

CAT Request for Beechwood Community Centre (YCYS)



Representations Received and Responses (18)

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NOTE – Only representations provided with a full name and address have been included. All representations have been reproduced in this format in their entirety, however, personal or identifying information has been removed or redacted.

<p>#1 #3 #5 #6 #7 #8 #9 #10 #11 #12 #13 #15 #16 #17 #18</p>	<p>Dear Renfrewshire Council, I am writing to formally express my concerns regarding the involvement of an external group in taking over a community centre within our local area. As a member of this community, I believe it is crucial that any changes to the management of local facilities are carried out with full transparency and proper engagement with the existing community groups and residents.</p> <p>One of my primary concerns is that the external group in question has no prior knowledge or connection to the established community groups that currently utilize the centre. This raises serious questions about their true intentions and whether their management would genuinely serve the interests of local residents.</p> <p>Additionally, there have been contradictions regarding the identity of the group, with references to either Pachedu or the Redeemed Church of Zoe. This lack of clarity is concerning, as it suggests a lack of transparency in their organizational structure and objectives. Understanding exactly who is taking over the centre and their intended purpose is essential for ensuring accountability and alignment with community needs.</p> <p>Another significant issue is the lack of proper local community consultation. Many residents and existing groups have not had adequate opportunities to provide input on this matter. A change of this magnitude should involve a thorough and inclusive consultation process, ensuring that the views of those who rely on the community centre are taken into full consideration before any decisions are made.</p> <p>I urge the council to reconsider any agreements with this external group until full transparency is achieved and the local community has been properly consulted. Our community centre should remain a resource that prioritizes and benefits the residents it was built to serve.</p> <p>I would appreciate a response from the council addressing these concerns and clarifying the steps that will be taken to ensure the interests of the local community are upheld.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>CTG Response</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>Your Community Your Space is a new wholly independent SCIO and are not part of any other organisation. Our membership is open, and anyone in the community of Shortroods can join and become involved.</p>

	<p>We are a genuinely community-based organisation and YCYS has an objective to ensure membership is from the local community who will then be involved in running this local centre. We are not an external group, but a new organisation set up to be a vehicle for the local community to manage the Beechwood Community Centre for the benefit of the people of Shortroods.</p> <p>We are unclear where the assumption has come from that YCYS is linked to Pachedu or the Redeemed Church of God Zoe Parish Paisley. Neither of these assumptions are true. As already noted, this is an independent community-based organisation which has no link to any church or other organisation. In terms of the purpose of the group and our intentions, we hope that these are clear from the business plan and the CAT application. Our intention is solely to manage the Beechwood Community Centre for the benefit of the local community. We have had to work to a relatively tight timescale but within that constraint, we have endeavoured to engage the community as much as we can by issuing a local survey with a good response rate, holding public meetings and continue with ongoing public consultation where there is ample opportunity for the community to express their views. We welcome these views and want to ensure that Beechwood Community Centre provides the types of activity that the community want now and for the foreseeable future.</p>
#2	<p>To whom it may concern</p> <p>My concerns for the Beachwood if this other group takes over. They had couple of party's in the Beachwood Which is been a problem and the traffic around the area is really bad and they don't care parking in front of your house. I've lived in the area for 32 years and I don't want to leave the area. The Beachwood used to be great place for Christmas pantomime each year and my kids went to aftercare. But committee who ran it just run the place down refusing people with party's and clubs it's a shame for you to let this happen in the committee. But I don't think this new group since aren't from the area and think they do the same as old ones. I do think you should let star protect to take over as they help people around the area. Or let some of people of shortroods to take over get it way it used to be around here for the people to enjoy. This group is not from the area so should not take over the Beachwood for themselves.</p>
CTG Response	<p>The ideal scenario was for there to be a strong local management committee operating a sustainable centre. If this was the case, there would be no need for a new organisation. Unfortunately, the existing committee now has only two individuals who are older and have served for over 30 years. Despite their efforts no local people are willing to volunteer to take on that responsibility. As a result, a new model needs to be found to protect the centre for the community.</p> <p>Your Community Your Space cannot comment on how the centre has been run previously. We have established YCYS to maximise the potential for the centre to provide the activities requested by the local community. Hence our name, it is your community, and the centre is your space.</p>

	<p>We invite local people to become members of this exciting new organisation and to join the board to help manage the organisation and have your say in how the centre is run, types of activity, etc.</p> <p>Our plan is to continue hosting the groups who currently use the centre and to build on this, offering the opportunity for parties, events and activities as identified by the local community.</p> <p>The Star project are an independent company and registered charity who we want to work in partnership with for the benefit the community.</p>
#4	<p>I would like the community centre to be run by people in the community new board members to be elected, not a religious group.</p> <p>Thanks</p>
CTG Response	<p>Your Community Your Space is not a religious group. It is an independent charity set up to serve the community of Shortroods through the management of the Beechwood Community Centre.</p> <p>As previously commented, membership of YCYS is open to all members of the Shortroods community and we actively encourage people to come forward to be members and to serve on the board to develop the Centre to meet local needs.</p>
#12	<p>Dear Renfrewshire Council</p> <p>I would like to express my concerns about an apparent asset transfer of the beechwood community in Shortroods Road Paisley , to an external group out with this area, as a member of this community for the past 54years i feel the whole community should have been made aware of this from the outset and not 6month down the line. This group are out with this area and do not know the community and what this community needs, there has been no proper consultation regarding this, apart from a short meeting on Monday 10th Feb at 3.30pm when everyone was at work which isnt good enough, i would ask for this to be put on hold until the whole community has been properly informed and to give local community groups to have their say.</p> <p>Many Thanks</p>
CTG Response	<p>Your Community Your Space welcomes the involvement of local people. Though timescales have been tight, we have worked hard to meet local people, issue a survey and spend time in the community to listen to views.</p>
#14	<p>Dear Renfrewshire Council, Re: The Beechwood Community Centre, Shortroods</p> <p>We are writing to formally express our concerns regarding the involvement of an external group applying for an asset transfer to take over the Beechwood Community in Shortroods, Paisley. As a community development organisation embedded within the Shortroods community for over 25 years, we believe any changes to the management of local facilities must be carried out with full</p>

transparency and appropriate engagement with the existing community groups and residents.

One of our primary concerns is that the external group, Your Community, Your Space, has no connection to the established community groups in the area, or indeed, the area itself. Despite being instructed by the Community Asset Transfer Team to contact local organisations, they have made no effort to contact us or, to our knowledge, any other groups in the area. This raises serious questions about their true intentions and whether their management would genuinely serve the interests of the community. Further, they have misrepresented their lack of contact with organisations by stating that at least one, who had never spoken to them, would sit on their management committee. In addition they state (C.A.T. page 16 – 5.1.4) that they are ‘having ongoing consultations with STAR Project and Mossvale Church’. This is simply untrue.

Their business plan (page 11) shows a lack of understanding of our organisation by stating that we offer a Winter Connections Drop-In on a Tuesday between 6 and 8 in the evening. This is just one, very small activity we provide. By not doing their due diligence and finding out what we do, they cannot carry out a competitor analysis appropriately. Our service provision is vast and substantial and includes community support that runs at a minimum, 5 days a week for 8 hours a day. To look at their business plan, it would appear that no services currently operate in the area.

Additionally, there have been contradictions regarding the group's identity, with references to either Pachedu or the Redeemed Church of Zoe. The lack of clarity is concerning, as it suggests an issue with transparency in their organisational structure and objectives. Understanding who is taking over the centre and its intended purpose is essential for ensuring accountability and alignment with community needs.

Another significant issue is the lack of local community consultation. Many residents and existing groups have not had adequate opportunities to provide input. A change of this magnitude should involve a thorough and inclusive consultation process, ensuring that the views of those who rely on, or wish to use, the community centre are fully considered before any decisions are made. Alongside concerned residents, we attended their open meeting, facilitated by Community Enterprise, and were disappointed by Your Community, Your Space's responses to pertinent questions concerning their lack of transparency. For example, there was a disparity between what the operating hours of the centre would be, which groups could access it and how it would be staffed. The group was unable to answer any of these questions. They were also asked at the open meeting ‘Why The Beechwood, why Shortroods?’, the Chairperson of the group then stated that he ‘likes community centres’, and just happened to be driving past it, and decided he would enquire about its availability.

We left the open meeting sharing the residents' concerns. Several residents have now committed to establishing a group to take over the centre, and we have confirmed that we would support this. We cannot,

	<p>in good conscience, support an organisation taking over such a vital resource in an area that lacks community space when there has been no evidence that it will benefit the community.</p> <p>We urge the council to reconsider agreements with the organisation Your Community, Your Space until full transparency is achieved, and the local community has been properly consulted. Our community centre should remain a resource that prioritises and benefits the residents it was built to serve.</p> <p>We would appreciate the council's response to address these concerns and clarify the steps that will be taken to ensure the interests of the local community are upheld.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. Kind regards</p>
<p>CTG Response</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>As previously indicated, YCYS is not an external organisation but a new organisation that has been established specifically to serve the Shortroods community. Our only focus is the operation of the Beechwood Community Centre ensuring that it offers activity that the community want and continues to benefit the local community.</p> <p>YCYS understands that building relationships in a community takes time and care which it is committed to doing. The draft business plan had to be submitted quickly but a fuller business plan is being developed at the moment which will reflect the work of local organisations more closely following that period of consultation. The outline business plan published with the application has now been updated to reflect our most recent consultations and the work of other local organisations. Our consultation within the local community continues throughout this process and beyond and our business plan will also continue to be updated to reflect findings from these consultations. Remaining is our absolute commitment to the Shortroods community and our objective of having the Beechwood Community Centre available for bookings and offering activity that meets the community's objectives 6 days a week.</p>