



Stewart McDonald MP
Member of Parliament for Glasgow South
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
stewart.mcdonald.mp@parliament.uk

December 18th, 2023

I am writing in support of Castlemilk Community Football Trust's (CCFT).

I have witnessed first-hand what the group have achieved over the last 22 months and am inspired by their dedication to not only secure a future for the Barlia football facility, but also their commitment to providing football opportunities for local young people.

With over 1000 hours volunteer hours and enormous local support and goodwill, Barlia Football Club has been kept open by the Trust, following its closure during the Covid-19 pandemic, and have done everything to protect football participation levels in the community.

In just under 2 years, CCFT have provided 45 days free school holiday activities for local schoolchildren and approximately one thousand, six hundred free meals; run 52 weeks of a free football diversionary project for local young people; hosted nearly 600 football matches, with hundreds of additional training sessions; supplied weekly training and match facilities for 14 local teams and 15 teams from Glasgow's Southside, as well as similar facilities and pitch hire for teams throughout Glasgow and surrounding areas, and have facilitated access for recreational activities. In total, 52 different teams have used Barlia as their home pitch or for training sessions.

CCFT also offer free coaching sessions and games for schoolchildren to help local families during the half-term break and provided a safe space to play on the numerous school strike days. They are also the only local facility opened on public holidays including Christmas and New year allowing families and individuals a place to keep active and meet other people from across the community.

These are just some of the many examples that demonstrate how CCFT is promoting football and participation in the sport as a positive lifestyle choice for local young people, in one of the most deprived communities in Glasgow. All those involved should be commended for their efforts.

I therefore strongly urge you to consider Castlemilk Community Football Trust's application.

Yours sincerely,

Stewart McDonald MP
Member of Parliament for Glasgow South

Councillor John Carson
Scottish Labour Party
LINN – WARD 1

Phone: 0141 287 3937
E-mail: john.carson@glasgow.gov.uk

Councillor Catherine Vallis
Scottish Labour Party
LINN – WARD 1

Phone: 0141 287 7031
E-mail: catherine.vallis@glasgow.gov.uk



Our Ref: JC/CV/Barlia

19th January 2024

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to express our support for Castlemilk Community Football Trust and the valuable work they have been undertaking.

Over the course of 2023, CCFT have provided a warm space and welcoming environment for many people across our community. Their support of football and sport in the community has with it many benefits in terms of health, wellbeing and socialisation and their provision of facilities for young people is incredibly important in providing a positive space for young people to engage in meaningful activities with people, family and friends of different ages. We note and appreciate the space they provide during difficult times when other provisions for young people and families may not be available and is therefore a great support to working people and their families.

We believe strongly that CCFT have done incredibly well in developing the site at Barlia Football Complex and further believe that it will be of great benefit to the people of Glasgow and Castlemilk if they are able to develop this further. In this they have our full support.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor John Carson and Councillor Catherine Vallis

19/01/2024

Letter of Support

The facilities at Barlia Football Centre are a valued and important resource to those who use them, and to the wider community itself.

The work Castlemilk Community Football Trust is doing in the community is key to improving both physical and mental wellbeing, and to reducing social isolation of participants. Their work also promotes participation, engagement, and community cohesion amongst residents and users of all ages.

The pitches and the pavilion are well used and are vital to the continued provision of CCFT's current programme and future projects in Castlemilk.

Kind regards,

Robyn Sweeney

Administrator

The Senior Centre

18 December 2023

To whom it may concern

Funding for The Castlemilk Community Football Trust

We are writing to you in support of Castlemilk Community Football Trusts (C.C.F.T.) funding application.

My role as a Community Links Worker based at Castlemilk Group Practice relies on the availability of community activities and support available. This absolutely includes the CCFT. They are part of the heart of Castlemilk, providing vital support and facilities for other groups to thrive. Some of these groups may not manage without the availability and support from the CCFT. This is why the CCFT is so valuable.

I work alongside them as part of the Castlemilk Together group to tackle food poverty and link patients with them frequently. The most recent being a new Walking Football group for the over 50s due to start in January to support physical and mental health. As it states in the Age Scotland website, *'Our statistics have revealed that 218,000 over 50s in Scotland say they feel lonely all or most of the time. As people get older, it can be harder to maintain social connections. Retirement, bereavement or moving somewhere new can leave people feeling lonely and isolated.'* The CCFT provide a place to go and meet others, including over the festive period on Christmas and Boxing day, and the 1st and 2nd Jan for a tea and a mince pie. This dedication when most organisations close, is purely to help people who may otherwise be alone. This type of community support reduces social isolation and improves the mental health of communities and must be celebrated and rewarded.

I see first-hand the positive impact they have in Castlemilk and wider South locality. Not only with groups but also individuals or all ages and abilities. Their vision is to expand the opportunities and update the facilities.

I trust this will be taken into consideration for their application and if need any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me on 07793 722 623.

Sincerely,

Sharon Irvine
Community Links Worker at Castlemilk Group Practice

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Dear Castlemilk Community Football Trust,

I am writing to express my support for the admirable work that your organisation has done to divert young people away from antisocial behaviour and criminality, through the power of football. I know that past diversionary programs have had a positive impact in the lives of young people in the community.

Using football as a tool, the Trust provides an opportunity to instil important values that are crucial in steering young people away from negative influences and guiding them towards a path of positivity and personal development. I note that these values of community improvement, and investment in young people, are echoed in your constitution. I commend the utilisation of football, Barlia Football Grounds and the Pavilion, as tools for social change, and I am confident that future diversion programs will have a meaningful impact on the lives of young people.

I offer my support to this cause and look forward to working in partnership going forward.

Sgt Alan Walker

Community Policing Team

Cathcart Police Office

Glasgow South East

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CCFT Letters of Support

13/12/2022

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a letter of support for Castlemilk Community Football Trust (CCFT) taking full ownership of Barlia Football Centre. The improvements CCFT have made to the space as well as the surrounding woodland is outstanding as well as the level of community involvement and engagement with the space. CCFT have ensured that local organisations and local people have participated in decision making. CCFT have the skillset, enthusiasm and knowledge to take full ownership of Barlia Football Centre and we as neighbouring organisations are committed to offering support and working in partnership.

Yours Sincerely,

Clair Malpas (CEO)

Fiona McGovern (Community Investment Manager)

Fraser Howat (Head of Complex)

Amanda McGivern (Chair)

Eddie Cusick (CDW)

Lewis MacSween (Chair)

Jacqueline Lamb (CEO)

Cassiltoun Housing Association

Ardenglen Housing Association

Castlemilk Youth Complex

Friends of Castlemilk Park

Thenue Communities

Castlemilk & Carmunnock Community

Windpark Trust

The Indigo Childcare Group

Castlemilk Youth Complex 39 Arden Craig Rd, Castlemilk, Glasgow, G45 0EQ

Tel: 0141 630 0000 Fax: 0141 630 0066 <http://castlemilkyouthcomplex.com/>

4th March 2021

Re: Castlemilk Community Football's expression of interest in the Barlia Football Centre under People Make Glasgow Communities –A Call for Local Action

To Whom It May Concern:

The Castlemilk Youth Complex (CYC) wholeheartedly supports this endeavour and proposed partnership. For over 2 years CYC has had discussions with John Harkins, representing Castlemilk Community Football, and Glasgow Life around the future of the Barlia Football Centre. Our close partners Cassiltoun Housing Association, who's portfolio encompasses the geographical area where Barlia is sited, has recently raised funds to finance a comprehensive feasibility study of this popular community resource. This currently ongoing study is being carried out by Community Enterprise, who are a leading support organisation for communities and social enterprises with a strong track record in community asset transfer and community ownership. CYC is at the forefront of innovative youth and community work in the south side of Glasgow. Since its inception in 1993, we have been managed by a youth board of local young people, revolutionised youth work in schools and delivered pioneering programmes tackling many diverse issues from our purpose built centre less than half a mile from Barlia. We have mature and robust governance and financial systems, a staff and volunteer team made up mainly of Castlemilk community members and strong links with all local statutory and voluntary organisations and forums. Barlia is a vital resource for the Castlemilk Community which has immense developmental potential and CYC is delighted to be involved in a process which aims to put ownership of the facility into the hands of the community members. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Regards,

Fraser Howat Head of Complex

----- Original Message -----

From: Elaine McLaren <elainemclaren71@yahoo.co.uk>

To: Chairperson@ccftrust.co.uk

Date: 12/12/2022

Subject: Barlia Complex

Good morning

On behalf of St Margaret Mary's Secondary school we fully support Castlemilk Community football taking over the ownership of Barlia Football grounds. Barlia and Castlemilk Community Football offer young people of Castlemilk an opportunity to play football, keep active and develop social skills.

A large number of our young people engage in the community football this organisation offer. This included Friday night football and holiday clubs. As well as keeping children and young adults active they provide hot food for many young people, and in an area of high deprivation for some young people, this maybe the only hot meal they receive during school holidays.

Barlia and Castlemilk community football have made it possible for our school teams to host games which otherwise we would not be able to accommodate within our limited school facilities. We do not have flood lights and often our grass pitch is water logged and not playable.

Kind regards
Elaine McLaren

Faculty Head PE , Health & Welbeing
St Margaret Mary's Secondary School
Castlemilk
01415820250

To whom it may concern

I would like to confirm that the Jeely Piece Club wholeheartedly supports the funding bid to enable the Castlemilk Community Football Trust to develop and upgrade the Barlia facility. The Barlia Facility has been a major cause for concern for the Castlemilk Community for many years. The majority of our local children and young people could not access the services due to the cost. The facility has not had any investment for years and was not fit for purpose until CCFT became involved. We have seen a significant improvement in a short time. The Jeely Piece Club would make use of the Barlia facility as we work with local children and young people and would encourage them to attend the services on offer as well as us accompanying children along to enjoy what's on offer. I wish them the best of luck with the application and would be happy to be involved in any way they might require.

Best wishes
Grace Lamont

Grace Lamont
Head of Play Services
Jeely Piece Club

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e: grace@jeely.org.uk



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Executive Director
George Gillespie
BEng (Hons) CEng MICE

Our ref PMGC/DCMS COF
Date 13th December 2022

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament St
London
SW1A 2BQ

Dear Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Community Ownership Fund & Castlemilk Community Football Trust

I am writing this letter in support of Castlemilk Community Football Trust's application to the Community Ownership Fund. The Trust in partnership with Castlemilk Youth Complex have been operating Barlia Football Complex in Castlemilk since January 2021, where it had been closed since March 2020. Barlia Football Complex was not re-opened by Glasgow Life, along with over 60 other venues, due to its own financial recovery plan which did not include this asset at this time. Without the Trust working with City partners to reopen Barlia Football Complex, it would likely have remained closed to the public.

There are currently no statutory services delivered at Barlia Football Complex, therefore no statutory services would be transferred from Glasgow City Council to the Trust.

The People Make Glasgow Communities programme is a mechanism by which local people, community groups, third sector and other organisations can express an interest in having a greater involvement in the management of local venues.

The Trust in partnership with Castlemilk Youth Complex are currently operating Barlia Football Complex and are demonstrating their ability to operate the asset as well as covering all associated costs. The Trust are currently engaged with the People Make Glasgow Communities process to obtain a long lease for the asset. The trust has developed a business plan with financial forecast and demonstrated a clear need through community engagement and consultation.

If you require further information please don't hesitate to contact me using the details below.

Yours sincerely

Chris Weitz
Programme Liaison Officer

If phoning please ask for Chris Weitz, 07554 725180, chris.weitz@glasgow.gov.uk

Glasgow - Supporting the Gaelic language Glaschu - a' toirt taic dhan Ghàidhlig
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