



18<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
Ref: DSG(2015)C065

**Hilary Brown**  
**Treasurer, Community Sports Hub**  
***Sent via email.***

**Please respond to:**

**June Love**  
**DSG Secretariat**  
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Dear Hilary

#### **COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB**

The Dounreay Stakeholder Group (DSG) is represented by over 20 organisations and therefore this response is one that is generally agreed by most organisations. However, there are some organisations, who may not agree entirely with this letter and therefore all the organisations represented by DSG have been encouraged to respond direct to you if deemed appropriate.

The DSG has been fully supportive of this project and find it disappointing that a number of concerns have been articulated through the local media and on a facebook campaign some of which appears to be factually incorrect.

The DSG support is based on the following:

- The county is in real need of a sports facility which will allow all those involved in sporting activities to have a facility they can rightly be proud of.
- There is an opportunity, by siting it at Viewfirth, for the land to be gifted to the community by the NDA, therefore increasing the opportunities to raise the required capital to build such a facility. If a community group, such as yours, had to purchase the land it is likely to make the proposed development unaffordable.
- Given the UK Government's spending review, the NDA will be under pressure to sell off this land if a community project does not come forward. If the sale of the land goes ahead to a private developer there is no telling what could be potentially proposed for this site.
- There may also be an opportunity to get involved with the City Region Deal which could potentially release funding for this project. That said, if adverse comments continue it allows other areas in the Highlands and Islands the opportunity to bid into this fund thereby ensuring sports facilities are encouraged outside the Caithness area.

- This is the second attempt at siting a community facility on the Viewfirth site, the first being taken forward by Pentland Housing and which failed after considerable effort.

We would like to place on record our support, and are happy that this letter accompanies any planning/funding applications made, for a much needed sports facility in our county.

Yours sincerely

*Sent electronically without signature*

**David Flear**  
**DSG Chairman**