



14 September 1812

# Aberlour Community Association SCIO

Scottish Charity Registered Number: SC009817

## Community Asset Transfer Request for ownership of Alice Littler Park Reference: ATR / 085

### Appendix

As a full year has elapsed since our original submission dated 15 August 2019, Aberlour Community Association SCIO requests that the following supplementary information be considered alongside the ACA Asset Transfer Request and Business Case by the members of the Economic Growth, Housing and Environmental Sustainability Committee on 6 October.

Updated information is cross-referenced with the original citation in the ACA Asset Transfer Request.

Page	Reference	Supplementary Information
9	‘Moray Council has already publicly announced that, with effect from 2020, they will be unable to maintain the grass cutting service within the Park. The continuity of provision that would be achieved if this CAT request were granted to ACA would be vital to the Park’s welfare and by extension to that of its innumerable patrons.’	<p>ACA was instrumental in arranging with the Alice Littler Memorial Trust for ALMT to take on the responsibility for organising and financing maintenance of the park for the current financial year by a local contractor. This arrangement was made prior to the Covid-19 pandemic in consultation with MC, both to safeguard the park for itself and with specific concern for maintaining the park as the arena for the popular Aberlour Strathspey Highland Games held in August, this year unfortunately subsequently falling victim to the Covid-19 crisis. ACA Trustees have been in regular communication with MC Lands and Parks officers throughout the summer and have reached agreement on equitable measures with regard to local waste disposal, hedge and shrub cutting and grounds maintenance.</p> <p>However, as the country slowly emerges from the Covid-19 lockdown, the maintenance of open green spaces has emerged as an even more vital amenity for nurturing the health and wellbeing of patrons – as the popularity of the park</p>

		throughout the latter part of the summer with locals and visitors alike has amply demonstrated.
9	‘The ALP provides many benefits to its users: it enables people to remain physically active which is critical to their health and well-being; it provides (along with the Old Station Tearoom situated at the side of the ALP and owned and managed by the ACA) an opportunity to interact socially, thereby reducing social isolation; it attracts visitors to the village of Aberlour, thereby benefitting the local economy; it offers a place of tranquillity whereby people can enjoy their natural environment; and the ALP itself is fully accessible to all users regardless of age, mobility or disability, thereby ensuring that it is fully inclusive.’	<p>The specific function of ALP as an instrument in combating ‘social isolation’ has become even more important in light of the subsequent advent of the C-19 pandemic, with its associated impact on people’s physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>Preservation of the park’s status as a natural open space has now attained even higher priority in Aberlour and beyond. Focus nationally on the pivotal role of green spaces in assisting the population’s recovery from the past five months of social restrictions has promoted major initiatives in cities such as Manchester and Birmingham to create such arenas. We are fortunate indeed to have a similar amenity, bequeathed to the community by Sydney Littler 40 years ago, already at our disposal.</p>
10	‘The ACA is in a strong position financially to withstand the extra costs associated with the general day to day maintenance of the ALP, and so it is not envisaged that ownership of the ALP would impinge on ACA’s normal activities.’	While all businesses, be they private, public or voluntary, have suffered from loss of income during the Covid-19 lockdown, ACA’s loss of revenue due to the enforced closure of the Old Station Tearoom and the Fleming Hall has been substantially offset by corresponding cuts in expenses and outlay on domestic charges, as well as by astute and proportionate accessing of funding, from local and national sources, which will enable future activities to continue as before.
13	‘The ACA has a long standing proven record of delivering on its charitable remit, either working in isolation or in conjunction with other organisations in Aberlour (as evidenced by the highly successful Bicentenary celebrations).’	<p>ACA’s dynamism within the local community has been further proven in the troublesome period accompanying the Covid-19 pandemic, coinciding with the election of a fresh Executive Committee in March 2020.</p> <p>In addition to its many conventional functions, ACA has taken responsibility for actively delivering support measures within the local community, from leafleting the village and surrounding areas with details of ‘Fone Friends’ able to provide ready support, to establishment of the local foodbank hub (which has made in excess of 700 care foodbag deliveries to date), organisation of a fortnightly fresh meals delivery service in</p>

		<p>partnership with a local hotel and cafe (300 of which have been delivered to date), and finally sourcing funding to purchase and roll out IT facilities for socially and geographically isolated people in the local area. ACA has also used the window of the lockdown for the refurbishment and deep cleaning of the Fleming Hall in preparation for welcoming back the many groups that make use of its facilities.</p> <p>The bespoke ACA Covid-19 support programme has involved active cooperation with many groups, including the MC Community Support Unit and Moray Food Plus in Elgin as well as numerous local associations, businesses and distilleries, local shops and private individuals.</p>
17	<p>‘The annual maintenance costs in respect of the ALP have been calculated at around £5500.00. This takes account of quotations provided by a professional contractor to cover grass cutting, spike and fertilisation of the grassed area, shrub maintenance as well as insurance costs relating to liability arising from ownership and management of the existing play park equipment.’</p>	<p>Following the ALMT’s assumption of financial responsibility for maintenance of the park through a private local contractor this season, ACA will have an empirical understanding of the practical and financial logistics involved, which will enable us to fund and budget accordingly in future. The viability of the original costing configuration is evidenced by the fact that the annual maintenance costs sustained to date are in keeping with the five-figure estimate provided previously.</p>
17	<p>‘The ACA is therefore in a strong position financially to absorb the routine maintenance and insurance costs associated with ownership of the ALP.’</p>	<p>ACA has had greater cause this year to be grateful for its historic prudence with finance, and inevitably the healthy Association funds have been called on more fully than ever before. However, with the nation’s steadfast emergence from lockdown, we are confident of replicating our former turnover – and indeed the Trustees are exploring further means of augmenting the established income stream in years to come.</p>
18	<p>‘The ACA will carry out some minor improvements to the playpark area pending the results of the consultation and these costs will be met by the ACA in conjunction with local contractors who have agreed to donate resources.’</p>	<p>In response to the unforeseen delay in the resolution of the ALP’s future, exacerbated by the renewed recreational demands made in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis, ACA has already taken steps to discharge its stated intention to refurbish the children’s playpark towards the end of the summer holiday for the benefit of patrons from the local area and further afield. ACA has facilitated short-term refurbishment of the playpark carried out</p>

		by a group of volunteers comprising Trustees, Members, local tradesmen and friends, with full power-cleaning, timber restoration, priming and painting of the installations, and resurfacing of the ground with fresh bark-chips newly completed in August of this year.
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Chair, ACA

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24 August 2020