

Dounreay Communities Fund
21 January 2026

FY 2025/26 FR-000003061 – Caithness Riding Club

The annual Caithness Riding Club Camp delivers a weekend of focused training aimed at developing riding ability alongside essential horse management skills. The club provides high-quality instruction from experienced and accomplished professionals across a range of disciplines, including dressage, cross-country, showing, and show jumping. The camp is designed to build technical competence while increasing rider confidence.

In addition to ridden training, participants take part in educational workshops covering horse care, nutrition, stable management, risk management, and safety awareness. The camp supports skill development in a safe and structured environment and has a positive impact on the wider community by encouraging participation in and promotion of equestrian sport.

The total cost of the project is £2,660, and a donation of £1,850 has been requested.

The requested funding will contribute to:

- The project will deliver the annual Caithness Riding Club Camp providing structured, high-quality equestrian training to local members. The camp will offer specialist coaching sessions delivered by experienced instructors from the south of Scotland, giving participants access to a level of training that is not normally available locally.

By bringing specialist coaches to Caithness, the project removes the need for members to travel long distances to access advanced instruction, reducing both travel costs and time commitments. This approach makes high-quality coaching more accessible and inclusive for riders living in remote and rural areas in the far north of Scotland.

Project outputs will include multiple discipline-specific training sessions in areas such as dressage, show jumping, cross-country, and showing, alongside educational workshops focused on horse care, nutrition, stable management, risk management, and rider safety.

The camp will provide direct training opportunities for participating members, support skill development and confidence building. The project will also strengthen the local equestrian community by improving access to education, promoting best practice, and encouraging ongoing participation in equestrian sport.

Does it comply with DCF criteria:	YES/NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cost is less than £7.5k • Provides benefit to the local community • Supporting local sports club • Support for local sporting event 	
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO
Recommended support:	£ 1330

FY 2025/26 – FR-000003065 – Wick Pipe Band – Further Fundraising and Equipment

Wick RBLS Pipe Band proposes to purchase fundraising resources to allow us to continue our fundraising efforts throughout the year and be more recognisable. This would include a branded marquee, advertising banners, flags, sandwich boards, and other necessary resources.

We also propose purchasing new pipe bag covers and chords to update and replace those currently in use and issue to members who are currently learning. Both will allow the band to continue serving the community throughout the year and will ensure that members have the correct equipment required for them to be a part of the band.

The total cost of the project is £7161, and a donation of £3,580 has been requested.

The requested funding will contribute to:

- This project will allow the band to be self-sustaining as it will enable us to continue our fundraising efforts throughout this year and for years to come. Having the pipe bag covers and chords will allow the band to continue to grow, ensuring that they have the correct, branded equipment to be out on parade.

Does it comply with DCF criteria:	YES/NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cost is less than £7.5k • Provides benefit to the local community Support for tourism within Caithness & North Sutherland 	
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO

Recommended support: £ 3580.50

FY 2025/26 – FR-000003033 – Bower Primary School – Primary 7 trip to Fairburn Activity Centre

The primary 7 pupils are invited to attend Fairburn activity centre on the Black Isle at the end of April 2026. There are 4 pupils eligible to attend. This trip would give them a wonderful opportunity to mix with the other rural school schools and take part in lots of outdoor activities such as, archery, bushcraft and survival skills, geocaching, laser tag, paintballing and canoeing.

The total cost of the project is £1,435, and a donation of £1,145 has been requested.

The requested funding will contribute to:

- The pupils would require getting a bus down to the site, arriving on the 29th of April and have 2 nights' accommodation.
The activities, accommodation and meals are included in the total cost of £287.00 + VAT per pupil.
- Unfortunately, the school does not have the funds to help with this project, the parents have all paid the deposit of £58.00 per pupil but will need assistance in raising the rest of the balance.
- The children would so benefit from mixing with all the schools, and the opportunity to have some independence in going away without their parents.
The outdoor activities would be so great for boosting their confidence and learning to work as a team before starting secondary school in the summer.
- The pupils will hugely benefit from being able to attend and are looking forward to getting together.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This trip allows the pupils to experience lots of outdoor fun, and a chance to work together in nature. Promoting outdoor activities.	
Does it comply with DCF criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total cost is less than £7.5k• Provides benefit to the local community• Support for local children	YES/NO
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO
Recommended support:	£717.50

FY 2025/26 – FR-000003039 – Ross County Academy – Caithness Academy training equipment	
having a Caithness set up we have a requirement to purchase new training equipment namely new portable goals. The committee hope to be able to provide elite level coaching for the youngsters within Caithness.	
The total cost of the project is £2,000, and a donation of £1,000 has been requested.	
The requested funding will contribute to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that the youth in the area are maintaining a fit and healthy lifestyle whilst being coached by sfa qualified coaches by having good quality equipment this would help us.• We have 40 youngsters attending these sessions in Wick and Thurso on a weekly basis and it would help massively to have the appropriate training equipment	YES/NO
Does it comply with DCF criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total cost is less than £7.5k• Provides benefit to the local community• Supporting local youth group• Supporting local sports club• Support for local children	YES/NO
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO
Recommended support:	£ 1000

FY 2025/26 FR-000003044 – Dunnet Forestry Trust – Tree safety inspection training

Dunnet Forestry Trust Project Overview:

Dunnet Community Forest is a 106-hectare woodland located on the north coast of Caithness, Scotland. The forest is part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and has been community-managed since 2000 and community-owned since 2020. Our forest is governed and managed by volunteers, with the support of two part-time staff members—a Forester and a Forest Development Officer.

This proposal outlines a training initiative for six volunteers to receive Lantra Awards Basic Tree Survey & Inspection certification. The training will equip volunteers with essential skills to identify and assess hazardous trees, allowing for more efficient management of the forest and ensuring the safety of the public.

The total cost of the project is £1,404, and a donation of £904 has been requested.

The requested funding will contribute to:

- To deliver a one-day Lantra Awards Basic Tree Survey & Inspection training course for six volunteers.

To increase the capacity of the Dunnet Forestry Trust to conduct regular tree inspections and identify potential hazards more quickly.

To enhance the safety of the woodland environment for the local community and visitors by preventing tree-related accidents.

To provide volunteers with the knowledge and skills to identify issues such as fungal infections, insect infestations, and storm damage.

To build a sustainable, skilled volunteer base capable of supporting the ongoing management and safety of the forest.

Does it comply with DCF criteria:	YES/NO	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cost is less than £7.5k • Provides benefit to the local community 		
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO	£

Recommended support: £ 904

FY 2025/26 FR-000003059 - Caithness Badminton Association - Serve Across the Seas: Caithness Senior Inter-County Trip to Shetland

The Caithness Badminton Association senior team, comprising six men and six women, will travel by air from Inverness to Shetland to represent Caithness in an established Inter-County Badminton match. The competition includes men's, ladies' and mixed doubles matches, providing a high-quality competitive environment for senior players.

Following the Inter-County fixture, Caithness players will also compete in the Yell Open tournament, increasing participation numbers and strengthening the profile of badminton events in Shetland. This visit supports a long-standing, biannual sporting partnership between Caithness and Shetland, with both associations providing mutual support at tournaments and inter-county events when hosted in their respective areas.

The project strengthens links between the two regions, supports the sustainability of competitive badminton in remote communities, and provides Caithness players with valuable experience against different and more challenging opposition. This exposure helps develop local players, raises playing standards, and encourages continued participation in competitive sport.

The total cost of the project is £3,775, and a donation of £1,700 has been requested.

The requested funding will contribute to:

- 12 senior players from a rural mainland community actively participating in an inter-county sporting event

One full inter-county match programme comprising of many competitive matches

Participation in one open tournament, increasing entries and competitive opportunities in a remote island location (in return they support our local tournament)

Improved physical health and wellbeing through sustained training, travel, and competitive match play

Positive mental wellbeing outcomes, including confidence, motivation, and social connection gained through team representation and competition

Strengthened rural inclusion, reducing geographical isolation by enabling players from Caithness to engage in national-level competition that would otherwise be inaccessible due to distance and travel costs

Sustained inter-county partnership, supporting long-standing, biannual sporting links between two rural and island communities

While no formal employment or qualifications are created, the project promotes active lifestyles, social inclusion, and equal access to competitive sport for adults living in rural and island areas, contributing to long-term participation and community wellbeing.

Does it comply with DCF criteria:

- Total cost is less than £7.5k
- Provides benefit to the local community
- Supporting local sports club
- Support for local sporting event

YES/NO

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Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO	£
Recommended support:		£ 1700

Summary as of 21 January 2026

2025/26 Funding	NDA Funding B/Fwd FY 2024/25 Total	£35,000 £ TBC £35,000
Funds Donated Current requests Current suggested Total Funds supported to date		£10,449 £9,232 £4,292.50
Balance available as at 21 January 2026		£30,707.50