Ballindean Community Company Ltd

Wester Ballindean Orchard

Information for Electors

Background

- Members of the community (those living in the PH14 9QS postcode) will be aware of the abandoned nature of the heritage orchard at Wester Ballindean. It has not been possible to purchase the orchard for the community from the current owner voluntarily.
- Part 5 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 allows approved community organisations to apply for what is essentially compulsory purchase for the purpose of furthering the achievement of sustainable development. Scottish Ministers have approved Ballindean Community Company Ltd for this purpose.
- Prior to applying, Ballindean Community Company Ltd require to demonstrate that this proposal has wide community support by holding a poll of eligible voters. The Community Right to Buy legislation requires a local community to be defined.
- You have received this voting paper as you are a registered voter living in the Ballindean Community Company Ltd's defined community which is the PH14 9QS postcode area.
- The accompanying ballot paper asks you to indicate if you are for or against the proposal made by Ballindean Community Company Ltd to buy the land, so that it can restore and maintain the heritage orchard, including provision of a community seating area, for the benefit of the local community and future generations.

The purpose of the ballot is to inform the Scottish Government whether a majority of those who vote are in favour of the proposal by Ballindean Community Company Ltd to buy the orchard so that it can be restored and maintained.

The Proposal

The vision for the orchard is that it is conserved for future generations and that it thus remains as one of the notable traditional orchards in the Carse of Gowrie. Community support will be integral to our success. The vision is that there will be long term benefits for all sections of the community as well as for the orchard itself.

It is recognised that in order for the orchard to survive, better maintenance of existing trees and the planting of new trees is necessary. A balanced approach to management would be adopted so that the needs of biodiversity as well as fruit generation would be

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promoted whilst allowing part of the orchard to become a tranquil seating area for local community use. It is envisaged that the orchard will produce a diversity of fruit that will benefit the local community and that its restoration will revive and enhance its cultural setting within the village.

The community body, Ballindean Community Company Ltd, has received confirmation from Scottish Ministers that it complies with the requirement of Part 5 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 as regards furthering the achievement of sustainable development. If the Ballindean Community Company Ltd is able to demonstrate community support for its proposal to exercise a right to buy the orchard and develop it for sustainable purposes, its application can proceed to the next stage for Scottish Ministers' decision. A majority vote in favour of this proposal is a necessary part of this process.

Additional information, including a copy of the full Business Plan for the proposal, can be obtained by contacting Alison MacFarlane, a director of Ballindean Community Company Ltd.:

Easter Ballindean House

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PH14 9QS

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