, our Old Station tearoom, our beautiful park . These facilities do not belong to Play Aberlour. I am not aware of Play Aberlour having input into any of these valuable assets. in fact some of the critical comments give no recognition of the hard work and dedication which have gone into them over many years mainly by members of the Aberlour Community Association.</p> <p>The Victoria Bridge Aberlour Limited was dissolved in March 2019. Play Aberlour's proposal to take over the maintenance of the bridge "if and only if" the resident agree to their CAT for the Alice littler Park seems to me like blackmail.</p> <p>In relation to this Play Aberlour says "the Aberlour Community Association Chair (we are told) declined to consider the matter." Where and from whom did this information come?</p> <p>The claim that the analysis of the Action Plan was delivered to every mail slot in Aberlour is untrue. XXXX.</p> <p>This CAT proposal says it will bring Aberlour together by working with Moray Council and Transport to improve the links between the centre of the village, the Old Station building, and the playpark and other amenities. Why no mention of working together with the Aberlour Community Association which runs the Old Station Tearoom, the Speyside Visitor Centre and pays for the maintenance of the public toilets. It also has a commendable reputation in contributing to the life of the village. Does the village need even more signs? A guid scots tongue is more than adequate to find where most things are located. The friendliness of the local people is top rate.</p>
		CTB Response Here
44	07/02	<p>XXXX frequent user of the Alice Littler Park. The park is a beautiful open green space set in the most beautiful surroundings with the River Spey running along its length and it is the only place that I know of where wheelchair and buggy users can get access to a riverside walk by the banks of the Spey. I have noted some specific comments against sections of the Asset Transfer Request Form below.</p> <p><u>Section D – Reasons for request 1 Community Proposal – Reasons for making the request and how the land will be used</u></p> <p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>The authors write that “Memorial benches are in disrepair, weeds and molehills cover large areas, broken tree branches are left on the ground.” That statement illustrates a lack of understanding of the ethos of the park. I regularly use the memorial benches by the riverside path – they are not in disrepair.</p>

		<p>So called ‘weeds’ are natural wildflowers and plants that support insects, that in turn support birds and other small animals. I saw 4 bullfinches, a rare sight, feeding on dandelion seed heads last summer, which I was then able to log on the Speyside Visitor Centre volunteers’ wildlife blackboard.</p> <p>Any issues with molehills should be addressed to the current owner of the park, The Moray Council.</p> <p>Any tree branches or twigs blown down in the park are generally cleared to the side by park users and volunteers.</p> <p><u><i>Focus on the playpark...</i></u></p> <p>It is my view that the Children’s Play Park does need improvements but that should be commensurate with the number of children in the village and within the bounds of affordability. I would <u>not</u> like to see the area developed into a theme park. Every piece of play equipment installed has ongoing continuous maintenance and replacement costs, and there is no evidence that these costs have been taken into account in this application. It should be remembered that an exercise gym was installed in Speyside Community Centre recently and in these days of austerity there is little room for duplication of equipment within such a small community.</p> <p><u><i>Saving Victoria Bridge</i></u></p> <p>The Victoria Bridge is not owned by Moray Council but is owned by a private trust and surely It is not a valid part of this application for a CAT.</p> <p><u><i>Section E – Level and nature of support</i></u></p> <p>This section is full of generalities and unsubstantiated statements. I could see no sign of evidence of support from any of the groups of individuals mentioned.</p> <p><u><i>Section F – Funding</i></u></p> <p><i>“It is the intention of PlayAberlour to raise approximately £300 000 from major funders...”</i></p>
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		<p>Information on The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) website for PlayAberlour, SC047670, OSCR Charity Details shows income as £0 and expenditure as £0 for 2018. It is a relatively new organisation (founded in 2016) and there is currently no track record of fundraising or financial management for projects such as this application.</p> <p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>This application contains many factual inaccuracies, subjective judgements, much repetition, and no supporting evidence. I cannot support this application.</p> <p>CTB Response Here</p>
45	23/01	<p>I wish to offer my full support to PlayAberlour in their bid to take ownership of the Alice Littler Park. XXXX. Our local park has fallen into such a state over the last few years it's the worst I have ever seen it. XXXX no longer allow XXXX play there as I personally feel it is dangerous. To see that this has happened while under the care of The Aberlour Community Association is very disappointing. XXXX for outdoor activities with my children. XXXX lots of families that do not have this luxury. With plans for new social housing, Aberlour needs a safe public space or we risk children and families living in isolation.</p> <p>PlayAberlour have a vision in mind which need to be thoroughly applauded. In my opinion they have literally thought of everything and for the first time in a long time XXXX excited about XXXX in a community project.</p> <p>XXXX planning for real consultation, XXXX a flag on the park area asking for improvement. I never imagined such an amazing plan would be thought of.</p> <p>I hope the Moray Council will make the right decision.</p> <p>CTB Response Here</p>
46	07/02	<p>XXXX, supporting the PlayAberlour proposal for a Community Asset Transfer and their plan to renew Alice Littler Park.</p> <p>I am in agreement with PlayAberlour's assessment of conditions and opportunities stated in their business case: Investment in the park will directly improve the quality parks and recreation play a pivotal role in attracting and retaining businesses. Influencing business expansion decisions, and attracting new residents to the community. Aberlour's lovely rural location, Speyside Way, famous fishing and whisky attractions, nearby castles and historic sites, plus excellent food options, contribute to its appeal for tourists and locals alike. Along with our excellent schools, community centre, care home, medical practice, high street businesses, a mix of tidy existing and new housing and long-standing international companies already located here, only our neglected and forlorn park is out of place.</p> <p>The missing piece is the existence of a park with fine recreation facilities for people of all ages and abilities, including a play and sports areas, fitness equipment and inclusive facilities. Having a first-class park will shine a bright spotlight on Aberlour. Economic development organisations of all kinds will focus on our improved park to showcase and promote the area.</p> <p>The current state of the park, especially playpark, is detrimental to the economic prosperity of the village. The plans PlayAberlour have</p>

		submitted will help bring our high street to life for year round, making Aberlour a better place for residents and a great destination for visitors.
		CTB Response Here
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