

Community Asset Transfer

Stage 1: Expression of Interest

Dumfries and Galloway Council is committed to Community Asset Transfer ('CAT') where that will bring benefits to our local communities. All Community Transfer Bodies (CTBs) wishing to apply for an asset through Dumfries and Galloway Council's Community Asset Transfer Procedure should complete this application form.

Completion of this form opens engagement with the Council and allows us to allocate support to your group via our local Ward Officers who work closely with local partners. When you express an interest we will provide you with a local point of contact and support and advice help you work your way through all aspects of the asset transfer process.

The formal asset transfer process can involve detailed business planning and it is important that groups receive good advice prior to this stage. Stage 1 is a pre application stage to allow groups to consider fully what is required in the business plan which forms the basis of the formal asset transfer request. If your group wishes

If your group wishes to apply for an asset through Dumfries and Galloway Council's CAT process, please complete this expression of interest form and send to the Community Development and Empowerment Manager (contact details below).

Community Development and Empowerment Manager

Communities Directorate Dumfries
and Galloway Council Municipal

Chambers

Buccleuch Street

Dumfries

DG1 2AD

Tel: 030 33 33 3000

1. Please provide details of the organisation making the application

Name of Organisation

Address of Organisation

Telephone Number

E-mail Address

2. Please provide your contact details

Your Name

Contact Address

Telephone Number Fax Number

E-mail Address

Position in the Organisation

3. Structure of the organisation

What type of organisation are you?

Do you have a formal constitution, governance document or set of rules? Yes No

4. What is the structure and purpose of your organisation?

How many people are involved in your organisation, ie:-

Management Committee Paid part-time staff Paid Full-Time Staff Volunteers

Others Please provide details of other posts below

When was the organisation established?

5. Please tell us about the asset (building or land) you are interested in

Name of Asset

Address of Asset

Type of transfer you are interested in (transfer of ownership or leasing). If leasing, what length of lease is required?

Flexible, but may prefer transfer of ownership. Open to ideas.

6. Please use next page to tell us, using no more than one side of A4 paper

A. What do you want the asset for?

B. What benefits will this bring to the local community?

Completed applications should be emailed to CommunityAssetTransfer@dumgal.gov.uk

Or by post to:

Community Development and Empowerment Manager

Communities Directorate Dumfries

and Galloway Council Municipal

Chambers

Buccleuch Street

Dumfries

DG1 2AD

SUBMIT

We believe the Loreburn Hall has a great deal to offer the local community and beyond. We have been watching the situation from a distance, with an ear for the comments and passion of local people to retain the hall as an asset for the community. There is a real fear that it will be allowed to fall back into disrepair unless someone steps up to deliver a viable plan for its future use.

As a local Church, we are outgrowing our current premises at the Railway Station in Dumfries. Our current facilities accommodate about 100 people, so we are looking for premises which can accommodate lots more people. Contemporary Christian Churches like ours are growing nationally and seen as stepping into the void left by more institutionalised denominations which tend not to be seen as so relevant to modern day society. Having said that, we work closely with a range of other local Churches and indeed are currently chairing Dumfries Christian Network, which brings together the majority of local Churches to work together and stage a calendar of events throughout the year.

Whilst we are looking for a new home for our Church, we recognise that the Loreburn Hall needs to serve the wider community and would see ourselves as custodian of the resource, rather than being possessive of it for our own use only. Our approach would be something similar to the one employed by Dumfries Baptist Church in their new centre in Georgetown, which is greatly valued as a venue for lots of events and activities by all kinds of groups.

We see the facility as ideal for organisations and events which need a large, basic, affordable space which is close to the town centre. We wouldn't see it as competing directly with DG One or the Easterbrook Hall - both of which are 'premium venues'. Easterbrook is great for weddings, conferences, orchestral concerts, etc. DG One has limited availability, due to its combined use as a gym hall. Loreburn Hall would be great for things like exhibitions, markets, dog shows, motor shows (with easy vehicle access), rock concerts and any events requiring a large space for a large number of people. It would generate a substantial boost to the town centre economy, bringing substantial numbers to events, fuelling trade for shops, pubs, restaurants and cafes.

We believe we can generate a sustainable business plan based primarily on the attractiveness of the facility to a wide range of potential clients. We appreciate that substantial capital investment was made by the Council when preparing it for the temporary home of the DG One fitness suite, therefore our initial funding needs would be for cosmetic improvements rather than structural ones. We believe we can raise those funds independently.

You may be aware that the River of Life Church established Kings Coffee and Books many years ago and we have been running in the present location for the past 16 years. We purchased the property last spring. Consequently, we are VAT registered, operate payroll and employ about a dozen people in the town centre. We are therefore already 'stakeholders' in the town's economy and involved in regeneration projects. We also have a willing group of volunteers in Church, who operate a number of projects, including media, music and daily distribution of surplus Aldi food. We are already well positioned to manage the Loreburn Hall.

We look forward to being able to progress our initial discussions with Council officers, to the next stage.