

Dear sirs,

it is with reluctance that I write on behalf of [REDACTED] to object to the application by Carnoustie and Monifieth Men's Shed for a Community Asset Transfer of the Panmure Centre. I say with reluctance because as an organisation, we very much support the concept of Mens Sheds, and the benefits which they bring to their members. However, on this occasion, there is a wider community interest at stake here which this request threatens, and this proposal could limit the much wider community benefit which the Panmure Centre has the potential to deliver.

Angus Council called several public meetings to gauge interest in the Panmure Centre, and a large number of organisations expressed an interest in being able to access and use rooms/facilities there if the building was improved in condition and lay-out. At the most recent of these meeting earlier this year, Carnoustie Community Development Trust agreed to take on the role of organising a feasibility study to examine the potential uses of the building across a wide cross section of the community, which I may say would include the Men's Shed, and there was some tentative discussion around the possibility of the Council funding a study to not just identify possible uses, but also a business plan to ensure it had a long term viable future. All parties present, including a Mens Shed representative, appeared to be happy with that course of action. Coronavirus and the subsequent lock-down effectively prevented progress on the project and the feasibility study, but we had anticipated that it would be picked up and progressed as restrictions eased.

While the submission by the Men's Shed acknowledges that other groups might want to use the building, it is clear that they want to monopolise the ground floor, and we believe their estimate of costs requiring to be spent on the building over time is well short of what would be required to create a modern, high quality community facility catering for the needs and aspirations of all quarters of the Carnoustie community.

It is clear from the wording of the current application that it is focussed, not on the wider potential community benefit, but on the narrower interests of the Men's Shed. Their application states - " The proposed use of the land/building is to provide recreational facilities and advance the social needs, health and wellbeing of men of all ages and backgrounds living in Carnoustie and Monifieth and surrounding areas by creating, developing and maintaining a facility, namely a Men's Shed. "

We would respectfully suggest that if they have an immediate and urgent need to find an alternative home, they seek a short term lease of part of the Panmure Centre until the Group which has been meeting to consider options for its future has an opportunity to reconvene and get the feasibility study undertaken. Once that is completed, [REDACTED] would be in a position to seek funding based on the identified needs of the wider Carnoustie Community, including the Men's Shed, and if and when funding is identified, a CAT request on behalf of the community would be submitted. Alternatively, if acceptable, a CAT request could be submitted seeking a transfer SUBJECT to funding being obtained.

This application is premature and if granted, will severely limit the potential of the building to deliver on the needs of the whole Carnoustie community. I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this objection.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Hi there,

I would like to give my wholehearted support to the 'Mens Sheds' application to use the Panmure Centre.

██████████, ██████████ Carnoustie

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in support of this application. To have a strong capable group as residents to utilise and protect the iconic building is a sensible and practical solution to resolve the problems of both the organisation and Angus Council.

Yours sincerely

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Carnoustie