Gleniffer Thistle

Community Asset Transfer
Ralston Community Sports Centre

Initial Meeting
27th November

A Modern, Community Based, Hub For All

Agenda

- Gleniffer Thistle History
- Our Aim
- Community Benefit
- The Long Term Vision
- CAT Success Stories
- Your Questions, Our Answers
- Your Feedback

Gleniffer Thistle History

Gleniffer Thistle Football Club is a community-focused football club founded in 1972 in Paisley. We are committed to promoting football for all ages and abilities. The club has a rich history of fostering talent and providing opportunities for both boys and girls, with dedicated teams across various age groups.

The **Boys and Girls Teams** at Gleniffer Thistle form the heart of the club, offering a welcoming and supportive environment where young players can develop their skills and passion for football. From grassroots to more competitive levels, the club prides itself on nurturing the next generation of football stars, regardless of gender or background.

The **Ladies Team** is a key part of the club's commitment to gender equality in sport, providing opportunities for women and girls to participate in football at all levels across our Semi-Professional and Recreation squads. The team's success and visibility serve as an inspiration, demonstrating that football is a sport for everyone, and empowering women and girls to pursue their sporting ambitions.

The **Mens Team** continues to provide a competitive outlet for adult players, promoting physical activity, teamwork, and personal development through our involvement in the Saturday Morning Amateur Football Association

Through its diverse teams and inclusive approach, Gleniffer Thistle has become a cornerstone of the local sporting community. The club not only develops footballers but also encourages young people to get active, build confidence, and learn important life skills through sport.



Our Aim for Ralston Community SC

Engage the Community

Our vision is to make the centre a true community hub — a place where local people don't just come to use facilities, but to connect, contribute and belong. We will actively work with schools, youth groups, local clubs, community council and residents to co-design programmes, events and activities that reflect what the community actually wants and needs.

By creating volunteering opportunities, community partnerships and open communication, we will ensure the centre is shaped by the people of Ralston, not just for them.

Modernise Facilities

We aim to modernise the centre to create a modern, welcoming and future-ready facility that supports both sport and wider community use. This includes a variety of improvements, including the pitch, the facilities and the local and sustainable impact of the centre.

Our goal is to future-proof the centre so it can support growing demand, changing needs and new opportunities for years to come.

Enhance Access

We are committed to making the centre accessible to everyone — regardless of age, background, ability or financial position. This means offering affordable and flexible pricing, expanding hours of availability, improving physical access for people with disabilities and creating inclusive programmes for under-represented groups. By reducing barriers to participation and increasing opportunities to get involved, we will ensure the centre truly serves the whole Ralston community.

Community Benefit

By bringing an underused and under-maintained facility into community management through a Community Asset Transfer, we secure its future and unlock its true potential. Rather than declining through lack of investment or direction, the centre becomes a vibrant, self-sustaining hub shaped by local people, for local people. This isn't just about preserving a building — it's about creating opportunity, connection and long-term value for the whole community.

- Increase Activity, Usage and Opening Hours
- Unlocks New Funding Opportunities
- Grows Local Opportunities
- Supports Local Health, Wellbeing and Youth Engagement
- Creates a Long Term Sustainable Model
- Improves Maintenance and Development
- Protects a Valued Local Facility
- Strengthens Local Partnerships

The Long Term Vision

A Sustainable, Future-Ready Hub for Ralston

Our long-term vision is to transform Ralston Community Sports Centre into a thriving, self-sustaining community hub that grows with the needs of local people. Through strong governance, and community partnerships, we will build a centre that is not just operational, but progressive supporting sport, health, learning and social connection for generations to come.

This is about securing the future of the facility, not just for today's users, but for future families, young people and community groups. Our approach is focused on long-term sustainability, evolving services and continuous improvement, ensuring the centre remains relevant, inclusive and resilient well into the future.





CAT Success Stories



Thorn Athletic Sports Academy

- Thorn Athletic secured an asset transfer from Renfrewshire Council for McMaster Centre in Johnstone in 2020
- Now deliver a range of activities including Fitness Classes, Football training, Badminton, Basketball, Netball and Martial Arts
- Recently granted over £400,000 from Renfrewshire Council's Artificial Pitch Fund



Kirktonholme

- East Kilbride YM FC secured an asset transfer for a community venue in South Lanarkshire in 2021
- They have went through 2 stages of development, enhancing the pavilion to be modernised with enhanced disabled facilities before a recent £1million renovation to the facilities
- Received various funding grants from council, government and sporting agencies



Nethercraigs

- Pollok United secured a CAT for Nethercraigs Sports Centre in 2022 from Glasgow Life
- It has grown participation and has had 88 different active participant organisations including Active Schools, HCSP, Local schools and colleges and The SFA use the facilities in the last 12 months.
- It has received a variety of grants including funding from DCMS to improve lighting efficiency and equipment and pitch maintenance funding from the SFA

Your Questions, Our Answers

We know you will have questions, and we want to address 4 main themes that we know people will want to know. We want to be up-front and honest throughout this process and we want tonight to be the start of that.

Q. **Why Ralston Community Sports Centre?**
A. As frequent users of this facility, we want to drive change to improve, modernise and develop RCSC

Q. **What happens to the people who currently use RCSC?**
A. We want to work with these partners to help grow and develop RCSC, including organisations like Ralston Skills Centre, the school, the users of the studio and many more

Q. **How far along are Gleniffer in the CAT process?**
A. We are at a very early stage of the process and we wanted to make sure we addressed the wider Ralston community first, gathering thoughts and feedback to help structure how any CAT bid would look like, to make sure it was for the benefit of all.

Q. **Why don't you want to get a facility in another area of Renfrewshire, for example the "Gleniffer" area?**
A. As proud users of Ralston Community SC, our focus is on developing the facilities to be a modern, forward thinking community hub to enhance participation across sports and community initiatives. We have a number of members based in Ralston and use the facilities almost daily across our teams. This is about strengthening the ties we have already to grow the facility.

Your Feedback



Questions?

We will now open it up to questions from the audience. Please raise your hand if you have a question and we will make sure to get through them all.

Feedback Survey

Please scan the QR code to fill out our feedback survey. We are keen to hear all thoughts, concerns and questions, so that we can address these in future meetings.



Contact us

You can reach out with any thoughts or feedback to GlenifferThistleCAT@gmail.com and we will collate all questions and information to support future meetings.

Thank You and Next Steps

We want to thank you for your time in coming along tonight and listening to us. We understand that if this was something that is to be supported by the local community it will take time, trust, open dialogue and a lot of answers to your questions.

We will take your feedback, we will LISTEN and we will ENGAGE with you, the local community.

This will be a long process, which will take time to engage all relevant stakeholders and put the correct building blocks in place.

Our plan to make sure that this is the right thing for the community is to continue to engage with you via the below methods:

- Host open and transparent community meetings
- Host drop-in clinics for questions and answers
- Have a dedicated email address where community members can raise concerns or questions that we can use in our future meetings and plans
- Showcase our plans as we develop them through the process
- Work with local organisations, community groups and Ralston Community SC users to help shape the future
- Any further channels the community would find beneficial

Gleniffer Thistle - A Club For All











