



**DINGWALL & HIGHLAND  
MARTS LIMITED**

**Auctioneers • Valuers • Estate Agents**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

To whom it may concern,

Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd., fully support the application from the Maryburgh Men's Shed acquisition of the former Maryburgh school building.

A large part of our business revolves around interaction with customers which has been curtailed under the current COVID-19 restrictions and we fully appreciate the difficulties that people in the farming sector and general population are having with seclusion & loneliness.

We feel that a project like this is vital for the mental health and wellbeing of the local community.

Regards

[Redacted Signature]

Grant Macpherson F.I.A. (Scot.)  
Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd.  
Humberston  
Bailechaul Road  
Dingwall  
IV15 9TP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Alec Mutch  
per Maryburgh Men's Shed,  
Maryburgh  
Dingwall [REDACTED]

9 December 2020  
Our Ref: IB21655

Dear Alec,

Thank you for the information you sent regarding the plans for a Men's Shed for Maryburgh and your bid to secure a Community Asset Transfer of the old Primary School on Hood Street.

I wholeheartedly endorse the Men's Shed philosophy and believe this movement has a particularly important role to play in smaller towns and more rural areas, bringing enormous benefits to an individual's wellbeing and mental attitude

The fact that plans for a Men's Shed have already attracted so much interest from residents in Maryburgh and the surrounding communities demonstrates that such a facility is much-needed in the area – particularly at these difficult and unsettled times.

I would imagine that the former primary school on Hood Street would provide ideal accommodation for your needs, offering plenty of space indoors along with much-needed outside space/parking.

I am delighted to support Maryburgh Men's Shed committee's CAT application and wish you well with this and all future endeavours. Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to assist in the future.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Ian Blackford  
Member of Parliament for  
Ross, Skye & Lochaber

# KATE FORBES MSP

FOR SKYE, LOCHABER AND BADENOCH



8<sup>th</sup> December 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to add my full support to Maryburgh Men's Shed in their efforts to secure the former Maryburgh Primary School building through a Community Asset Transfer.

The Men's Shed has commendable plans to offer the community, in particular older residents, a facility to meet, learn new skills, refresh old skills and become involved in community projects.

At a time when loneliness and social isolation are being felt by residents right across the Highlands, I believe this endeavour will make a significant difference to improving the mental and physical health and wellbeing of the community in Maryburgh.

I am delighted to add my support to Maryburgh Men's Shed and their application for a Community Asset Transfer.

Thank you for giving this your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Kate Forbes MSP

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch

## Maryburgh Men's Shed CAT Application



Mountain E (Edward), MSP <Edward.Mountain.msp@parliament.scot>

To [REDACTED]

Cc Cameron D (Donald), MSP; Halcro Johnston J (Jamie), MSP

Dear Andy and Alec,

Thank you for taking the time to explain to me your exciting ideas for Maryburgh's Men shed to be located in the former Maryburgh Primary School.

I was taken by the fact that your proposal encompassed three uses, which makes it far more attractive.

I have also looked at the documents at:

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/1923/Former\\_Maryburgh\\_Primary\\_School\\_&\\_Grounds\\_-\\_Maryburgh\\_Men's\\_Shed](https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/1923/Former_Maryburgh_Primary_School_&_Grounds_-_Maryburgh_Men's_Shed)

I have spoken to my colleagues, Donald Cameron and Jamie Halcro Johnston (I have copied them in on this email) and briefed them of your plans.

We are all agreed that this proposal will make a very positive contribution to the local community and we are all delighted to support your application.

I do hope this email will be sufficient to allow you to show our support and we all wish you well with your plans.



Edward Mountain MSP | Highlands and Islands Region

Email: [edward.mountain.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:edward.mountain.msp@parliament.scot)

Parliamentary Office: M3.18, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP (Tel: 0131 348 6143)

Regional Office: 10 Drummond Street, Inverness, IV1 1QD (Tel: 01463 230777)

Facebook: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/EdMountainMSP/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/1edmountain>

Web: <https://www.edwardmountainmsp.scot/>

I process personal data in line with my obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation. To request a copy of my privacy notice, please contact me at [edward.mountain.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:edward.mountain.msp@parliament.scot)

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----- Original Message -----

From: "Gladys Stuart"

To:

Sent: Wednesday, 30 Dec, 20 At 17:17

Subject: MARYBURGH MEN'S SHED

Dear Mr Law,

I am writing to you on behalf of the local football club Maryburgh F. C. in support of the setting up of the Maryburgh Men's Shed in our village.

Men Sheds offer people the opportunity to meet as a group which helps people to get involved with the Community and helps people to get to know other members who attend the meetings.

The Men's Shed encourages members to stay active for longer whilst using their skills learnt during their working live. It also allows people to meet in a safe environment to use new skills with old and new friends.

In the current times this can only be a benefit to the Community as we come to the end of a very demanding year for everyone.

I would like to wish you all the best on the setting up of the Men's Shed and the Football Club Members can only see this as a huge benefit to the Community.

I would be obliged if you can keep me informed on your progress with this project and please do not hesitate to contact me if the Football Club can be of any assistance.

Best Regards

Donald

Donald Stuart – Secretary/Treasurer

Maryburgh Football Club

16 December 2020

Mr. S. Law  
[REDACTED]

Maryburgh  
Dingwall  
Ross-shire  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Law,

**Re: Proposed Maryburgh Men's Shed**

I have recently been in conversation with Mr. Tom Thomas (from Maryburgh) who told me about the work that was ongoing on establishing a new Men's Shed in Maryburgh in the vicinity of the old school.

I am writing to you in support of this plan on behalf of my Scout Group where I am an Assistant Scout Leader as the provision of such a group in this area would, I am sure, be most welcome, particularly in the current climate regarding the ongoing pandemic.

Having watched the work of similar Men's Sheds in Inverness, I have seen how much they can do for the local community. With the likelihood of increased unemployment in the weeks and months to come, having somewhere where like-minded men (and indeed women) can go during the day to meet up and participate in collaborative projects that benefit the community, would be most beneficial, particularly to the mental health of those attending.

And you never know, the Scouts (and indeed the Guides and other Youth Groups) might well benefit as well.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Martin McLauchlan  
Asst. Scout Leader

Free Church Manse

[REDACTED]  
Maryburgh  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

16<sup>th</sup> of December 2020

Dear Mr Law,

Men's Shed

I am writing to say how glad I am to hear about plans for the Men's Shed in the old School in Maryburgh. I think it is a great idea. This would be an excellent focal point for the community, bringing people of all ages and backgrounds together. Not only will it enhance the community spirit, I believe it will also be valuable in training and providing people with new skills and interests. Therefore, I would like to encourage and support this in whatever way I can.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Rev. Alec Stewart

# The Cottage Bar & Restaurant

[REDACTED]  
Maryburgh  
[REDACTED]

18/12/2020

Sandy Law  
Secretary  
Maryburgh Men's Shed

[REDACTED]

Dear Sandy

## Maryburgh Men's Shed

As a business owner and long-term resident of the village, I would like to offer my full support for the Maryburgh Men's Shed project. I think that facilities like this are vital to the ongoing mental and physical wellbeing of people in the area as well as improving the village amenities.

We would be happy to help build on local ties and would endorse any facility which helps support isolated individuals in the area.

All at The Cottage wish the Men's Shed well.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Traci Payne





## **FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH**

**Minister: Revd. Stephen Macdonald BD. MTh**

**Ferintosh Manse, [REDACTED] Conon Bridge [REDACTED]**

28 December 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Maryburgh Men's Shed which hope to get established in the old Maryburgh Primary school. This is a much-needed resource in our Parish especially now with the increased isolation and loneliness that many have felt and are feeling as a result of Covid19. Within a Men's Shed there could be a workshop, a seated area and somewhere that members can undertake a variety of activities. It is somewhere that groups of men (and women) can meet and undertake an activity together, but also where people can pop in for a chat and a coffee, find information about local services and help their local community.

The Maryburgh Men's shed will reflect the interest of those that attend. But the aim will be to have lots of equipment whether that's for woodworking and joinery, workbenches where upholstery or repairs can take place; bicycle, tool or furniture repair, other ideas floated may be to have a pool table, chess sets or even cookery lessons! The Men's Shed could consider having eco themes and possibly get use of an allotment. It is hoped that when the Maryburgh Men's Shed get permission to start that friendships can be formed, and people can meet together and enjoy a blether. The Men's Shed will be open to everyone of all ages and will be very welcoming.

Men tend not to talk a lot about their feelings or seek help if anything is wrong and the men's shed can provide information along with a safe and secure place where members can work out their problems together as well as enjoying light-hearted moments. The Men's Shed will be a place where men of all ages can come together to make things, share common interests, and learn new skills.

The Men's Shed will be a huge asset to the whole community. We at Ferintosh Parish Church give our full support to this wonderful cause and hope to see it started as soon as possible.

With Kind Regards, [REDACTED]

Rev Stephen Macdonald

Maryburgh Store  
Probystreet  
Maryburgh  
IV78BU

Dear Andy

We at Maryburgh Store would like to offer our full support for your project Maryburgh Mens Sheds.

We believe it is very important for health and wellbeing throughout communities. We also look forward to the Woodturners presence and the community room. We are excited to see what this may bring.

All the best



Owner, Maryburgh Store

Maryburgh Community Council

Seaforth Place

Maryburgh

IV78DP

Dear Maryburgh Mens Sheds

I, Fiona Ross, am writing on behalf of Maryburgh Community Council to vouch support, from the community as a whole, for the venture your charity is pursuing.

I have personally had many emails and leaflet hand backs regarding the Community having the old school building for Community use, a Mens shed and Woodturning room.

The Community and ourselves, the Community Council, really do believe many of us will benefit from the project. It will bring fun back into Maryburgh, but more importantly reduce isolation and loneliness. A men's shed offers many valuable qualities for communities, like education, socialisation and gives some a purpose, a sense of giving back to the Community and also make members overall happier at home.

We really do look forward to the outcome and wish you all the best.

Yours

8<sup>TH</sup> JAN 2021

On behalf of Maryburgh Community/ Council

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## **ADVICE & ADVOCAY**

## **REALITY: RESTITUTION: RECOVERY:**

8th December 2020

Mr Andy Barnett,  
Treasurer  
Maryburgh Men's Shed Project  
Maryburgh

Dear Andy,

### **MARYBURGH MEN'S SHED PROJECT**

Having raised my children and grandchildren in Maryburgh I have been a community activist for more than 40 years. Firstly as a Youth Leader, then as secretary of the Maryburgh Amenities Association and finally as secretary of the Maryburgh Community Council.

I wholeheartedly support your excellent plan to create a Men's Shed Project in Maryburgh. The benefits of such a project on the service users physical and mental well-being could be incalculable, particularly following the isolation experienced by so many in 2020 and the aftermath moving forward.

I applaud this new generation of sincere community activists in Maryburgh and the surrounding communities and I wish you every success with your application. I am a Trustee on the Board of two National Charities and my community work began all those years ago in Maryburgh.

Yours sincerely,

Terri Semple

Ian Tolmie  
Chair  
Maryburgh Men's shed

MARYBURGH

Please ask for: Diane Agnew

Date: 11 January 2021

### Maryburgh Former Primary School – Community Asset Transfer Request

I write on behalf of the Dingwall and Seaforth Highland Councillors who would like to confirm their support for the Maryburgh Men's Shed Organisation progressing an asset transfer bid to enable them to take on the former Primary School in Maryburgh through a community asset transfer subject to a sustainable business plan.

Members have been advised that the Men's Shed Organisation in Maryburgh has now received charity status and has attracted 70 members from a wide range of areas. The Councillors welcome this news which shows commitment and drive behind the Men's shed taking on a building where they can work with individuals. The development of the building Councillors are advised will reflect the interests of those that use them. Members know from first hand that the Men's Shed have helped many people in Dingwall to improve their health and wellbeing and sense of worth.

Maryburgh Former Primary School will be kitted out with equipment for woodworking and joinery and we are aware that there are talented professional craftsmen who will work with people to improve their skills and make things and refurbish and recycle other items.

Members are also aware that the Maryburgh Men's Shed have been working with other community groups to ensure that there is a purpose of all the rooms in the building. Those groups have shown their commitment to shared use of the building.

Men's Sheds are places where friendships form and people can have a chat. They are open to everyone all ages and are very welcoming. They also contribute hugely to improving the community they live in through undertaking voluntary.

Men tend to not talk a lot about their feelings or seek help if anything is wrong and a Men's Shed can provide information along with a safe and secure place where members can work out their problems together and have a laugh.

In this day and age this is important to such area as mental health and a person's health in general, people need to aim in life no matter what age or who they are, 'Med's Sheds' give people a place to talk and have a purpose.

The Dingwall and Seaforth Highland Councillors would therefore wish to confirm their support to the Maryburgh Men's Shed Organisation in their quest for a Community Asset Transfer.

Yours sincerely

**Di Agnew**

DIANE AGNEW  
Ward Manager – Black Isle & Dingwall and Seaforth  
Communities and Place  
(On behalf of Councillors Margaret Paterson, Angela MacLean,  
Graham Mackenzie and Alister Mackinnon)