

MESSAGES IN SUPPORT OF A LONG LEASE FOR INCLUDE US TO TAKE ON A LEASE FOR CATHERINE STREET PLAY PARK (63 in total) anon

From:
Date: Fri, 24 May 2019 at 13:42
Subject: Support for Lease of Catherine Street Playpark
To: info@includeus.org.uk info@includeus.org.uk

To whom it may concern

I sincerely hope the Council agree to the application for the lease of the Playpark by Include Us. Local authority budgets are so stretched at present, there is little room for investment in play, even more so in the type of money required for ACCESSIBLE play.

Include Us can do this and also can run projects and events in the space, ensuring it is used by the communities it serves. They can provide maintenance and development that simply wouldn't be available to the local authority.

We all know that funding is best sought these days by voluntary sector organisations, which simply won't offer funding to statutory bodies in most cases. Enabling the lease would enable access to these funding sources and allow development to occur!

DP

From:
Date: Fri, 24 May 2019 at 16:06
Subject: Re: We Need Your Support
To: Catherine Street Inclusive Play Park & Community Garden <info@includeus.org.uk>

I am a resident of Catherine street and I support your vision
With the exception that I think dogs should be banned from the park
As even if owners pick up Poo it's still leaves a residue in grass that can be dangerous to young children which is the group we are ultimately trying to target

From:
Date: Mon, 27 May 2019 at 04:29
Subject: Inclusive Playpark
To: info@includeus.org.uk <info@includeus.org.uk>

To whom it may concern.

I am writing to you to commend the work you're doing, and have planned, for Catherine Street Park.

As a parent I have used this park frequently over the last 9 years and love the fact that we have such a wonderful space in the centre of town. Myself and my family have participated in many of the activities you have planned over the last few years and have enjoyed the sense of community and ownership you have instilled in park users.

In viewing your plans, I was delighted to see the way in which you had brought together play equipment and natural elements which will enhance not only the functionality of the park, but its look and biodiversity.

As someone with a background in nature-based play, this biodiversity is something I have been watching keenly as your plans have developed. The mixture of native bulb planting, the introduction of new species of tree and space for seasonal planting are all positive steps to both enhance floral biodiversity and encourage both animal species into the park.

Further to my personal views, I am also a teacher. This year I have two children with physical disabilities and have been hit constantly with challenges when trying to arrange sessions in the community due to a lack of appropriate resources which they can use.

We recently discussed the development of the park in class and I can't begin to explain the excitement and sheer joy expressed when they realised a space was being created that not only met their needs, but allowed them to play alongside their friends and family members, rather than separate to them. The fact that there are also appropriate onsite toileting facilities should also not be underestimated and it is wonderful to see the partnership between yourself and the Usual Place in meeting the diverse needs of our community.

I could go on, but I just want to conclude by saying that children with disabilities have been marginalised for far too long. The work that you have done and will continue to do, often on a voluntary basis, will go some way to start to redress this.

It is wonderful to see community driven work in action and I look forward to seeing the inclusive park, up and running.

Thank you on behalf of myself, my family and my students.

JW
Dumfries

From:
Date: Fri, 24 May 2019 at 16:57
Subject: Gaining the lease
To: <info@includeus.org.uk>

It is amazing that we have people so determined to make life a little more fair for children with additional needs. We must be inspired by their efforts and enthusiasm and support them in whatever way we are able. They need the lease and who are we w would deny them this.
Let's let them get on with it now.

TL

From:
Date: Fri, 24 May 2019 at 16:58
Subject: Catherine Street Park
To: <info@includeus.org.uk>

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I would like to put forward my wholehearted support for the plans for Catherine Street Park. Having worked with children with disabilities for over 30 years in Dumfries, I am well aware of the lack of suitable play facilities for them within the region.

The Usual Place has provided an accessible toilet and changing area and having a park that is suitable for youngsters of all abilities right beside it would be a godsend to a large number of parents of children with a disability. It would also prevent the social isolation which can have a detrimental effect and impact on mental wellbeing.

Therefore, I ask that giving "ownership "of the park to the group via the long-term lease be seriously considered as it will not only be of benefit to young people with a disability but also have a positive impact on the wider community.

Yours Sincerely,

CB

From:
Date: Fri, 24 May 2019 at 17:48
Subject: Catherine Street park
To: <info@includeus.org.uk>

Wholly support the bid to lease this to a community organisation. It's a wonderful park and can be enjoyed by so many more people if the plans go ahead.

A. McL

From:
Date: Fri, 24 May 2019 at 19:04
Subject: Play area
To: <info@includeus.org.uk>

Good afternoon

You have my full support for the project. This type of play area is much needed, and this site is ideal.

Good luck

A

From:
Date: Fri, 24 May 2019 at 21:45
Subject: Lease support
To: <info@includeus.org.uk>

I fully support your application to retain the lease on your new playpark, as a former committee member of The Grove Play Area I can only see red by handing the lease back to the council for upkeep, we received £89k of lottery funding we gave ownership back to the picnic five years after completion, the park was built for children with disabilities including wheelchair access.

At the moment as I type the said playpark is not accessible by wheelchair, has had disability equipment removed and never replaced although the equipment was guaranteed, the emergency access is so overgrown no access is available and the park remains vandalised although the council tell the community they check the equipment monthly and maintain the access, wish we'd never built the park, as a foster parent of a disabled child.

I'm broken hearted that so much community spirit and hard work to get such a great facility has got to rot!!!

Please come and see how the council FAILED to maintain their first fully accessible park postcode DG1 1TN.

AB

From:
Date: Fri, 24 May 2019 at 21:49
Subject: Support from Elizabeth Rawlins
To: info@includeus.org.uk <info@includeus.org.uk>

I support the aims of this Group.

ER

From:
Date: Sat, 25 May 2019 at 02:02

Subject: Support for the Catherine street play park.
To: info@includeus.org.uk <info@includeus.org.uk>

I offer my total support to the leasing of this park to the community group. I have seen the amazing, dynamic, thoughtful and well executed ideas and actions so far and the end result promises to be an incredible resource for everyone, but particularly families whose members include someone with a disability.

We can never have too many green spaces and open-air places for our children and the location of this one is perfect for a day's play with The Usual Place next door.

I sincerely urge the council to do a good thing here and empower this community group to run this playground. An enthusiastic, well- resourced community group will always be able to achieve more than statutory services can and as such should be backed 100% by our council.

DK

From:
Date: Sat, 25 May 2019 at 07:00
Subject: Importance of park
To: <info@includeus.org.uk>

Hi

I wish to extend my support for the ownership of the include us park. It plays a very important role in giving all children and families the opportunity to develop and play together ensuring all children and families ensure a healthy and happy time learning, growing as people and avoiding social isolation.

Furthermore, its bringing the community together a place where events can happen children can learn about nature, make new friends. And not just for children adults coming with the children can enjoy the space too. There is lots of talk about obesity and poor physical and mental health. What a better place for children to exercise running around enjoy playing so important for both physical and mental health of our future adults. They will build good habits for life.

What a fantastic space it will be for children with a disability next to the Usual Place cafe where there are facilities for the children to use. There are families who target areas for holidays when they know there are changing place toilets in a town or village. Now they will have a very special place for the children and young people to play exercise and enjoy themselves. What a great area the park, library and a place to eat too.

I am so looking forward to volunteering and being part of a very special place in Dumfries

Kind Regards
LG

From:
Date: Sat, 25 May 2019 at 07:37
Subject: Support for Catherine Street Inclusive Play park
To: <info@includeus.org.uk>

Dear Sir/Madam,
Please accept this email as a note of my full and unequivocal support for the planned asset transfer of Catherine Street Play park to Include Us.

It is my firm belief that Include Us will be more than capable of not only successfully maintaining the park to an exemplary standard but provide a first class facility which will be the pride of our community.

The dedication of Include Us to the pursuit of their goal is commendable. Their vision to provide a fully inclusive, intergenerational play park for the community, comes from the purest hearts and good intentions. I wish them every success in their endeavours.

Yours faithfully KS

From:

Date: Sun, 26 May 2019 at 11:39

Subject: Inclusive Play Park

To: info@includeus.org.uk

We have been at the play park on several occasions and love where it is situated. being right next to The Usual Place ideal if you want something to drink or eat. The toilets there are disabled friendly. This park is close to the town centre and parking within walking distance. The park is a nice size, not too big. Easy to keep an eye on children who love to run about.

We look forward to the completed park and wish you the best,

MG

From:

Date: Sun, 26 May 2019 at 11:46

Subject: Catherine street park

To: <info@includeus.org.uk>

Hi

I understand that Catherine Street play park are needing the Council to approve their application to take on a long-term lease for the park to make it more inclusive. I wish to offer my support so that more children can be involved and included

Kind regards.

HB

From:

Date: Sun, 26 May 2019 at 11:46

Subject: Catherine Street Park

To: <info@includeus.org.uk>

This gorgeous little park is a god send for us.

The plans they have to make this park inclusive for all children is a fantastic idea!!

Children of all ages and abilities need to be able to play in a safe environment and this will definitely provide it!

The new play equipment to the use of plants means it will provide play, learning and sensory stimulation.

The park is enclosed which is fantastic and the plans mean that the children will interact with everyone.

Dumfries and it's families will benefit as myself and my family already do....

The work that these lovely people do is amazing!!

FC

From:

Date: Sun, 26 May 2019 at 12:06

Subject: Catherine Street Playpark

To: Info@includeus.org.uk <Info@includeus.org.uk>

To whom it may concern,

I was delighted to hear that the team at Catherine Street play park are making an application for a long-term lease. It is such a good idea for such a dedicated team, after all the hard work they put in. The town

needs more areas for children and communities to get together so I can only hope the application is approved.

Kind regards

JD

From:

Date: Sun, 26 May 2019 at 12:29

Subject: Catherine Street play park

To: <info@includeus.org.uk>

I would like to urge our Elected Members to approve the long-term lease for the play park.

Funding to provide truly inclusive play park equipment is in place and the lease will unlock this funding. This would allow children of all abilities to take park, very often a first, for children with disabilities.

The lease will also allow Include Us to properly maintain and look after the park, to maintain it in an optimal condition. This will contribute to the regeneration of the town centre and make the park a safer place to be in than it is at the moment.

I feel strongly that the new park will benefit families and anyone who would like to take advantage of a welcoming, safe place in the town centre.

Please share with the Policy and Resources Committee.

I will keep my fingers crossed!

KP

From:

Date: Sun, 26 May 2019 at 13:41

Subject: Support for the lease of the park

To: <info@includeus.org.uk>

Dear team, please find a statement below in support of the park.

6 years ago, I took my daughter to the park and left within 5 minutes. There were multiple piles of dog excrement and broken glass. The park was dark, damp and in a state of disrepair. The damp resulted in high levels of midges, a particular memory of my daughter. It was a shameful representation of Dumfries for visitors with children.

Now under the stewardship of the include us team the park is brighter, far more attractive and offers less cover for irresponsible local dog owners; leading to minimal levels of excrement.

The vision and passion of the included us team will ensure the park is an attraction to locals and visitors alike. It will contribute to the local economy as park users go to local cafes for refreshments and then continue to engage with the rest of the town centre.

I and my family support wholly the ambitions of include us. The plans for the park will result in a park fit for the future and fit to represent Dumfries as a welcoming place for all.

AW

From:

Date: Sun, 26 May 2019 at 14:23

Subject: Re: We Need Your Support
To: <info@includeus.org.uk>

Thanks for your e-mail. This is to confirm that I fully support your plans with regard to gaining a lease of Catherine Street playpark.

Yours
JC

From:
Date: Sun, 26 May 2019 at 22:41
Subject: the park
To: info@includeus.org.uk <info@includeus.org.uk>

Hi my note about the park:

Me and my child love to come to the CATHERINE STREET INCLUSIVE PARK, I am sure that it helps our kids in all the ways and so good and enjoyable to see them play and run about. Please give the lease, thanks.

RG

From:
Date: Sun, 26 May 2019 at 23:17
Subject: Catherine Street Park.
To: <info@includeus.org.uk>

Good evening,

I just wanted to take a few moments to praise the guys who are building the park up from nearly extinction like a lot of places in Dumfries.

We take our 3 year old daughter to this park as we feel that the park is safe and relaxed. We also like to just sit and watch our daughter as we feel safe in the knowledge that our daughter can have fun without us worrying that something is going to happen as the park is planning so much for the safety of children and children with disabilities can have fun with children who do not have a visible or non-visible disability, everyone is equal and that we wish that this park and planning for the future was around when our 20 year old daughter with autism was younger.

Please please keep up the good work and you have our full support and backing.

Regards

NH

From:
Date: Mon, 27 May 2019 at 21:46
Subject: Letter of support
To: <info@includeus.org.uk>

Letter of support for long term lease application.

Being inclusive should be at the heart of not only education but of all activities that take place within a forward thinking, mindful society. There are many social and educational barriers to those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Statistically and despite best efforts children with a SEND are

far more likely to struggle with education. In 2017 the Department for Education reported that, at Key Stage 2 level, only 14% of children with SEND reached the expected level for reading, writing and maths (in contrast to 62% of children without SEND).

Across the world, people with disabilities have poorer health outcomes, lower educational achievements, less economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities. This is partly because people with disabilities experience significant barriers in accessing basic services, including health, education and employment.

Any caring society would feel a moral and ethical responsibility to ensure that organisations such as Catherine Street Inclusive Play Park have support, security and capacity for growth. That's why granting a long-term lease is such an important and rewarding thing to do.

When my sons were diagnosed with a rare genetic condition which has left them both severely sight impaired, I was alarmed to discover the connection between SEND and depression and mental health issues. Many visually impaired children are isolated because of lack of transportation, inclusivity, opportunity and the anxiety of going out in public places. This can lead to loneliness and depression.

Catherine Street Inclusive Play Park advocates mindfulness and creativity in a very positive way. This ethos helps considerably in allowing social interaction, friendships, and positive mental health. There is so much of the world that is difficult to access for those with an SEND, inclusivity and places like the park should be at the heart of every community in the UK. They are a valuable instigator for change and can only enrich the experiences of those who participate.

I fully support the application for the long term lease and encourage the council to support this wholly worthy organisation.

AK

FACEBOOK POSTS IN SUPPORT OF A LONG LEASE FOR INCLUDE US

- [LW](#) The park is such a fantastic safe space and has great people who are completely dedicated to making it an amazing environment, for not just all kids with abilities but wildlife too, eventually it could be used as outdoor classes for schools and will not just bring joy to families locally but those who travel in to visit like myself, giving jobs to people involved in the park but also spending wider in the community as people explore after a mornings play... but this will only happen if the long-term lease remains with those who have the amazing vision to complete this
-
- [JS](#) There's not much in Dumfries that's inclusive and having this one being totally inclusive would be amazing I , we support the group to be sole ownership please please let it be more power to our young ones with any type of disabilities xx
-
- [DP](#) This all inclusive park will be great for the whole community and owning the lease by a dedicated team will mean it will be a well maintained play park for everyone to enjoy, especially children with disabilities who sometimes struggle to access council run parks. My children love visiting this park and are really excited by the plans in place. This is a very much needed resource in the heart of our community! Many thanks to all involved for all your hard work
-
- [TI](#) Owning the lease for the park will in the long run ensure it stays available to everyone. We support this absolutely and if you need any help from us just let us know
-
- [L McL](#) Allowing the lease to be taken over by dedicated people that will maintain the park to a high standard is a must. It will be cared for and loved by all who use it.
-
- [LM](#) Absolutely wonderful! It would be great if you got the lease; such a lovely park; you do so much and could do so much more once the lease is in place!
-

- **AB** I have sent this as the council inherited our community/lottery funded all inclusive park at The Grove in Heathhall. The council maintain his park which is vandalised, overgrown, had parts for disabled children removed, it's a tip, and it's owned by the council, they should be very ashamed! Community ownership is very much the way to go, if you need to see the alternative come see our park!
-
- **LC-B** I support your vision and dreams for the park. A green hub that's right in the middle of the town and accessible to everyone. A place where everyone feels included. This would be a key part of the town centre regeneration. Catherine Street Park would be "the natural place" to recharge the soul offering inclusive activities and space for relaxation in what can be a thriving, socially-inclusive town centre fit for the next era.
-
- **NH** I think that having a lease is a perfect idea. Having a community of ppl maintain it and look after it makes it a all inclusive project. Just like the park, an all inclusive park where everyone can access it, no-one is left at the side, where everyone can be involved in some way
-
- **JP McL** Having the lease on the park will allow proper maintenance and safe keeping of the equipment. Surely this is for the best so all families can enjoy the full potential of the park
-
- **JT** I wholeheartedly agree with your plans, it's a park i played in as a kid with my wee sister whenever we went to the library & always remember it fondly
-
- **CH** I absolutely support the transformation of the park into a fully inclusive playground. Children learn best through play, and what better lessons could they learn than to share joy with all others? The proposed playpark is a breath of fresh air and I support the plans for a long term lease
-
- **JS** please share my support for the lease - inclusive play needs to be high on all regions agendas - there can be no foundation for well being without it
-
- **CB** Agree
-
- **FC** I think its a fab idea the park is used fir the kids.
-
- **F** Definitely in agreement that parks and open spaces such as these need protecting and improving to make them more accessible and enjoyable to all
-
- **SH** Totally agree children need adventures . Good luck with your ongoing plan

R McL Allowing the charity to take on the lease of the park is the only way forward to ensure the vision of Include Us will be fully realised. Not only will it enable the charity to have full access to the funding required but it will also secure the future for what is already a beautiful oasis of nature in the town centre. As a nature lover, a step-mum and an NHS employee, I fully support every aspect of this plan from both a personal and professional point of view. Having an accessible, inclusive and well-maintained space for all the community to enjoy will provide years of enjoyment and education for all and having ownership of this space will ensure each person who uses it will be responsible for its continued upkeep and development. Please do the right thing and allow this to happen for the benefit of all.

AH Only way to do it or we will lose all parks if the land is spotted for use for something else. Its great to see our disability children being at the front of the queue not forgotten!!! Also, the generation we have coming up don't use parks the same as we did. Promote Parks

MESSENGER RESPONSES IN SUPPORT OF A LONG LEASE FOR INCLUDE US

R McL I am more than happy to offer my support. As UNCRC Article 31 states: Every child has a right to play. I feel that play parks should aim to have no barriers for engagement and enjoyment. With the ongoing savings that D&G Council have to make again this year I feel it's fair to say, our playparks would not be the main priority therefore would not gain the funding/maintenance they deserve. Equally this would result in accessibility being pushed aside. I think for the benefits/positive outcomes of the children within D&G it would be sad to see this long term lease opportunity not given.

E C I would absolutely love for Catherine Street play park to get their long term lease and I fully support their application. Having long term ownership will no doubt bring hope; a sense of security and empowerment to all the children and families currently involved in realising their dream of an inclusive play park

PAUL C Hi there, you have my support to approve application for a long term lease. Thanks Paul

A McL I whole heartedly support the lease for the inclusive play park for all children able and disabled to enjoy, a safe space to play in the fresh air and make friendships

J C I am messaging you with regards to the inclusive play park and how it potentially can be an important asset to myself and my family by Include us having a long term lease. I am a mum of four my middle child as Asperger and finds it difficult to visit some parks This park has been the talk of our family for a long time now and we cannot wait to make use of the facilities to bring our family together in a safe pleasurable environment

L H the team are doing an amazing job with the Catherine street inclusive play park. This is a very important space for children, right in the centre of town. I hope there work can continue and develop further in the years to come. Good luck to the team!!

H H we are pleased to recognise and support the coproduction approach of Include us and the shared design of a park for everyone to enjoy equally in Catherine St park. Include us have worked really hard in consulting with the communities of interest and local people at every stage of the parks development. The Usual Place has Changing Places Toilet facility's that will be open to those that need them whenever The Usual Place is open and once resources are available to them we will work with Include Us to enable the Include Us team to support access to the Changing Places Toilet facilities out-with our of opening hours. Both organisations have a solution focused approach to inclusion and are dedicated to enabling equality of access and citizenship for our most vulnerable and disenfranchised citizens.

J As someone who has been involved in the wellbeing and rights of children for over 30 years, I believe that through play children have opportunities to reach potentials. Importantly it is vital that resources such as Catherine Street park with its inclusive focus is essential. All children are entitled to equality of opportunity and for children with disabilities this means continuing to develop and build on the excellent work already in place. Your support to agree to this lease is crucial. June Holland

L J I support the intention of Include Us to take over responsibility for Catherine st play park so that it becomes a safer and better maintained space for ALL children.

J H I would like to offer my support for application of a long term lease with of Catherine St Park from the charity Include Us. The dedication and hard work undertaken by all those involved in the charity is inspiring and hopefully will inspire others to work towards a more equal opportunity and inclusive society

A H The council should allow Include us to take over the lease of Catherine street play park in order to gain funding which will make the park fully inclusive to both able and disabled children and adults. People tend to think that parks are solely aimed at young children but Include Us plan on making Catherine Street park open to everyone, teenagers with additional needs, disabled adults and members of the surrounding community, there is already fantastic access to The Usual Place with a changing places toilet. The Usual Place already employ a number of young people with additional needs, who will surely use the park before after and during work hours. Include Us are fully prepared to take on the upkeep and maintenance of the park which will create jobs and ensure that the park does not fall foul (like several of the council owned parks) to vandalism and degeneration. This small park has the possibly to become a fantastic green space where anyone is welcome.

A B I am more than happy to voice my support for your project. I can't wait for your organisations to start caring for Catherine Street Playpark and to make it a safe but exciting space which can be enjoyed by anyone, whatever their age and abilities. All the best with your application. Alison Boyes

E W I feel it would be the best outcome if the council agreed to the application of a long term lease on the inclusive park at Catherine street. No where in Dumfries are there facilities for disabled children to play in a park. I fully support the park and look forward to a happy healthy park for many years to come.

R O I fully support Include Us taking on a long term lease for Catherine Street Play Park. The passion, vision and hard work going into this project is amazing. It's the kind of thing that makes me proud to be part of the local community. The benefits are huge to local families. I look forward to making use of the park with the local outdoor play projects I am involved in and also with my own young

S AND A A We feel it is so important that children with disabilities and none are able to play together in the Catherine Street play park. It is perfect for this purpose and situated in an ideal place. Parking nearby is relatively easy; it is in an accessible area; it is adjacent to The Usual Place, now an extremely popular place with special facilities for folk with disabilities. No better place for such a play park where a long term lease would allow vision for its future to create a great asset for parents/children with disabilities. Sheila and Archie Anderson

T D with regard to Catherine street park , I think you're doing a wonderful job , I'd like to confirm that you have my support , and I'd like the Council to approve your application to take on a long-term lease for Catherine Street play park to make it more inclusive . I myself am working on a project for better facilities in Gatehouse of fleet, The Riverbank park project and know first-hand the amount of time and effort that goes into such projects, to have the council support is a necessity . I do hope you are successful in your plans and wish you all the very best of luck. happy for you to share with Elected Members. Kind regards Mrs Tarena E Dickie

V B It would be fantastic if they can take over the lease of this park, not only for the young people with needs but for the Carers who need to be included too and meet other people in this beautiful area of Dumfries.

J G I fully support the need for Catherine Street Play-park which will provide inclusive enjoyment for all children's abilities. Therefore I would fully agree with the application being made to Dumfries Council to lease this ground

C P I think the inclusive play park is a great asset to the area! It provides a secure, safe space for children of all ages that is central to town. I support the lease. Yes we have the Dock Park but it is not fully accessible by all and can often be overcrowded. My children have used Catherine Street play park on numerous occasions and prefer it over the Dock Park

H O It would be wonderful if you could get a long lease for Catherine street play park not only would it help yourselves doing all your hard work but it would also help our overstretched council by taking something off their hands and have income coming in. I wish you luck with your application. Best wishes Heather

F J Hello I think that Include Us taking over the long term lease, in order to make Catherine Street Park a safe and welcoming area for both disabled and their siblings to enjoy is a wonderful idea. Currently there is nowhere for children (like my severely disabled son) can play in Dumfries alongside his autistic and able bodied sister. I hope that this park will make the difference very much needed in the area. Faye Jeffries

