

Local Residents
c/o 82 Duncan Street
Thurso
KW14 7HS

08/12/2015

Dounreay Stakeholders

Letter reference DSG(2015)C065

We write in connection with the above reference letter in support of the proposed development at Viewfirth Green, however, the proposal has been raised by local residents and current users of the amenity space, and to share our disappointment that Thurso Community Sports Hub have been reluctant to provide information of the proposal, other than the inaccurate pack handed out at the information evening at Thurso College.

As a group and as individuals, we are not opposed to the development of the Viewfirth Green site in line with the Caithness and Sutherland Local Plan. We are also supportive of enhancing the sporting facilities around Thurso to the standards recommended by the Sports and Play Construction Association, of which Sportscotland is a member.

Under Freedom of Information, Highland Council have released their 'Site Appraisal for the Provision of a Six Lane Running Track' completed by their Education, Culture and Sports Department. We are dismayed that Thurso Community Sports Hub's summary of the site selection is inconsistent with the Highland Council evaluation, with particular reference to the suitability of the Viewfirth Green site; and that no consultation was undertaken with other bone fide users of the facility, despite the NDA having indicated that to move the project forward there was a need for community engagement to ensure support.

We recognise Dounreay Stakeholder Group's remit to scrutinise and input into the priorities of socio economic activities by the Nuclear Decommission Authority, Patent Body Organisation and the Site Licence Company and how these link into the Caithness and Sutherland Regeneration Partnership, with particular reference to the disposition of NDA owned land. With this in mind we ask that DSG truly scrutinise the information available from all parties, and be acquainted with current guidance for sports facilities before offering support to a particular option.

With the updating of the Caithness and Sutherland Local Plan there is an excellent opportunity for effective consultation and to create a Plan that is for the benefit of all sections of the community. While other options in the Appraisal study may cost more or take longer to develop, surely DSG must support the recommended six lane track with potential for further development. It would be a tragedy to the whole community if a sub-standard facility was developed in Thurso if the main driver was for the NDA to donate their land.

Sincerely

Local Residents