

Public Representations

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

04 February 2021 - 11 October 2023

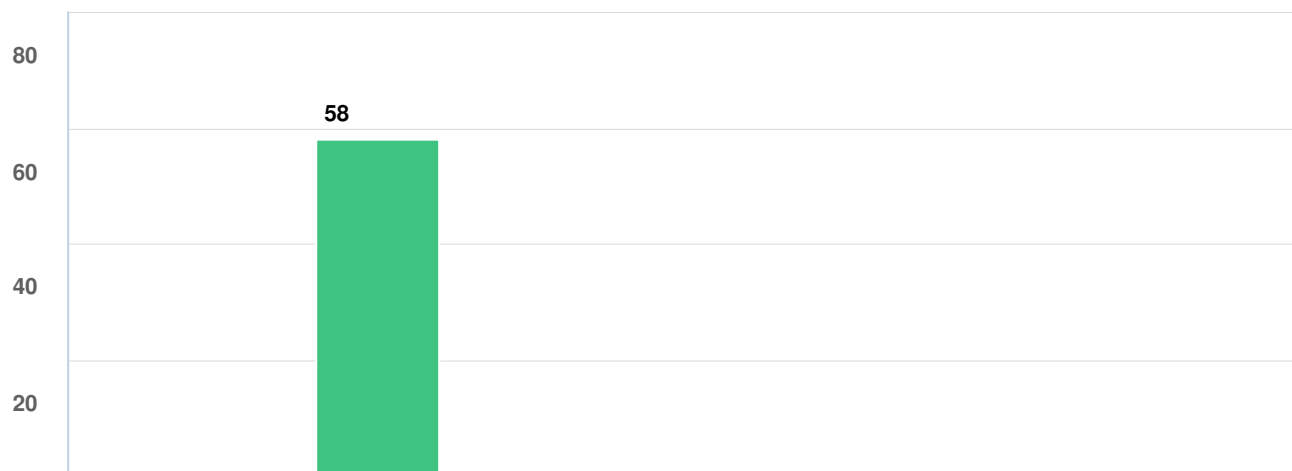
PROJECT NAME:

Asset Transfer - Mill of Benholm, Johnshaven



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you support or object to the transfer of Mill of Benholm

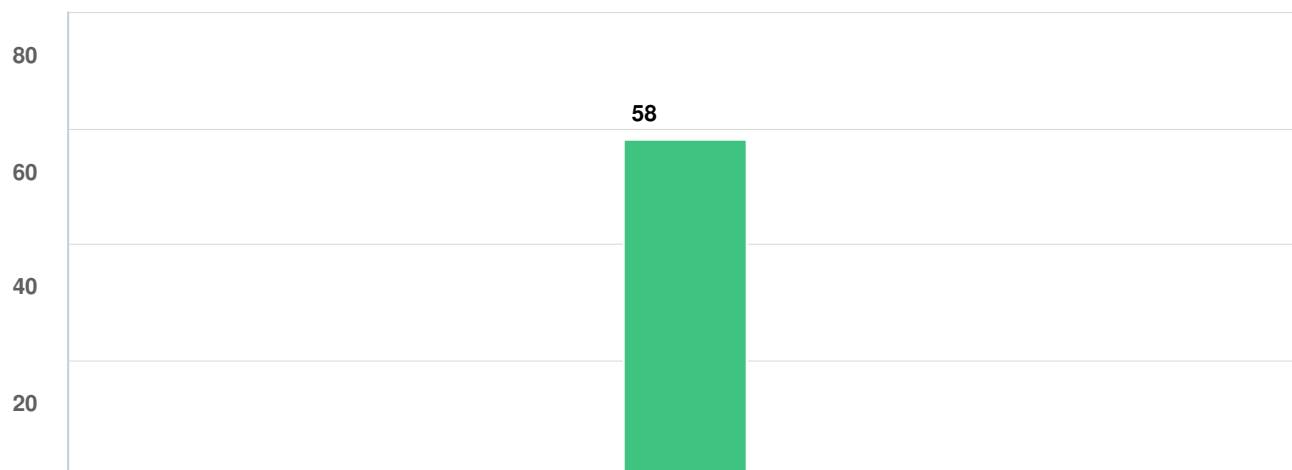


Question options

- Support
- Object

*Mandatory Question (58 response(s))
Question type: Checkbox Question*

Q2 As required by the Community Empowerment legislation, your anonymised comments will be shared with the community body makin...



Question options

- Please tick the box to confirm you have read and understand the information above.

*Mandatory Question (58 response(s))
Question type: Checkbox Question*

Q3 Please provide your reasons

Screen Name Redacted

9/08/2023 07:26 PM

The Mil of Benholm is a beautiful and unique place, which should be open to the public and kept accessible with paths cut and fallen trees removed. It used to be a lovely place to have enjoyable walks and relaxing time beside the streams. I am glad the Mill of Benholm Enterprise is taking this site on and open it up again for our community.

Screen Name Redacted

9/09/2023 03:29 PM

This site could be a great tourist attraction and alongside Benholm Church would be visited by many people.

Screen Name Redacted

9/09/2023 04:33 PM

I believe they are the best equipped to run the mill successfully and will help it become a community touchstone. Having seen there dedication to it over many years

Screen Name Redacted

9/11/2023 12:08 PM

The Mill would be a great asset to the area drawing in locals and visitors. The appeal would be wide ranging from young children out to explore to older visitors interested in the history.

Screen Name Redacted

9/11/2023 07:39 PM

This Community Asset Transfer request must be accepted and approved by Aberdeenshire Council. The Council have demonstrated that they do not have the financial resources or a management plan with ambition to restore and maintain this historic listed asset. The Trust applicants have a most detailed business plan with reference to potential funding, an action plan of restoration and maintenance works, that will ultimately allow this to be a valuable community asset that will be open, used and a hub of historic and cultural activity. This application must be approved as a matter of urgency, with the essence of the decision making being any further delay or refusal will only hasten the demise of this unique wonderful facility.

Screen Name Redacted

9/12/2023 10:12 PM

As a grade A listed mill the Mill of Benholm is not only of great historical importance but more importantly of great importance to the local community. There is much interest within the community to bring the mill back to working order and run it as a community asset with a diverse range of opportunities for volunteering and learning.

Screen Name Redacted

9/13/2023 11:22 AM

Boost the economy Deserves to be rescued Operated as mill our lifetime Last miller died only 50 years ago Will be a superb attraction

Will be a superb local community facility It would be a waste to allow it to be lost know that there are alternatives to regeneration and opportunities for sustainability. It is vital and part of the heritage of this area and well engaged with the story Sunset song and the famous Grassic Gibbon. The situation has already been delayed by the council for far too long.

Screen Name Redacted

9/14/2023 08:54 AM

Would be good for community

Screen Name Redacted

9/15/2023 03:42 PM

Mill must be preserved, for the community and beyond. The Council have struggled to make it viable. Clearly there is much community support and an active group prepared to invest time, who clearly care. It will enrich the lives of those involved, and those who visit. Currently it is being wasted and falling into neglect.

Screen Name Redacted

9/17/2023 01:24 PM

I support the asset transfer as it is a real shame these historic buildings are not used any more. It is a beautiful picturesque location which has the potential to be a real gem in the local community.

Screen Name Redacted

9/18/2023 12:30 PM

The Mill of Benholm is the only surviving cultural heritage example of a "functioning" watermill in a rural Conservation Area in Aberdeenshire. The Mill, currently owned by Aberdeenshire Council, lies in disrepair, as the surrounding natural landscape (also part of the Conservation Area). The charity requesting the transfer of the watermill complex aims to safeguard the site (eg. restore the watermill in its natural landscape) and open it again to the public, as detailed in their business plan. As the current lack of action from the owner can only worsen the chance of preserving this public heritage, a Community Asset Transfer seems to me a reasonable action from the Council to allow this Conservation Area to continue existing.

Screen Name Redacted

9/18/2023 01:09 PM

It's a wonderful community asset of significant historical importance.

Screen Name Redacted

9/18/2023 04:57 PM

The mill is a beautiful place and needs to be brought back to its beauty

Screen Name Redacted

9/18/2023 05:29 PM

Will be great for the Mill to be used again and open to the public. Its an outstanding place and was always well used, it's such a shame it has been neglected for so long. I cannot wait for life to be brought back into it. Well done to the Mill of Benholm Enterprise for their hard

work. The quicker the asset transfer goes through, the better.

Screen Name Redacted

9/18/2023 08:02 PM

To save the watermill

Screen Name Redacted

9/18/2023 08:08 PM

An excellent project worthy of support

Screen Name Redacted

9/18/2023 10:11 PM

It would be just fantastic to see this little treasure open to the public again. If the council aren't going to do so then I do hope they'd let it go to this group of wonderful people that will do just that. Whilst I understand that it would be tempting for the council to sell it to the highest bidder I'd like to think that what is best for the local community and tourist industry would be at the forefront of any decision made. I'm sure that this group of locals will do all that they can to raise funds to make this possible. There is no doubt that they will have plenty of volunteers to help them.

Screen Name Redacted

9/19/2023 09:23 AM

The mill is a historic building, at least in local terms, and should be properly restored and maintained. It seems that the proposed asset transfer is the only viable way of achieving this at the present time.

Screen Name Redacted

9/19/2023 10:42 AM

Id like to see the mill back to being part of the community and open to the public .

Screen Name Redacted

9/19/2023 10:54 AM

The Mill of Benholm is a listed historic building and along with the land surrounding the Mill is worth saving as part of the history of the area and Scotland in general. It is important to ensure the Mill is not allowed to deteriorate further, as it has done so under its current ownership, Mill of Benholm Enterprise will give the Mill it's best opportunity for future generations to enjoy and will facilitate its developing into a local and national attraction.

Screen Name Redacted

9/19/2023 11:44 AM

Would be great for the community

Screen Name Redacted

9/19/2023 02:11 PM

Good for the Site and the Community

Screen Name Redacted

9/20/2023 10:03 AM

This is a fantastic historical and educational asset that has been left to decay, due to years of poor management and lack of investment.

The site has the possibility of becoming a valuable asset in the community, to meet a number of objectives. First of all is the history of the site and the fact that a lot of original features are still in place is unique. The site could become a destination attraction covering Environmental awareness for School Groups and general public, potential renewable energy, Coffee shop, and the unique history of farming in this area. It has the possibility of further growing by providing space for other organisations to use, for example, pop up restaurant in the evenings, arts and crafts, gardeners (previously local volunteers looked after the flower beds). If nothing is done, the rate of decay of the site will accelerate as Aberdeenshire Council have not maintained the site since it closed, therefore I believe that an Asset Transfer is simply the last chance to do something with the site before it is too late ! There is an active group of local volunteers who have the energy to push this forward, and they should be given the chance, and support, to succeed.

Screen Name Redacted

9/20/2023 12:50 PM

I feel strongly that this Listed building (Mill of Benholm) and the grounds, need to be passed into the hands of people who will work to return the building to its former glory as it will become even more delapidated if this does not happen. The mill pond is severely overgrown with weeds and the pathways dangerous now to walk safely on as well. It is part of the heritage of the area and the restored mill and its grounds could be visited and used by local people and visitors alike once restored and made safe. I have great memories of events happening at the Mill and in the grounds, and a sense of loss that this no longer happens. I feel that the present Mill of Benholm group presenting the Community Asset Transfer plans have a wonderful commitment to this place and i totally back their proposals. There are many of us in the local community who are keen to volunteer to help bring this heritage site back to life!

Screen Name Redacted

9/20/2023 08:38 PM

I would like to see the mill fully functionable again and would have pleasure in assisting them as best as i can

Screen Name Redacted

9/21/2023 09:16 PM

The mill has in the recent past a venue for a variety of community events as well as education for locals and visitors slide.

Screen Name Redacted

9/21/2023 11:23 PM

The mill is bein left to deteriorate, with local community engagement it can be brought back to an acceptable condition for the use of the community and general public and enhance the local area.

Screen Name Redacted

It is clear that those involved in leading the charity and requesting the

9/22/2023 10:06 AM

transfer are both passionate and committed to safeguarding the Mill of Benholm. This historic watermill is an important asset for local residents and visitors and will be both protected and curated by the charity. I am fully supportive of this community asset transfer application.

Screen Name Redacted

9/22/2023 01:27 PM

I support the application for the asset transfer because the community group plans to develop the mill in line with local ideas. Transferring the land and building to a voluntary group to develop is cost effective for the council as it adds significant value in terms of volunteer effort and experience to the development of the mill .

Screen Name Redacted

9/22/2023 03:10 PM

It was such a lovely area to visit/walk around and it would be just great to see it restored to what it once was rather than being left in it's current overgrown/lonely way!

Screen Name Redacted

9/23/2023 09:22 AM

To say a much loved area & building for prosperity and to allow it's beauty & history to be shared with locals & visitors.

Screen Name Redacted

9/23/2023 12:58 PM

The Mill of Benholm has to be restored to be enjoyed by both the local Community and visitors to the area. It's important to retain the history of the building and the surrounding area. It will also help the economy of the area attracting visitors and providing employment for local residents. It has been neglected for so long and been allowed to fall into disrepair even though I believe that efforts have been made by previous volunteers to get aid and permissions to restore it. I cannot see the logic of not granting the request to transfer the asset to the existing committee, who's only aim is to get this building restored to it's previous state and for it to become a welcome addition for local residents and visitors alike.

Screen Name Redacted

9/23/2023 05:16 PM

I would like to record my enthusiastic support for the Community Asset Transfer of the Mill of Benholm from Aberdeenshire Council to the Mill of Benholm Enterprise charity. The Mill has suffered from complete neglect by Aberdeenshire Council, with this Asset Transfer being refused for spurious reasons on numerous occasions over the last 6-8 years. As a result the Mill is now in acute danger unless it can be restored immediately. With the sincere hope that it is not too late, and that Aberdeenshire Council provides every support to carrying out this transfer as soon as possible, with no further delay or need for payment.

Screen Name Redacted

9/24/2023 07:48 AM

I believe this project is a positive proposal and will benefit the wider community. I remember visiting Mill of Benholm as a young child and hope others will have similar opportunities in future. I think the volunteers have done a great job in preparing for the community transfer and trust in their ability to deliver the project.

Screen Name Redacted

9/24/2023 09:04 AM

I support the community asset transfer for the benefit of local communities and visitors alike to enjoy.

Screen Name Redacted

9/24/2023 09:21 AM

To bring back a piece of history to functionality and stop it decaying is important. Preserving it for future generations is important. It is a beautiful site and could be a useful recreational space for the community. It may attract visitors and therefore have a financial worth also.

Screen Name Redacted

9/24/2023 11:34 AM

The Mill of Benholm would be a fantastic asset to the local community and visitors if it were to be restored and re-opened as a mill/cafe. I strongly believe that the best chance of this happening is if the asset is transferred to the Mill of Benholm charity who are currently doing a great job in trying to get the mill restored/re-opened.

Screen Name Redacted

9/25/2023 01:36 PM

This is a heritage site and buildings which is being, tragically, allowed to 'rot'. As well as its historic and therefore learning value, it provides the ideal opportunity for a community hub and visitor centre. It has obviously been a centre of community(ies) in its life as a working mill, and later. With the local and membership support it can again be brought back to its former 'glory', as well as providing the above purposes, and various abilities/facilities to tell its story, as well as hopefully also providing opportunity for visitors to learn the 'lost', and nearly 'lost', trades and way of life within the area. I feel its unique in this area and as well as providing for local people has the opportunity to bring visitors into the area. This building and its surrounding grounds must not be allowed 'rot' further, and deserves the opportunity to become a 'living' centre in this community. There is a dedicated, willing, enthusiastic and experienced team of people from many 'walks of life', professions and trades willing to bring Benholme Mill back to life, and then maintain and develop it for current and future generations of the area. This team has already shown their professionalism and tenacity and must be given the opportunity to save Benholme Mill for the people!

Screen Name Redacted

9/26/2023 07:42 PM

We love walking round benholm mill site. Would be fantastic to see it up & running again properly & being used as a community

hub.

Screen Name Redacted

9/26/2023 08:37 PM

Community Asset Transfer of the Mill of Benholm from Aberdeenshire Council to the Mill of Benholm Enterprise charity Dear Sir, Madam I would like to whole heartily support the community take over of the Mill of Benholm. I believe the group should be given a chance to run it for the community and tourists alike. I would like to know if the mill isn't transferred to the community to let the group put their proposal into action. Do Aberdeenshire Council intend to develop the asset and site themselves? or do they intent to let it deteriorate even more with no maintenance provided to the site and buildings. At the moment the whole site is in such a sorry state and very sad to watch the painful demise of this asset to the community. The mill has a fascinating history and well worth preserving. I very much hope the mill has a future. As a kid in the 60s I remember being taken on several school trips when it was a working Mill. I sincerely hope that it is not too late, and that Aberdeenshire Council provides every support to carrying out this transfer as soon as possible, with no further delay or need for payment. Yours faithfully

Screen Name Redacted

9/26/2023 10:09 PM

I regularly visit this area. My wife hails from this region and my son lives in Johnshaven. When visiting we often call at the Mill as it is pleasant and peaceful spot, and a lovely walk up from Johnshaven. If developed sympathetically, which I believe is the intention of the Mill of Benholm Enterprise, this will make for an interesting museum and, perhaps, one day they will open a café. There are few attractions of this type in the area, albeit there are many lovely things to visit and enjoy in Kincardine and Mearns and along the coast. Asset transfer to Mill of Benholm Enterprise will help to preserve this delightful mill. It was clear this summer that the buildings, mill pond, waterwheel and surrounding land continue to suffering the ravages of lack of attention. Mill of Benholm Enterprise plan a slow improvement of the site always, of Crouse, at the rate they can raise funds. I support the transfer of the Mill of Benholm asset to Mill of Benholm Enterprise

Screen Name Redacted

9/27/2023 12:50 PM

The new Mill of Benholm group can more effectively make use of this facility and ensure it is opened to the public, benefiting the local area and potentially generating income for the local community.

Screen Name Redacted

9/27/2023 03:06 PM

This is an important historical site within the community. Its restoration will be of educational, tourist and economic value to the community as well as conserving a site of historical significance.

Screen Name Redacted

9/27/2023 04:39 PM

I have lived in Benholm for over 30 years and have participated in some of the projects that have made use of the unique environment that is the Mill of Benholm. In particular I have seen how many people from all walks of life and with very varied life experiences have benefitted from what the site has to offer. I am excited by the different organizations that have expressed an interest in making use of and benefitting from the site, and am hoping that all the work that has gone into creating the current set of proposals will bear much fruit and that the Mill will once again become a thriving community hub.

Screen Name Redacted

9/27/2023 04:59 PM

The Mill and surrounding area are deteriorating. We have read the Business Plan prepared by the Mill of Benholm Enterprise and we fully support their aims and vision. We would urge the council to implement this Community Asset Transfer.

Screen Name Redacted

9/28/2023 09:51 AM

There is huge community support for this. Local residents have dedicated so many hours in trying to transfer the site. The site has been neglected by Aberdeenshire Council.

Screen Name Redacted

9/28/2023 04:43 PM

Having seen the site recently, it is very overgrown and the wheel is not turning. Without maintenance and a team of people willing to continue this maintenance it could soon be beyond the point of economic repair. Knowing what some of the proposed plans are for the site and the enthusiasm of those involved, I believe the site can be returned to a wonderful focal point for the surrounding communities. I am also a Scout and Explorer Leader and feel this would be an excellent project for these groups to assist with and will yield an area further down the line that we and other community youth groups could get great benefit from. I 100% support this.

Screen Name Redacted

9/29/2023 10:46 AM

I believe this will be good for the area to open up to the public again and to protect the historic watermill. Encouraging people to be outdoors and interested in the area is a real positive and should be supported.

Screen Name Redacted

9/29/2023 11:09 AM

The mill is an important historic place and very useful as an education site and a visitor attraction.

Screen Name Redacted

9/30/2023 03:44 PM

It is important to preserve these old buildings/ways of life/professions so that future generations can learn from the past and adapt modern practise if appropriate. I had ancestors who were millers in the Benholm/Bervie area and getting an idea of their lives and work is

really important to me.

Screen Name Redacted

9/30/2023 08:57 PM

It's such a special and beautiful space! I have been running forest school sessions there as embark and have some very treasured memories.

Screen Name Redacted

10/01/2023 09:47 AM

Want to preserve and safeguard this historic site

Screen Name Redacted

10/04/2023 08:48 PM

Necessary in order to protect the history of the mill

Screen Name Redacted

10/06/2023 01:14 PM

In previous years Mill of Benholm has been an asset to the community providing employment and training for adults with additional support needs.

Screen Name Redacted

10/06/2023 08:11 PM

The Mill has been in a state of disrepair and overgrown for far too many years. It's a beautiful area and deserves to be maintained properly by people who are passionate about preserving it for future generations and allowing the whole of the mearns to enjoy its unique setting.

Screen Name Redacted

10/07/2023 05:02 PM

The buildings and the mill need to be brought back to life as it has been allowed to deteriorate and if this continues it will be lost to future generations. The grounds have become overgrown and will benefit greatly from being cleared / cut back to allow walkers to enjoy what is almost lost to them. The memorial garden within the grounds needs regular maintenance and there are numerous fruit bearing plants and flowers / shrubs that required pruning to allow the fruits to come back with vigour. This is such a magical tranquil area and needs to be loved and nurtured, not left to rot.

Screen Name Redacted

10/08/2023 06:21 PM

I'm new to this area and walked up to the mill last weekend, it's in a beautiful setting and it would be fantastic to see it restored to working order and involving the community in doing this. The business plan looks well thought out and I have confidence in the management of this project.

Screen Name Redacted

10/08/2023 08:10 PM

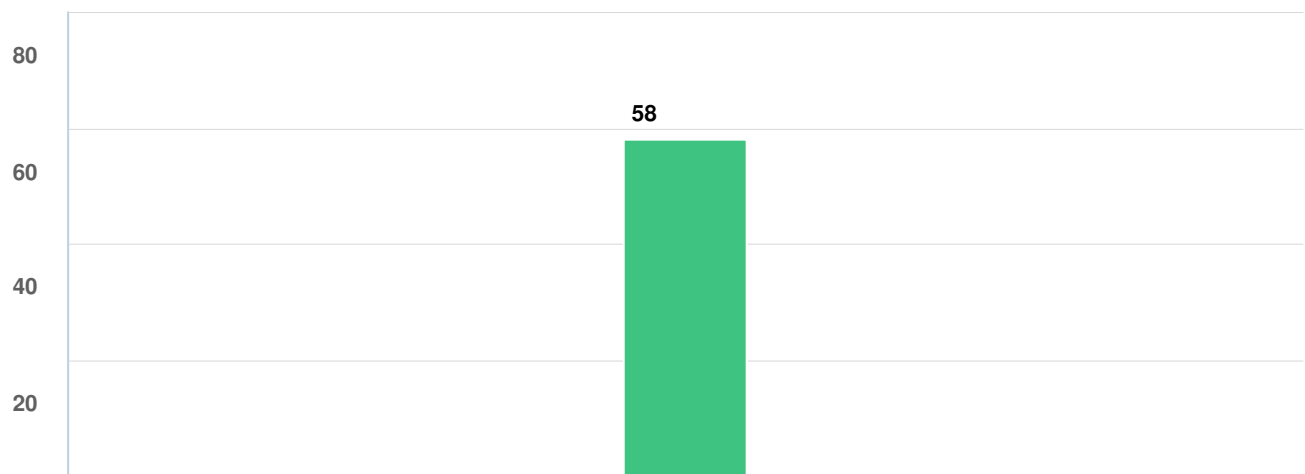
When the Mill was run by the Council with the cafe open it was a popular attraction. The Council had spent significant amounts of money to restore the buildings and the mill pond before it opened,

and it is very sad now to watch the site gradually deteriorate and see the potential waste of all that money and all the hard work that had been put into it by the Council and local people. Now there is a new group of enthusiasts waiting to take the site on with a range of ideas as to how the Mill could contribute positively to people living locally and to visitors to the area. This would be socially, culturally, environmentally and psychologically through the creation of a peaceful oasis for quiet visits. The Council quite understandably do not have the resources in these days of financial cutbacks to do anything similar, so to me it seems an absolute no brainer to transfer the site to Mill of Benhom Enterprise Thank you.

Mandatory Question (58 response(s))

Question type: Essay Question

Q4 Please tick the box to confirm that you have read and understood the Privacy Notice.



Question options

- I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice.

Mandatory Question (58 response(s))
Question type: Checkbox Question