



27th April 2015
Ref: DSG(2015)C034

Mr D Jones,
Area Planning Manager, North
Highland Council
(sent by email)

Please respond to:

**June Love
DSG Secretariat
Dounreay.com
Traill House
7 Odrig Street
Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7BJ**

**Tel: 01847 890886
Fax: 01847 893459
Email: info@dounreaystakeholdergroup.org**

Dear Mr Jones

COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB

As DSG Socio Economic sub group chair, I am writing to you on behalf of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group for clarification on the planning process.

The DSG has an interest and a small involvement in the Community Sports Hub in that we are aware of this project and fully support the concept of the sports hub and their aims to enhance participation in a wide range of sports. Although they are working on enhanced communication of local club capability and improved coaching and club structures, their plans for a new facility that will cater for a wide range of sports is clearly ambitious and is important from a socio economic point of view.

As this project is being managed by one of the Dounreay Socio Economic Alliance members and the NDA has potential land that could be used for such a community function it is one of the projects that we receive updates on.

At the our last meeting we were updated on the planning application issue which resulted in Thurso Community Council being asked to be the applicant to allow a reduction in the planning application fee. We understand Thurso Community Council's position is that they have voted not to take the planning application forward.

We are writing to ask you for clarity. Given the Community Sports Hub is a community project and is being run mainly by volunteers with little funding available we would like to understand why such community groups cannot be offered the same discounted rates for planning applications as the Community Council.

We believe this is a project that would benefit the whole of Caithness and its success will depend on the volunteers who are trying to move this project forward and while we are aware that the sports hub secured DSRL funding to apply for planning permission that funding could also support other works that will be required in the future.

Can you please clarify why a community group such as this cannot get discounted rates and if this is a rigid process how does The Highland Council encourage Community Councils to take these applications forward on behalf of a community project.

Yours sincerely

Sent electronically without signature

Derrick Milnes
DSG Socio Economic sub group chairman

cc. DSG members
Stuart Black, Highland Council
David Sutherland, Highland Council