

NHS Lothian

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST

Sustaining Dunbar: Belhaven Community Garden

Representations

Correspondence received: 246

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 1:41 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

To whom it may concern

I am writing in support of the application to bring Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership. This space is important: it provides a therapeutic and learning space for many local people and groups, and offers a biodiverse area within Dunbar, and in a wider frame, the intensively cultivated area of East Lothian. We have an awful lot of new housing in Dunbar, and we do not need this area used for development, much that NHS Lothian might like the money. We must protect this real asset for the long term benefit of all who live in Dunbar, and the wider environs.
Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Dunbar,
EH42 1NW

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 1:43 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: FW: Belhaven Community Garden - Community Ownership

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1PR

On Thu, 5 Feb 2026, 11:16 ComEmpReq, <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot> wrote:
Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email on the asset transfer request submitted for Belhaven Community Garden. *Anyone may make representations about this request to NHS Lothian. Representations must be in writing and include the name and address of the person making it. A copy of the representation will be given to the organisation making the request.*

For us to take this into consideration in the evaluation process, please could you provide your address.

Best wishes,
[REDACTED]

Capital Planning
NHS Lothian

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 February 2026 10:00
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden - Community Ownership

I am writing in support of the community application for ownership of the area of Belhaven Community Garden. This has become a well established area that meets the aims of well being, intergenerational connections, exercise, education, locally grown produce provision, space in nature, a place to work the soil and much more. This is becoming more vital as housing grows up and around the whole of Dunbar.
It is also in line with the original gift of the land to the community to improve health.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 2:10 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the application to bring Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership. This space is important: it provides a therapeutic and learning space for many local people and groups, and offers a biodiverse area within Dunbar, and in a wider frame, the intensively cultivated area of East Lothian. It provides an educational resource to support outdoor learning for all our young people to access.
We have an awful lot of new housing in Dunbar, and we do not need this area used for development, much that NHS Lothian might like the money.
We must protect this real asset for the long term benefit of all who live in Dunbar, and the wider environs.
Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Oldhamstocks
TD13 5XN

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 2:13 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear NHS Lothian

I have read about the plan for this garden to be taken into community ownership.

As a local resident I'm aware what was once a bare field is full of fruit trees surrounding an ornamental garden. I recently helped sing Wassail to the apple trees. The singers were of all ages. In the course of the afternoon I made the acquaintance of folks who have recently moved to Dunbar. We enjoyed drinking the juice pressed from last year's apple crop.

I'm very much in favour of the land passing back to community ownership

Yours

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1NW

email address as above

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 3:00 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Community Asset Transfer request for part of the Belhaven Hospital Site at Beveridge Row, Dunbar, EH42 1TR

Hello,

I am writing to offer my support for the Community Asset Transfer request for part of the Belhaven Hospital Site at Beveridge Row, Dunbar, EH42 1TR.

I live in Dunbar and I'm confident that this would provide an excellent asset for the community. When the hospital was open, I attended events there as did my stepkids as part of Beavers / Cubs. I know that there has been some continued community use since the hospital was closed, but this seems to have been much more limited. If the space was community owned I imagine that activities would flourish again. I am part of the Lochend Woods maintenance volunteer group which is very active, and a great case in point of how this community have come together to look after the spaces in our neighbourhood. I'm sure that there would be a similar level of enthusiasm for maintaining and using this area.

Personally I would be very interested in the prospect of allotments at this site, but even if this does not come to pass I still think it would be best for this area to be in community hands.

Best Wishes

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1GF

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 3:05 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Community Asset Transfer - Belhaven Community Gardens - Support Letter

Hi,

I would wholeheartedly like to support the application for the community asset transfer of the Belhaven Community Garden to the local community group. Garden space like this is invaluable for improving both mental health and increasing physical activity. It provides a creative outlet for gardeners and also a space of learning where horticultural skills can be passed from generation to generation - something that in the time of fast convenience ultra processed foods is a crucial skill to develop.

This space would also better serve the local population as open horticultural land as opposed to further housing developments which are rapidly chewing up Dunbar / Belhaven / West Barns green spaces. This also provides key wildlife habitats and corridors through an increasingly built up environment.

There needs to be a better balance between human development and nature nurturing. I would be happy to discuss any of the points I have raised.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1ZU

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 3:57 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Community Asset Transfer of Belhaven Hospital site, EH42 1TR

Dear Lothian NHS Board Members,

I am writing regarding the Community Asset Transfer request for part of the Belhaven Hospital Site at Beveridge Row, Dunbar, EH42 1TR. I am in full support of the transfer.

Belhaven Community Garden, which makes part of the Belhaven Hospital site, is a community treasure and brings people from the whole community together. It is important to have a community green space for collective care and outdoor activities. This space benefits the community and could help maintain a sense of belonging and connectedness which would lead to better wellbeing. It also provides an opportunity for learning to care for our environment.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Dunbar, EH42 1PH

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 5:16 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Support for Beveridge Row, Dunbar

Hello,

I'm writing to give my fullest support for the Community Asset Transfer request from Belhaven Community Gardens for part of the Belhaven Hospital Site at Beveridge Row, Dunbar, EH42 1TR. This is a great opportunity for the Dunbar and surrounding areas to have this for the Community.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

DUNBAR
EH42 1GF

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 6:11 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven community garden transfer of ownership
My name is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] west barns

The community garden at Belhaven is a fantastic resource for the community. Both me and my son and friends have benefited already and I think this could become a real community asset and help the environment and community resilience to climate change.

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 6:32 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

[REDACTED] East Linton, EH40 3AA.

I'm writing in support of the proposed buy-out of the wonderful Belhaven Garden from NHS. It provides a sense of peace for the many who have supported the proposal. And I've no doubt that many more local and nearby residents will benefit from their involvement and access to it.

I look forward to hearing that a favourable 'deal' has been made!

With best wishes for all that you do in your primary work, Ros Finlay Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 6:49 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Bcg

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] my address is [REDACTED] eh421dl.

I would like to explain why Belhaven community garden is important to me and my community.

I don't have Family up here in Scotland, and the family members who are alive, I don't speak with. I'm a single parent living with my son who is 7. We rely on the community in Dunbar. We have close links with the garden, and whenever we go down there, we are and have always been made to feel welcome, safe and part of the team, despite how little or much we contribute.

I always had a passion for gardening but as somebody who has moved around a lot and rented I haven't had my own garden for long periods of time. Spending time down there before my son was born, while pregnant and when my son has been growing up, allowed me to watch, learn and make links with other gardeners. From this is spurred me on to seek a job in a garden in tynninghame. I still work there 4 years later. I used to suffer with depression and anxiety. I find rhe open natural space a tonic to be in. Last year I was working for a charity who works with adults in the community with additional needs and disabilities. I was able to work with BCG and the members came to visit the garden a handful of times with support to engage in their local community and find some meaningful work with the rest of the BCG team.

My son has ADHD and we regularly spend time in the garden, to run around to explore, to dig, to climb to chat, it's safe enclosed. I feel it has been a part of his life the whole of his life. And everyone knows him.

For the past 4 years I have organised a bonfire get together at the garden with support of the committee.

The BCG is the only place we have seen a toad, encounters with nature and exposure to natural wonders are what can really shape a childhood. When my son is there, I feel safe enough that he can run around, climb trees, pick berries, eat apples straight off the tree. It's a very special place that personally means a great deal to us. I really hope this contributes to the picture of what BCG is and why it's important.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 6:53 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Support Belhaven Community Garden application for community ownership

Dear NHS Lothian -

I fully support the application that the Belhaven Community Garden be moved in to community ownership - my children and their friends have enjoyed many visits to the garden to learn about nature. I know many friends in Dunbar who are involved. I am in the table tennis club in the town centre, where many of those club members are also members of the garden. It is an asset to the town and community and I hope you will support their request for community ownership.

I was involved in the transfer of the Crunchy Carrot in to a community owned business - and will be involved again, if I can be, with this community garden transfer -

Please support their application,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dunbar, EH42 1RT

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 6:36 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello

I am emailing to confirm my support for the proposal for Sustaining Dunbar to purchase Belhaven Community Garden.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1AH

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 7:07 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am writing to support the application to take Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership. There has been a fantastic response in support of this bid by the community response with 1,583 showing personal support and 23 local groups and organisations (and politicians) who share their support.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dunbar EH42 1HE

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 7:11 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hi

I'm writing in support of Sustaining Dunbar's campaign to **SAVE BELHAVEN COMMUNITY GARDEN.**

I think this fantastic resource should remain for the use of the people and community of Dunbar.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Resident of Dunbar, ([REDACTED] EH42 1GF)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 7:16 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello,

I strongly support the Belhaven Community Garden going into community ownership so that this asset is protected for the benefit of everyone living in the Dunbar and East Linton ward in the long term.

[REDACTED]
Dunbar,
EH421NP

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 7:20 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I hope you will deal favourably with the application from Belhaven community to purchase and manage the lands for the good of the local community.

I have personally enjoyed the garden for the past 5 years .It's a fantastic community with many different people all working together growing and learning and socialising .

[REDACTED]
Belhaven Dunbar
EH421NX

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 7:27 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Subject: Support for Community Ownership of Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my strong support for the application for Belhaven Community Garden to be taken into community ownership.

I believe that transferring this land into community ownership represents clear long-term best value for NHS Lothian and for the wider Dunbar and East Linton ward. Belhaven Community Garden is a vital local asset that contributes to physical and mental wellbeing, community cohesion, environmental sustainability, and education. Its continued existence as a community space is of lasting public benefit.

Selling the land for development would result in a one-off financial gain, whereas community ownership ensures enduring social, health, and environmental returns that align closely with the values and responsibilities of the NHS.

I therefore urge NHS Lothian to support this application and help secure the future of Belhaven Community Garden for current and future generations.

Thank you for considering my views.

Yours

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1PD

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 7:39 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

To whom it may concern

I am a resident of Dunbar and I stay at [REDACTED] EH42 1GB. I am hugely in support of saving Belhaven Community Garden and for it to become a community asset. Please listen to the strong community voice on this issue. Thank you in anticipation.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 7:44 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

To whom it may concern.

I fully support the Dunbar Community Garden being taken into community ownership as it is a wonderful resource to have and will benefit everyone involved.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED] EH42 1BP.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 7:46 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

To whom it may concern,

I wholeheartedly support Belhaven Community Garden becoming community owned for the sake of our family and neighbours.

Regards,

[REDACTED], Dunbar, EH42 1ZT

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 7:47 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello

I am writing to support the application to take Belhaven Community garden into community ownership. I was recently contacted by Sustaining Dunbar about their ongoing care for this important green space. I have been involved in developing a wildflower area at St Adrian's church in Gullane and we received valuable support from volunteers at Belhaven and I recognise it as an important source of knowledge and inspiration over and above it's great value to the local community.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
North Berwick
EH39 4ER

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 8:05 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am writing in support of Belhaven Community Garden. I have no affiliation with any of the members but have been full of admiration for the work the volunteers have undertaken and the end result. I often have walked through and sat admiring the variety of trees, shrubs and plants which have been planted. The garden is an oasis both for people and equally as important, wildlife.

In these days of diminishing open space and impact on physical and mental health, surely this garden must be protected and preserved.

Dunbar is awash with new housing and "development opportunities ". This garden along with the strong community surrounding it must not become yet another victim to "development ".

I urge the NHS to turn this land over to the volunteers.

Ideally the hospital buildings should be upgraded and used as a hospice and cottage hospital. The way the hospital was allowed to fall into disrepair to allow it to be closed was a disgrace,

Regards

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1NW

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 8:08 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I moved to Dunbar in 2023 and very early on started joining in on a Saturday afternoon at Belhaven Community Garden. It was an excellent way of getting to know people, became involved in the growing of vegetables, soft fruits, caring for fruit trees - and enjoying their fruits.

I take my grandchildren there regularly to explore, see how fruit and vegetables grow - and to enjoy picking and eating.

The Community Garden offers space to enjoy nature, peace for those who lead busy lives and a chance to meet people from many different backgrounds.
It is a gem - ready made- for anyone and everyone to enjoy. It is easily accessible geographically and it would be a tragedy if this oasis were sold for housing when it is already fulfilling a vital role in the community's wellbeing.

[REDACTED]
Dunbar EH42 1 ZT

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 8:13 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear sir/madam,

I am writing in strong support for the transfer of belhaven community garden to the local community that has been running the gardens for so long. It is such a great resource for all because of the plants trees and nature it supports, but also because of the opportunities it gives for local people to engage with each other with the outdoors and with growing things. This is especially true for those without easy access to growing spaces.

All so important.

Thank you

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
Eh42 1nw

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 8:23 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Community Garden at Belhaven.

I would like to add my support to the application for a community garden at the site of the Belhaven Hospital. I have been so impressed by the work Naomi and her colleagues have done at Tynninghame. Also we love their weekly vegetable boxes. Their work to support the land, increase diversity in flora and fauna and educate local families has been exceptional. I do hope you feel able to support them as they try to move things forward.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]
Dunbar.
EH42 1GF

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 8:27 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I strongly am in favour of the application to take Belhaven Community Garden to community ownership.

It's things like this that make a Community and make Dunbar and East Linton such a special place to live for everyone. The social benefits are huge as well as the environmental benefits. It would be a huge shame to see the land that has been a lifeline to so many given over to more development for profit for just a few.

Please support it!

[REDACTED], Dunbar

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 8:46 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Dunbar at [REDACTED], Dunbar, EH42 1LF.

I'd like to register my wholehearted support Belhaven Community Garden's request for community ownership. It's a wonderful asset to the community and deserves to be protected for a whole host of reasons.

I truly hope you allow the people who have taken such good care of it and made it such an important part of Dunbar and the wider area to keep up the great and important work!

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 8:47 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear sir/madam

I'm emailing with support for the BCG's application for a community asset transfer. My name is [REDACTED] and address [REDACTED] Dunbar EH42 1NU.

Thanks

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 8:53 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello,

I am writing in support of the community taking ownership of Belhaven Community Garden.

Many thanks

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Dunbar EH42 1ZT

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 8:54 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am writing to you in support of Sustaining Dunbar application to take Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership so that the asset is protected for the benefit of everyone living in the Dunbar and East Linton. I've joined several communities in the garden over the years and received huge wellbeing benefits as a result.

[REDACTED]

EH34 5AD

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 8:58 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I wish to confirm my support for the Community Garden to be taken into Community Ownership so that the local community can benefit from it.

[REDACTED]

EH42 1UF

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 8:59 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Support for Belhaven Community Gardens – Community Asset Transfer

Dear NHS Lothian Community Empowerment Team,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Community Asset Transfer request submitted by Belhaven Community Gardens.

I have walked through these gardens many times over the last 11 years that we have lived in Dunbar, often with my children as they have grown up here. It is a lovely, peaceful space where they have been able to explore nature, hunt for bugs, and play safely. Experiences like this are invaluable for children and increasingly rare, particularly in built-up areas.

The gardens are a hugely valuable local asset. They provide a welcoming green space that benefits the physical and mental wellbeing of residents, encourages community connection, and offers opportunities for people of all ages to engage with nature and each other. Spaces like this contribute positively to public health and social cohesion.

I believe that transferring ownership to the community will help protect the gardens for the long term and allow them to continue developing in a way that reflects local needs and priorities. The group's commitment and clear vision give me confidence that the site will be responsibly managed and enhanced for future generations.

Thank you for considering this request.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dunbar EH42 1GB

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 9:02 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Belhaven Community Garden

Name

Address

13355 Berlin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern

As a frequent visitor to Dunbar (tourist!) living as a Scottish expat in Germany, I have taken great pleasure in the community garden. I have been amazed, having spoken to those working there by the enthusiasm and vibrancy. Such projects support local identity in times plagued by disinterest and non involvement. I am willing to financially support the community garden

Please give your political support to this project.

Best regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 9:18 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

To whom it may concern

I signed a petition many months ago to support the application to take Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership and I still fully support this proposal.

I hope that NHS Lothian now recognise the value in putting Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership so that this asset is protected for the benefit of everyone living in the Dunbar and East Linton ward in the long term.

These special green community spaces need to be preserved for the future.

Please consider the application favourably.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
East Linton
EH40 3DY

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 9:26 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

To whom it may concern,
I'm writing in support of the bid to take the garden at the former Belhaven Hospital into community ownership.
As a resident of Dunbar, I appreciate what a fantastic asset to the community this is, and I hope you will make the right decision here,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dunbar EH42 1GF

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 9:32 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Belhaven Community Garden

[REDACTED], Dunbar EH42 1DR

On Thu, 5 Feb 2026 at 19:23, [REDACTED] wrote:
Ps my name is [REDACTED] and live in Dunbar [REDACTED] EH42 1DR

On Thu, 5 Feb 2026 at 19:18, [REDACTED] wrote:
Hi hope your well, I've got Asperger, plus anxiety, dyspraxia too and going to the garden makes me feel happy, not anxious etc if we're not there it would, [REDACTED], etc are such lovely and also the garden makes one feel part of the community, as have my own wee bed to grow veg etc for my own and my family

Also the old hospital in Dunbar could be nursing home or like as Dunbar has just got one surgery whilst north Berwick Haddington. Have there own cottage hospital s etc.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 10:46 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am in full support of Belahven community garden. Its a wonderful community project.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - North Berwick.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 11:04 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello,

I am writing to you to flag my support for the continuation of the Belhaven Community Hospital Garden. I have been involved since the beginning of the establishment of the garden and it would be a huge loss to the community if the garden is destroyed.

I live at [REDACTED] Dunbar, EH42 1JH

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 5:38 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Please save belhaven community garden, it is vital for so many individuals to engage with there love for gardening that they can not longer access ,due to down sizing etc ,it must be saved to keep the outstanding quality of life that it let's its users achieve, [REDACTED] Dunbar EH42 1EY

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 5:58 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

From [REDACTED], Belhaven, EH42 1ZT [REDACTED]

Dear NHS Scotland,

Please will you agree to the sale of your land at the site of the, now closed, Belhaven Community Hospital, to the Belhaven Community Garden.

The reason that I would like the community garden protected are;

1. It is a haven for wild life, small mammals, bats and a wide variety of birdlife.
2. It has a wonderful orchard will a good range of apple varieties, not available through the supermarkets.
3. It provides gardening and horticultural activities for people who have small or no gardens with their homes.
4. It is an important social spot for meeting and enjoying company.
5. It is well loved and cared for by the community, adding to the quality of life and supporting the health of the community.
- 6.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 7:36 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

As a resident of Dunbar I strongly believe that the Belhaven Community Garden should be taken into Community ownership for the benefit of our local community.

It is an amazing asset that the council should be proud of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1DT
Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 7:38 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am writing to support the application made to take Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership. The Community Garden is a wonderful resource- a calm space with a wide variety of established fruit trees and fruit and vegetables. More than that it is a place where people can come together to plant and grow their own produce and produce for the community's use, a place to learn and take time to balance one's well being, vital in this world at the moment. It would be criminal if this resource was lost to the community.

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1AJ

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 7:46 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

[REDACTED]
EH42 1SH

I am writing in support of the Belhaven Community Garden becoming community owned and run. It is a valuable asset in the community for the social, physical and mental health benefits it creates in those who run it, volunteer for it and visit it. It then provides delicious sustainable edibles. It would look after the land for future community to use, grow on and enjoy. Please 🙏 help this wonderful project remain in the community.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 8:08 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hi,

I am emailing to support the community buy out of the NHS garden ground for Belhaven Community Garden. This is such a positive thing for the community. It offers huge benefits for people's health both physical and mental, for social cohesion, inclusivity, transferable skills development, and more- fresh food , fruit and vegetables! It will also provide a safe haven for the environment, including essential pollinating insects ,bees etc,to the further benefit of all in the community and further afield.

It's an almost unique opportunity to safeguard and enhance this community asset.

Please facilitate this purchase by the community for the community of what is our national asset anyway.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

West Barns
EH421TU

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 8:18 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am writing this email in support of Belhaven Community Garden who wish to take over the site beside the old hospital.

I support this because

- a) I have a static caravan at Belhaven caravan park which I use on a regular basis and visit the community garden
- b) Getting out in the open air/countryside is so beneficial for people's health
- c) Growing produce is a brilliant (and healthy) concept.
- d) Dunbar has already been overwhelmed by the amount of new housing developments in the town.

I am told this email needs to indicate my address - my home is in Fife [REDACTED] Kirkcaldy) but as I indicated above, I am regularly residing in Dunbar - the caravan site at [REDACTED] and therefore want to support the Belhaven Community Garden in its wish to obtain the site beside the old hospital.

[REDACTED] - Residential address [REDACTED] Kirkcaldy
Caravan address [REDACTED] Dunbar

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 8:55 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to say that I wholeheartedly support Belhaven Community Garden being brought into community ownership, so that this asset is protected for the benefit of everyone living in Dunbar and East Linton wards. It is a wonderful resource for the community and it must be saved!

Yours Faithfully,

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH41 1XX

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 9:17 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello,
I strongly support the application to transfer Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] Dunbar EH42 1UE

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 9:21 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sir/Madam,

There are many wonderful things about the community of Dunbar. At the top of the list is Belhaven Community Garden. It is one of the best examples of how a community of all ages, races and backgrounds comes together to work, learn and develop strong bonds.

I remember how astonished I was when I first visited it 10 years ago. A manageable walk from home where I marvelled at the productivity of the various vegetable plots, chatting to some of the individual gardeners who were so willing to share information and advice. It was a delight to see inside the polytunnel where a wealth of seedlings and tender plants were flourishing. Continuing my exploration I marvelled at the superb variety of fruit trees which were thriving and whose blossom had attracted bees and other insects.

Over the years I have attended many events held at Belhaven Community Garden, such as workshops on recognising different plants, how to promote biodiversity and how to help bees and other pollinating insects. I've attended the marvellous Apple Day festivals and the Seed Exchange Days, where I've come away enriched and stimulated. Belhaven Community Garden is a place where you can learn, be inspired, make new friends and just stop, stare and breathe. What a wonderful asset to our town. To lose it would be devastating. Please don't take this away from us.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
Dunbar.
East Lothian
EH42 1GJ

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 9:22 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am writing in support of the request for the community asset transfer for the garden in Belleview community hospital.

Frankly I think it is appalling that the council is selling the land, considering it was gifted to the community for community benefit, and while you may argue that getting some cash is good for the community, we all know that that is not true. Real community benefit comes from access to green space and supporting environments that encourage community engagement. Expensive homes are the opposite to that.

So, to alleviate the moral guilt the council is now carrying due to ignoring the fact that the land they are selling in fact belongs to the Belhaven community, I am requesting that you agree to the asset transfer.

My address is:

[REDACTED] Dunbar, EH42 1EL.

I attend the community garden regularly.

Warm wishes

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 10:01 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Please allow the transfer of this long-established and vital community garden to community ownership. Thanks.

[REDACTED] North Berwick, EH39 4RE.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 10:16 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Representation for Belhaven community hospital

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED]

My address is - [REDACTED] West Barns, EH42 1UB.

I feel the community asset transfer request for the garden at Belhaven community hospital is a very positive idea.

Myself and my young family get so much enjoyment from using this wonderful community outdoor space. It's brings a lot of joy and is great for all our mental health and wellbeing.

We have also met lots of lovely people in the community through using the garden, this has been a wonderful learning experience for my kids to understand community value and support.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 10:36 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Letter in support of Belhaven Community Garden. 06/02/26

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write in support of Belhaven Community Garden, who are seeking to purchase the land adjacent to Belhaven Hospital, so that it can remain a community asset.

I have been a Dunbar resident for 20 years and I have seen the local population almost double in that time. Our need for green community spaces is greater than ever, amid the sea of newbuild housing estates with their small gardens and paved driveways.

I am a passionate gardener and support Belhaven Community Garden for its current addition to local growing opportunities and for its potential for the future. Gardening in schools, for mental health and rehabilitation and for improving the environment are all current or potential benefits. The garden also helps to protect local bees and to preserve fruit and vegetable knowledge.

The Committee running the garden is dedicated and inclusive and present the very best of local environmentalism. Belhaven needs green community spaces protected from commercial property interests like never before. Many hearts and minds locally are tied to this much-loved garden and we will be devastated if the project is destroyed in favour of short term commercial interests.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Belhaven, Dunbar EH42 1NS

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 10:41 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear reader,

I'm writing to express my support for transferring Belhaven Community Gardens into community ownership. The space is an invaluable part of Dunbar and surrounding area, offering connection, knowledge sharing, wellbeing, lowering food poverty and poor mental health, and so much more!

It would be a devastating loss if this asset was no longer available.

I urge the panel of decision makers to accept the community group's proposal and safeguard this thriving space for future generations. I believe it would be more cost effective for NHS Scotland in long term health outcomes.

With best wishes and hopes,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Innerwick
EH42 1SH

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 11:56 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Formal Support for the Community Purchase of Belhaven Community Garden

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing to express my full and unwavering support for the community buyout of the **Belhaven Community Garden**. This space is not merely a plot of land; it is a vital asset that embodies the sustainable future we must strive for.

The garden serves as a critical hub for **local organic food production**, providing the community with essential resources, education, and unique opportunities for engagement. At a time when we are facing a global climate emergency, Belhaven stands as a leading example of the direction our local communities should be heading—prioritizing environmental stewardship over further development.

To lose an already established, thriving natural environment would be a profound disappointment and, frankly, a step in the wrong direction. The benefits this space provides to local residents, the natural environment, and local wildlife are irreplaceable. We are currently at a crossroads where we must choose:

- **Sustainability:** Supporting existing green spaces that promote biodiversity.
- **Community Health:** Providing a space for mental well-being and outdoor education.
- **Action:** Moving beyond "business as usual" toward genuine climate resilience.

This is a landmark opportunity for the **NHS and local government** to lead by example and do the right thing. Our community does not need more housing at the cost of environmental destruction; we need the protection and growth of the resources we already have.

I urge you to support the sale of the garden to the community to ensure its benefits are preserved for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

EH42 1GF

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 12:26 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Belhaven Community Garden

Thank you for your email. My details are below

[REDACTED]

Aberlady
EH32 0RA

On 6 Feb 2026, at 12:20, ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot> wrote:

Thank you for your email on the asset transfer request submitted for Belhaven Community Garden.

Anyone may make representations about this request to NHS Lothian. Representations must be in writing and include the name and address of the person making it. A copy of the representation will be given to the organisation making the request.

For us to take this into consideration in the evaluation process, please could you provide your address.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 February 2026 09:40
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreg@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello

I am writing to share my strong support of Belhaven Community Garden to move into community ownership. My children visit the garden on a weekly basis with their grandmother. It is a lovely asset to the community, bringing generations together and closer to nature, as well as developing an understanding of gardening.

I hope you can ensure this garden can continue.

All the best

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 12:28 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreg@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Belhaven Community Garden

Thanks,
It is [REDACTED] West Barns, EH42 1UH.
[REDACTED]

On 6 Feb 2026, at 12:22, ComEmpReq <loth.comempreg@nhs.scot> wrote:

Thank you for your email on the asset transfer request submitted for Belhaven Community Garden.
Anyone may make representations about this request to NHS Lothian. Representations must be in writing and include the name and address of the person making it. A copy of the representation will be given to the organisation making the request.

For us to take this into consideration in the evaluation process, please could you provide your address

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 February 2026 09:08
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreg@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am writing to inform you of my support of the asset transfer of Belhaven community garden to community ownership. My reasons are as follows:

1. **Protection and enhancement of wellbeing (Public Health & Community Empowerment):**
Scottish Government policy recognises access to local greenspace as a determinant of health. The Public Health (Scotland) Act 2008 and Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 place duties on public bodies to reduce health inequalities and support community wellbeing. Community gardens directly

contribute to mental and physical health, social connection, and preventative health outcomes, reducing pressure on statutory services.

2. Alignment with the National Planning Framework (NPF4)
NPF4 (statutory from 2023) prioritises 20-minute neighbourhoods, high-quality local greenspace, climate resilience, and community-led development. Policy 1 (Tackling the Climate and Nature Crisis) and Policy 8 (Green Infrastructure) support retaining and enhancing multifunctional green spaces. Selling a functioning community garden for housing would conflict with these objectives.
3. Climate adaptation, biodiversity and nature recovery duties
Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, public land is expected to contribute to climate resilience and biodiversity recovery. Community gardens provide urban cooling, sustainable drainage, pollinator habitat, and opportunities for local nature recovery.
4. Community ownership, participation and asset transfer principles:
The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 establishes a presumption in favour of communities having greater control over land and buildings that matter to them. A well-used community garden constitutes a community asset in practice. Disposal without exploring asset transfer, co-management, or long-term lease options undermines the intent of the legislation.
5. Food security, education and skills (Good Food Nation & Fairer Scotland): The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 commits public bodies to improving access to healthy, sustainable food and food education. Community gardens support local food growing, volunteering, skills development, and community resilience, aligning with Fairer Scotland policies to reduce inequality.

Alongside all of the above, the garden provides a therapeutic space for myself and my family to spend time in nature, with others, and there are no other similar spaces nearby. The loss of this garden would have a large negative impact on my family and the rest of the community.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 12:37 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and live at [REDACTED] Dunbar, East Lothian EH42 1XX .

I would like to say that I deeply care about Belhaven community hospital. Not only it is important for the people in the area but it's a great place for the community to gather and share activities, even my disabled son in his wheelchair loves it there. It's a great valued place for everyone and it would be a shame to see it go.

Many thanks,

I hope you take my opinion into consideration.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 12:44 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Community asset transfer

Of course. It's [REDACTED] Dunbar, EH42 1ZT.
[REDACTED]

On Fri, 6 Feb 2026, 12:13 ComEmpReq, wrote:

Thank you for your email on the asset transfer request submitted for Belhaven Community Garden.
Anyone may make representations about this request to NHS Lothian. Representations must be in writing and include the name and address of the person making it. A copy of the representation will be given to the organisation making the request.
For us to take this into consideration in the evaluation process, please could you provide your address.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 February 2026 14:51
To: ComEmpReq
Subject: Community asset transfer

Hello,

I'm writing in support of the CAT for the community gardens. Since we moved here 4.5 years ago the gardens have been a really important place for us to go with our kids, from walking round whilst pregnant, to getting important safe outdoor recovery walks following a c section, to seeing my daughter run around the gardens, learn about growing and participating in community events connected to nature, it would be a travesty if this was not protected for current and future generations.

Please do support this, health in the area will undoubtedly suffer without this vital green space.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 1:16 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Just to confirm my support for this project.
In the absence of a community hospital, a garden would seem the least that the landowners could leave to the people of Dunbar.

[REDACTED]
Dunbar

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 1:26 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Belhaven Community Garden

I hereby commit my support for taking Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership so that this wonderful space is protected for the benefit of everyone living in the Dunbar and East Linton ward in the long term.

Regards

[REDACTED]
BALERNO
EH14 7FH

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 1:47 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Asset request for Belhaven community garden

Hello

This's to whomever may be reading it. I absolutely support the community buy out of the gardens. In a world where real human connections are becoming harder to access this space and the volunteers have been working hard to establish a feeling of community. There are so many of our green spaces being lost around here and it would be such an asset to all ages to secure this for the communities as they grow. There was such a loss of community and trust during covid and it is people and spaces like this that are helping folk who are still feeling isolated after that and also for those who are being affected by the real fear of what's to come as witnessed by the news. It's important to have somewhere in nature to connect.

[REDACTED]
Stenton
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 1:57 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sirs,

I would like to confirm my support for the Belhaven Community Garden being able to take on ownership of the garden from the NHS.

The garden has become such a lovely area in that part of town, proving very popular. I often take the children I look after, and we can enjoy a safe green space away from the road. So much work has been done, fruit trees planted, fruit, vegetables, herbs, the seating area...it's wonderful. Please support the buy out by the Community garden, otherwise we will lose a valuable green space. It's good for the environment, for the community and our mental health. It's a real bonus, one which can't be assessed in purely financial terms.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
Road, Dunbar EH42 1GB

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 3:23 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am writing to email my support for the continuation of Belhaven Community Garden as a growing green space for all who need it. When I moved to Dunbar nine years ago, finding BCG was a very significant help in becoming settled and integrated into the local community. Since then I have introduced many people to the garden, including several 'new Scots', who have also really appreciated the welcome, the opportunity to socialise in a healthy outdoor space, and the organic produce we share.

This is a really important local asset. PLEASE protect the garden for current and future users, and all the biodiversity it contains.

with thanks

[REDACTED], Dunbar EH42 1DZ

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 3:25 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Good afternoon

I am writing to urge you to agree to the Garden to be taken into Community Ownership.

It would be a great shame for all the hard work that went into creating the garden go to waste. And the garden is good for the mental and physical health of the users and the community.

Yours

[REDACTED]
East Linton
EH40 3EG

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 3:33 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

To whom it may concern - I totally support Belhaven Community Garden purchasing the land to continue the community garden that it is in Dunbar. This land will continue to bring connections, health and beautiful organic food for the people of Dunbar. It is required more than development / housing. The people need this resource.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
Cockburnspath
TD13 5XX

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 3:44 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Saving Belhaven Community Garden
Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Dunbar with my family. I wanted to plead to you to save our beautiful Belhaven Community Garden. It's an extraordinary place benefiting so much the local community. I have a toddler and we visit the garden regularly to take a walk, to admire the blooms, to pick fruit, to run to the playground next to it. In the coming years, as she is getting bigger, I'd love to take her along to gardening meet-ups to learn how to grow plants and food and love our environment and take care of it. And to meet and connect with our neighbours!

Please help maintain this gem of our town.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dunbar, EH42 1ZN)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 3:51 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I fully support Belhaven Community Garden in their endeavours to take the land they have developed for the community into community ownership.

This would continue the use of that land for it's health-giving benefits!

I do not live nearby but have attended a number of events there - use of herbs/wassailing/plant sales.....

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Haddington

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 3:56 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Belhaven Community Garden

Apologies, i thought i had given that, along with my name.

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1QZ

On Fri, 6 Feb 2026, 12:26 ComEmpReq, <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot> wrote:

Thank you for your email on the asset transfer request submitted for Belhaven Community Garden.

Anyone may make representations about this request to NHS Lothian. Representations must be in writing and include the name and address of the person making it. A copy of the representation will be given to the organisation making the request.

For us to take this into consideration in the evaluation process, please could you provide your address.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 February 2026 19:41
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Good evening

I am writing this email in support of Belhaven Community Garden's request to take the garden into community ownership so that this asset is protected for the benefit of everyone living in the Dunbar and East Linton area.

Kind regards

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 4:25 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hi,

Just want to say that I fully support the idea that Belhaven Community Garden be taken into community ownership. It's a great asset.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
West Barns
EH42 1UF

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 4:34 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my strong support for keeping the community garden in our neighbourhood. The garden has a positive and meaningful impact on the people who use it and on the wider community.

For my family, it is an important shared space where I regularly go for walks with my son. It provides a safe, peaceful environment where we can spend time together while learning about plants, nature, and where food comes from. These experiences encourage curiosity, physical activity, and a connection to the natural world that is especially valuable for children.

Beyond personal use, the garden brings neighbours together, supports wellbeing, and promotes environmental awareness. It is a place that fosters learning, community connection, and a sense of pride in our neighbourhood. For these reasons, I believe it is essential that the Belhaven Community Garden is preserved and protected for current and future residents.

Thank you for considering my views.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
EH42 1PH
Dunbar

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 4:52 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re Belhaven Community Garden community ownership application

We are writing in support of Sustaining Dunbar's application to take Belhaven Community Gardens behind Belhaven Hospital into community ownership. So much work has been put into creating these gardens by a wide cross-section of people from Belhaven and Dunbar – they are now a valuable community asset with a large and thriving orchard, and allotments and other growing areas as well as a much-needed green space for residents in an area which was recently countryside and is now becoming overrun with new housing. Many of the volunteers are or were lonely and/or have disabilities or mental health issues and love the outside work and the company the Community Gardens provide. Children from local schools are also involved and are learning to garden and enjoy nature. Please allow this application. The survival of these gardens will mean so much to so many people.

[REDACTED]
Belhaven EH42 1NX

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 5:32 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven community gardens

Hi there

A message to show our appreciation and need for the community gardens. It's such a well of goodness in terms of mental health and a learning resource with lots of workshops and meet ups. I have a 2 year old and as time goes on it will be so good for him. It's been so good for me the last 8 years. I do hope they get the opportunity to stay.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
EH42 1DP

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 6:21 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Email in support of Belhaven Community Garden

Writing an email in support of belhaven community garden taking the garden ground into community ownership, it was given to the local community 120 years ago!!! The community garden is well used by all ages, gardeners, community groups, walkers, locals throughout the year with the apples and plums in the orchard being very popular with everyone! It's also just a lovely peaceful space to walk about in. It would be a tragedy if all of the hard work put into the grounds over the years was disregarded and the land was sold off to yet another developer!!

KR

[REDACTED]
Dunbar.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 10:59 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I support the application to take Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Haddington

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 11:06 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I support the request to take over this.

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH421LX

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 11:09 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject:

I wish to add my support to saving Belhaven Community Garden. It has taken a lot of hard work by dedicated people to create a space where everyone is welcome to take part or just to enjoy nature in a tranquil setting and enjoy the fruits of their labour. It would be very sorely missed by many . [REDACTED], Dunbar

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 11:27 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to express my support for the bid from Belhaven Community Gardens to take ownership of the community garden next to Belhaven hospital.

The benefits of the Community ownership with associated workshops, training and health and wellbeing benefits in an area that is otherwise well developed cannot be underestimated.

I live locally, I use the space, I understand the importance of greenspace and community space within a town that is expanding and the national context of a 20 minute neighbourhood.

I hope that you can support their application to own the land for community benefit/public benefit. It would be a travesty if this community was lost to more housing developments.

Kind Regards,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dunbar, EH42 1FJ

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 2:05 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I support the taking of this garden into Community Ownership.

[REDACTED]
Edinburgh EH12 5QT

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 2:18 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Please save the Belhaven Community Garden,
These projects are vital for community, wellbeing and access to healthy fresh food. Not having this will cost the NHS more in the long run. Closing this would be terrible for your reputation.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Kennoway,
KY85LF

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 5:26 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hi there

Further to the application to take Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership: I confirm my support for this.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1ZT

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 7:43 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Good morning,

I am writing to show my support to the Belhaven Community Garden community asset transfer. It is a vital part of our local community and does so much good for all generations. It would be a travesty if this beautiful, productive green space were to be bulldozed and turned into housing.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] West Barns, EH42 1AZ

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 7:55 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Good morning,

I am writing to say that I feel transferring ownership over of Belhaven Community Garden to Sustaining Dunbar will mean it continues to be a major community asset. This is a great resource, well used and much loved but needs the long term continuity this would give.

I trust you will look favourably on this.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
West Barns
EH42 1UF

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 7:56 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear sir/madam,

I hope this finds you well.

I am writing to let you know that I voted for and still support Belhaven community garden in being community owned.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Belhaven

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 7:57 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am in favour of the Belhaven Community Garden being kept by the community for the community.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dunbar
Eh421JF
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 7:58 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I write to support the garden being in community ownership. The Dunbar and Belhaven community have the foresight and insight into how to maintain the space for public good. Gardens are a necessity for public health. We need more of them. Given all of the new housing nearby, the space will be well used.

[REDACTED]
Haddington
EH41 3EY
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 8:36 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am writing in support of Sustaining Dunbar and their efforts to purchase Belhaven Community Garden for the people and community of Dunbar.
Selling the garden to developers would be a great loss for everyone in Dunbar and would impact the wellbeing of the community.

[REDACTED] Haddington

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 10:03 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I fully support the application to pass Belhaven community garden into community ownership. I have run and been involved in creative and gardening workshops and projects there. Its a fantastic community resource in a town that needs active green spaces to learn and connect and has the potential to grow and connect more people in the community.

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
Eh42 1PW

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 9:03 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sir

As a resident in Dunbar I ask you to allow the community to take ownership of the Dunbar Community Garden so we can continue to provide for our local community. It also gives some of our elderly residents a place to go and enjoy the outdoors safely. It also provides them with company during the day. I hope you take this into account.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dunbar, EH42 1WJ

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 10:58 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden
To Lothian Health Authority

I am writing to express my support for the Belhaven Community Garden to be transferred to the ownership of Sustaining Dunbar SCIO.

Over the years the Community Garden has undertaken a myriad of activities:

Created the beautiful and restful sensory garden

Run community events such as apple days

Offered space to grow for people without other access to growing space

Supported many different needful people, e.g. with mental health or physical problems, resettled refugees, disaffected teenagers

Offered social contact to lonely people

Arranged plant swap events for gardeners

Encouraged children to grow plants

Sustaining Dunbar is a well established and respected SCIO, which can be entrusted to carry on this responsible work, and enhance the lives of all those who visit the garden.

With increasing recognition of access to outdoors space as a key aid to enhancing mental and physical health, I urge all decision makers to agree this transfer.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dunbar EH42 1EF

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 10:57 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear NHS Lothian

On the approach to your decision-making, I am writing to confirm my full support for the Belhaven Community Garden and the in-depth application for community ownership which I regard highly and deeply value in Dunbar. The garden creates a healthy ecology and 'commons' for human and more-than-human life to connect, work, heal, feed, support life and develop. Belhaven Community Garden enables a great nurturing health care for all life. What a boon! It is a well used local resource. It provides a needed healthy space for nurturing life in so many ways that are currently becoming less and less at our great loss. The work and commitment that has gone into this application is greatly appreciated by me and I hope you too. I believe we need local applications and commitments to local people like these to be met fully and uplifted.

Thank you for reading this email support for consideration and for your work. I trust a 'common' sense in the best kind of way will prevail.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
East Lothian
EH42 1JD

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 11:06 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

[REDACTED]

DUNBAR
EH42 1TP

7 February 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Belhaven Community Garden - Call for Action

I am writing to support the Application that has been lodged from the Belhaven Community Garden to take the garden ground into community ownership.

I would also like to register my concern regarding NHS Lothian plans to sell the whole site for housing development. This area already has an abundance of new housing and I do not believe it is appropriate that the Belhaven Community Garden be removed to develop even further housing.

There are already local concerns in relation to this narrow road and the volume of vehicular traffic.

Much obliged

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 11:16 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Good morning.

I was somewhat distressed to hear that we might be losing our beloved community garden. We walk around the orchard almost every week from April through October. We especially enjoy taking our grandchildren up there; such a great educational opportunity. Please do not allow it to close.

[REDACTED]
EH421QA

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 11:20 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Good morning

I understand that you have officially acknowledged the request to take Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership so that the asset is protected for the benefit of everyone living in the Dunbar and East Linton ward in the long term.

I would like to add our names and addresses in support of the community ownership scheme.

Best regards

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1ZT

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 11:33 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am very sad to hear the news that you plan to sell the Belhaven hospital and the community gardens site for a housing development. I use the gardens regularly taking our grandkids up there to visit. It is a wonderful local environment for children to experience nature at its best. Learning how to grow fruit and vegetables and taking part in picking the wonderful apples.

I also feel with all the new developments that exist and are being built in and around the town, that the sewage system can not take another one. It will be a huge loss to Dunbar community if we lose our wonderful garden.

A very sad [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 12:19 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am writing to you to express my full support for the Belhaven Community Garden in Dunbar, East Lothian. I can not stress the value of this green space enough as a benefit to the local community, a habitat, and a welcoming space for mindfulness. The Garden is a benefit to both physical and mental health that should not be overlooked.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]
EH42 1PH Dunbar.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 12:42 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am writing in support of the community buy out of Belhaven Community Garden. I think we lose these small green spaces at our peril. It is being more and more evidenced that gardening and the benefits of working as a group is beneficial to both mind and body for many, in fact doctors are starting to prescribe these facilities! As new housing encroaches on our town's periphery we really do need to keep and cherish green spaces for not only humans but as nature corridors as well.

Learning to grow, cook, appreciate and look after what's important to keep humans healthy and in balance with nature is surely vital these days? It's about time we valued such amenities for future generations.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1EN
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 1:02 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear NHS Lothian ,

I am emailing to add my support to Belhaven Community Gardens request to take ownership of the land at the former Belhaven Hospital and continue to use as a community garden.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1HS

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 2:20 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write to add support for the application lodged to take the community garden into community ownership. This facility is desperately needed for all of the core health and wellbeing reasons that make up NHS Lothian's fundamental reason for being. Selling it for commercial development would be a betrayal of the goals and values we need from our public services in Scotland. We will touch only briefly on practical issues, such as the inability of Beveridge Row to accommodate extra traffic and the increased risk to pedestrians and road users inherent in this, the strain on basic infrastructure etc. in an area that has already seen massive housing expansion with no corresponding infrastructure investment. Clearly though these impacts will be real.

We hope and trust that NHS Scotland decides wisely to prioritise the long term health of the community over (what we consider to be) a short sighted commercial transaction, and urge you to consider carefully.

Best regards

[REDACTED] Belhaven, EH42 1TP
[REDACTED] Belhaven, EH42 1TP

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 2:38 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello,
Yes, I'm very supportive of this ambitious but realizable project.

brgds,
[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1HY

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 2:46 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Support for Belhaven Community Garden Community Ownership

Dear NHS Lothian Community Empowerment Team,
I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal by Sustaining Dunbar to transfer Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership. The garden has become a valued local asset that promotes wellbeing, learning, and environmental stewardship for people of all ages in the Dunbar and East Linton area. Community ownership would ensure that this space remains open and available for community use, providing long-term social,

health, and environmental benefits that far outweigh short-term financial returns from commercial sale or development.

I fully support the application and urge NHS Lothian to accept the transfer of Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership.

Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Dunbar, EH42 1AE

Thank you for considering my views and for recognising the importance of local green spaces for community health and resilience.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 2:49 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I very much approve of THIS excellent project. .

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1HY

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 3:11 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

As a local resident, I am writing to express my support for the Community Asset Transfer Request for the part of Belhaven Hospital used as the Belhaven Community Garden.

This project provides physical and mental health benefits for local people as well as fostering community spirit and biodiversity.

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1ZU

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 3:41 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Support application to take Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership

Hi,

I am writing to indicate my support that Belhaven Community Garden be taken into community ownership.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Dunbar EH421ZT

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 3:43 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Lothian nhs board , I am writing to you to express my very strong support for community ownership of Belhaven Community Garden (BCG). This is a fabulous resource for those who are less advantaged within our society. The garden enables them to increase their wellbeing and live a life that has value and meaning being part of a unique natural resource. In the past as leader of the local Cub group, coming to the community garden so the young people could see the connection between growing food and what we eat, was extremely important. One year we picked our own pumpkins for Halloween.

The garden provides people with a space for growing, supplies the community carrot our local fruit and vegetable shop with seasonal Produce. It has 149 fruit trees!

BCG is essential for all our Community and particularly for those who are older, allowing them to make connections with others and staying engaged in the physical activities centred around gardening. As we know there is strong evidence to suggest that active bodies can facilitate retention of active minds leading to a more healthy existence. Retaining the garden through community ownership will inevitably lead to retention of the health and well-being of our community, and this will be of benefit to the NHS.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]
Belhaven,
Dunbar
EH42 1QY

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 3:58 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I wish to express my concern over the possible ending of the availability of Belhaven Community Garden.

As a lifetime gardener, I am very aware of the benefits of gardening and have been very impressed by the many lives which have been helped in numerous ways over the years through Belhaven Community Garden.

I should very much hope that the garden ground should be allowed to be taken into community ownership rather than being sold for housing development - of which there is already more than enough.

I feel strongly that the Garden should be given the permission to continue its good work.

[REDACTED]
Belhaven
Dunbar EH42 1QQ

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 4:13 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Community Asset Transfer request - Belhaven Hospital/Community Garden

I am writing to support strongly the acceptance by NHS Lothian of the request for a Community Asset Transfer of part of the Belhaven Hospital site.

I have lived in Dunbar for 4 years and have seen many benefits of the Community Garden in in that time - a place of peace and relaxation, somewhere children love to go to see things growing and to harvest fruit and vegetables, somewhere for people to enjoy all the pleasures of gardening and food production that they would not otherwise experience, a genuine contribution to local food production and an excellent site to facilitate biodiversity.

If the garden/orchard area was owned for the community there would be opportunity to develop the learning and therapeutic opportunities which would be of benefit to Dunbar and the surrounding area as a whole and be very much in keeping with the founding and continuing philosophy of the site usage.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dunbar EH42 1ZT

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 4:57 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello,

As a family of four, we are v keen to keep the Belhaven community garden. Thanks, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH421AP

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 5:13 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Belhaven community garden

[REDACTED]
Dunbar,
EH42 1AP

On Sat, 7 Feb 2026, 5:12 pm [REDACTED] wrote:

Good afternoon,

I would like to show my support for the community ownership of the Belhaven Community Garden. It's a wonderful space and a real asset to the community. We have very few options for allotments in Dunbar, there are a small number of council owned plots and a private allotment, but the waiting list for these is extremely long. The community garden gives locals the opportunity to get involved with growing food. They also have bees which supports biodiversity in our area, and regularly hold events such as wassailing which allow local people to come together and enjoy spending time outdoors.

I think transferring the community garden into community ownership will benefit many groups in the local community and I would urge you to make this possible for the people of Dunbar and Belhaven.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 5:22 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I fully support the CAT to Belhaven Community Garden. I am confident this would deliver very positive outcomes for the community.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Dunbar

EH42 1 GF

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 7:05 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am emailing you to express very strong support for the request that the current Belhaven community garden is allowed to remain as such, rather than be sold by NHS Lothian for housing or any other use.

You will have seen the submission to you arguing for the short and long term benefits of maintaining this land as a garden for the community, where people can work together, grow produce for local consumption, maintaining a green space as the rest of Dunbar is increasingly urbanised, so I shall not repeat those arguments.

I and family members have personally enjoyed and benefitted from this asset: my worry is that the NHS Lothian board, given the current difficult situation in which it and all other NHS boards find themselves, will struggle to let the long term gains of maintaining the community garden win over the immediate short term gains of an additional less than 1% of the total annual budget just to ease the pressure on its bottom line.

I would ask that NHS Lothian remembers its duty to the people it serves: whilst I know its only statutory requirement is to balance its books, I would ask that the Board considers the long term view and benefits to the population served in Dunbar. We have already lost the community hospital, which as you may know was built for the local council at the start of the 20th Century, but was closed by NHS Lothian despite over a million pounds being recently spent on its upkeep. So it does not seem just or right for the local people to lose another amenity, developed in East Lothian, just to help address the very real financial challenges faced by the Board.

In 10 years time any financial gain from selling this site will have long since been forgotten as it will have disappeared into the Board's finances: in contrast, a brave decision to allow the community to own this land and maintain it as a community garden for everyone living in and around Dunbar will be remembered, and no doubt held up as an example of a Health Board taking the long-term view in favour of the health and well-being of the people it serves.

I plead that the NHS Lothian Board chooses to sell the land to the community at a price we can afford, and not to maximise income by selling it for housing.

[REDACTED]
DUNBAR EH42 1NU

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 8:13 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: support for Belhaven Garden

This email is yo let you know that I support Belhaven Community Garden's project.
Please consider their proposal.

[REDACTED]
EH42 1BX

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 8:47 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sirs

This is to confirm my support that Belhaven Community Garden be taken into community ownership so that this asset is protected for the benefit of everyone living in the Dunbar and East Linton ward in the long term.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1NE
Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 9:03 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I lived in Dunbar for nearly twelve years until May 2018 but have kept an interest in the town of Dunbar and was sorry when the hospital was closed down but, given the strong community spirit in Dunbar and the successful management of places taken over by the community, I very much welcome and support the community in Dunbar taking over the Community Garden at the old hospital.

My name and address are:-

[REDACTED]
EDINBURGH
EH15 1DW

With every good wish
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 9:03 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven community garden

As a member of the public living close to Belhaven hospital, I am emailing to show my support in the community taking ownership of the gardens.

It's a nice green space and would prefer that than another housing development.

[REDACTED], Dunbar, EH42 1ZT

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 10:44 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Please consider our request favourably to put Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership.

This is a much loved and used area of ground which is greatly valued by local people.

Thanking you in hopeful anticipation!

[REDACTED]
Dunbar EH42 1RA

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 7:37 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I would like to support the request to take Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership. The garden is an integral part of the community, providing a safe place to meet new people, to work together, to grow together and has been such a strong place of support for people's mental health in difficult times - bringing people from diverse backgrounds together in a shared purpose. It would be a great shame to lose this amenity for the people of Dunbar. It is so appreciated by all who go there in search of community and healing.

[REDACTED] Dunbar, EH42 1QG Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 10:42 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden
To Whom it may concern

As a Resident of the nearby housing surrounding the garden, I would like to support the application to take the garden into community ownership.

This ownership would enable many more opportunities for healthy, outdoor, physical activity that enhances physical health and mental wellbeing, opportunities that I am sure NHS Lothian would thoroughly endorse. Ownership would also continue to encourage and expand social interaction between diverse participants, provide space for local food growing and support further community resilience. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Dunbar EH42 1PF

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 11:29 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden
Hi,

I have had the privilege of being involved with some of the fantastic projects at Belhaven community garden. The team there have put so much time and effort into making the garden the thriving, fantastic place it is today. It would be such a shame for all their hard work to come to nothing so I would very much like to see the garden being transferred to them to protect it for the community, going forwards.

Thank you for taking this into consideration. Kind regards, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
East Linton
EH40 3DY
Tel: 07859 017446

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 12:33 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Fw: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am sending this email again as I'm afraid I forgot to add my name and address: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Dunbar, East Lothian. EH42 1ZU

I wish to support the application to take the Belhaven Community Garden ground into community ownership. This is a unique area which provides a resource for people, plants insects and animals health, wellbeing and diversity. My neighbours and I enjoy spending time here growing fresh fruit and vegetables. The orchard has many fruit trees which are so valuable to the environment. Under community ownership so much more can be achieved that will definitely be to the benefit of physical and mental health of the local population.

Losing the garden to housing would adversely impact local people and the environment as a whole. It would also significantly increase traffic on Beveridge Row and other local roads.

We need to protect areas like this for future generations to come.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 1:05 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Bellhaven Community Garden

I am writing in support of the community application to buy the garden ground at Bellhaven for continued community use.

The ability to work in common with the community has been invaluable in sustaining my connection with others in the town and keeping active as I age. Please consider the application favourably

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dunbar

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 1:10 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Please note my support for the community asset transfer of Belhaven community garden to community ownership.

I live in Haddington but have attended community events at the garden and training in hedgerow laying which I intend to use in my locality to improve biodiversity by building nature networks.

I support the continued community use of the garden for wellbeing, food sustainability, health and biodiversity.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Haddington EH41 3ND

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 1:58 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello.

I would like to express my support for the community ownership application for Belhaven Community Garden.

It is a wonderful resource to have available.

Thanks.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Belhaven, EH42 1TS.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 3:30 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Saving Belhaven Community Garden

Hi there

I am a local resident of Dunbar and the leader of 1st Dunbar Beavers and cannot explain how important Belhaven Community Garden has been to me!

First of all, my beaver group has gone on many visits to the community garden as part of our gardening and community badge. The children are always so invested and love hearing about the wide range of fruits, vegetables and flowers that are grown there. The wonderful volunteers have always been so great with the children and so

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 4:16 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello, I am writing to add my voice in support of Belhaven Community Garden. It is a great community asset bringing together families and a wide range of people of all ages who volunteer and want to learn more about caring for a garden space, and receive that learning from others who have skills. In these days where a number of people have mental health challenges, the huge wellbeing effects and ease of stress have been well researched. Belhaven Community Garden provides a massive public health benefit in providing a peaceful space where problems can be shared in a friendly atmosphere with the green environment reducing anxieties. Aside from the years already spent by many people nurturing the space, it would be detrimental to a vast number of people if it were not allowed to continue.

--

[REDACTED], Dunbar EH42 1ZG

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 4:24 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Community asset transfer application Belhaven

Hi,

I am emailing to register my support of the motion to transfer Belhaven Community Garden from NHS Lothian to Sustaining Dunbar.

This will ensure the community benefit through the maintenance of the green space and will continue its management and sustainability. Spaces like this are valuable for the community but also the flora and fauna within it and the surrounding area.

As a resident of Dunbar and current NHS worker I fully support this motion.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
EH42 1YB
Dunbar

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 4:25 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I write in support of the application by Sustaining Dunbar to bring Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership.

I would urge you to give this application your most favourable consideration.

The Community Garden is already a valuable resource to the community, and assurance of its continuation will be wonderful news to many here in Dunbar.

Yours,

[REDACTED]
DUNBAR
East Lothian
EH42 1NW

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 5:35 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am writing to confirm Friends of Winterfield's support for Belhaven Community Garden's bid to take Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership, and protect it for the people of Dunbar and East Linton. As a group, Friends of Winterfield were lucky to be able to convince our land owners (East Lothian Council) to allow us to protect our Winterfield Park, Dunbar, through Fields in Trust. We did not have the difficulty of fighting to retain the land we were improving.

The amenity value of open spaces is priceless to those who benefit from it. Our Wildlife Garden allows people to both partake in garden design and maintenance; it's a quiet place to sit and enjoy nature; it's an area of improved biodiversity. Friends of Winterfield have benefitted from the support and knowledge of Belhaven Community Garden volunteers. We would very much like to see the Belhaven Community Garden continue into the future and wish them well in their bid.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dunbar,
East Lothian,
EH42 1AR
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 6:00 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hi there

My name is [REDACTED] and I live at [REDACTED]. I want to support the application to take Belhaven Community Garden into Community garden. This is a valued community resource that has huge benefits for people's health and wellbeing.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 6:29 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Proposed Community Asset Transfer - Belhaven hospital grounds

Dear Sir/Madam

I am just emailing to express support for the proposed Community Asset Transfer of the grounds of the former Belhaven Hospital to the charity Sustaining Dunbar for ongoing use as a community garden.

I have read the proposal carefully and consider that it is clear and well argued. The benefits to the community will be very substantial.

(I am an ordinary member of Sustaining Dunbar, so I have a vote at the charity's AGM but I am not a member of its board and do not have any other role with the charity.)

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Dunbar EH42 1ZG

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 6:37 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I would like to support the proposal of Belhaven Community Garden being sold to local community.

We live very close to the garden and walk around it frequently. With so much development of green sites locally, it is vital to preserve the tree orchard and garden areas for wildlife and for locals who appreciate and care about this space.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

Dunbar
EH42 1PH

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 6:43 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am writing to express my support for bringing Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership and saving this well-used green space from being developed for housing. The public health benefits of green spaces like these are now well established for individual mental and physical health as well as community well-being.

[Redacted]

Dunbar
EH42 1XN

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 9:14 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I would like to register my interest in the Belhaven Community garden, and say what a very important asset I think it is for the local community.

Working with others in an outdoor environment is proven to be helpful to mental health, and I feel that this is in the long term interest of NHS Scotland.

[REDACTED] EH40 3DX

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 8:55 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden
To whom it may concern

I am writing in support of Belhaven Community garden.

It is such a valuable resource for those in Belhaven - not only for the knowledge gained by those working there, for the wellbeing and healthy benefits of being outdoors in nature, but for the community spirit it instills. This is vital at a time when people are looking to get back to nature and spend healthy time outdoors and away from screens. Please consider how important this garden is to the local community and all those involved.

With thanks

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH421NS

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:53 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello

My apologies for this omission. Here are my details

[REDACTED]
Edinburgh
EH10 7EZ.

Thank you very much
Best regards

[REDACTED]

On Mon, 9 Feb 2026 at 09:31, ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot> wrote:

Thank you for your email on the asset transfer request submitted for Belhaven Community Garden.

Anyone may make representations about this request to NHS Lothian. Representations must be in writing and include the name and address of the person making it. A copy of the representation will be given to the organisation making the request.

For us to take this into consideration in the evaluation process, please could you provide your address.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 February 2026 15:12
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden
Hello

I am writing to support the support the application for the Belhaven Community Garden to pass onto community ownership. This is a wonderful place enjoyed by the residents of all ages. My sons go daily when staying with their grandparents, residents of [REDACTED], and have been huge fans for years. Please do consider the community benefits of keeping this green space, and especially the growing of fruits and vegetables for the residents. This would benefit much more than additional houses especially after the huge developments already carried out nearby. Thank you very much.

Best regards.
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:54 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: community garden

I want to join in the effort to save the Belhaven community garden by putting it into community ownership .

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] dunbar

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 12:52 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to show my full support for the transfer of Belhaven Community Garden into Belhaven Community ownership. As a resident living close by I believe this community garden should be protected from development and remain a useable community space for gardening and recreation.

Please add my name and that of my wife [REDACTED] to the list of supporters.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

EH42 1TS, East Lothian, UK

Mob [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 2:26 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: "Belhaven community gardens"

We are writing in support of Belhaven community Gardens being returned to community ownership.

The site was given 120 years ago with a specific provision that it be retained for agricultural or recreational purposes, and to promote local health and well-being. It is not clear how or why NHS Lothian now have any right to dispose of the land at all particularly for housing as this violates the terms of the original gift.

The land has been used as a community garden. It has an informal organising group, and anyone living in the area can be a participant. There is a substantial orchard and many plots for growing other fruit and vegetables. These activities fulfil the original purpose of the gift, and there is no alternative site locally. The land is well maintained with paths and seating, vegetable beds and raised beds. There are also bee hives and an area to encourage wild life and insects. All these continuing activities do accord with the initial terms of the gift to promote local health and wellbeing.

It is a shame that an NHS body appears not to recognise this, and is proposing to act in a fashion that will have a detrimental effect on health and wellbeing within it's region.

[REDACTED] EH42 1ZT
Dunbar

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 8:18 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello

I am writing to support the proposed community purchase of the Belhaven Community Garden. I value the garden and orchard immensely and believe it is a very valuable resource for the whole community. School groups visit regularly and have an annual apple collection and pressing; disadvantaged individuals come to experience a peaceful and rewarding work period; people have vegetable plots and cultivate a wide range of produce; and individuals just visit for a quiet wander in a thriving natural environment. I love visiting throughout the year and really enjoy watching the orchard grow through the seasons, with apples, plums, hazels, walnuts and other tree fruits in a wide variety. It is beautiful to see.

The garden and orchard offer so much to so many in such a little space that it would be a shame and a great loss for us all if it was passed to developers for the inevitable more large houses. I hope we can rely on a sympathetic response to this application; one that benefits many people and groups in the community and not just a wealthy few.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Belhaven
EH42 1PN

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 8:55 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Belhaven Community Garden

Hi,
Thank you for the speedy response. My current address is

[REDACTED]
Glasgow
G11 5PF

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

On Mon, 9 Feb 2026, 08:13 ComEmpReq, <loth.comempreg@nhs.scot> wrote:

Thank you for your email on the asset transfer request submitted for Belhaven Community Garden.

Anyone may make representations about this request to NHS Lothian. Representations must be in writing and include the name and address of the person making it. A copy of the representation will be given to the organisation making the request.

For us to take this into consideration in the evaluation process, please could you provide your address.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 February 2026 17:43
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreg@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to ask you to allow the community ownership of Belhaven Community Garden to go ahead. The garden is an integral part of the local community and supports healthy volunteering opportunities.

Formerly a resident of Pine Street, Dunbar and nurse at Belhaven hospital, I now live in Glasgow but maintain an interest in the garden as I am still a frequent visitor to Dunbar and have family and friends in the area.

I worked for 15 years at the Coach House Trust in Glasgow, formerly an art-based, environmental and horticulture project which supported volunteering opportunities for people from a wide range of backgrounds, including addiction, mental health and offending. The gap-sites in which the project operated were ultimately owned by the project for the use of the community and not built on.

I would be concerned that should Belhaven Garden not be taken into community ownership that the area would be developed and the green areas within the town would diminish even further.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:17 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Belhaven Community Garden

Yes, sorry about that,
Had to dash out.

[REDACTED]
Dunbar,
EH42 1YE
Tel [REDACTED]

This resource really does mean so much to an ever expanding group,
Thank you very much for getting back to me,
All the best,
[REDACTED]

On Mon, 9 Feb 2026 at 11:14, ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot> wrote:

Thank you for your email on the asset transfer request submitted for Belhaven Community Garden.

Anyone may make representations about this request to NHS Lothian. Representations must be in writing and include the name and address of the person making it. A copy of the representation will be given to the organisation making the request.

For us to take this into consideration in the evaluation process, please could you provide your address.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 February 2026 11:03
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

To N.H.S. Team,

I wish to add my support to the Community Asset Transfer of Belhaven Community Garden from N.H.S.

This project has grown and grown since starting and the enormous benefits gained in the mental health for the Community as a whole are worth the monetary considerations in this case.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:45 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Gardens - Dunbar

Hello

I live at [REDACTED], Dunbar and wish to show my support for Belhaven Community Gardens to continue under community ownership.

They are a very welcome community group, open to anyone who wishes to join. They offer far more benefits to the community and environment than more housing would do.

Thank you
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 10:08 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Belhaven Community Garden community buyout
Sorry to have forgotten my full address. It is:
[REDACTED], Dunbar, EH42 1XN.

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Sent: 09 February 2026 10:29 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Belhaven Community Garden community buyout

Thank you for your email on the asset transfer request submitted for Belhaven Community Garden.
Anyone may make representations about this request to NHS Lothian. Representations must be in writing and include the name and address of the person making it. A copy of the representation will be given to the organisation making the request.

For us to take this into consideration in the evaluation process, please could you provide your address.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 February 2026 10:10
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden community buyout

Dear Board of NHS Lothian,

Dunpender Community Council covers East Linton, Whitekirk, Tynninghame and outlying settlements. It is in the Dunbar and East Linton Ward. Several residents of the Community Council area are involved in Belhaven Community Garden (BCG), as volunteers, participants in BCG events, or/and borrowers of BCG equipment.

The Community Council regard Belhaven Community Garden as a very important community asset. For over thirteen years it has provided important benefits to the community in three distinct, but interrelated, ways.

First is its social role, since it provides a welcoming green space to volunteers and to the wider public, creating a site for people to meet and take part in many different events. It has become a supportive environment for socially vulnerable adults, for instance those with learning difficulties and refugees, and several benefit from horticultural therapy.

Second it contributes to a more resilient, local, participatory food system. It is a growing space for vegetables and fruit which supplies fresh, local, organic food to those who garden there and to the local community owned grocer, Community Carrot. The informal sharing of organic growing skills and intermittent formal courses are very valuable in addressing the deficit of horticultural expertise in the community. The provision of much sought-after allotments allows individuals to gain skills in growing their own vegetables and minimises the food chain and food waste.

Third, BCG has combined sustainable food production with the enhancement of biodiversity, planting native hedges, establishing wild flower meadows, and creating habitat for hedgehogs, other small mammals and invertebrates. This has created a haven for wildlife.

BCG is widely regarded as one of the most successful community initiatives in Dunbar and an example for other groups to learn from. The community asset transfer is being led by Sustaining Dunbar which has initiated and sustained many local initiatives which have transformed our Ward.

Our 2024 Dunpender Community Action and Local Place Plan highlights the need for increased and enhanced green spaces, more allotment provision, and enhanced biodiversity. We are therefore strongly supportive of an organisation in our Ward that directly contributes to all three.

The demise of such a successful project would be an enormous loss in terms of: community cohesion; local people's mental health; access to land to grow, and learn about the cultivation of, fruit and vegetables; and biodiversity, with all the steps the garden has taken over the years to support nature. Furthermore, given the level of community support for the Garden, it has the potential to deliver even more. We therefore urge you to seriously consider Sustaining Dunbar's application for a community asset transfer.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

on behalf of Dunpender Community Council.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 8:18 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven community garden

Dear Lothian NHS Board

I am writing to express my strong support for the transfer of Belhaven community garden, on the site of the old Belhaven Hospital, into community ownership.

As a resident of Dunbar, I recognise and value the work put in by the community garden team over the years to turn this site into a beautiful, peaceful, productive, welcoming space. It would be a huge waste to convert all that into another usage such as housing. The site is well used by local people, enjoying horticulture, gathering produce, watching wildlife, or just sitting or walking. Children's groups use the site and it is a refuge for nature.

Please add my name to the list of those supporting the community asset transfer of this site.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Dunbar EH42 1AH

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 10:27 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello,

I live near Belhaven Community Garden with my family and definitely support Sustaining Dunbar's application to take this valuable, beautiful and very much appreciated area of green space into community ownership.

We regularly visit the garden, either to admire the gardeners' work, chat about the produce grown there and the changing seasons, wander through the orchard or attend friendly and welcoming community events. Or simply to enjoy the peace and tranquillity provided by Belhaven Community Garden.

I believe this is a true asset to the local community and should be taken into community ownership.

Very best wishes,

[REDACTED]
Dunbar EH42 1PH
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 1:44 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden - Community Asset Transfer Request

Dear Sir/Madam,

We fully support preserving the Belhaven Community Garden by putting this area of land into community ownership. It's the right thing to do.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
DUNBAR EH42 1AF

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 3:21 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello there,

I would like to express my sincere and genuine love for the Belhaven Community Garden project and all the ways that it serves the local community. It is a wonderful use for that land and the people are an asset to it. Our community and our natural environment are both much richer because of it.

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
Eh42 1ER

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 3:28 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden
Hi,

As a volunteer I would like to support the request to take this garden into community ownership in order to maintain this valuable green and productive space allowing it to continue to provide health and wellbeing benefit to all.

[REDACTED]
East Linton
EH40 3BW

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 6:01 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Please save the Belhaven community garden If is a worthwhile initiative and good for the community- both young and old. I visit when visiting family in Dunbar.

[REDACTED] Edinburgh
EH64TW
Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 11:12 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Good Evening,

I am writing to express my strong support for a community asset transfer of this garden for the benefit of local people. We all know how valuable it is to have the opportunity to volunteer in such a place, and there is a great need locally to retain and develop every possible resource to support people with mental health challenges, autism etc. NHS Lothian undoubtedly fully understands this need and must surely support this request.

Christine Dodds
[REDACTED]
EH40 3EL
Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 10:01 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Greetings,

We are writing in support of Sustaining Dunbar's application to take the garden ground of Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership.

Belhaven Community Garden is a unique resource for the local community. The ground was given to the community over 100 years ago to promote local health and wellbeing with the provision that it should be retained for agricultural and recreational purposes. The folks involved with Sustaining Dunbar have developed a beautiful space for growing food and growing community on this site.

The garden provides a resource for many individuals, groups and projects that do just that. It is a well maintained space for community growing of fruit and vegetables. It provides a space for members of the community to come together to learn about food growing, to grow food and to participate in activities that foster physical and emotional well being.

Losing the garden at this time would be a huge blow for the community. The loss of the food grown and the community space would have a significant negative impact on all of us.

We urge you to allow Sustaining Dunbar to continue its amazing work in this space by approving its application to take the garden into community ownership.

With kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1JH

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 10:13 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community garden

I am writing this letter to support the community purchase of the Belhaven Community garden.

During our holiday in Belhaven last autumn we made many visits to the garden and enjoyed eating the wind falls of plums and Scottish heritage apples like the ' Beauty of Moray ' and ' The bloody plough man '.

We talked to the people involved in the garden and were most impressed by the way they look after it.

My husband and I are involved in a community garden in Amsterdam. Also growing vegetables and Dutch heritage apples and pears.

It has proved beneficial in improving social contacts with neighbours, a good activity to better our health and provides a green restful space in a busy city.

[REDACTED]

1051PN Amsterdam
Nederland

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 10:39 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear NHS Lothian,

I am writing to express my strong support for selling the land adjoining the Belhaven Community Hospital premises to the community group who currently run the community garden there. This ought to be at a fair price for agricultural land, rather than at building land prices. The current garden is increasingly surrounded by housing developments, and will be all the more so if the hospital premises are developed, making a green space for recreation and growing all the more vital. I would expect there to be great benefits to the health, both mental and physical, of local people from this continuing to be a community garden.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dunbar EH42 1DZ

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 10:35 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am writing to fully support the application to take the garden ground at Belhaven hospital into community ownership. The existing facility is a valuable asset to the community and has many environmental benefits.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1NP


DUNBAR
EH42 1YF

Lothian NHS Board
Mainpoint
102 Westport
EDINBURGH
EH3 9DN

RECEIVED 10 FEB 2026

05/02/2026

To Whom It May Concern

BELHAVEN COMMUNITY GARDEN

I write in support of the application to bring Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership.

In 2010/2011 I led the negotiations with NHS Lothian on behalf of Sustaining Dunbar to set up a community garden adjacent to Belhaven Hospital. I had several meetings with your then Board Chair, Charles Winstanley. These led to his support for the creation of the Garden, to signing a Memorandum of Agreement, and to me being invited to serve on the NHS Lothian Community Gardens committee, which maintained oversight of the community gardens at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and the to-be-integrated community garden at the Midlothian Community Hospital, which was then being built.

Having worked in senior management at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, I was and still am keenly aware of the public amenity and therapeutic value which gardens afford those who visit them. In regard to the garden at Belhaven Hospital, Charles Winstanley and I shared a view that it would provide value to patients and their visitors, to NHS staff at the hospital, to volunteers from the community working on designing, creating and maintaining an accessible, friendly and welcoming open space on NHS grounds. I like to think it became a place valued greatly by the hospital and the community it then served.

I am aware that patient services are no longer provided at Belhaven Hospital but, correspondingly the value of the garden to the community has increased. I strongly support the application to bring Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership. There is no shortage of enthusiastic and hard-working volunteers to maintain and develop the garden.

Sincerely,


-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 12:16 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: RE: Belhaven Community Garden

Sorry for forgetting my address :-

[REDACTED]
Edinburgh EH13 0DF

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of ComEmpReq
Sent: Tuesday, 10 February, 2026 3:36 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Belhaven Community Garden

Thank you for your email on the asset transfer request submitted for Belhaven Community Garden.
"Anyone may make representations about this request to NHS Lothian.
Representations must be in writing and include the name and address of the person making it. A copy of the representation will be given to the organisation making the request."
For us to take this into consideration in the evaluation process, please could you provide your address.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 2:30 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

The Belhaven Community Garden does sterling work for everyone in the area.
I believe in the power of physical work in the company of others to maintain health and fitness which ultimately should be the goal of the NHS too.
Please support the Garden.
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 10:53 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden Community Asset Transfer

Dear NHS Lothian,

I am writing to indicate my strong support for Sustaining Dunbar's community asset transfer application relating to the Belhaven community garden. I am a resident at [REDACTED] Dunbar, EH42 1JJ.
My wife and I have volunteered at the garden for several years. Having this asset in the local community has been invaluable for our mental wellbeing. In my experience, Belhaven community garden greatly benefits vulnerable young people and adults, local residents without private gardens (like myself), and the wider local community.
Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 9:52 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden Asset Transfer Request - letter of support

Good morning,

Please find attached a letter of support for the CAT request from Belhaven Community Garden.

As a national organisation supporting communities that own and manage land, many of whom have acquired land through a CAT process we see the significant benefits that ownership brings to communities and are fully supportive of this request.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Director



Community
Woodlands
Association

Correspondence address

Grantown on Spey
PH26 3NH

12 February 2026

To Whom it may concern

Belhaven Community Garden – CAT application

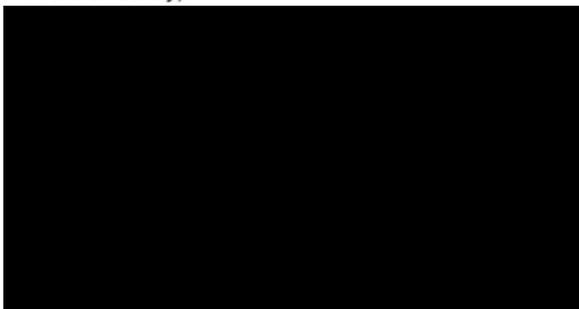
The Community Woodlands Association would like to express its support for Belhaven Community Garden's Community Asset Transfer request to NHS Lothian.

Sustaining community green space in community ownership is vital to long-term environmental, social and economic wellbeing. The Belhaven group, working within the wider framework of Sustaining Dunbar, has built a strong and demonstrable track record in managing and developing land for community benefit. The establishment of the orchard, now with more than 100 fruit trees, and the close links with Dunbar Community Woodland highlight a committed, collaborative approach to local stewardship.

Community ownership of the Belhaven site would build on this work and provide a secure foundation for continued public access, volunteering, local food production and biodiversity improvements. It would also sit within the broader Scottish tradition of community-led land initiatives, including the early example at Wooplaw Woods, which helped pave the way for the Community Asset Transfer process now in use.

We hope this request will receive favourable consideration and would be happy to provide any further information that may be helpful.

Yours sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 11:02 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden
To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in support of the bid for community ownership of Belhaven Garden in Dunbar. I joined the volunteers right at the beginning, when we created a sensory garden for Belhaven Hospital patients and visitors in 2012.

Over the years the group of volunteers has grown exponentially, providing fresh produce, companionship, active connection to nature, and a thriving oasis of wellbeing in an otherwise built-up area.

With the ever-increasing pressure of housing changing the nature of our rural town we mustn't forget that green spaces add immeasurably to all of our mental wellbeing.

With a look to the increasing signs of global warming we experience, it is in my opinion essential to preserve well established ecosystems.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1LG

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 11:33 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden
Dear Sir/Madam,

We live at [REDACTED] Dunbar, EH42 1ZT.

We are in full support of the Belhaven Community Garden and their recent application to take the garden ground into community ownership.

This is a fantastic initiative for the community and should their application be refused, it would be a great loss to the area and those involved. Their hard work and dedication are outstanding. We need more initiatives like this - not less.

SAVE BELHAVEN COMMUNITY GARDEN

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 12:59 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

[REDACTED] Dunbar EH42 1DR I support the call for action to save the garden.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 1:14 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven community garden needs saving
Belhaven community garden

Hi re Belhaven community garden, I have asperges, dyspraxia anxiety possibly autism too, at the garden it's a relaxing place, let alone a good gardening area, plus a lot of people use it, walk there dogs around it too, My name is [REDACTED] and I live [REDACTED] Dunbar Eh421dr thanks Thomas bower w

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 2:47 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Hospital Community Asset Transfer Request by Belhaven Community Garden
Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Dunbar. My husband works here, in the Ridge Foundation, and our three children attend school here. We have attended events at the Belhaven Community Garden (Guy Fawkes and Wassailing among them) and have personally experienced the wonderful sense of community that abounds in the Gardens. Feeling part of a community is of very real and measurable benefit to individuals' health and wellbeing. The presence of such communities enriches Dunbar and the life of its people.

These Gardens gives people a sense of connection to the land and to nature, which, as is now accepted by the NHS, is an antidote to depression and anxiety. It helps young people to foster a sense of stewardship over the environment, leading them to be more responsible in their impact on the planet.

The existence of gardens such as these means that the raising of fruit and vegetables is not just confined to those with sizeable private gardens but is democratised, so that even those without any garden of their own at all can benefit. We saw during Covid quite what stark inequalities result in terms of quality of life when people do not have access to public parks and gardens. The growing of fruit and vegetables helps peoples' diets and, with that, reduces their chances of heart disease, diabetes and many types of lifestyle-related cancers decreases, to the huge benefit of the individual as well as society through the resulting reductions in NHS waiting times and budgets.

Many people do not attend events or work in the gardens but are able to walk freely through it, as a safe, car-free and clean-aired haven for children and older people, and do so frequently. They benefit from the exercise and fresh air that that gives them.

No doubt the hospital itself will be sold to a developer but I don't see how the continued use of the garden by the community can be much of a hindrance to that process.

It would, frankly, be an outrage if this land was sold into private hands. If that was to occur, I would be looking very closely at the process that led to that outcome and would be happy to give my legal expertise to the applicants to help ascertain if public law principles were followed or if a challenge was appropriate. But I do trust that you will make the proper decision and I look forward to hearing that the bid is successful.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
Dunbar, EH42 1JN

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 3:54 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I don't think you can possibly realise what an asset the garden has become, both to those who enjoy the community spirit while working there or those who value dropping in.

As Dunbar grows, I think it's even more important to preserve these Community spaces.

Please allow this valuable asset to continue as it is.

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1LT
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 7:05 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hi

I'm writing to lodge my opposition to the NHS selling off belhaven community garden for housing. This land was originally gifted to the local community with specific provision it be preserved for agricultural or recreational purposes. It has become a valuable resource for many individuals and community groups helping support community food production and providing a precious green space for plants, wildlife and people and improves our local biodiversity.

I support community ownership of belhaven community garden.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
Eh42 1ag

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 11:34 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Proposed purchase of Belhaven Community Gardens.
To whom it may concern.

Thank you for the chance to make representation.
I attach my letter of support for the purchase of Belhaven Community Garden by Sustaining Dunbar from NHS Lothian.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1WJ

Lothian NHS Board
Mainpoint
102 Westport
EDINBURGH
EH3 9DN

12/02/2026

To Whom It May Concern

I retired after working for the NHS for 40 years, commencing at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in 1967.

We moved to Dunbar from the Borders 9 years ago and part of the attraction was the open space and community involvement at Belhaven Community Gardens. You will find that the local estate agents point out the garden as one of the attractions of the area.

Dunbar is a coastal town and most properties between the railway and the sea have limited or no gardens. New developments to the south of the railway are basically built to the maximum density allowed and again have very limited garden space.

Belhaven Community Garden now provides a welcome green sanctuary with a great variety of different aspects such as the raised beds, the communal beds, the orchard, the wildflower meadow and even the compost heaps. We even coppice the hazels so there is no need for bamboo.

We have even had some volunteers who just enjoy walking around with the lawn mower.

Unlike parks and other open spaces the garden allows people to get their hands dirty and actually grow and harvest things.

During the winter I get my exercise from digging the plot, barrowing compost, seaweed or woodchips and helping maintain all of the various aspects of the gardens.
I'm sure I wouldn't be so fit without it, both mentally and physically.

The proposal made by the group applying for the garden makes sense in that the remaining part of the area could be developed as assisted living or disabled housing with easy access to the garden.

East Lothian Council have funding for a paved and lit path at the boundary between the two halves of the site should the proposal be accepted.

Can I recommend to you that you accept the CAT application from Sustaining Dunbar and work with them towards a healthy future in Dunbar and area.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 10:57 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden
Dear NHS Scotland

I write to support the Belhaven Community Garden group's campaign to take the Community Garden into community ownership. The garden is well-established, with a fantastic number of fruit trees of many different varieties and growing areas for vegetables. The site serves as a community resource, for both volunteers working on the garden and local residents who enjoy access to a beautiful open space. Development of the site for housing would represent a great loss, turning accessible open space into private land and destroying an environmental oasis of great value. Its retention would be especially important as Dunbar expands over open land, reducing green space.

I am a local resident, at [REDACTED], Belhaven, Dunbar EH42 1ZT.

I trust that you will acknowledge the environmental and social benefits of the garden and secure its future by transferring it to community ownership.

Best wishes
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 11:45 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Support for Belhaven Community Garden
Thanks for your response. My address is:

[REDACTED]
West Barns,
EH42 1UG

Regards,
[REDACTED]

On Fri, 13 Feb 2026, 07:20 [REDACTED] > wrote:
To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in support of the application for Belhaven Community Garden to be taken into community ownership. The garden is of massive benefit to the community. It's important for mental health as a peaceful and productive space and a way to socialise for lots of vulnerable members of the community, as well as being a wonderful resource for produce and education. Kids cooking classes have taken place there and the annual wassailing and apple pressing celebrations are a brilliant addition to the community calendar. It would be tremendously sad to potentially lose all of the volunteers hard work.

Thanks for your consideration.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 3:25 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Community Empowerment team,

I am emailing in support of the Community Asset Transfer Request recently submitted by Belhaven Community Garden. I began volunteering at the garden shortly after moving to Dunbar in 2023. It has been a great opportunity to learn more about food production and horticulture generally whilst also introducing me to the local community. Everyone was always very welcoming, and becoming familiar with other volunteers and seeing them around town has really helped me to feel settled in the area. I've enjoyed helping out with harvests and preserves production; both for the accomplishment of having helped to grow food, but also just to have a truly local source of fruit and veg, for myself and others. I know that many people benefit from spending time "working" outdoors, and the community garden has definitely been helpful for me. My day job as a software engineer leaves me in front of a screen all day and spending time at the allotment quite literally keeps me grounded in the here and now, the time of year, as seasons progress. It's an opportunity to concentrate on the plants, trees and soil to keep them healthy and productive, and so troubles from work or life become secondary. I hope this helps as another concrete example of the social benefits of the garden that the application has outlined.

One of the draws of Dunbar for me was the closeness of our natural resources to places where people live. I can walk to mature woodlands or sand dunes, watch deer, woodpeckers, hedgehogs, curlews, seals and more. The garden is also a place where we work alongside nature and it feels so vital given the current devastating levels of habitat and species loss across the country as a whole. We have lost and continue to lose so much space for nature in Dunbar and Belhaven and it really would be heartbreaking to see the garden being destroyed and replaced with more asphalt. I've worked in that soil - it's so good. Rich, full of life, and ready to sustain insects, birds and herbivores as well as us. It fulfils provisions for green space and allotments that the council is supposed to make available and it is the right site to do that. An additional reason it is the right site was shown just this week as I took a train out to Edinburgh and saw so much of the local area flooded from the recent rainfall: the garden was not under water. The garden, being a varied and healthy micro-ecosystem, had been absorbing the rainfall without being overwhelmed. It is a perfect example of what we need MORE of.

The land was given to the community for health and agricultural purposes, and I really hope that the garden at least gets to remain so.

Thanks for your time,

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1RF

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 6:36 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden
To whom it may concern at Lothian NHS Board,

BELHAVEN COMMUNITY GARDEN

I am emailing to support the application to take Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership. As a local resident and the parent of a young family, we frequently visit the community garden to enjoy the fruit trees and the allotments. My children engage with the growers when we visit and feel welcomed. My children have learned lots about growing, plants and planting in a supportive local environment. As a teacher in the local primary school, I hugely value this type of outdoor learning. When we moved to Belhaven some years ago, other local residents showed us the garden and we have made frequent use of it ever since.

The garden is a great resource for our local community and is well used by many different groups and individuals. Many local residents use the community garden for growing fresh vegetables and fruit. Many older local residents visit the community garden for fresh air, company and exercise since it is so close to their homes. It would be a shameful and completely illogical decision to sell the garden for private housing developers to exploit. Given the increasingly robust and established evidence base around the positive impacts of the practice of green social prescribing, the prospect of the NHS selling the garden for profit seems incredibly short-sighted, even perverse. Green social prescribing specifically includes involvement in community gardening projects.

As a home owner in the immediate vicinity of the garden, I feel very strongly that the loss of the community garden would adversely impact our lives and I have grave concerns about the impact on my own street of increased levels of traffic.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Belhaven
EH42 1ZT

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 7:52 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community garden

My name is [REDACTED] and my address is [REDACTED], Dunbar, EH42 1PY.

I do not want this garden being sold for housing. It is a wonderful community asset. It's a unique natural resource for people, plants, insects and animals; it fosters community health, wellbeing and diversity. It's a much needed space for community growing of fresh fruit and vegetables as well as individual plots. It needs to be under community ownership.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2026 1:09 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden
Hi

I would support Belhaven Community Garden being taken into community ownership. The garden & particularly the orchard is an amazing space to take our grandchildren and to let them experience & understand how food is grown. The garden is an important space for Dunbar, East Linton & surrounding areas. Please help us keep this space for the good health of the community.

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1HS

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2026 2:23 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Save Belhaven Community Garden

Hi there,
I am emailing in support of saving the Belhaven Community Garden. This land was given to the local community over 120 years ago to promote health and wellbeing for the community. To turn around and sell the whole site for housing development is not only a shame, but disrespectful to the community and those who have looked after the land for over a century. Communities value these types of gardens, and seeing them sold off for profit and turned into more housing developments is horrendous.
I stand with the Belhaven Community Garden. Do not sell.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED] Dunbar, EH42 1DW

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2026 3:45 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden Community Asset Transfer application

I write in support of the application for a Community Asset Transfer of the Belhaven Community Garden.

I am a resident of East Lothian and have friends in Dunbar who took my wife and me to an event at the Community Garden a couple of years ago. It was a lovely experience. Well attended by community members including those playing an active role in growing fruit and vegetables, there was a special atmosphere that was welcoming and celebratory. There were delicious homemade refreshments and plants for sale.

It was evident that the Community Garden was a place where people could learn new skills and build new relationships. We met friendly people who were happy to talk to strangers and make them feel included.

Dunbar is fortunate in having this creative space which is clearly a valued community asset. Places to meet, co-operate and experience nature are increasingly important for community wellbeing and for developing the social networks that are so vital for the community resilience that is essential in the face of climate change.

[REDACTED]
North Berwick
EH39 4AZ

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 9:39 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Community purchase of gardens

Dear Sir/Madam

I strongly support the community purchase of the garden from NHS Lothian. This wonderful resource should be retained from the benefit of the community and not sold for housing.

[REDACTED]
Dunbar EH42 1GF

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 3:11 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

It is important that Belhaven Community Garden is not sold for redevelopment because, simply: gardening;working outdoors; sharing with others,;forming a community are all vital ingredients for people's mental health and this is currently being promoted by GP practices. So to sell off land that has been well used by a community gardening group for a considerable number of years would reflect badly on the NHS.

[REDACTED]
West Barns
Dunbar EH42 1UF

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 6:25 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden
Dear NHS Lothian,

I have recently been made aware by a friend living in Belhaven of the application by local residents to take Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership. This is an impressive community initiative organised by Sustaining Dunbar and I would strongly support it in protecting this invaluable local asset for the benefit of everyone living in the Dunbar and East Linton ward long-term.

With the intense pressure on NHS funding at present, there is a clear risk that you may not be able to maintain this precious local asset in future and be forced to sell the land for housing development, which would not benefit the local community nor enhance the beauty of the area. Living in Glasgow, with its venerated 'dear green spaces', and multiple community gardens, I am only too aware of the health and life-giving benefits these gardens make, as well as maintaining the strength and pride of local communities, within an increasingly impersonal and anonymous world. For this reason, I write to support the local Belhaven and Dunbar community initiative to take on ownership of the Belhaven Community Garden and would urge you to accept their application for the health and welfare of all those living in Dunbar and East Linton ward, thus also protecting an area of great beauty important to Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Glasgow G12 9XP

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 9:26 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden Asset Transfer

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write to support the request by Sustaining Dunbar to have the Belhaven Community Garden transferred into community ownership.

NHS Lothian will be more aware than anyone of the reliability and consistency of Sustaining Dunbar as a third sector organisation. The health and wellbeing benefits that the garden has brought to residents in the town over many years are a tribute to an organisation that can be trusted to take this project forward. The indirect cost to NHS Lothian of not supporting this transfer would be reflected in the health bill over many decades, so I do hope that the NHS will do everything in its power to make this transfer happen.

You will be aware of all the other environmental and educational benefits of getting behind this project, but on health grounds alone I would hope that NHS Lothian will see the benefit to the NHS of making the transfer a reality.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dunbar EH42 1HB

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 2:15 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I write to lend my voice to the campaign for Belhaven Community Garden to be taken into community ownership. The campaign group have a wide base of local support and a huge drive to deliver a successful outcome. The health and welfare benefits of community gardens are widely acknowledged, both in terms of the impact on the physical and the mental health of those involved in working in the garden and those who visit and enjoy being in the beautiful open space.

I am a regular visitor to this part of East Lothian as my retired mother lives in Belhaven. We have visited Belhaven Community Garden and

have seen firsthand the really positive impact it has on all individuals, young and older folk, who get involved in helping out or just like being in the garden.

I hope NHS Lothian takes on board the voice of everyone concerned and invests in the future wellbeing of the local community and its visitors by allowing this community ownership request to go ahead.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Elgin IV30 1QG

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 8:18 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven: In support of community ownership

I am writing in support of the local community taking ownership of the former Belhaven Hospital grounds for the purpose of continuing to provide a community garden. This benefits the local residents by strengthening social connections, developing skills, protecting the environment and boosting mental wellbeing.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1PG

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 7:32 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hello,

I'm writing to show my support for the Belhaven Community Garden's application for an asset transfer.

The Garden is much-loved, well-used community space which would be a real loss to our community if developed for other uses. Many other community groups in the area make good use of the garden and it is a unique space to go for therapeutic walks and relaxation. This part of Dunbar has acres of new housing encroaching on our green space which makes the garden even more important in the future.

Regards

[REDACTED], Dunbar EH42 1SR)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 8:28 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Community asset transfer - Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope this email finds you well. I just wanted to express my gratitude and appreciation of Belhaven Community Garden. It's been an amazing space to meet friends, grow fruit and vegetables together and bring up children. I can't imagine the loss we would feel if the garden was to shut. The garden's provided a happy place to our and a lot of other families. I hope we will be able to go there in the future.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cove, Cockburnspath

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 11:06 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Request to Explore Purchase of Belhaven Community Garden Land

Dear Estates Department,

I am writing as a local supporter of Belhaven Community Garden in East Lothian regarding the land currently owned by NHS Lothian.

Although I am not writing in an official capacity on behalf of the garden, I care deeply about its future and the significant contribution it makes to the local community. Over time, the garden has become far more than a growing space. It provides a therapeutic environment that supports mental and physical wellbeing, offers opportunities for people to grow food together in a supportive setting, enables the sharing of practical horticultural and regenerative land-care skills, and actively enhances biodiversity and soil health.

These benefits align strongly with wider public health priorities, particularly around prevention, wellbeing, and community resilience. The garden represents a positive and constructive use of land that continues to deliver measurable social and environmental value.

With this in mind, I would respectfully ask whether NHS Lothian would be willing to explore the possibility of selling the land in order to secure its long-term protection as a community asset. Community ownership would provide stability and ensure that the site continues to serve local people for generations to come.

Thank you for considering this request. I would be grateful for any information about whether such a discussion might be possible.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Dunbar EH42 1PH

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 7:22 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to lodge my support for those intending to take the Belhaven Community Garden land into community ownership, against NHS Lothian plans to sell it for more housing development. This garden has been a refuge for so many people in Dunbar, supporting their mental and physical wellbeing at no cost to the NHS, and keeping them away from needing the support of your already overstretched staff. To build more houses here would mean the opposite of that: more strain on our already overburdened infrastructure; more traffic on our roads, more children in our classrooms, more people at your GP surgeries. As a concerned neighbour I am hereby lodging my formal protest against the NHS plans. Keep the garden as it is, an oasis of peace, and a community resource for the benefit of all.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1PW

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 12:10 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden - Community Ownership

I write in support of the above in their application to take the community garden at Beveridge Row, Dunbar, into Community Ownership.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1TP

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 12:13 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden - Community Ownership

I write in support of the above, in their application to take the community garden at Beveridge Row, Dunbar, into Community Ownership.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1TP

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2026 10:30 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Gardens

Dear Sirs

I would to lend my support to the transfer of assets (garden) at Belhaven Hospital to Belhaven Community Gardens. This area is a safe haven for many people in the Dunbar/ West Barns areas including schools, nurseries and community groups as well as individuals who might simply want an area that's peaceful and can help them cultivate some fruit/ veg of their own.

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dunbar
EH42 1GE

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2026 11:56 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sirs,

I am in full support of Belhaven Community Garden being saved in perpetuity. To benefit the local community is paramount because of the following reasons:
The NHS is short of hospital beds. To me, it is a no-brainer to have as many fit and healthy people able to access the outdoors they might not otherwise have because they live in a flat and or have no access to a garden of their own. This garden offers both physical and mental support to those who seek it through gardening as well as being able to interact socially with likeminded people.
It has been proven by various health bodies having access to the outdoors, to garden, to take a walk among nature, listen to birdsong benefits everyone both physically and mentally.
I find it ironic that on the one hand NHS Lothian is actively promoting, delivering and encouraging members of the public to spend time outdoors by telling us it is good for us and placing this link below on its website whilst on the other considers taking away opportunity and access to members of the public, in this case the residents of Belhaven, to its green space and community garden. This wonderful green space is jammed in, with the sea and existing housing on two sides plus new housing on the other. Where else can Belhaven Community find land, precious as it is, elsewhere?

Tune into nature...



Some ideas to get connected:

- Find your "sit spot" – a favourite place in nature to rest and just be. Visit often and get to know the local wildlife.
- Open your window and listen to the sound of rain.
- Smell the fragrance of yellow gorse blossoms.
- Visit Edinburgh's Seaside and touch the sea.
- Look for the first star appearing in the night sky.
- Get to know a city tree and notice how it changes through the seasons.
- Notice three good things in nature. How do you feel as you bring these to mind?
- Watch crows play.
- Follow the journey of a leaf floating downstream.
- Discover a green space in the city that you've never been to before.
- Appreciate a cloud.
- Walk barefoot in the grass. What do you feel underfoot?
- Volunteer at a community garden or clean up.
- Listen out for five curious sounds in nature. How does your body respond as you listen?
- Have lunch in a local park. Watch birds foraging for their lunch.
- Head to your favourite hilltop and take in the sunrise or sunset over the city.
- Give nature a home in your garden. Maybe plant wildflowers for bees and butterflies. Visit rspb.org.uk for more ideas.

The full calendar of nature prescription activities is available at participating Health Centres.

"Nature can be seen as a great outpatient department whose therapeutic value is yet to be fully realised."

Dr William Bird

Find a park or natural heritage site near you:

mypark.scot
edinburghoutdoors.org.uk
edinburgh.gov.uk/parks-greenspaces/natural-heritage-sites

Explore Edinburgh's walking paths:

edinburgh.gov.uk/quietroutes

Discover local walking groups:

pathsforall.org.uk
ramblers.org.uk
edinburghleisure.co.uk/ageing-well-walks

Fun nature ideas for families:

rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-families/family-wild-challenge/

Volunteer to help nature thrive:

edinburgh.gov.uk/friends-edinburgh-greenspace
lcv.org.uk

Directions to nature:

Head to your nearest front door.

Nature Prescriptions is a pilot project designed by RSPB Scotland in collaboration with NHS Lothian and GPs. We welcome and value feedback about your experience.

Contact us

RSPB Scotland, 2 Lochside View, Edinburgh Park,
Edinburgh EH12 9DH Tel: 0131 317 4100
Email: natureprescriptions@rspb.org.uk

Cover image by benedek (stockphoto.com); robin and blackbird by RSPB. The RSPB is a registered charity in England and Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037654. 030-0799-19-20

Here is your nature prescription



Working together:



[RSPB-Nature-Prescriptions-Edinburgh-Pilot-Leaflet-Web](#)

[PDF Document · 3.3 MB](#)

I also draw your attention to the documentary 'Finding Harmony: A King's Vision,' currently available on Amazon Prime. There is a strong message in this documentary that draws a strong connection between it and what has been achieved to date with the Belhaven Community Garden. Please, I beg NHS Lothian to dig deep into its moral conscience when making their decision.

Regards

[Redacted]
Belhaven EH42 1QQ
East Lothian

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2026 5:01 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

To whom it may concern:

I should like to register my support for the application that has been made to take Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership. This ground was given to the local community more than 120 years ago to promote local health and wellbeing, with specific provision that it be retained for agricultural or recreational purposes. Taking it into community ownership is entirely in line with this provision whilst

selling it for housing would be completely against it. The garden provides a unique natural resource for people, plants, insects and animals, supporting community, health, wellbeing and biodiversity and it is therefore important that you grant the application.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1LT

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2026 5:45 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hi

This is being sent from

[REDACTED]

West Barns

Dunbar EH42 1WA

We are writing to show our support for community ownership of the Belhaven Community Garden. We have been involved with the garden since we moved to West Barns in 2017. We understand that the ground was given to the local community over 120 years ago to be used for agricultural and recreational purposes. It was also to be used to promote local health and wellbeing.

It is such a fantastic place where local people can come together to grow fruit and vegetables and feel part of a community in a healthy environment. It also Plays host to many groups and projects. It would be a terrible loss to many people and groups if the garden were to be lost.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 8:24 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Community Asset Transfer - Belhaven Garden

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in support of the community asset transfer of the Belhaven garden, part of the Belhaven Hospital Site at Beveridge Row, Dunbar, EH42 1TR.

The community garden has been running for almost 14 years, providing a haven of biodiversity and community engagement. Building houses on this land would destroy over 100 productive apple, pear and plum trees and remove an important amenity for local residents for limited short term financial return.

Over the years, I've seen the garden strengthen community ties, providing learning and recreation to multiple generations including the very young and the very old. During COVID it was a special place for people to meet outdoors and maintain the social fabric. I know that for many friends and neighbours it has become an essential part of their social life and bolsters their wellbeing.

Our part of East Lothian has lost a lot of agricultural land to housing, often with poor planning which use more land than might be needed (low intensity housing compared with apartment blocks). This land will never go back to food production or biodiversity.

NHS Lothian was originally given the land Belhaven Hospital sits on for the community use. Sustaining Dunbar and the people who take part in the Belhaven Community Garden have trusted the NHS in a mutually beneficial arrangement for many years, investing in making the site what it is. That investment must not be wasted

I trust that NHS Lothian will rule in favour of the transfer, and that all effort will be made to accommodate the gardeners - maintaining access and water facilities so that they can continue to benefit the local population for many years to come.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Dunbar
EH42 1QA

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 9:03 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Support for Asset Transfer Request – Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Asset Transfer Team,

I am writing to express my full support for the community application to purchase Belhaven Community Garden. My name is [Redacted] and I live locally. I value the garden deeply as a vital community space that delivers social, environmental and wellbeing benefits far beyond its physical footprint. Belhaven Community Garden is not simply a gardening site - it is a shared place of learning, connection and resilience. It brings together people of all ages and backgrounds, supports mental and physical health, provides opportunities for food growing and climate education, and strengthens local relationships. Spaces like this are increasingly rare and their preventative value to health and wellbeing should not be underestimated. What is particularly powerful about this garden is the breadth of its use. It supports not only individual gardeners, but local groups, volunteers, families and community initiatives. It is woven into the fabric of the town and reflects the very spirit of community empowerment that the Asset Transfer legislation was designed to enable. Community ownership would secure the garden's future, protect its accessibility, and allow it to continue growing as a local asset for public benefit. I strongly encourage NHS Lothian to support this application and recognise the depth and breadth of community value the garden provides.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Dunbar
Eh42 1HD

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 9:03 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Support for the Belhaven Community Garden Community Asset Transfer

Dear NHS Lothian,

I am writing to express my support of the Community Asset Transfer for the Belhaven Community Garden, at Belhaven Community Hospital Site, Beveridge Row, Dunbar, EH42 1TR.

I am outraged that the opinion of certain individuals in key positions in NHS Lothian, a famously essential public oriented institution, is being strongly persuaded to hand this part of the community over to privatised interests.

As a young person living in modern British society, I am closely aware of the increasingly fewer opportunities to get involved in any project larger than myself the primary objective of which is more significant than making money. Therefore, as I see that community life can be so easily overlooked, I am asking to prioritise the Community Asset Transfer.

Do we not teach children in primary and nursery schools to share? Do we not think something may be wrong with them if they hoard things to themselves? And yet certain views in certain individuals in the leadership of NHS Lothian as of late are appearing more willing to let the short term financial gains from this social and biological haven be hoarded away to individuals WHO DO NOT LIVE ANYWHERE NEAR US!!

I planted several of the trees in the garden in person with the help of other people I can name in the community fourteen years ago. I greatly respect NHS Lothian, and I do want to support the NHS as an institution, as I have seen it is unique even in the whole world in this 21st century. However I would not continue to respect the leadership of NHS Lothian if I were to watch the trees I planted with others in the community torn up by workers I do not know, contracted by individuals they do not know, as they drive trucks over our trees for a little money that we will never see.

The NHS deals with money each and every year that far outweighs the worth it would gain from selling the site. However absurd it may seem to certain individuals that fourteen years of friendly community work on the site might be worth more than 1 million pounds, I would still urge them to reconsider. There are more lucrative ways to earn money for our beloved NHS than choking community projects, like the Belhaven Community Garden, which actually directly help the young British people growing up in this 21st century RIGHT NOW.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1QA

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 7:06 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden asset transfer

I wish to express my support for this bid to transfer the Belhaven Community Garden into Community ownership. This is an important local asset supporting and enriching the lives of many local individuals and groups.

[REDACTED]

Dunbar EH42 1WA

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 8:40 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Save Belhaven Community Garden

Hello,

I am writing in support of saving the Belhaven Community Garden. This is an essential part of our community providing services that support the health and wellbeing of so many in Dunbar and further afield. From teaching people how to grow their own food to providing rural skills classes, it is a valuable teaching resource. As doctors are being urged to prescribe time in the outdoors, closing this garden flies in the face of best practice. So much volunteer time, care and love have gone into this garden it would be a travesty to lose it at this stage.

[REDACTED]
Dunbar EH421GL

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 10:05 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Hi

I am writing to demonstrate my support for Sustaining Dunbar's proposal to transfer Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership. This would maintain the land use for the community and as a therapeutic space. It is much loved.

[REDACTED], Dunbar
EH42 1GG

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 12:20 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven community garden appeal

Dear NHS Lothian

I am writing to add my support to the application of the community to buy the land for the Belhaven community garden.

This is an important community project, benefiting all ages - mental health and loneliness in older people, introducing children to gardening and understanding where food comes from and providing a community space. Projects such as this, which give people purpose and company, are valuable in reducing depression and anxiety, and act to reduce consultations in primary care.

Dunbar already has more than enough new housing, and I would strongly urge those in a position to save this project to do so.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED] Dunbar EH42 1AB

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 5:21 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sir / Madam,

I would like to support the Community Asset Transfer application made by Belhaven Community Garden.

The garden is a much loved community space which is used by many groups like the Beavers and the Dementia Carer's group. It has a beautiful orchard with Scottish heritage varieties and it is a unique space to go for therapeutic walks. The volunteers learn so much by looking after the garden and growing fruit and food for themselves and the local community. They have run educational projects for teenagers in the last few years which teaches them how to grow, how to work together and the value of growing organically. It is also a really important space for young parents with preschool children. They can explore and meet other people, share ideas and feel a part of the community.

This part of Dunbar has many new houses encroaching on the green space which makes the garden even more important for everyone who lives in the area nearby.

I fully expect that the NHS Board will recognise the value of this community amenity and agree to the bid made by Belhaven Community Garden.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Dunbar, EH42 1HA

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 6:51 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I, [REDACTED], support the application to save the Belhaven Community Garden, by taking the garden ground into community ownership. The ground should be kept for the purposes that it was originally gifted to the community, for agricultural land and as pleasure grounds, hence for growing food, and for the health and well-being of the community. It would not be appropriate to put new housing on it, and moreover I believe that the local infrastructure is already having issues coping with so much extra housing. What we need much more is to retain our beautiful green spaces for community activities. It is a really lovely garden, which I visited on a Civic Week event where an expert from the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens told us about the great variety of wild-flowers growing there. The gardens have the potential to act as an important resource of biodiversity, but also to provide education and training opportunities around agriculture and environmental sciences as well as gardening, and the understanding of nature in its widest sense. The gardens can provide opportunities for planting and watching the produce grow, then harvesting it and eating it. Drawing classes could also take place here, as well as events for families and people with disabilities or convalescents, and in fact for any group that takes a positive interest in the grounds. It will be a real shame if such a beautiful garden, now well established, should be lost to the community. I wholeheartedly support this application by Sustaining Dunbar.

[REDACTED] Dunbar, East Lothian, EH42 1GW.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 8:44 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I feel strongly that the application from Belhaven Community Garden for community ownership should be approved.

The garden is a great asset to the community in so many ways: for health and well being, for community cohesion, to reduce isolation, to increase biodiversity to name a few. I have participated in events in the Garden and am looking forward to becoming more involved as I retire. It would be a great loss if the land were to be sold and not come into community ownership. I admire the vision and dedication of those who are very much involved in taking this project forward. The Garden provides opportunities for all ages in our community, it is an inclusive project that will reap benefits now and in years to come.

[REDACTED]
Dunbar,
EH42 1UX.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 9:35 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Belhaven Community Garden - Note of Support

I am sorry that I did not give an address for the Dunbar and East Linton Health and Wellbeing Group. It is c/o [REDACTED] Dunbar and East Linton Health and Wellbeing Group, [REDACTED] Belhaven, Dunbar, EH42 1NP
[REDACTED]

On Wed, 25 Feb 2026 at 09:11, ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot> wrote:

Thank you for your email on the asset transfer request submitted for Belhaven Community Garden. *Anyone may make representations about this request to NHS Lothian. Representations must be in writing and include the name and address of the person making it. A copy of the representation will be given to the organisation making the request.*

For us to take this into consideration in the evaluation process, please could you provide either your or the Groups address.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2026 6:34 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden - Note of Support

I am writing, as Chair of Dunbar and East Linton Health and Wellbeing Group, in support of the CAT request for Belhaven Community Garden.

The Group opposed the closure of Belhaven Community Hospital which was contrary to the promises of successive SNP Health Ministers and NHS Lothian Managers- that the Hospital would not close until alternative provisions were in place.

At the IIA meeting considering the Hospital and Care Home closure , the importance to the community of Belhaven Community Garden was stressed..

Belhaven Community Garden is a vital green lung in the built up area. It offers a growing space, a place for community connections and a therapeutic space for services to those with learning, and physical disabilities or mental health needs.,

The Garden is part of NHS Lothians green space strategy..

The garden grows food that is sold to the Community Carrot shop and is used by other local food distribution enterprises like Sunny Soups and Sunny's Dinners.

The continuation of the land use for community use and food growing is in line with the original endowment of the land.

It is known that any proposals to develop the land for housing will be opposed by the community.. There is not the required infrastructure for any housing development of the site in terms of education, roads , drainage and sewage.

[REDACTED]

Dunbar and East Linton Health and Wellbeing Group

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 9:36 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreg@nhs.scot>

Subject: Re: Support for BelhavenCommunity Garden Community Asset Transfer Request

I am sorry that I forgot to put my address on the note of support

It is [REDACTED] Belhaven, Dunbar, EH42 1NP
[REDACTED]

On Wed, 25 Feb 2026 at 09:10, ComEmpReq <loth.comempreg@nhs.scot> wrote:

Thank you for your email on the asset transfer request submitted for Belhaven Community Garden.

Anyone may make representations about this request to NHS Lothian. Representations must be in writing and include the name and address of the person making it. A copy of the representation will be given to the organisation making the request.

For us to take this into consideration in the evaluation process, please could you provide your address.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2026 6:03 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreg@nhs.scot>

Subject: Support for BelhavenCommunity Garden Community Asset Transfer Request

I wish to record support for this request.

Belhaven Community Garden is a vital green lung in the community- a space for making community connections. As well as growing space it offers a place for therapeutic support for those with disabilities or mental health needs. Fruit and vegetable produce goes to the Community Carrot shop and other community food venues,

Its importance to the community was stressed at the IIA meeting regarding the closure of Belhaven Hospital. That closure was contrary to the wishes of the community and promises made by both the NHS and successive SNP Health Ministers - that Belhaven Hospital would not close until such time as new facilities were in place. The closure of the Hospital was a major blow to the community. which felt betrayed by NHS Lothian and the East Lothian IJB.

The Garden has had a longstanding place in the NHS Lothian greenspace strategy which should be maintained. The Community will oppose any ;proposals for housing development of the site for which there is no infrastructure in terms of education or health facilities. The original endowment of the land was for the benefit of the community and not for the profits of housing developers/NHS..

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 2:03 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Garden Support

Hello,
I'm [REDACTED] and I live at
[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1LA

I am writing this in support of the Belhaven garden community ownership request.

Warm regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 3:38 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Hospital Site at Beveridge Row, Dunbar, EH42 1TR.

We are writing to note my support for the Community Asset Transfer proposal for the above site to Belhaven Community Garden.

This space is very important to our local community and supports a range of initiatives and allows local people to work together in a community to learn and develop knowledge on biodiversity, and to grow local foods for the community. As green space continues to diminish and with the loss of agricultural land in East Lothian to both industry and housing. It is intrinsic that we protect places which are important both for humankind and biodiversity. This space has been a successful functioning community garden and a proud part of Dunbar and Belhaven for a significant period of time. Sustaining Dunbar and the volunteers and individuals who work with the garden are dedicated to taking this space forward in a substantiable way.

We would hate to see it sold for profit and more green space lost.

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH42 1ZR

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 8:05 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am writing to support the action to save the Community Garden.

Since moving to the nearby Cala houses in 2020 in our 80s, I have enjoyed strolling in the garden at all times of year. It is a place for enjoying garden bird song as well as seeing the growing of so many fruit trees, and the hard intelligent work being put into vegetable plots, and it is so good to see the community working and enjoying time together. I believe it could be a growing resource for families, children and sharing resources. I believe that it would be a very negative move to destroy what is a very positive project. The ground should not be withdrawn from the local community.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dunbar, EH42 1ZU)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 10:50 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden Community Asset Transfer Request

Please register my support for this application to acquire Belhaven Community Garden for the local community by a Community Asset Transfer to Sustaining Dunbar at "current use value". This is a tremendous opportunity for NHS Lothian to demonstrate its commitment to the multitude of policies and principles approved by NHS Lothian's own charity as well as by both East Lothian Council and the Scottish Government which recognise the importance of green spaces and locally run projects which encourage and facilitate community growing and individual health management. These principles are also recognised internationally. Sustaining Dunbar and Belhaven Community Garden have a proven track record of delivery. For NHS Lothian to refuse this CAT Request would result in the destruction of a much-valued local resource and the damage caused by that would far exceed the physical destruction. This land was originally transferred into public ownership as an act of trust in order to provide health care for the local community. NHS Lothian now carries that trust and I hope that the Board will recognise that the moral duty which comes with that trust requires that it be safeguarded for the local community now and in the future as a life-giving resource.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dunbar EH42 1AJ

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2026 2:52 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Support for community ownership of Belhaven Community Garden

Good afternoon,

I am emailing to add my support for the community ownership of Belhaven Community Garden.

My family and I have enjoyed various volunteering sessions and events at the garden since moving to Dunbar in 2022. My eldest son has autism, and it provides a safe, judgment-free outdoor space for him to regulate himself and spend time in nature. My youngest son equally benefits from the garden and loves running down the paths and enjoying the fruit trees.

We are so lucky to have such a beautiful space in Dunbar - a town that has rapidly expanded even since we moved here. Strains on public health providers are evident in the area; however, we have the Belhaven Community Garden to help boost our town's physical and mental health. In a time when communities are becoming more disparate and disconnected, here is a space to remedy loneliness and foster inter-generational friendships.

My hope is that the community is successful in its bid for community ownership of the beautiful Belhaven Garden.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Dunbar,
EH42 1BZ

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 5:01 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Support for the Belhaven Community Garden

Dear NHS Lothian,

I am a resident of Belhaven, Dunbar ([REDACTED] Belhaven EH42 1nt.) and would like to add my support for the request to take the garden into community ownership to the benefit of everyone in Dunbar and nearby residents.

Best wishes, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, February 27, 2026 9:03 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: West Barns Community Council - Support for Belhaven Community Garden CAT

I have been asked to write on behalf of West Barns Community Council.(WBCC)

WBCC met on 26th February and discussed the CAT application for the land currently leased by the Community Garden from NHS.

WBCC support the application.

The Community Garden is an important green space for the community to enjoy in the area which is seeing more housing being built. It has been established for over a decade as a growing space but also as a place where

therapeutic activities take place for individuals with physical or learning disabilities or mental health needs. It is a gathering space for community social activities like the annual wassailing of the fruit orchard. The Community Garden offers volunteering opportunities for those interested in food growing . A number of volunteers live in West Barns.

The Community Garden sells produce to the Community Carrot shop and contributes produce to projects like Sunny's Soups and Sunny's Dinners which support the less well off in the community.. The Community Garden provides a habitat for a number of birds, mammals and insects which are under pressure from house building and other development in the nearby area.

WBCC Trust that NHS will approve the CAT request which would be in line with the original endowment of the land by the Warrender family.

[REDACTED]

WBCC

[REDACTED] Belhaven, Dunbar, EH42 1NP

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2026 11:32 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Representation - Belhaven Community Garden

Hello,

I'm a 32-year-old Agroecology student at the Royal Agricultural University. Through our studies specifically aimed at small scale farming, I came across Belhaven Community Garden and was instantly taken by how beloved the space clearly was, and the amount of effort put into its stacked enterprises.

We live in a time when these spaces are increasingly important to local communities' mental and physical health, and as such should be protected.

My address is:

[REDACTED]

GL7 6JS

Have a lovely day.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2026 4:52 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Belhaven Community Garden
EH42 1JH

On Fri, 27 Feb 2026, 14:07 ComEmpReq, <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot> wrote:

Hi Gail,

Thank you for your email on the asset transfer request submitted for Belhaven Community Garden.

Anyone may make representations about this request to NHS Lothian. Representations must be in writing and include the name and address of the person making it. A copy of the representation will be given to the organisation making the request.

For us to take this into consideration in the evaluation process, please could you also provide your postcode.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2026 8:40 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am just emailing to say I have loved the work and community engagement I have seen over the years at Belhaven. It helps connect teenagers who need grounding. It connects families with bringing in the harvest, shared activities such as cooking together making juice together build community and without community you have dissolution and depression and lack of empathy. Rooting people to the growth cycle is healing and uplifting.

Please keep this garden open

[REDACTED], Dunbar

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2026 7:52 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Bellhaven Community Garden

To whom it may concern:

We fully support the project of taking the Bellhaven Community Garden into community ownership so as to protect this asset for the benefit of everyone living in the Dunbar and East Linton ward in the long term.

This is a valuable community resource and the number of men, women and children it keeps off the mental health waiting list is incalculable, to say nothing of the pleasure and social cohesion it provides.

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1AB

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2026 8:37 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Save Belhaven Community Garden

Hi,
My name is [REDACTED] I live nearby to the Belhaven Community Garden, at [REDACTED] Dunbar.

My wife and I regularly visit the garden for a walk during our work week. We also regularly harvest fresh fruit and vegetables during the growing season and into winter.

It is a vital greenspace that provides a wealth of benefits to us and the community. We thoroughly enjoy the space at all times of year and fully support the community asset transfer.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2026 9:15 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Save Belhaven Community Garden

To whom it may concern

I support saving the Belhaven Community Garden!

The garden is the pride of the local community and it must be surely in the interest of NHS to support local initiatives which give residents a safe and enjoyable space; which benefits also mental health and thus reduces the work load on NHS.

Thank you
[REDACTED]

Haddington

EH41 4LP

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2026 8:35 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Save Belgaven Community Garden

Hi there,

My name is [REDACTED] and I reside at [REDACTED] Dunbar EH42 1PG.

My family and I would be grateful to continue to enjoy the great benefits that the community garden offers.

We are in favor of it being transferred to the community.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2026 10:44 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

To whom it may concern

I would like to express my strong support for the application to bring Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership.

This space provides important therapeutic and learning space for many local people and groups. And it offers a biodiverse area within Dunbar, and in a wider frame, the intensively cultivated area of East Lothian. Retaining the

gardens for the local community would help alleviate the impact of extensive housing developments on the local environment. The skills and produce 'growing' out of the gardens are fundamental examples of real sustainability in action rather than being just a buzzword.

The last thing this town needs is losing even more green space to more development for short lived profits.

As a neighbour to the gardens, I can confirm just how much this space is used by local community groups as well as individuals on a daily basis. As a result, it is imperative that such an asset to the community is preserved for the long term benefit of all who live in Dunbar, and the wider environs.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

Dunbar,
EH42 1PH

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2026 11:03 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Community Asset Transfer for part of Belhaven Hospital Site at Beveridge Row, Dunbar EH42 1TR

Hi, I am writing to support the above transfer of land to Sustaining Dunbar for the purposes of community use as a community garden and orchard.

Such a facility is of immeasurable benefit to people of all ages in Dunbar - a place for people to go for peace and relaxation, help out with the garden and orchard, learning new skills or practising old ones and producing food for folk that have less than others. A place where all sorts of different types of plants can flourish.

Regards,

[Redacted]

Dunbar
EH42 1GG

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2026 11:04 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

[Redacted]

Dunbar
Eh42 1nl

The Community Garden is a lovely spot where people can either just chill out or help in some way. It is one of the few green spaces in Dunbar where one can be lost in thought. I would like to see it remain in the community for the benefit of all. [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2026 11:32 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am contacting you to express my support for the Belhaven Community Garden to be granted community ownership.

This is such an important resource for the whole community of Dunbar whose value cannot be underestimated. It provides a space for people from all backgrounds and ages to come together to enjoy nature, companionship and help create what is a genuinely flourishing, productive garden. A dedicated band of volunteers have turned what was a very underused piece of land into an orchard, allotments with bee hives, raised beds and poly tunnel full of vegetables as well as a delightful sensory garden. Everyone is welcome to come and share in the work and produce and community events such as Apple day are a regular feature. Encouraging such participation is an essential part of promoting mental health and combating loneliness in Dunbar - very much needed in this day and age. I know that the garden would be in safe hands in community ownership and would continue to provide a really significant contribution to the health and well being of our community in Dunbar.

Yours

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1AE

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2026 4:48 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven community garden

Good afternoon

I am writing to you to express my support for saving Belhaven Community Garden as a public amenity.

I live in Belhaven, at [REDACTED] EH42 1NT.

The Grounds were given to the local community and should be retained by and for them.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2026 8:06 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Gardens

Good afternoon

I am writing to you to express my support for saving Belhaven Community Garden as a public amenity.

I live in Belhaven, at [REDACTED] EH42 1NT.

The Grounds were given to the local community and should be retained by and for them.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2026 8:38 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Community Bid for Belhaven Community Garden

Good Evening,

I would just like to express my support for the community bid to purchase the Belhaven Community Garden. While I don't live in Dunbar, I visit the area frequently with my family and the Garden is a resource that I value immensely. The orchard is not only lovely and beautifully maintained but also produces an amazing quantity and variety of apples.

There is a lot to be said for the value of this space to all of the residents and visitors of Dunbar and it would be nothing sort of a tragedy if it were to be lost.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]
Edinburgh
EH11 1SU
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 8:16 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Supporting Belhaven Garden
Hi I am writing to you to support the Belhaven community garden.

I understand that NHS will need to get something from the asset but if the garden can be protected (alongside this) it would be a long term win for the NHS.

It is a great garden and the volunteers their been so nice with the kids. I genuinely witnessed the magic of kids seeing how apple juice was made, having a go themselves and them eating apples off a tree!

The space should be protected as an asset to long term community health which in this small example I took part in could turn one child into someone who respects the value of healthy choices linked to 5 a day and goes on to make better health choices for themselves. This is an opportunity for you and your team to do something meaningful long term to reduce the future negative impact on the NHS. I hope that it is clear that the opposite of this is directly impacting staff and budgets in years to come- and this is something I want all decision makers to bear in mind before any decision is made- they will negatively impact the NHS and local communities.

The garden is in an central area surrounded by housing in Dunbar and Belhaven and it supports volunteers who are benefiting from a self medicating green prescription of stress, mental health and physical health benefits that are already helping themselves and established are established in helping the wider community. To remove this long term beneficial resource just to add some short term cash flow that will have to go towards something important but then will be gone forever is extremely short sighted.

I hope that you can use anything in your power to see the larger and long term picture that has patients helping themselves and their community without the need to come and burden the nhs. Good health takes years and years of hard work to nurture- and this has been established here.

Furthermore great research is taking place in the links between nature and health and their is an opportunity to further invest and link with NHS on this matter.

I hope you will consider my response and I appreciate your time in doing so.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
West Barns
EH42 1UH

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 9:23 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Support of the Community Garden

Hello,

I support the change of use and purchase of the land used by the community garden from NHS Lothian in the grounds of the closed Belhaven Hospital.

They provide a much needed space where people go for walks amongst fruit and vegetable plants and trees.

They provide a place where people of the local community can get together to talk and garden, something that provides a relaxing space in today's stressful life.

Part of the area has been deliberately left to provide a haven for wildlife, another thing that is desperately needed in the area with so much housing and farm land which is important for everyone's future.

Perhaps the most important thing they do is run clubs for the local children, passing on the knowledge and enthusiasm for growing your own fruit and vegetables, helping the next generation to be more independent.

Thank you,

[REDACTED] Dunbar

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 11:23 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Representation in Support of Asset Transfer Request – Belhaven Community Garden

To the Asset Transfer Team,

I am writing to formally express my strong support for the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) request submitted by Sustaining Dunbar regarding the Belhaven Community Garden.

As a local resident living at [REDACTED] I am fortunate to be a close neighbour of this site. I see first-hand the value this green space brings to our community. In an era where Dunbar is facing significant pressure from housing developments, it would be a sad loss to the town to see yet another green area built upon. Protecting this land for community use is essential for the long-term well-being and character of our neighbourhood.

In my capacity as a local Scout Leader - the gardens are an invaluable asset for our group. We regularly use the space for outdoor learning, badge work, and nature engagement. It provides a safe, accessible, and diverse environment that is increasingly hard to find. I am also aware that many other local organizations, such as CASC (Countess After School Club), rely on the gardens to provide outdoor experiences for the children in their care.

The Belhaven Community Garden is more than just a plot of land; it is a hub for education, social connection, and mental health. Sustaining Dunbar has proven to be an excellent steward of this site since 2012, and transferring the asset into community ownership is the only way to ensure these benefits are protected for future generations.

I therefore urge NHS Lothian to approve this request and recognize the significant social value and community benefit that this transfer represents, outweighing any short-term financial gain from a private sale.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED] Local Resident, father of three and Scout Leader

Dunbar EH42 1PY

M: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 12:43 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Community Asset Transfer Requests Belhaven Hospital Site at Beveridge Row, Dunbar, EH42 1TR.

The Board has received a Community Asset Transfer request for part of the Belhaven Hospital Site at Beveridge Row, Dunbar, EH42 1TR.

I am asking to please transfer this GREEN SPACE COMMUNITY PART OF DUNBAR back to our community 🙏 Please NHS Lothian.

I'm representing my community Dunbar, my DISABLED FAMILIES, my Child [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who is well known to NHS Lothian Sick Childrens Hospital EDINBURGH.

[REDACTED] our child has had age 5 slipped capital femoral head both hips DR [REDACTED] did the procedure and then again age 8 28 April 2025 both hips pinned again. He has AUTISM, OBESITY MASSIVE OVER THE WEIGHT CENTILE. He has undiagnosed ADHD he has SLEEP APNOEA RESPIRATORY MEDICINE TEAM DR [REDACTED] and DR [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has been on SICK KIDS WARDS SEVERAL TIMES He also has NAFLD FATTY LIVER.

I NEED THE BELHAVEN GARDENS PLEASE 🙏🙏 [REDACTED] is train obsessed and all the SAFE SPACE observation IS HIS BELIVED BELHAVEN GARDENS DUNBAR. IM BEGGING NHS Lothian TO HELP me and Dunbar Community to keep the GARDENS. My sister uses the gardens as a SAFE SPACE [REDACTED] [REDACTED] SHE IS A PARANOID SCHIZOPHRENIC SEVERE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES She can only access the gardens as she lives 2mins around the Gardens [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Dunbar EH42 1PL.

My mother is disabled my husband is also disabled GUNSHOT LEFT ARM Well known to NHS Lothian [REDACTED]

IM ABSOLUTELY BEGGING YOU TO PLEASE CONSIDER OUR PLIGHT TO KEEP THE BELHAVEN GARDENS IN DUNBAR PLEASE 🙏🙏 WE ARE DESPERATELY NEEDING THIS GREEN SAFE SPACE . It is a thoroughfare for SCHOOL CHILDREN TOO EVERYONE IN DUNBAR USES THIS SPACE.

PLEASE 🙏 IM REALLY DESPERATELY BEGGING YOU NHS Lothian TO KEEP THESE GARDENS IN THE COMMUNITY.

MEDICALLY HOLISTICALLY MENTAL HEALTH TOO WE NEED GREEN SPACE LIKE DALKEITH HOSPITAL WE NEED THE GREEN SPACE 🙏🙏 PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE CONSIDER MY PLIGHT.

KIND REGARDS

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] DUNBAR EH42 1FL

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 1:27 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: The Board has received a Community Asset Transfer request for part of the Belhaven Hospital Site at Beveridge Row, Dunbar, EH42 1TR. URGENT PLEASE HELP

Dear NHS LOTHIAN

We are desperately looking to keeping Belhaven Community Gardens as we live in [REDACTED] DUNBAR EH42 1PL.

My sister [REDACTED] uses the garden always she is a paranoid schitzoprenic has severe mental health problems and loves the gardens its her SAFE SPACE.

My mother [REDACTED] also is severely disabled and loves yhd gardens.

Please it's the only place they can access fir healing tranquility and peace of mind 2mins from house.

Please don't forget the VULNERABLES IN DUNBAR EH42 1FL WE ARE DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR HELP TO KEEP THE GARDENS FOR DUNBAR.

PLEASE HELP US [REDACTED]

OUR ONLY SAFE SPACE

OUR ONLY GREEN SPACE

OUR ONLY SANCTUARY

OUR ONLY WELLBEING PLACE

OUR ONLY EXCERCISE PLACE

OUR ONLY REASON TO KEEP WELL AND ACTIVE AND ENGAGED WITH OUR COMMUNITY DUNBAR.

PLEASE HELP US NHS LOTHIAN AND SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT TO KEEP OUR GREEN SPACE DUNAR.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dunbar EH42 1PL

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 2:22 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Sustaining Dunbar Asset Transfer Request - letter of support

Hello,

I am writing in support of the request by Sustaining Dunbar for asset transfer of land currently used as Belhaven Community Garden.

As a local resident I can only see benefits from the continuation and development of the garden as a community owned asset.

As a new resident of Dunbar I visit the garden to participate in community activities and through these I have met people and established social connections which I would not have done otherwise. Without doubt this has supported me to have good mental health, and is a big part of combatting isolation of working from home.

I have also learned new skills as a result that I can use in managing my own garden. The community of people who support the garden are inclusive and welcoming, and the ongoing future plans of the Community Garden is a fantastic opportunity to keep bringing people of all ages and backgrounds together in a healthy open air space to connect with nature and each other.

As Dunbar grows in size with the loss of many green spaces to new build housing estates, the location of the Community Garden is important in terms of long term support biodiversity and offering a 'nature highway' for wildlife to move safely around the area.

It is also really important that we keep green spaces in and between our built up areas and ensure these are accessible for people by walking, wheeling or cycling there without the use of cars where possible. The current site of Belhaven Community Gardens is accessible in this way which is brilliant.
Many thanks for reading and taking into account this letter of support.

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
Eh42 1DZ

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 10:02 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Cc: SEDA Chair <chair@seda.scot>
Subject: Support for Belhaven Community Garden Community Request
Importance: High

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached our formal support for Belhaven Community Garden, representation on Community Asset Transfer Request.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

For and on behalf of SEDA Board of Directors and Members

FAO To Whom it may concern

NHS Lothian
Lothian NHS Board,
Mainpoint,
102 Westport,
Edinburgh,
EH3 9DN



13 September 2023

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST: BELHAVEN COMMUNITY GARDEN
SITE: BELHAVEN HOSPITAL SITE, BEVERIDGE ROW, DUNBAR, EH42 1TR

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Scottish Ecological Design Association (SEDA) is delighted to support the Belhaven Community Garden. As a registered charity, our mission is to promote the knowledge and practical design skills that enable our built environment and the biosphere to be viewed as a holistic entity. We champion practices that enhance the synergy between human and natural systems to foster long-term resilience—a vision that this project embodies.

Key reasons to support this project:

- **Holistic Health:** Scientific research consistently links community gardens to improved physical and mental health. This project creates a vital therapeutic space that reconnects people with nature and encourages social interaction across diverse groups.
- **Regenerative Impact:** By cultivating food sources for both pollinators and humans, this project is a critical contribution to regenerative biodiversity.
- **Skill Development:** The educational opportunities provided—teaching regenerative land management, organic growing, and employability skills—are essential for the local community's future.
- **Community & Stewardship:** This project facilitates multi-generational learning that fosters shared stewardship of our planet and the creation of caring communities.

We believe this initiative seamlessly integrates health and well-being into the fabric of the local ecosystem. By encouraging active outdoor engagement, the project will tangibly improve community health and help alleviate pressure on local healthcare services. We are proud to support an initiative that translates our design principles into meaningful, local action. We look forward to seeing this garden serve as a model for community-led ecological resilience, and we are confident it will make a lasting difference in the Dunbar and East Linton ward.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

www.seda.scot Charity: SC020799 Company: SC394188
Cupar, Fife, KY15 4BU, Scotland, UK

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 10:27 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I would like you to the proposal for the community asset transfer of the land at Belhaven Hospital to the Belhaven Community Garden.
As a youth worker on the area, I appreciate the value of this space for the mental health and community benefits it brings.

[Redacted signature]

Dunbar
EH421GF

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 10:38 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Community Asset Transfer request - part of the Belhaven Hospital Site at Beveridge Row, Dunbar, EH42 1TR

Good evening,

My husband and I write in support of the Community Asset Transfer request submitted for part of the Belhaven Hospital Site at Beveridge Row, Dunbar, EH42 1TR (Belhaven Community Garden).

As close neighbours, the Community Garden is a wonderful asset that we have come to cherish - from taking our son for walks or bikes through the garden to enjoying windfall apples and other fruits from the orchard. It provides a key lifeline for many local residents, giving an opportunity to enjoy and enhance nature.

National Planning Framework 4, Scotland's long-term spatial strategy and national planning policies, recognises the urgency and importance of the nature crisis, putting it at the heart of all of Scotland's planning policies going forward. A key spatial principle is "local living," which states: "We will support local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally."

The Garden is crucial to community health and wellbeing and provides a local, accessible greenspace which is used for leisure and learning.

NPF4 goes on to state: "To respond to the global biodiversity crisis, **nature recovery must be at the heart of future places**. We will secure positive effects for biodiversity, create and strengthen nature networks and invest in nature-based solutions to benefit natural capital and contribute to net zero. **We will use our land wisely** including through a renewed focus on reusing vacant and derelict land to help limit the new land that we build on. We will protect and enhance our historic environment, and safeguard our shared heritage for future generations." (Emphasis added)

A community transfer of the Garden puts nature recovery and enhancement at the heart of this area of Dunbar, which is under threat from expansion at all sides.

While we appreciate that there is a housing crisis, Dunbar is already a leading site in East Lothian for new housing developments, and there is ample space on the other side of the train tracks (and, indeed, the other side of Dunbar) for new sites. Moreover, retaining the Community Garden would not sterilise the remainder of the hospital site, which could still be developed for housing in future.

NPF4's section on "liveable places" highlights the importance of these smaller garden and greenspaces to individual and communal health and wellbeing:

"Health policies, including Scotland's diet and healthy weight delivery plan reflect **the importance of places which provide opportunities for exercise and access to healthy food**. Our strategy for tackling social isolation and loneliness also recognises the importance of providing quality, accessible and welcoming places for everyone through placemaking and regeneration." (Emphasis added)

"We will improve green infrastructure to bring nature into our towns and cities, connecting people with nature, building resilience and helping our biodiversity to recover and flourish."

The Community Garden is an established asset that has already demonstrated that it is well-used and valuable to the wider Dunbar community. If it were to be lost, it is not clear where else in Dunbar would provide a suitable replacement - and any replacement would take considerable time to come forward.

We would strongly urge that the Community Asset Transfer be approved.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Dunbar

EH42 1ZT

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 11:59 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Support for the purchase of Belhaven Community Garden

Dear NHS Lothian,

You have continued to be a supportive pillar in our communities providing care, healing, hospice, nourishment and vitality to our people.

You understand the importance of environments more than most since you intricately implement varying resources depending on needs, finance and sustainability.

Our community has asked for support in their application to purchase Belhaven Community Garden space from you. I began my early years in Belhaven and I strongly recall a patch of garden close to this. It was mesmerising and healing. It offered my mind imagination and growth as I was enchanted not just by the people who spent time there, but the growth and vitality nature gifted. As a Brownie I held a deep value for this space as we collectively cared for it, as it did for us. We volunteered to maintain the area and it was such a joy to see others enjoy the space and tending to it. I ask you with my heart and soul to please listen to everyone who has shared their words with you. We need these spaces more than ever for our mental health, humanity, and our sanity. Nature teaches us and connects us more than we know.

Your value for health and wellbeing extends beyond hospitals. And we all know how nature benefits our physical, mental and emotional health.

With best wishes and optimism,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dunbar, EH42 1RN

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 12:39 AM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

To those considering the application from Belhaven Community Garden, I wish to record my support of the garden.

I live locally and have used the garden on many occasions for my own benefit (calm place to spend time, a safe space to walk while needing gentle exercise following surgery, smelling the sweet peas).

I have enjoyed time with friends in the garden, marvelling at the variety of apple trees and taking in the views of the hills while we talk.

When talking with people who are new to Dunbar, many are delighted to hear about the garden, and sometimes I have taken people there for their first visit.

More than that, I have been part of a group volunteering on a Saturday afternoon and seeing the genuine inclusion of all who come along. Whatever the social standing, whatever the gardening skill and whatever the age, all are welcome.

I have been in the garden during the week and seen high school age children there with adults supporting them in this beautiful place of nurturing.

I have been in the garden in all the seasons of the year, and always feel better afterwards. This physical place offers great mental support and relief.

I am privileged to live within a short walk of the garden, but I when I visit the garden and see others from Dunbar, some live much further away.

Please allow this community asset to remain available to all in the community,

[REDACTED]
Dunbar EH42 1QA

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 8:51 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Support for Belhaven Community Garden

Hello

I'm writing to express my support for the garden ground to be taken into community ownership at Belhaven. The garden is a valuable resource which has served the local community in numerous ways for many years. The following is my personal connection with the gardens but I am aware of so much more that goes on here for many other individuals and local groups. I knew no-one when I first moved to West Barns over 8 years ago as a single mum with a newborn and toddler. It was at the 'Apple Day' event at the garden where I met and connected with like minded people. I also attended some of the volunteer sessions where I learnt valuable gardening skills and built my confidence. I have also attended various herb and craft workshops at the gardens and visited simply to enjoy the benefits of being in a peaceful green space close to home. I like to keep an eye on events taking place here as I always feel that they will be enriching.

I currently work at The Community Carrot on the High Street in Dunbar which has a very positive working relationship with the gardens. Apples grown at the garden are sold here and very much sought after by our customers. There is a growing awareness and demand for locally grown food which the gardens help to meet. We also regularly deposit our food waste here which helps feed the compost at the garden.

There is a great deal of new housing in Dunbar and this would certainly take the place of an established and valuable community resource which is already sandwiched by housing. It would significantly increase traffic along quiet roads to the site. It would lead to a loss of local biodiversity. Loss of local character. These green spaces are a vital part of the urban fabric and this certainly is a unique space within Dunbar which is already serving the local community and environment.

I trust that the opinions of the local community will be taken into account when making a decision.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] East Linton, EH40 3AG (moved here 2020 from West Barns)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 11:14 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Support from JMBCT for the Belhaven Community Garden Asset Transfer

Dear Lothian NHS Board,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the John Muir Birthplace Charitable Trust I am registering our support for the Belhaven Community Garden Asset Transfer Request. The John Muir Birthplace Charitable Trust (JMBCT) is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) SCO28244. The Trust was formed in September 1998 as a partnership project involving East Lothian Council, the John Muir Trust, Friends of John Muir's Birthplace and Dunbar Community Council.

At their Board meeting on February 25th, 2026, a resolution was tabled that proposed "that the Trust send a letter of support for the Belhaven Community Garden (BCG) asset transfer application to take the Belhaven Hospital garden ground into community ownership. Saving Belhaven Community Garden aligns so much with The Trust's aspirations for our forthcoming upgrade to the 'Legacy' exhibition content of the Birthplace Museum, that it would be remiss of us not to lend our support". This resolution was passed unanimously by the Trustees.

The Trust maintains close links with Sustaining Dunbar. As part of this collaboration an exhibition entitled 'John Muir, Earth-Planet, Universe' (JMEPU) was co-curated in 2019/2020. The exhibition prompted people to ask 'What If?'

questions to spark their imaginations for a positive vision for the Dunbar and East Linton ward in the context of the climate emergency. The content for this exhibition has played a key role in the proposed redevelopment of the museum. Belhaven Community Garden was used as an exemplar in the JMEPU exhibition in Panel 3 - Our Wellbeing and Natural Connection¹. The overview of the online version of the exhibition is:

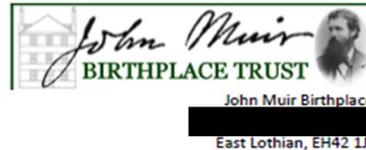
‘Our Wellbeing and Natural Connection’, explores the theme formally recognised by NHS Lothian in its adoption of the 2019 Green Health Strategy and one increasingly recognised as critical to our mental health.

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may help and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike” John Muir

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Lothian NHS Board,
Mainpoint,
102 Westport,
Edinburgh,
EH3 9DN



2/3/2026

Letter of Support for Belhaven Community Garden Asset Transfer Request

Dear Lothian NHS Board,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the John Muir Birthplace Charitable Trust I am registering our support for the Belhaven Community Garden Asset Transfer Request. The John Muir Birthplace Charitable Trust (JMBCT) is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) SC028244. The Trust was formed in September 1998 as a partnership project involving East Lothian Council, the John Muir Trust, Friends of John Muir’s Birthplace and Dunbar Community Council.

At their Board meeting on February 25th, 2026, a resolution was tabled that proposed “that the Trust send a letter of support for the Belhaven Community Garden (BCG) asset transfer application to take the Belhaven Hospital garden ground into community ownership. Saving Belhaven Community Garden aligns so much with The Trust’s aspirations for our forthcoming upgrade to the ‘Legacy’ exhibition content of the Birthplace Museum, that it would be remiss of us not to lend our support”. This resolution was passed unanimously by the Trustees.

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‘Our Wellbeing and Natural Connection’, explores the theme formally recognised by NHS Lothian in its adoption of the 2019 Green Health Strategy and one increasingly recognised as critical to our mental health.

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may help and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike” John Muir

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

¹ <https://muirbirthplacefriends.org.uk/exhibitions/john-muir-earth-planet-universe/panel-3/>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 2:10 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Purchase Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sir

Over the last 10+ years the Belhaven Community Garden has become a recognised part of our wider community. It provides innumerable benefits some obvious others less so, whether simply as a place of peace or one where employability skills can be improved within a stress free environment.

It would be a tragedy if such a cherished and valuable community asset were to be stripped from the community it serves

I would like to add my voice to all those others who petition yourselves to allow a community asset transfer of the space to allow the community to determine its' future use and preserve it for future generations

Yours

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1LT

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 3:08 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Belhaven Community Garden

We meet weekly in the [REDACTED] Dunbar. The address of our parent charity (Dunbar Dementia Network) is [REDACTED] Dunbar.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

> On 2 Mar 2026, at 14:29, ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot> wrote:

Thank you for your email on the asset transfer request submitted for Belhaven Community Garden.

Anyone may make representations about this request to NHS Lothian. Representations must be in writing and include the name and address of the person making it. A copy of the representation will be given to the organisation making the request.

For us to take this into consideration in the evaluation process, please could you provide your/your organisations address.

> -----Original Message-----

> [REDACTED]
> Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 7:02 AM
> To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
> Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

Dear Sir/Madam

We would once again like to give our support for the application made to take Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership.

Our group members had enjoyed several visits to the gardens before the water issues had put a hold on this, and were eagerly awaiting the day when they could return. It was wonderful to have this safe, beautiful space on our doorstep where Carers and their loved ones were made so welcome.

It would be a great loss for the whole community if the gardens could not be enjoyed by all.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Group Co ordinator

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 3:10 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Garden

I am writing to you to register my support for the Sustaining Dunbar application to take Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership. I agree 100% with their assertion that selling the land to the community offers long-term 'best value' for the NHS compared to selling the land for housing. In an area that is becoming increasingly more built up, it represents an oasis of calm where people can escape to the outdoors, to a joyous supportive community, to immerse themselves in nature and to have the opportunity (to learn how) to grow nutritious, healthy ingredients economically. These things will benefit an overstretched health service by being preventative rather than curative at a time when the cost of living makes healthy eating a luxury, people are not getting enough fresh air, exercise, and face-to-face social activity, and mental health conditions are at epidemic proportions.

I hope that in this case, the evidence will speak for itself and common sense will prevail.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED] Dunbar

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 4:22 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven Community Gardens

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please take this email as my written support for a Community buy out of Belhaven Community Gardens, located in the grounds of Belhaven Community Hospital, Dunbar.

These gardens are a meeting point for people in the town and the land has been transformed by volunteers into a beautiful, serene, growing space and public amenity. It was somewhere peaceful we could take my Dad when he was on end of life care, it was where we took our two children to run and play and meet with our neighbours and friends from Belhaven and Dunbar. Now, it's where I walk with my elderly mother, where I swap seeds and plants and where I take my little grandson to explore nature.

The gardens are a peaceful haven for wildlife, so important now that the fields to the south have been developed and covered with housing.

Many local groups use this space to meet and connect and to combat isolation.

The gardens are a gift to the people of Dunbar and NHS Lothian should ensure their protection for future generations to come. Please don't sell this land to developers who are only focused on profit and care nothing for the wellbeing of local residents.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Dunbar
EH42 1 NT

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 4:23 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: RE: Belhaven community garden

I am sorry

[REDACTED]

East Linton

EH40 3DH

While I live in east Linton a lot of my social life is in Dunbar. Including with the garden

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** ComEmpReq

Sent: 02 March 2026 14:29

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Belhaven community garden

Thank you for your email on the asset transfer request submitted for Belhaven Community Garden.

Anyone may make representations about this request to NHS Lothian. Representations must be in writing and include the name and address of the person making it. A copy of the representation will be given to the organisation making the request.

For us to take this into consideration in the evaluation process, please could you provide your address.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 9:09 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven community garden

Dear Community hospital committee,

I would like to support the application for the community garden to go into community ownership. It is a vital space for people to learn growing their own food and look after a garden and its wonderful to see it grow and prosper. I have visited often. This is an excellent community activity that is run by the community and has been started bottom up please support it.

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 5:22 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Belhaven community garden

Dear sir/madam

I would like to support the application for Belhaven community garden to be a community asset. It is a place where we can relax and appreciate nature. The work that has been done there is phenomenal, and the area has become a haven on biodiversity. I live in Dunbar and often visit, Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Dunbar
EH421EY

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 9:19 PM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Support for the Belhaven Community Garden Asset Transfer

Dear Lothian NHS Board,

We would like to register our support for the Belhaven Community Garden Asset Transfer.

Our support is based on the fact that the garden is a great example of a resource that provides a a much needed natural resource for people, plants, insects and wildlife, fostering community, health, wellbeing and biodiversity.

With our connections to John Muir's Birthplace and Dunbar and District History Society we are aware of a historic document that came to light during the process of researching into the local history of the garden grounds. This document confirms that the original intention of the bequest of land, made to the town for the hospital at Belhaven in 1805 by the then Earl of Warrender, stated that the ground not used for the purpose of the hospital was to be 'only used for agricultural purposes and pleasure grounds'. It is interesting to learn that the benefit of the health and well-being of our community was, even at that time, considered important. This is of even greater importance today.

We sincerely hope that the original purpose will be allowed to continue with the transfer of the garden land into community ownership.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Dunbar,
EH42 1NT

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 10:15 AM
To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>
Subject: Re: Belhaven Community Garden letter of Support
[REDACTED] Dunbar EH42 1QY

Tvm
[REDACTED]

On Tue, 3 Mar 2026 at 10:14, ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot> wrote:

Thank you for your email on the asset transfer request submitted for Belhaven Community Garden.

Anyone may make representations about this request to NHS Lothian. Representations must be in writing and include the name and address of the person making it. A copy of the representation will be given to the organisation making the request.

For us to take this into consideration in the evaluation process, please could you provide your address.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 6:21 PM

To: ComEmpReq <loth.comempreq@nhs.scot>

Subject: Belhaven Community Garden letter of Support

Hello

I am writing in support of the application

I have been involved from the start of BCG. I have benefitted hugely since its inception. I believe many of the local community and further afield have done too. We have planted fruit trees, hazels and walnuts. With climate change growing more nut trees in Scotland is particularly important. Mostly I work in the orchard.

With increasing numbers of houses being built since the Local plan designated the area for housing I strongly believe this area of green tranquility should be retained for the benefit of the community.

I have seen such a diverse range of people using the garden, walking, growing, playing music, relaxing and exercising (we use scythes to manage the grass). It is a huge asset for the health and wellbeing of the local community. We need to be laser focussed on preventative medicine, keeping us healthy. A project the NHS can truly be proud of.

I'd be happy to show you around, those who haven't already enjoyed the garden.

Thank you

[REDACTED]