

**From:** ROSS BALFOUR [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** 14 November 2018 16:39  
**To:** [REDACTED] Community Asset Transfer  
**Cc:** Helen Ross; Frank Scott  
**Subject:** Re: Seaboard Community Polytunnel Group Validation Letter

[REDACTED]

In reply to your queries :

## **FUNDING**

We have a credit balance of £16308.55 and a pledge of another £5000. (The £5000 can be drawn down at any time but we have not done so as yet as there is a time limit of 12 months from draw down to project completion).

Following a very successful meeting with a funding source we have been advised a decision in principle has been agreed to provide the balance of funding required to reach our target. We are currently awaiting written confirmation.

We believe we have secured all the funding to successfully complete the project.

## **COMMUNITY BENEFIT**

The polytunnel will be used by all members of the community. We are especially keen to involve school children, youth, disabled and the elderly.

We have engaged with both community groups and external agencies to ensure the aims of the group will address social inclusion, anti-social behaviour and provide a much needed facility in the Seaboard.

We have met with :

- Highland Councillors responsible for Tain and Seaboard Ward - Cllr F Robertson, Cllr D Loudon and Cllr A Rhind.
- NHS Highland - Maria Dickson
- Highland Council Housing Officer covering Balintore area
- Tain & District Youth Development Officer - Rob Parks
- Seaboard Community Centre - Maureen Ross
- Balintore & Hilton Community Council - Sandra Skinner
- Seaboard Cares - Alice Smith
- Seaboard Residents Group - Robert James.

Maria Dickson (NHS Highland) chaired a meeting in the Seaboard Centre specifically to discuss social isolation in the community and provide a focal point for them during leisure hours. She feels the polytunnel would be a great facility to address this issue.

Rob Parks (Youth Development Officer) feels strongly that the project would engage many of the youth in the community, help to combat anti-social behaviour and provide a focal point for them during leisure hours.

All other groups have a very positive attitude towards the project and offer their whole hearted support.

## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

A public meeting in the Seaboard Centre was well attended and there was 100% support for the project.

A news item was included in the Community News outlining our proposal and requesting feedback. Various responses in support were received but no negative comments were recorded.

I understand a letter from Seaboard Cares has been submitted direct.

Attached are 2 letters in support of the project.

I trust this addresses the questions in your email and the Highland Council can now make a decision on our application for a Community Asset Transfer.

Ross B Balfour 