

Gifts viewed with suspicion

THE story of the developer promising gifts to the public in the way of a sports academy, but in the same breath threatening to withdraw the proposed gift if they don't get their own way in buying protected greenfield lands, has a distasteful and familiar ring.

Pitreavie playing fields were leased to one of Sir David Murray's property development companies for 60 years on the basis that there was no alternative and this would bring massive investment and long-term commitment from that company for a sports academy. Just over a year later the company was sold to another company who promptly went into receivership.

The land has been in the hands of several stewards since then as a sports academy but I am unsure as to how the Dunfermline public has benefited and this was the basis on which the Carnegie Trust gifted the facility to the local council.

I think that gifts from developers, or anyone else, that are accompanied by threats must be viewed with suspicion. Do property developers really care about our leisure and recreation?

I have asked Sir Alex Ferguson what he thinks about the use of his name to endorse these latest threats and it will be interesting to see what he says.

**Tom Minogue,
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Green fields are at risk

IT'S not the loss of a sports academy that's at risk in Inverkeithing (*Press*, 17th June), it's the loss of green fields and the potential loss of an opportunity to regenerate the inner bay.

The same arguments were put forward last year when the offer was regeneration of Fraser Avenue in return for greenfield housing.

The facts are these: The people of Inverkeithing want to keep green the open spaces to the east of the town; the people of Inverkeithing want regeneration concentrated on the inner bay area, including the paper mill site; developers want to develop the open space because that's an easy and profitable option.

If the easy option is selected, we'll be back in the same position in 10 years time, wondering how to sort out the bay while the next round of developers eye up the next set of fields.

If ASP really want to help the town, they should join up with its people and help solve the principal problem.

**Councillor Dave Dempsey,
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