

To:

EDC Customer Services (email: complaints@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

Alan Bauer, Assets & Facilities Executive Officer (email: alan.bauer@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

Cc:

Douglas Weighton, Team Leader, Community Planning Partnership (email:

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Councillor Duncan Cumming (email: duncan.cumming@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

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Councillor Ian Gallagher (email: ian.gallagher@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

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Councillor Alan Reid (email: alan.reid@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

Councillor Ben Rose (email: ben.rose@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

Councillor Calum Smith (email: calum.smith@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

Councillor Lynda Williamson (email: lynda.williamson@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

6 June 2025

Dear EDC Customer Services & Alan Bauer, Assets & Facilities Executive Officer
(cc: Douglas Weighton, Team Leader, Community Planning Partnership, Community Planning / MP / MSPs / Councillors for Lenzie plus all other EDC Councillors)

Formal complaint - Failure to renovate Lenzie Public Hall - Request for complaint to be investigated further at Stage 2 of EDC's Complaints Handling Procedure

We refer to:

- our joint complaint from the Love Lenzie Association, Lenzie Community Council, Girlguiding Lenzie District and various community members sent by email 12 May 2025; and
- EDC's Complaint Team's response sent by email 16 May.

In summary:

- **Please investigate our complaint further at Stage 2 of EDC's Complaints Handling Procedure.**
- Whilst we understand EDC's position, the Complaint Team's response has not adequately addressed our joint complaint and all its asks.
- The complaint asked that EDC and its Councillors demonstrate their commitment to giving support to and inviting a Community Asset Transfer offer by taking the following immediate actions:
 - Agreeing now in writing to not start to market the hall in any way for a period of 6 months.
 - Giving community members access to view the hall.
 - Providing as requested, and in a timely manner, all information that may be helpful to the community in assessing the feasibility of a Community Asset Transfer including the information already requested, but not yet received, under the Freedom of Information Act.
- EDC has agreed to give the community access to view the hall and has now provided information in response to Emma Donaldson's Freedom of Information request (both for which we are grateful). However, EDC has not agreed to not start marketing the hall.
- Key elements of the history of how EDC and the community have got to where they now are concerning the hall seem to have been forgotten / not given sufficient consideration. E.g. how offering a public building to a third party, which is not a community-led organisation, for the provision of community facilities on repairing

terms (whether via a lease, transfer or sale) is not in the interests of the community. From recent experience within East Dunbartonshire, this risks the building not being maintained and community access being impaired. See below.

- Taking this recent experience / these risks into account, then contrary to EDC's decision taken at its budget meeting on 6 March 2025:
 - it is not appropriate for offers to be sought for the hall's sale/transfer to interested third parties for the provision of community facilities, other than to a community-led organisation; and
 - if the hall is ever to be run by a third party for the provision of community services, then this must be on "lease only" terms (not via a transfer / sale) with EDC retaining obligations in the lease to repair the building and also the ability to be terminate the lease if the third party fails to provide affordable and readily accessible community facilities.

- **OUR REMAINING ASKS**, are that:
 - EDC and its Councillors demonstrate their commitment to giving support to and inviting a Community Asset Transfer offer (and act in the best interests of the local community) by agreeing now in writing to not start to market the hall in any way for a period of 6 months to enable any community-led organisation that wishes to do so the opportunity to look at the feasibility of / submit an application for a Community Asset Transfer of the hall.
 - If Lenzie Public Hall is ever to be run by a third party that is not a community-led organisation, then this must be on "lease only" terms (not via a transfer / sale) with EDC retaining obligations in the lease to repair the building and the ability to be terminate the lease if the third party fails to provide affordable and readily accessible community facilities. For this, the hall must first be refurbished, as previously agreed, before being let to the third party.

History of Lenzie Public Hall & Kessington Hall that seems to have been forgotten / not given sufficient consideration

- Our understanding is that in and around 2012 / 2013 EDC let to a Taekwondo Club both Kessington Hall in Bearsden and Lenzie Public Hall. The letting terms included that the Taekwondo Club repair the halls. The result of this (all not in the interests of the relevant communities or those paying to use the building) was that:
 - neither hall was sufficiently maintained; and
 - regarding Lenzie Public Hall at least, it was, at times, hard for the community to use and access the facilities:

- Lenzie Community Council's own experience: *"On occasions when we had booked use of the hall (e.g. for meetings), the hall was found to be unopened / the heating not switched on. Unfortunately, the key-holder was at some distance from Lenzie and on some occasions a scheduled meeting had to be entirely abandoned"*.
- Both leases ended up being terminated by EDC.
- Kessington Hall was refurbished by EDC before being re-let.
- If the hall is transferred / sold to a third party (meaning that neither EDC or any community-led organisation own it), then the community will potentially have very little say or control over its use and fate. This is not acceptable when the hall was built in 1892 using funds raised by the Community and on land donated to the Community for the *"erection thereon only of a Public Hall to be used for behoof of the Community of Lenzie, north and south in all time coming"* and [transferred to Strathkelvin District Council \(now EDC\) in 1979 for Strathkelvin District Council to "continue to be bound to use the said Public Hall for behoof of the Community of Lenzie north and south"](#).

Please kindly:






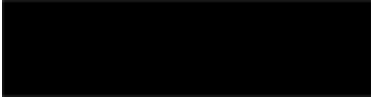
- **Confirm receipt of this email.**
- **Reply to it and each of our remaining asks as a Stage 2 Complaint.**
- **Ensure, in the meantime, that all decisions makers regarding the hall have seen and are aware of the contents of this email to enable them to take its contents into consideration in any decisions that they are taking now about the hall.**

As per our previous joint letter, the ultimate aim for all involved (EDC Officers and Councillors, MP, MSPs, the community and local organisations and groups) should be bringing Lenzie Public Hall back in action as soon as possible for use by the whole community. We the undersigned remain ready and willing to work with all the above parties to achieve this.

Thank you

Regards

Community groups & organisations:

	<p>Love Lenzie Association</p>	 <p>Emma Donaldson Chair</p>
	<p>Lenzie Community Council</p>	 <p>Thomas Gray Secretary</p>
	<p>Girlguiding Lenzie District</p>	 <p>Janice Deacon Lenzie District Commissioner</p>

Members of the community:

Name	Post Code	Email address	Signature
EMMA DONALDSON	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
CHARLE MARNEY	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Thomas G F Gray	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
MARIAN MARTIN	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Elizabeth Ibbotson	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]