

Dear Dr Murray

We are writing as two GP's from the Lochcarron Medical Practice to lend our firm support to the Leisure Centre's bid to acquire the old Playgroup building in order to turn it into a Fitness Centre.

The news that this might happen has given us hope that, finally, we may have access to somewhere where our local population can safely exercise indoors. It is no secret that leisure facilities in our area are sadly lacking. We believe that such a centre would be of huge benefit to the patients of Lochcarron - especially those who currently have to travel to Torridon or Kyle in order to access a 'fitness prescription'.

As you know, exercise can be of huge benefit to both the mental and physical health of young and old alike. Having such a facility on our doorstep would encourage many more people to partake in healthy exercise.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Iain Strath

Dr Carol Hogan

From: Kenny Maclean [REDACTED] Playgroup bid: 23 November 2021 at 18:42:13 GMT

To: [REDACTED]

Dear David,

I understand the Lochcarron Leisure Centre Community Company are hoping to take ownership of the old playgroup building in Park Road, Lochcarron through The Highland Council's Community Asset Transfer Scheme.

I suggested this to Keith Pearce a number of years ago at one of your fundraising quiz nights and would be happy to support such a move.

Regards,

Kenny Maclean

[REDACTED],

Achnasheen,

[REDACTED]

From: Dee Gilks [REDACTED]
Subject: Playgroup Building
Date: 22 November 2021 at 21:15:36 GMT
To: David Murray [REDACTED]

Hi David,

I heard that you have been engaging with the Highland Council over the future use of the playgroup building for community benefit.

My understanding is that it was originally financed through public contributions and donations for the benefit of the village and surrounding area's people and it is only right and proper that it should continue to benefit the community that funded it. I would like to assure you of my personal support for this proposal.

I believe that there is a possibility that it may be used as a fitness suite or gym. There are many individuals and clubs in the village that would benefit from this both in terms of improving health and overall fitness while also raising the competitiveness of Lochcarron's sports teams.

As the Chair of the Skiffies rowing club I am sure that this would be an excellent addition to our members' training schedule and would be a great help to develop our rowers to greater strength and improve our team's abilities particularly when the weather prevents us from rowing on the loch. Members have discussed this in the past and are generally in favour of the village having such a facility.

On an individual basis, I would be very interested in using a fitness suite to maintain my own health and wellbeing.

Please let us know if there is any way that I or the Skiffies can assist your application or fundraising to make this a community asset once again.

Best wishes

Dee Gilks
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Lochcarron playgroup building
Date: 19 November 2021 at 17:33:03 GMT
To: [REDACTED]

Dear David,

I understand that you are in the process of trying to secure the use of the Lochcarron playgroup building for community use as an exercise/gym facility and am writing to express my support for this proposal.

As a resident of Lochcarron myself I am aware of the sports centre group's attempts to create much needed sports/gym facilities here in the village and I believe that the playgroup building should be retained for this purpose.

Regards,
Lynne Roberts.

[REDACTED]

Lohcarron

[REDACTED]

On Friday, 19 November 2021, 16:36:32 GMT [REDACTED]

Hi David

Just a wee note of support for the proposal that the Leisure Centre group be granted the use of the former playgroup building as a fitness and gym facility for the whole community. I feel this is a very fitting use for a unit which was purchased with so much hard work, sweat and tears and the deep pockets of our community in the first place.

Many years ago Lochcarron playgroup was extremely grateful to Howard Doris for the use of a finlog house for our local playgroup which had been meeting in the village hall for some time, which meant getting out equipment and salting it away again every session.

However, we knew that our time in the finlog house was numbered, as the houses would be sold when Howard Doris closed the Kishorn site, so we were once again looking for premises suitable for a playgroup.

I was by this time playleader, taking over when our local dentist and his wife Donna who had been playleader, left the area.

Together, the parents using the group, the committee from amongst them, and myself as playleader, began to fund raise in earnest to raise money that we could then use to match grants available in order to purchase a portacabin. I am sure many in the community will remember our fantastic sales and Christmas Fayre's with our Santa's grottos. I recall all too well my own tears on the cabin's arrival in Lochcarron as I was not going to be the playleader in it, having just accepted a post with the Playgroup Association. But the job entailed visiting and supporting lots of community playgroups and the contrast between having a designated unit to using a community hall was so marked.

It was a huge community fundraising effort though, and of course later, the unit was even more important, when nursery education came in. It allowed our three and four year olds to enjoy their preschool education in the unit. But the demands on the parent managers and staff became too much, as times move on, often both parents work and the demands on community run preschool nurseries has become untenable, because nursery education in non-local authority primary school nursery classes, is still subject to full HMI inspections etc. Sadly the parents and staff agreed they should hand over to the Education Authority and this year the unit became vacant.

As I understand it, the Leisure Centre group's bid to repurpose the unit into a fitness room and gym for the community can happen via the Community Asset Transfer process. It seems a fitting use for a unit initially bought by the efforts of the whole community. Many of the children who attended the playgroup are now young adults and particularly keen on exercise and fitness. There are younger families coming into the village all the time, who are perhaps used to having such a facility available to them. Finally I believe that all ages are particularly concerned about our health and well being after these strange times.

John and I both endorse this bid and hope it succeeds

Regards, fingers crossed and all the best

Audrey and John Tomlinson

From: Sigga Petursdottir [REDACTED]
Subject: Support for Playgroup building
Date: 25 November 2021 at 15:26:33 GMT
To: [REDACTED]

Hi David

I'm writing in support of your bid to acquire the Lochcarron Playgroup building for community use. I supported your previous bid for a leisure centre on the Kirkton plot and I would certainly use the proposed facility on a regular basis. Before Covid I was driving 30 miles to Torridon to use the gym there.

If the building were to be acquired for other community use also, I do support and attend Art Group and Music Group activities, many of which are currently taking place in people's houses for lack of suitable space.

Kind regards
Sigga
Sigridur Petursdottir

[REDACTED]
Lochcarron [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dr David Murray

[REDACTED]

Lochcarron,

Sue Robb

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Lochcarron

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

20th November 2021

Dear David,

I am writing to you offering my support to your proposal to acquire the old Lochcarron Playgroup building in Park Rd, Lochcarron for continued community use.

Your scheme to use the building as a gym/fitness suite is key in encouraging residents of Lochcarron and district of all ages to increase their activity and fitness levels, with all the benefits of increased health. Lochcarron has one of the oldest average populations in Scotland. Their health, mobility and welfare would be greatly enhanced. The current nearest fitness facilities involve a 50 mile return journey.

The Lochcarron Playgroup was established 40 years ago through much local fundraising and run by members of the community as a community asset.

I am appalled to see Highland Council profiteering by attempting to sell this building commercially, which they obtained almost by default. There has been no consultation with the community even though you expressed interest in January 2020.

I wish you all the best with this and if I can help in any way, please let me know.

Regards

Sue Robb