28.1.2021

To whom it may concern

I would like to lend my support for the Thurso Development Trust's application for funding to acquire an asset transfer and refurbish the Greenhouses complex. The project itself will benefit the local area on a number of levels; producing fresh vegetables for the local community and as an opportunity for training disadvantaged young people. The skills gained will enhance employability competencies, develop confidence and build resilience. Having this local growing facility inspires young people to enter the growing and horticulture arena and nurture interest in themes around climate change and the mitigation measures we can all engage in, in the local area.

I would also like to support the application for their plans to open a hub in Thurso Town Centre to help the community in the recovery from Covid-19, to strengthen social bonds and combat social isolation. There are mounting needs, identified through the resilience group and through various community meetings, for activities that reduce isolation and also which create opportunities to develop employability skills.

The Trust plays an active role in a number of community projects, rallying volunteers during the covid response and in a number of other outreach programs for the community. I have no hesitation in supporting their efforts for the aforementioned projects and wish them all the very best.

Yours Sincerely Julie Marker on behalf of the Adaptive and Collaborative Communities Project

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