

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 June 2021 12:08

To: Community Matters Community Matters <CommunityMatters@northlan.gov.uk>

Subject: Municipal Buildings Coatbridge

Dear Sirs. I am aware this both from the North Lanarkshire Council web site and from Social media that North Lanarkshire Council have drawn up plans to convert the Municipal buildings in Coatbridge into Social housing. While I accept that this is something that is very much needed in Coatbridge I do have a number of concerns about this after looking at the information given by NLC.

The First is in the section with the diagram of the Municipal Buildings it states that the front of the Building is on Dunbeth St ! This is infact wrong as it is Dunbeth Road I find it strange that this was not noticed by NLC I am also think that the diagram in this section is the wrong way round and the front of the building should be facing the other way to let people see it as they would view it as it actual stands.

My second point is around the fact that some parts of the building are to be demolished while I have no concerns about the newer parts of the building it has to be remembered that this building is one of the last remaining buildings that were part of the former Coatbridge Borough and are a very important landmark in town. It states that the Chimmey on the old Police station side will be among the areas demolished. I would however hope if this could not be saved on site that it could be removed and rebuilt at Summerlee Museum I think that this along with other items from the building including the Police station would make a fantastic display. I also note that the double gates at the back of the building have an old council Crest on them and it would be a shame if these were lost and it would not cost to much to remove them and again display at Summerlee Museum perhaps as part of display I suggested above.

My Third point is about using the former Council Chamber as office space! I am aware from a vist to the building many years ago that this is a very large space and I wonder if it could be used as some sort of community space that local group or organisations could meet I am a member of one disability group who might be interested in using this space for time to time. This is something that there is a lack of after the closer of many other venues in the area. I am sure that there is no need for the office to be that large.

My fourth point is around how many of these new Social houses will be Wheelchair accessible and will there be a range of different types available eg a 1 bedroom apartment for someone on their own or a couple and maybe even Two and Three Bedrooms for Disabled people with a family again this is something that is much needed in the area.

My Fith point is in relation to Car Parking for this development as I don't think there is enough information available on this within the proposal from NLC. While there is a large Carpark opposite the front of the Municipal building it is a fair distance for someone who is Disabled or Elderly and I can imagine people being soaked in heavy rain by the time they get from the building to their vehicle and of course vice versa. While there is a Carpark on the Killdonan Street side of the building it is clear to small considering the size of this development. I would have thought that the Carpark between the Municipal buildings and Coatbridge Higj school would be more appropriate. I am sure a gate could be made by taking down part of the wall that separates these Two areas. However I also believe that this area has been earmarked for the development of Town houses that will be part of

the development. I would have thought that would have been better to have these Townhouses on the opposite side of Dunbeth Road facing the Municipal buildings and would certainly be a better outlook or view from them than looking on to the back of this development. This would also mean that the Townhouses could have Car parking spaces at the rear of them and would allow the Carpark between the Municipal buildings and school to be the main Carpark for this development. There is in fact another two important points to consider when looking at the issue of Car parking one is that there will certainly need to be Blue Badge spaces for the development and these should be the ones nearest to the development. The second point is around the issue of Electric vehicles as we move away from diesel and petrol engines there will be a need for recharging points within the Car parking area. I am sure that it would be far better to do this now than have to start digging up the Carpark area latter on which would only cause problems for the residents of the development.

My Sixth Point is that I am sure that this development will bring more traffic into the area there is already the fact that Coatbridge high school is right next to this proposed development which means a large number of buses and cars using Muiryhall St every school day. Then there is the Coats Funeral Home within the former Clifton/ Coats Parish church which again has added traffic to the area. I wonder if there has been any consideration to reopening Muiryhall St at the junction with Dunbeth Road. I doing so it would give direct access to and from the Coatdyke Roundabout to the centre of Coatbridge which might help with access to this development and ease some of the traffic that builds up between Coatdyke and the Town centre during busy periods of time.

My Seventh point is in relation to outdoor space for this development which is on two very busy roads Dunbeth Road and Kiidonan Street and as a result means a lot of traffic fumes. The need for outdoor space is something that has been very important during the Coronavirus pandemic situation as not being able to access open areas is something that has impacted on the Mental health of a large number of people. I am aware that Dunbeth Park is not far from this proposed development however once again it is an extremely long distance from many elderly and Disabled people to manage and to get across a very busy Road as well.

My Eighth Point is around access past the Municipal buildings during this development period which of course will take some time. As a Wheelchair user myself I often pass the Municipal buildings on route to and from my home when going in to the town centre area. As I can then use the Crossing on Dunbeth Road. The reason I ask this question is that during the replacement of Street lights within part of the local area I was very disappointed to find the Muiryhall St side at Dunbeth Road was being used for storage and as a result the dropped kerb near the front of the building was in fact blocked by a number of storage containers and roads signs by the company doing the work to replace the Street lights while they did send out letters about the work there was no mention of this area being used. If the same is true for this development then this area will be a no go area for many people during the time it takes to complete the development work

I am Sorry to have list so many points however I am sure that there will be other people who will also be expressing concern about some of these points.

My contract details are given below however I ask that my house number and email are not made public if you decide to publish any of the points or issues I have raised in this email.

Yours

(date sent 21 of June 2021)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]