

## MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL – FORM TO BE USED TO LODGE A PETITION

Before completing this form you should read Midlothian Council's "Procedures for Dealing with Petitions" which can be found on the Council's website at [www.midlothian.gov.uk/petitions](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/petitions) Copies can also be obtained by telephoning Democratic Services on 0131 270 7500.

The completed form should be delivered:-

- by email to [petitions@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:petitions@midlothian.gov.uk); or
- by mail or by hand to Democratic Services, Resources Directorate, Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN.

If you require any further information or advice, please contact the Democratic Services by telephoning 0131 270 7500.

### Details of Principal Petitioner

Please enter the name of person raising the petition. Please include a contact address to which correspondence may be sent and a contact telephone number. Only the principal petitioner's name and no other details will be made public.

**Name:** Louise Shepherd

**Address:** 217 Rullion Road

Penicuik

Midlothian

EH26 9JQ

**Tel No:** 07801 282 055

**e-mail:** Louise.shepherd217@sky.com

### Petition Statement

Please state clearly in the box below the purpose of your petition and what action you wish Midlothian Council to take.

**(Important – Please note that petitions will be rejected and returned to the Principal Petitioner in cases where the wording contained within the Petition Statement box below differs from that on any accompanying petition signature sheets.)**

Penicuik Athletic Youth Football Club (PAYFC) Petition to Midlothian Council to Re-carpet the Penicuik Astro

Penicuik Astro Pitch is used by the pupils of Penicuik High School and local primary schools across Penicuik and Midlothian for inter-school football festivals and is hired every evening by both Youth and Adult local football teams, including teams from outside Penicuik.

Penicuik Athletic Youth Football Club (PAYFC) has 60+ Coaches and Volunteers running 14 football teams for 350 youths. It aims not only to make better football players but to improve health and fitness, keep kids off the streets and out of trouble.

PAYFC offers each player 2-3 hours of training during the week and a match at the weekend. The club is so big that each team needs to train one night on the Penicuik Astro and one night on the Beeslack HS Astro Pitch.

PAYFC and the Scottish FA arranged a "Site Inspection Report" of the Astro Pitch. The surface condition recorded was "Poor - subject to long-term wear, having reached the end of its useful life". The cost to bring it up to standard is £255k (excluding VAT). Yet the Council has increased the costs of hiring their facilities over the last 6 months, with PAYFC having to increase the player monthly standing order fee despite the poor condition of the pitch.

PAYFC has a duty of care to all members. We have real concerns for all the players given the poor condition of the pitch. Players have been injured playing football. On Thursday 17 January 2019 a boy fell during training, badly injuring his elbow. PAYFC have reported this injury to Midlothian Council which it believes may very well be the result of the poor surface.

PAYFC want Midlothian Council to fund re-carpeting and maintenance and to increase the security as this site (possibly CCTV) to help prevent any damage or vandalism.

### **Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the Petition**

Before a petition is submitted, you may have already raised the issue in question with the relevant Council department or other agency and it would be helpful if you could briefly outline what measures if any you have taken. This could include, for example, details of any individuals or organisations approached. Please limit any information to no more than 4 sides of A4 paper.

I have had several meetings and discussions with Tony Malone (Sports & Leisure) over the last few years regarding the poor condition of the Penicuik Astro Pitch. Tony advised that he had already put a budget request in for 2019-2020 to re-carpet the Penicuik Astro and this request will be discussed on 12th February 2019.

Any accidents that have occurred on the Penicuik Astro have been reported to the Penicuik Leisure Centre Duty Manager and the appropriate accident forms has been completed and submitted to Midlothian Council Head Office.

I have discussed the re-carpeting of the Penicuik Astro with both the Head & Deputy Head Teachers (Mr Eadie & Mr Jamieson) of Penicuik High School and they are both supportive of the re-carpeting of the Penicuik Astro, as are the teachers of the PE Department.

Several other Football Clubs out with PAYFC are supportive of the re-carpeting of the Penicuik Astro, including Penicuik Athletic FC (Juniors), Peebles Rovers FC, Penicuik Athletic Amateurs Team, Penicuik Athletic Over 35's Team, Midlothian Walking Football Team, Linton Hotpurs FC, Vale of Leven FC & Lasswade YFC.

The Scottish FA have also been involved in this project to date and they arranged a Site Inspection Report of the Penicuik Astro Pitch.

## Presenting your Petition

As the principal petitioner you will be invited to appear before the Council's Petitions Committee to speak in support of the petition and also to answer any questions which members of the Committee may wish to put to you and assist them in reaching their decision.

You may be accompanied by one supporter who may speak on your behalf.

## Signature of Principal Petitioner

When satisfied that the petition meets all the criteria outlined in the Procedures for Dealing with Petitions, the Principal Petitioner should sign and date the form in the box below.

All other signatures gathered should be appended to the form.

**(Important – Please remember that petitions will be rejected and returned to the Principal Petitioner in cases where the wording contained within the Petition Statement box above differs from that on any accompanying petition signature sheets.)**

**Signature**

Louise Shepherd

**Date**

05/02/2019

(Please type your name if sending by e-mail)

**Name in block capitals**

LOUISE SHEPHERD

(Please type your name if sending by e-mail)