

HC/LM/

3 July 2025

Councillor Harry CartmillBathgate Ward



West Lothian Civic Centre Howden South Road Livingston West Lothian EH54 6FF

Tel. No. 01506 281748 E-mail harry.cartmill@westlothian.gov.uk

To Whom it may concern.

I am delighted to provide this letter of endorsement for the " pride of Bathgate" the Bathgate Band.

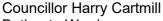
This brass band has been entertaining Bathgate Bairns since the 1830's - indeed they performed in front of Queen Victoria when she visited Linlithgow way back in 1842 - that's how long they have been in existence!

The band has nurtured generations of players including my grandfather and great uncle who - after experiencing the horrors of the Somme in 1916 - returned to be key members of Bathgate Band.

All bands of course need spaces to practice - Bathgate Band has had many rehearsal venues but are in real need of a permanent hall where their instruments can be stored securely, where they can practice in comfort and safety - basically a place to call home befitting of their stature within the Community and the brass band world.

As an elected Councillor here in Bathgate for thirteen years and as someone who knows how valued Bathgate Band is and how well the Committee run their affairs I fully endorse their bid for these premises.

Yours sincerely



Bathgate Ward













Re: Support for Bathgate Music Hub: A Regional Cultural Asset

From Russell, David (Councillor) <david.russell@westlothian.gov.uk>

Date Wed 06/08/2025 03:12

To Derek Brown <derek.brown@bathgateband.org.uk>

WARNING: This email originated outside the Bathgate Band organisation. Embeded links may contain harmful content.

Sir,

I would fully endorse the application by Bathgate Music Hub to acquire The Bathgate West Nursery Building as a Community Asset Transfer.

Given the educational history of this building, I find it wholly appropriate that this venture should maintain this tradition. The various groups participating in this hub have a fantastic history of promoting musical tuition for the youth of West Lothian. During a recent meeting with members of this group I was informed as to the large number of students who progressed to attend The Conservatoire in Glasgow, many of whom returned to teach music in our local schools. I was also informed that this proposal would offer a facility where our young people could take part in group study, something recommended in university study today. This promotion of team working, further enhanced in band/orchestra membership can only be viewed as an asset to our communities in years to come.

The management group highlighted to me the background preparation they had carried out which indicates a high level of financial security and affordability for this hub. They also spoke about their aims and expectations which would possibly include recording equipment, another huge asset for studies.

I again offer my full support to this application, Best regards Councillor David Russell

Sent from Outlook for iOS

From: Derek Brown <derek.brown@bathgateband.org.uk>

Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 9:04:43 AM

To: Russell, David (Councillor) < David.Russell@westlothian.gov.uk>; Paul, George (Councillor)

<George.Paul@westlothian.gov.uk>; Dickson, Jim (Councillor) <Jim.Dickson@westlothian.gov.uk>; Dickson, Mary

(Councillor) < Mary. Dickson@westlothian.gov.uk>

Subject: Support for Bathgate Music Hub: A Regional Cultural Asset

Dear Elected Member,

I'm writing on behalf of Bathgate Band's trustees and management committee to seek your support for the development of Bathgate Music Hub, a proposed community asset designed to serve as a permanent home for music education, rehearsal, and cultural collaboration in West Lothian.

While the proposed location is in Bathgate, the Hub is intended as a resource for the wider area, including neighbouring wards such as Whitburn & Blackburn. We believe it will positively impact your constituents by providing new opportunities for intergenerational learning, youth development, and regional cultural partnerships.

We are proud to include *Whitburn Band* and *Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia Pipe Band* among our early supporters. Both are elite ensembles within their respective genres and long-standing pillars of musical excellence in West Lothian. Their involvement affirms the Hub's relevance not only to Bathgate, but to the wider community and cultural landscape. We are also encouraged by the support of our elected MP and MSP, which reflects the initiative's alignment with broader policy and community priorities.

Please find attached our **draft business case**, which outlines the rationale behind the proposal and the anticipated community benefits. We hope this offers helpful insight into the initiative's scope and ambition.

As part of our submission for Community Asset Transfer, we would welcome a letter or email of support from you. Your endorsement would help demonstrate the Hub's significance to neighbouring communities and reinforce its potential as a truly regional asset.

Further details are available at <u>www.bathgatemusichub.org.uk</u>, or we would be happy to offer a briefing at your convenience.

Thank you for considering this request and for your continued support of community-led development across West Lothian.

Regards, Derek

Derek Brown

Vice President | Bathgate Band President | Bathgate Youth Development Bands

m: +44 (0)7818 072259 | e: derek.brown@bathgateband.org.uk



BATHGATE BAND

e: enquiries@bathgateband.org.uk facebook.com/BathgateBrassBand | twitter.com/BathgateBand1



BATHGATE YOUTH BAND

e: youth.band@bathgateband.org.uk facebook.com/BathgateYouthBand | twitter.com/BathgateYouthB



BATHGATE FOUNDRY BAND

e: foundry.band@bathgateband.org.uk facebook.com/BathgateFoundryBand | twitter.com/BathgateFoundry

Bathgate Band is a charity registered in Scotland. SCIO: SC054432 (previously SC035364) **Bathgate Foundry Band** & **Bathgate Youth Band** are affiliates of **Bathgate Band**.

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Fostering and Adoption. 20250401

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- 2. It does not constitute a representation which is legally binding on the Council or which is capable of constituting a contract and may not be founded upon in any proceedings following hereon unless specifically indicated otherwise.

http://www.westlothian.gov.uk

ST DAVID'S BRASS

ST DAVID'S BRASS BAND SCIO

Scottish Charity No.SC047976

e-mail: secretary@stdavidsbrass.co.uk Web: www.stdavidsbrass.co.uk Registered address: 218 Newbattle Abbey Crescent, Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 3LU

To whom it may concern

We at St David's Brass whole heartedly support the Bathgate Band in its request for an Asset Transfer of the former Bathgate West Nursery.

Having recently completed our own refurbishment of Vogrie Hall in Gorebridge we are beginning to see the advantages of having our own premises. With a purpose-built venue, the band now has an improved rehearsal space that will afford better quality playing time, and the flexible accommodation will cater for our Training Band and any other music groups wishing to utilise the building. A recording studio will also be available for community use.

Equally importantly we will be able to offer the facility to other community groups for their leisure activities - we have 14 such groups which have already expressed an interest in using our Expressive Arts Centre. This proves the need for such a venue and justifies our decision to forge ahead with our plans.

We firmly believe that the Bathgate community will benefit hugely from the Bathgate Band's venture. Making music together is vital for the physical and mental wellbeing of players and having a settled base to develop a Youth programme will ensure the longevity of the organisation. Brass bands allow intergenerational music making to exist and youngsters gain both social and personal skills from playing alongside their more senior counterparts.

With the threat of reduced funding for music education and for the Arts generally it is important to support Bathgate Band and recognise the value of its vision – to deliver a vibrant musical hub for the people of the Bathgate area to enjoy in the years to come.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Dickson

Chairperson St David's Brass Band SCIO Scottish Charity No. SC047976

http://www.stdavidsbrass.co.uk

























Kirsteen Sullivan MP



Member of Parliament for Bathgate and Linlithgow House of Commons, London SW1A oAA Tel: 020 7219 7962

9 July 2025

Emailed to derek.brown@bathgateband.org.uk

Derek Brown Bathgate Band Bathgate

Dear Derek

Thank you for contacting me regarding your project proposal for a Bathgate Music Hub.

I think the concept is an excellent idea and a Hub would build on the rich musical heritage for which Bathgate is known, the Bathgate Band being an example of that heritage.

While I cannot comment on the business viability, as you have advised a full business case is in preparation, I do support the idea of ensuring that Bathgate's strong musical traditions will continue to thrive in the future; central to this is ensuring access to learning opportunities and spaces for budding musicians to come together.

Whilst supporting our musical heritage, the community benefits in establishing a Hub would be considerable, especially around mental health and well-being. Activities, such as music, promote social inclusion and foster a sense of community, both of which are important to enhancing quality of life.

I wish you every success with your project and would be grateful for future updates on progress.

Yours sincerely

Kírsteen

Kirsteen Sullivan MP



Bathgate Music Hub

From Bathgate Together <bathgatetogether@gmail.com>

Date Tue 12/08/2025 14:31

To # Bathgate Music Hub (by Bathgate Band) <music.hub@bathgateband.org.uk>

WARNING: This email originated outside the Bathgate Band organisation. Embeded links may contain harmful content.

Dear Bathgate Band

I am writing to register our support for your project and we wish you well in this campaign

regards

Bathgate Together

Dear Sir/Madam

I feel compelled to write to you in the hope that you take notice of a recent request from The Bathgate Band in securing the Bathgate West Nursery building as a much needed Music Hub for the community. I write as a busy professional musician whose first spark of interest, at the tender age of 8 year old, was welcomed and nurtured by the good people at the band back in the 1980's.

As a young girl (youngest of three) from a very working class family (my father was a carpenter/joiner and my mother was a carer for the elderly) living in social housing in Bruce Road, aspiration was high yet my parents were continually beset by all kinds of financial restrictions. My father happened to be working alongside a colleague whose hobby was brass banding and the rest, they say, is history. Within two years, my whole family was involved in the band - all three children learning brass instruments while both parents became committee members and helped with fundraising and day to day running. We were given instruments on loan and paid a tiny fee to be members of the junior band - an absolute lifeline to a family who struggled financially and an introduction to likeminded people who became lifelong friends. The old adage that it takes a community to bring up a child is no truer in my case. As a teenager working through GCSE and Higher exams, my financially strapped parents, again, turned to the band where I had the great privilege of having help with Maths, Chemistry, English and French all from members or their extended family within the band.

To say my formative years in the band were my key to social mobility would be a gross understatement. It has enabled world travel and many exciting opportunities including performing in some of the world's most famous concert halls, theatres and recorded many sound tracks for TV and blockbuster films. In the last year alone, I have been a guest principal trumpet in orchestras such as the London Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and, currently, engaged by the Jamie Lloyd Company to perform Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Evita' starring Rachel Zegler.

As a professional musician, I have always had the great privilege of being able to teach in various educational settings, although lately this has mostly been in the independent sector due to huge cut backs in music education. It disturbs me that my eight year old self would not be given the chance to learn an instrument these days as I know my parents would be too financially stretched. This is why it is of the greatest importance that the Bathgate Band can continue to serve the community - as it always has done - and to

provide a great service for the young and the old. We live in a very diverse and multicultural society. Music has the ability to unite communities for a common cause and we need only look at Darren Barenboim's West Eastern Divan Orchestra - Israeli and Arab musicians uniting to create world class music - as a stellar example. Here is the link: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/West%E2%80%93Eastern_Divan_Orchestra

Yours faithfully

Angela Whelan



Bathgate Music Hub

From Barham Brummage • @sky.com>
Date Wed 13/08/25 22:51

To Derek Brown <derek.brown@bathgateband.org.uk>

WARNING: This email originated outside the Bathgate Band organisation. Embedded links may contain harmful content.

To Whom it May Concern

My name is Barham Brummage and I am the Chairman of Denny and Dunipace Pipe Band Association. It has come to our attention at Denny that bands in the Bathgate area are proposing to take possession of the old Bathgate West Nursery through the Community Asset Transfer scheme. Denny and Dunipace are currently going through a similar attempted purchase and can only support this bold and ambitious project.

As someone concerned primarily with pipe bands and, indeed, as a resident of Bathgate, I know of Boghall and Bathgate's legendary conveyor belt of excellence; bringing youngsters from the first steps in piping and drumming to World champion status.

I know that Bathgate Band have a similar record of tuition and progression.

The acquisition of a property that would allow access to groups wishing to pursue their musical ambitions is both commendable and exciting. At Denny, we have to spend a lot on hiring tuition facilities and it is often not cost effective to run small groups as well as full band practices. The prospect of being able to utilise a facility that would allow individual, small groups and full bands to create music is a very worthwhile venture.

I sincerely believe this to be an exciting opportunity to provide Bathgate with a genuine centre for musical excellence. As fellow musicians, we fully endorse this project and wish the Bathgate bands all the best in this imaginative step.

Barham Brummage

Chair

Denny and Dunipace Pipe Band Association Sent from my iPhone



The Trustees of Bathgate Band

15 August 2025

Dear Trustees

BATHGATE MUSIC HUB

On behalf of Amersham Band, I would like to wish you every success in your project to establish Bathgate Music Hub and in your efforts to secure Bathgate West Nursery under a Community Asset Transfer.

As you know we have been engaging with you to share our experience of a similar initiative in Amersham a few years ago, where our vision was to create a centre of excellence for brass music. As part of the project, we constructed our own bandroom facility which has been a fundamental enabler in transforming our reach and engagement in the community. We have grown to nearly 200 members, half of whom are young people, and we can see from our experience that we have changed many lives through providing musical opportunities. We have helped people in financial hardship and those experiencing social isolation. Our bandroom has gone beyond providing a centre for music and we make it available to a wide range of local community groups. As a result, we have created a vibrant community hub.

We have benefited from the support of our local Town and County Councils, without which it would not have been possible for us to achieve our vision. If it is of help to your own Council as they consider the Asset Transfer, I can provide an introduction to one of our local Councillors.

I will be happy to continue to provide you with our learnings and experiences and would be pleased to hear about your progress.

Good Luck.

Fred Harrison

Trustee, Amersham Band

email: chair@amershamband.com

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Bathgate Music Hub Community Asset Transfer of Bathgate West Nursery.

West Lothian's musical heritage

West Lothian has a long history of developing and supporting world-class musical talent – from brass bands, pipe bands, and solo artists to the range of ensembles that have made up the West Lothian Instrumental Music Service over the years. Generations of young people have found a love of music, friends for life and skills which have taken them far and wide, all because they first picked up an instrument in West Lothian. As a former teacher, I have seen firsthand the skills and confidence that young people develop through music. This goes far beyond one instrument or one performance – these are skills which set young people on a path for success in any career. As a young person, I played in the West Lothian String Orchestra and Junior Orchestra for many years, experiences which even took me on an exchange trip to Germany as a teenager.

West Lothian Council has rightly placed huge importance on music education and ensembles over the years. It would therefore be entirely fitting for a community asset transfer to result in the establishment of Bathgate Music Hub, in the heart of the community, to continue West Lothian's musical traditions.

Benefits for the community

The potential positive impacts of Bathgate Music Hub for a wide range of groups in the community are hugely significant. I have heard from the Bathgate Music Hub team powerful testimony of people living alone who find community and a sense of belonging in Bathgate Band; of elderly people in care homes benefiting from music sessions; of young people growing in confidence and overcoming mental health struggles; of young adults who have gained skills and found job opportunities not previously open to them. All of these are made possible because of the various ensembles, groups and initiatives who would use the Bathgate Music Hub. The positive impact of these various initiatives on the wider community, and indeed economy, would be transformative for Bathgate and the surrounding area.

Local facility

The former Bathgate West Nursery is ideally located in the heart of the community in Bathgate, making the Bathgate Music Hub accessible to people. It seems only right that Bathgate institutions such as Bathgate Band and Boghall & Bathgate Pipe Band should have a home in their community. But this proposal also has the potential to reach out further into the community, with options for lessons and other community projects which would make the Bathgate Music Hub a focal point of the town.

For the good of the Bathgate community today, and the generations to come, I commend this project to you.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Young

Scottish Labour Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Bathgate Constituency



(Case Ref: FH12166)

From Fiona Hyslop MSP <fiona.hyslop.msp@parliament.scot>

Date Fri 25/07/2025 11:06

To Derek Brown <derek.brown@bathgateband.org.uk>

WARNING: This email originated outside the Bathgate Band organisation. Embeded links may contain harmful content.

Dear Derek,

I can confirm that I have provided Ms Hyslop's letter of support to the Chief Executive of West Lothian Council, and I have been advised that it has also been shared with the Strategic Property Asset Manager.

When you contact WLC to provide your additional documents, you can also highlight that Ms Hyslop has provided a letter of support under Case Ref: FH12166, as this was included on the Letter of Support.

It is my understanding from your initial correspondence that a business case is currently being prepared; I would be grateful if you could please share this with us when it is ready.

If you have any further queries in the meantime, please let me know.

Kind regards,

Michele Heron I Assistant to Fiona Hyslop, Member of Scottish Parliament for the Linlithgow Constituency

Fiona Hyslop MSP Constituency Office, 59 West Main St., Whitburn, West Lothian, EH47 0QD I 01501 749941



Scottish Brass Band Association

Incorporating National Youth Brass Bands of Scotland

Supporting bands in Scotland since 1895 Registered Charity Number SC033163 **Patron Professor John Wallace CBE**

Supported by Creative Scotland





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Nigel Martin Press Officer

e.mail: sbbapr@gmail.com

Bathgate Music Hub

To whom it may concern

I am writing, on behalf of "The Scottish Brass Band Association" (SBBA), to add my support to the proposal by Bathgate Band to create Bathgate Music Hub as a shared music learning & collaboration space in the now vacant Bathgate West Nursing building.

Bathgate Band is a truly community based charitable organisation who work extremely hard throughout the year to deliver community focused events. The committee are dedicated to the improvement of the band and work tirelessly to promote music across the community, and I know that the hub will be a multipurpose space used to nurture a diverse range of musical groups.

Bathgate Band is one of the country's premier organisations and has a strong standing in the brass band community throughout Scotland and beyond. Their commitment, especially to young musicians, is well documented with workshop sessions and youth ensemble support.

The band is a great example of how music making within the community can impact on both young and old, ensuring that they have the best experience while enjoying music making.

As the President for the SBBA it is evident the benefits that this project will have by enabling music groups to have a space to further their musical journey and to collaborate with others.

Bathgate Band deserve every encouragement and support as they aim to raise the musical profile within our great movement and the community in general.

I would have no hesitation in strongly recommending them in their application for this project.

Yours sincerely,

Carrie Boax SBBA President



Bathgate Music Hub Community Asset Transfer

I am writing in support of Bathgate Band regarding their current bid for an asset transfer of the former Bathgate West Nursery estate in order to establish a permanent base in the town for the band and to develop a music hub for the wider area.

With over 180 years of history, Bathgate Band are one of Scotland's oldest brass bands, part of a unique and rich musical tradition woven into the town's mining and industrial heritage. The band have worked for several years to re-establish a base in Bathgate and this asset transfer provides a fantastic opportunity to realise their ambition whilst retaining a much-loved community building as an educational hub for the benefit of the town and the wider area.

West Lothian boasts a music scene with international status and influence. Growing up in Bathgate I was lucky enough to benefit from this before studying piano at the Birmingham and Utrecht conservatoires. Numerous studies have shown the wide range of benefits music education can provide, impacting people's cognitive, social, emotional and academic development. At a time when our society is experiencing a loneliness crisis, music, as a universal language, has the potential to foster inclusivity and promote social harmony and community.

The former Bathgate West Nursery holds a special place for many in the community whose grand-parents may have attended when it was a school or who themselves or their children have attended as a nursery. This central location would bring welcome footfall into the heart of the town while providing a much-needed community space to support local civic events such as the annual procession.

Located between two of Scotland's main cultural centres I believe a music hub in Bathgate would provide an invaluable focal point to continue developing West Lothian's own unique cultural scene while building links with the surrounding areas and organisations such as the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow. Live music plays a vital role in Scotland's economy with 2.3 million music tourists visiting the country in 2024, generating £857m in music tourism spend and supporting around 7,160 FTE jobs. With its fantastic transport links and central location Bathgate is well placed to become a key part of Scotland's wider music eco-system.

Yours sincerely,
Pauline Stafford
Councillor (SNP)
Bathgate Ward 8
West lothian Council



the cooperation band

music for all
Scottish Registered Charity SC040648

C/O the cooperation band 41 Forrest Place Armadale EH48 2GZ

Date: 31/07/2025

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write on behalf of **the cooperation band**, Scotland's premier brass band, to offer our full support for **Bathgate Band** and their outstanding initiative to establish the Bathgate Music Hub.

Over recent years, the cooperation band has developed a close and mutually enriching relationship with Bathgate Band. This partnership is more than symbolic – it is practical, supportive, and rooted in shared values of inclusivity, musical excellence, and community service.

A prime example of this collaboration was seen at Glasgow Pride, where members of Bathgate Band generously joined us to perform as part of our celebration of equality and diversity. Their presence and musicianship helped make the event a success, and their willingness to stand alongside us exemplifies the spirit of cooperation and solidarity that defines our bands' relationship.

Beyond this, Bathgate Band has demonstrated time and again its commitment to outreach, youth development, and creative vision. Their plans to convert the former Bathgate West Nursery into a dedicated community-focused Music Hub are not only inspiring—they are necessary. The Hub will provide a rehearsal and performance space not just for Bathgate Band, but for a wider range of ensembles and local groups. It will become a vital cultural resource for West Lothian, encouraging musical participation across generations.



the cooperation band

music for all Scottish Registered Charity SC040648

Bathgate Band's approach aligns perfectly with our own principles. We have seen the dedication, work ethic, and inclusive mindset of their committee, players, and supporters. They are a model of how music can build bridges between people and serve as a lasting force for good in a community.

As one of Scotland's leading ensembles, the cooperation band is proud to be counted among Bathgate Band's collaborators. We fully endorse their vision for the Bathgate Music Hub and encourage all stakeholders, funders, and community partners to support this transformative initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Douglas
Band Manager
the cooperation band



Whitburn Band

As one of Scotland's premier brass bands, Whitburn Band and our organisation members are delighted to lend our full support to Bathgate Band's proposal for Bathgate Music Hub.

This initiative is a significant step forward in strengthening Scotland's musical infrastructure, rooted in community investment and cultural legacy. Bathgate Band's long-standing contribution to civic life, musical development and public engagement is well recognised, and the creation of a dedicated Hub will allow that impact to flourish further, not only for Bathgate, but for the wider banding community both locally and Nationally.

We see Bathgate Music Hub as an opportunity to deepen regional collaboration, increase access to rehearsal and performance space, and continue to promote educational pathways for emerging talent. Its inclusive vision, and focus on multi-generational engagement, are closely aligned with our own values and priorities.

In an era where music education and local venues face increasing pressure, proposals like this are vital to the local arts community. They represent not just ambition, but leadership, and we commend Bathgate Band's Committee for the strategic foresight and professionalism with which this campaign has been delivered.

We look forward to future opportunities to engage, collaborate and contribute to Bathgate Music Hub as it takes shape, and we respectfully urge decision-makers to recognise its merit and endorse the bid.