In 1900, a wealthy sheepbreeder called David Ainslie left a substantial endowment to purchase and maintain the grounds for a convalescent hospital. The gift – partly in memory of his nephew who died young – acknowledged that health could be restored in fresh air, light and open space.

The site, on a high, south-facing slope filled with trees and looking to the hills, is very beautiful - a magnificent green oasis in a city which is increasingly harassed by overcrowding and the replacement of life by hard concrete.

David Ainslie gave us, his grandchildren, the opportunity for health and relaxed pleasure in nature.
We wish to hand on his extraordinary gift to our grandchildren.

The Astley Ainslie site is a public possession. The NHS is withdrawing from the site, and a number of interested agencies will be advising them on the best way to proceed.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 enables communities to bring land into community ownership through Community Asset Transfer (CAT) and Community Right to Buy (CRtB). Some members of the community around the Astley Ainslie Hospital site have expressed an interest in exploring the option of using this legislation, to see if assets can be brought into community ownership for the continuing benefit of as many people as possible.

Running in parallel with consultation that the NHS will conduct on their draft masterplan, we would like to discuss the potential for community ownership with the wider community and then open up discussions with the NHS if enough people felt it appropriate.

We are holding a public meeting at the Eric Liddell Centre on Wednesday 31 January at 7pm - 9pm.
We look forward to seeing you there.