

Ayrshire Golf Trust Business Plan and SAC recommendation Report to the Leadership Panel 17/09/19

Firstly, as previously recorded interested parties in this process, SAC chose not to inform any Community Councils of the impending Leadership meeting regarding this ongoing proposal by the AGT. It was thankfully only by chance that it was found, a matter of days beforehand, in order that we could represent the opposing Public properly who have a vested interest in this proposal concerning the Council's land grab of our Common Good Land that is the Old Racecourse.

Barely having time to read both the SAC Report and Business Plan, a number of emails were hurriedly sent into SAC on behalf of the wider Public of Ayr Burgh detailing either incorrect or misinformation or lack of information regarding our previous objections now a year old with regards to the SAC Report to Councillors. There is much to complain about the Business Plan particularly after it is stripped bare of the fillers, containing well out of date information regarding trends produced by other organisations, the complete lack of local on the ground research, redacted figures which are not regarded as sensitive and covertly blanked out and at times no correlation between the figures contained within. We have been led to believe that this has been checked by the Financial Gurus within SAC and approved as viable. My word I certainly wouldn't want to pin my name to it nor would I propose it as viable in the Dragons Den. Yes folks it's your money we are talking about to the tune of £200,000 start up contribution, and the additional cost of SAC and AGT working on this for the past year and counting, plus a future cost to SAC and yes folks no safeguards in place. I wonder if there is such a book in the series 'Dummies', 'The Basics of how to throw other folks money around without a care in the world'. And if not to make matters worse to be called by Councillor Saxton's (LP) dismissingly expressing us as, 'these are always the same serial objectors that won't allow us to do anything'. When, this is the man who is willing to knock down 3 high rise flats producing a negative value, by employing demolition contractors. I mean if SAC really don't want them at least offer them for sale to a Private investor to recoup their present value for the residents of Ayr to use elsewhere. Not rocket science, really is it? Or do as you are supposed to, refurbish them, you said yourself they are sound and safe.

Attended by at least 7 objecting members of the public some of whom representing Fort Seafied & Wallacetown and Alloway & Doonfoot Community Councils also representing the wider Public and others.

Following a presentation by Ms Monaghan the SAC service lead for this proposal. Where it was not written in the Report, she did make some amends verbally following our emails to incorporate many of our concerns and we hope that this report can now be re written to contain them as a permanent record.

The Leadership Panel were there to approve SAC funding of £100,000 plus £100,000 of VAT receipts from those who paid VAT to SAC for various sport season tickets which they have decided not to pass the overpaid VAT back to the people. Previously they had intimated no AGT cost to SAC.

2 New holes to be built on the Old Racecourse which is our principal objection and secondary to that the SAC start up contribution, ongoing maintenance costs to essentially a Private Company Trust with no past track record. The principal trustee has negative equity in the Trust fund and is relying on a few punts where figures of golf participants have decreased even more so from the shown outdated figures in the BP. Should we all just put on our woolly hats at this point and play pretend accountants.

There then followed each Councillor in turn praising the work of the AGT without any concerns of the objections or alternatives put forward. One question on what Planning Permission would be required. Answer; vague, Building and Lighting not even correct, my list contains up to 9 items at present, pretty much the normal stuff but I'm already expecting a stitch up here. Now to call me 'Serial', am I expected to

be as thick as two short planks, this meeting is called following submission of the Business Plan after one year, remember also lots of time to conduct local gathering statistics from schools and elsewhere. Where not one question arises concerning the Business Plan presented, incredible, unbelievable in the extreme, yet we have rubber stamped a large chunk of our money away for the time being. Remember also that 'serial' and others in a very short time have found holes in it. The Public are being short changed here no doubt about it.

Well, what happens now folks, it's your turn to step up to the plate, many of us having looked after your interests and spent many hours on your behalf to protect your Common Good Land which was last done when the Grammar school was kicked into touch by you in 2005. Shortly coming to you in a few weeks according to SAC is your chance to pin your name and hopefully to object to this land grab which incidentally has been your parent's legacy and hopefully will be your children's. The principle here is you can do what you like with temporary activities be it sport, functions, displays, parking, festivals whatever you want or replace half of it with two permanent golf holes for a few users of a golf range in comparison to the population of Ayr who are able to use the Old Racecourse. That land will no longer be yours but rather the Councils which when things go pear shaped could be reverted to housing, where maybe a bit more is nibbled away, there's a prospect for you. Let's not have them bully us and always remember that youngsters of any means, locality and backgrounds can play together and have fun on your land as many have already and are continuing to do. I like that and so do the mums and dads, gets them out and away from the phones for a while and some fresh air. Together we win, from a former Mainholm Academy pupil who stands for fairness, proper process and things that are simply just right. You are not depriving youngsters of trying out golf or lessons, as just after the Cattle Market and before Coylton there is a wonderful golf Academy signposted where all the facilities and more are already in place. This along with Gailles, Troon and Turnberry cover the whole of South Ayrshire. After Coylton you can experience fresh water fishing with your kids at reasonable rates and all close to 3 high schools. I am not anti golf far from it, I have stood up for the continued use of Dalmilling and I would suggest golfers encourage SAC to build Pollark Park in part of the old playing fields of Mainholm and Queen Margarets and not fill the whole space with housing, then to say there is no park for Ayr residents of that area and pressure Dalmilling once again.

We then have to convince the Sheriff that this land belongs to us and not the Council and with your overwhelming help, hopefully we can send them packing once again and then to think how we can stop these repeat performances happening again. Thank you.

The AGT Business plan and other relevant documents will be made available on the FSW CC website.

<https://www.fswcc.org.uk>

Andrew Russell, Alloway & Doonfoot Community Council

Fort, Seafield and Wallacetoun Community Council