

FRASERBURGH FITNESS CENTRE

Incorporating

Satorishido Martial Arts & Body-Tec Gyms
Scottish Registered Charity Number SC035297

Your Ref. 23/CA

Our Ref. BH/02

James Ramsay Park
Maconochie Road
Fraserburgh
AB43 8TH
Tel: 01346512243

26/09/2018

Dear Cate,

Thank you for your reply regarding our application with regards to the Asset Transfer Request
Woodside Burgh Hall, Clifton Road Aberdeen.

I will answer your points raised in the order you sent them to me, to the best of my ability Cate.

- Our Club has more than **Three and a half thousand members** registered with us covering many different sports classes, Our Aberdeen classes are at present only run out of hired halls in the Mastrick area of the Aberdeen City with around 57 members attending.
- To become a member of our club there is no joining fee, one turns up and tries out whatever class they would be interested in free of charge on the first night and if they enjoy it and want to continue coming they are then placed on a register.
- The total number of members who attend our Aberdeen classes from the Woodside area is limited because we do not have our own facility and we now have a waiting list because of availability and space to conduct classes.
- As I mentioned in my last answer it is frustrating that as a group we are being held back from expanding because we can only secure two evenings a week hall hires due to demand in the area.
- The classes we hope to run from the Woodside Burgh Hall would be five evenings a week which would be between 15 and 20 hours a week with additional special classes at weekends but we also want to make the hall available to other groups for different activities that would benefit the local community, so the hall can be used all the time ensuring maximum use of the facility.
- Subsidised classes will be made available to people in the community that would normally struggle financially also pensioners, groups that have charitable status and groups that are not for profit.
- The charges to other various groups will depend on three factors **(a)** Commercial **(b)** Non-profit organisations **(c)** Charitable Groups.
- It would be our intention to turn the Woodside Burgh Hall into a centre of excellence that would encourage individuals and groups to use it for the benefit of the area and the community, it would not be our intention to do any other group or facility harm by developing the Burgh Hall into a asset for the local community we have investigated the surrounding facilities and classes ongoing in the immediate area and found there to be a shortage of facilities to conduct activities from and with the vast variety of the types of

activities that we would like to encourage we believe this can only be a good thing for the area.

- We have not approached DTAS or any other group for support, having been successful in Asset Transfer Request in the past from Aberdeenshire Council we are confident that our club have the experience and sustainability to maximise this request.
- With regards to the work that is required to be carried out to the Burgh Hall we have had a contractor look at both the report that was sent to us by yourself and he has also had a look around the exterior of the building and has estimated the cost of the Work to be in the Twenty Three Thousand pound area this does not include the grounds (car park area) we have had a landscaper look at this and he has estimated around Seven Hundred Pounds to bring it back to hardcore for parking and general tidiness. We are as I previously mentioned in a position to proceed with the work from our own clubs' funds which would prevent the need to do any fund raising

On a final note we have looked in to the possibility through our contractor about the possibility of installing a suspended floor (due to the height of the main hall we believe this would be practical and doable) off course the structure would have to have the relevant building warrant paperwork and be checked but our contractors believe it would be possible, this would give us double the space for activities but with the same foot print thus not altering the out side of the hall in any way, this is something we would look into after all the relevant renovations were completed to bring the Hall to a usable standard and activities were ongoing at the Hall for reasons such as finding out what sort of activities were in demand which would determine what type of construction and sound proofing would be required, although we believe we would research the best type of suspended floor that would be best for a wide variety of activities.

We understand that other groups are interested in the hall and we would want to work with these groups weather we are successful or not in obtaining the hall, we have tried on many occasions over the past five years to lease this hall from the Aberdeen City Council but were never put in touch with the correct department who were dealing with it. I believe this proves our determination to make something of this property and the fact that we have had a thriving club in the Aberdeen City for the past Twenty Years which has had to go from Hall to Hall hiring them when some of these have ceased running through no fault of ours, we have had to up roots and move on in fact we enjoyed many years conducting classes out of the Burgh Hall but unfortunately the Group that were running it at the time handed it back to the local authority which meant we had to up roots and look for new premises.

We would be looking at a couple of Caretakers who would open up and lock up, this would create part time employment and also we would be looking at employing cleaners on a daily basis creating more part time employment, we have at present Fourteen full and part time employees working for our group, as far as sustainability goes our club is in the very fortunate position of being able to wash its own face comfortably due to the success of the Fraserburgh Headquarters Facility, so the panel should have no worries regarding that matter, Financial records for the past three years can be produced if required.

Kind regards

Albert Ross

Chairman & Founder
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