



Tracey Smith (Secretary)
Heart of Sutherland Tourism

[REDACTED]
Lairg
Sutherland
[REDACTED]

14th September 2020.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in my position of Secretary of the Heart of Sutherland Tourism group (HOST). We were formed in 2015 to promote not only the central area within the NC500 route for tourism but also the businesses that are located here tourism related or not.

Since the launch of the NC500 and its increasing success many visitors are now looking to explore other areas and find more quiet peaceful locations away from the popular route. The central area with its quiet roads, wide range of accommodation, interesting shops, and cafés/restaurants and off the beaten track hidden gems is becoming more popular. Many now use it as a base to explore much of the Norther Highlands on daily car tours without the need for changing accommodation every night.

During the Covid -19 restrictions on overseas travel has meant the Scottish Highlands has become a popular staycation location, and there are ever increasing numbers of motorhomes that are exploring the area. What the crisis has also revealed is that the lack of infrastructure for motorhomes has put a huge strain on local communities from inconsiderate camping, increased litter, and issues with disposal of human waste. Traditional campsites do not cater for the needs of modern motor homes who are looking for the more Aire type stopping points found around Europe which offer parking, facilities for waste disposal but are close enough to towns for supplies and to use local shops & café.

The site in Bonar Bridge has been used as an unofficial camping stop for many years and is the perfect location to be developed to provide additional facilities. With public toilets and the infrastructure of water and electric already in place this has reduced the investment costs to improve the facilities. The welcome addition of electric charging points for cars and bikes, sales of which are on a dramatic rise, will also help to boost its use as a base and give people the chance to explore the adjacent towns/villages of Lairg and Rosehall and provide increased trade to the businesses and activity providers in the area. It will also provide an income stream for the local area that can be reinvested into future development.

As a group we whole heartedly support any development that increases the use of the area for tourism and the boost to the local economy that it brings. Therefore, we are happy to support the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust in this development and hope that you will look favourably on their funding application.

Yours faithfully

Tracey Smith, Secretary Heart of Sutherland Tourism

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Dear Sir/Madam

We are writing in support of the Kyle of Sutherlands proposal to create facilities for motorhomes in Bonar Bridge.

We are aware that there is an increasing problem with motorhomes parking in inappropriate places and leaving a mess behind them. This proposal will offer a regulated area for these vans to park in a location which will benefit the local economy without any displacement of services as there is no caravan parks in the Bonar Bridge area at present.

Having this provision at Bonar Bridge will also encourage travellers to explore the inner heart of Sutherland rather than just travel the North the North Coast 500 which can be rather busy in peak season.

Yours Faithfully

Lynn and Darren Redfern
(Dornoch Caravan and Camping Park)

24th September 2020

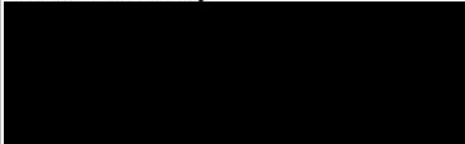
To whom it may concern,

Kyle of Sutherland Tourism Infrastructure Project.

I am writing to confirm the support of North Coast 500 Ltd to I am happy to give my full support to Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust's project to develop infrastructure to support the sustainable development of overnight motor home parking in Bonar Bridge, Invershin and Rosehall . I have been very impressed by the way in which the community leaders in Kyle of Sutherland have sought to find solutions and opportunities to the challenges of increased visitors to the area. It is heartening to see the enthusiasm and ambition for the town and the efforts to maximise the gains the increased visitors bring to local businesses. It is important that communities look to enhance the visitor's experiences through the use of new and existing infrastructure, and this is an excellent example of such an initiative.

I wish the project and its leaders well in their efforts and I hope that funding becomes available to take this to the next stage.

Yours sincerely



Tom Campbell
Executive Chair
North Coast 500 Ltd.



North Highland Initiative
Success is in our nature

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David Watson
Manager
Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust
The Barn
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IV24 3AL

25th September 2020

Dear David,

Kyle of Sutherland Tourism Infrastructure Project

As Chair of the North Highland Initiative I am happy to give my full support to Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust's project to develop infrastructure to support the sustainable development of overnight motor home parking in Bonar Bridge, Invershin and Rosehall.

There has been a lot of publicity recently about irresponsible tourism and unacceptable behaviour by some visitors since lockdown was lifted in July. This has impacted on all the communities across the Highlands and Islands. Projects such as the one being developed by KoSDT will provide better facilities for visitors whilst at the same time reducing issues such as increased waste and impacts on parking and pressures on local services. There will also be the knock-on effect of increased trade for local shops and service businesses.

In my view this application fits in well with the key elements of the RTIF criteria as it addresses comprehensively the visitor pressure points, identified by the key stakeholders in the KoSDT area. It also addresses much of what the North Highland Initiative have been lobbying for with regards the urgent requirement for tourism infrastructure including clean, covid-19 compliant toilets and Motorhome waste management facilities.

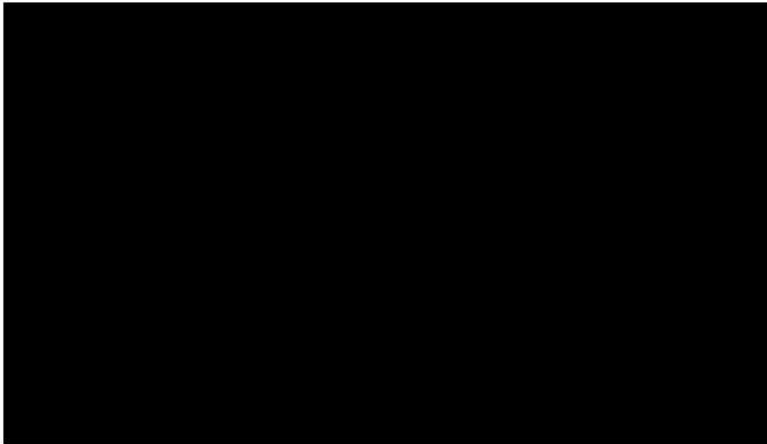
The application has taken into consideration a sustainable approach in its delivery and management whilst enhancing community capacity building within the KoSDT area, something which the North Highland Initiative have strongly advocated for the region as a whole. This in turn strengthens both communities and private businesses

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alike whilst stimulating a more vibrant, circular economy and engagement of local supply chains.

I am therefore delighted to add our support to this much needed project. Indeed, NHI will be active partners using our established networks and communication functions to help to publicise the project and raise awareness with our existing stakeholders

Yours sincerely,



David Whiteford OBE
Chairman
North Highland Initiative