

Alness Community Council
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5th November 2022

Dear Janette

Alness Community Council recognise all the hard work The Place does for the young people in the community, particularly at The Field, and wish to express their support with regard to your ongoing lease re-negotiation.

Yours sincerely

Una MacIntosh
Chair of the Alness Community Council



Name: Rhiannon Elder – Youth Work Manager

Organisation/business: Youth Highland

Statement of support:

My relationship with The Place

The Place have been a member club of Youth Highland and now Youth HUB, Participating Unit and valued member of the Voluntary Youth Network. In my role at Youth Highland as an Operating Agency for Youth Achievement Awards, I have supported and continue to support The Place to deliver awards as part of their programmes. I have also delivered training for their Young Leaders as well as supporting the Youth Work team to fund and source additional training for the Young Leaders including First Aid and Food Hygiene.

Supporting Statement

Since The Place Youth Club was evicted, the Youth Workers and board have used that as an opportunity to evolve, grow and have subsequently created safe spaces where young people can build a relationships with their peers and Youth Workers, increase their opportunities for learning and building existing and new skills in an informal and inspiring setting among many other things. The Youth Work team have grown not just in size but in confidence and because of that Youth Work in Alness is thriving.

The Place team are working with young people to ensure that their service remains innovative and relevant to their community and users. The learning opportunities for young people are increasing attainment and by delivering SQA accredited awards for young people aged 5 to 25, alongside volunteering opportunities for young people they are increasing the overall skills of both the young people and Youth Work, work force in the area.

They are an invaluable resource in Alness and have proved that Youth Work as a professional skill, partnership working and collaboration using CLD methods and a lot of hard work really does make a difference to a community.

Signed: [Redacted Signature]

Date: 23/8/22

Thank you very much for your support!



Name: Julia McKillop

Organisation/business: Crocus Childhood Bereavement Support, Highland Hospice, Ness House, 1 Bishop's Road, Inverness, IV3 5SB

Statement of support:

As bereavement specialists working with children and young people across the Highlands we have had the pleasure of working with groups at The Field. There is plenty of academic evidence showing the benefit of peer support groups and early intervention. There is also much research into the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences if they are left unresolved, grief and bereavement included.

The importance of having routine, predictability and a safe space cannot be understated when working with vulnerable children and young people. Being able to attend a safe space within the community also removes many barriers including the need to travel to our Inverness office for appointments which can be stigmatising and alienating for some young people. The Field offers a multi-purpose community space.

The Place have been very supportive of our efforts to build a safe space for young people to come for individual appointments, group work and a social environment for bereaved young people. We could not provide this service for Tain/Alness without these facilities.

We understand that The Field is based on commercial property, however the work carried out here benefits the mental and social wellbeing for children and young people within the local community and in turn the community itself. It is in no way a commercial service. The benefit of this resource should not be underestimated.

Signed: Julia McKillop, Childhood Bereavement Co-ordinator, Crocus, Highland Hospice

Date: 09.09.22

Thank you very much for your support!



ALNESS BAPTIST CHURCH (SCIO)

Jesus Christ The Only Hope

Pastor: Rev. Hugh Robert McNally-Adair, [REDACTED]

Secretary: Mr Stuart Chalmers, [REDACTED]

Treasurer: Mr Angus MacLeod, [REDACTED]

01/11/2022

Reference: The Place (The Field Project)

Highland Council

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Rev. Hugh Robert McNally- Adair, am writing on behalf of the leadership and membership of Alness Baptist Church to express my support for The Field Project.

The project aims to continue to provide high standard of excellent youth work to the young people of Alness and the wider Easter Ross Area.

The project is of significant value to me as a minister in the local community, but also as a local community councillor which sits on the Alness Community Council. I have actively seen the projects work first hand as a lifeline, to the young people in our local community to provide support and stability, but also as support in a community which is with the top 10% of social deprivation within Scotland. The Place provides opportunities for self-worth and personal growth and development of character for our young people to become model citizens within the community and society at large.

Your support and renegotiation of the current lease, to make it more feasible for this vital project is paramount to the continued and well supported and vital youth work within our community.

I am confident that the field project will continue to yield valuable results for our community and the Highland Council area at large.

Meanwhile, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself, [REDACTED], or email

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Rev. Hugh Robert McNally- Adair

Minister Alness Baptist Church

ALNESS BAPTIST CHURCH (SICO), Firhill, Alness, Ross-shire, IV170RX,

PASTOR: Rev. Robert Adair

W: www.alnessbc.org.uk
Scottish Charity No. SC049415



Name: Superintendent Michael O'Neill RNMDF

Organisation/business: RNMDF and also Emergency community rescue

Statement of support:

I absolutely support the mission of the Place as I have seen first hand the massive difference that it has made in a time of real crisis

Also it is a community hub for all and is often the place that the most vulnerable turn too when they are in need.


They are a important part of the local area and Alness community can not afford to lose such a great resource

Signed: Michael O'Neill

Date: 22/08/2022

Thank you very much for your support!



Name: Clair Nichols, Chief Officer
Organisation/business: YOUTH HIGHLAND
Statement of support: Youth Highland has been proud to support The Place as a member club for many years. We were involved in supporting the management committee members during the very challenging process 3 years ago as they were evicted from the old youth club building which had been the home of youth work in Alness for so many years. This situation seemed to go against all current legislation and policy which focusses on community empowerment and it was shocking and disappointing to see such a strong community organisation in such a difficult position and facing challenges in relation to partnership and collaboration with statutory partners. The pandemic made the situation seem much worse, and the youth work sector felt acutely the risk to young peoples mental health and wellbeing through a lack of social contact and forced isolation. The impact of the pandemic in communities recognised as deprived, like Alness, will last for years to come and is disproportionately affecting young people. The Place holds the trust of generations of people in Alness and with that a very important position in the community. Over the past 2 years, The Place has reviewed its strategy and has established an innovative and responsive model for the delivery of youth work in the local community. The Place has been brave and is delivering new and progressive youth work. Through the development of outdoor youth work in The Field and issue based youth work at the Drop In, The Place is enabling young people to access a wide range of youth work provision which meets their needs – developing the local economy, developing sustainable enterprises, tackling poverty and inequality, raising attainment, preventing crisis and providing early intervention. The model is delivering to regional and national policy drivers and targets. Currently The Place receives no regular financial support from Local Authority and is paying a private landlord and The Highland Council rent for the use of facilities. Over the past two years The Place committee has taken on, cleared, connected services (water, electric, sewage) to a previously disused space. The Place has enabled thousands of young people to access a wide variety of youth work activities and learning opportunities. The Place is establishing positive partnerships and delivering learning outcomes to a wide range of people from the community. All of this is evidence that The Place management committee, staff and volunteers are well placed and able to do fantastic work in the community and to make a real and lasting difference. But they need support rather than beurocracy. It is important that the enormous costs incurred through rent is stopped to enable The Place to invest more of their money into young people and the wider community. This asset is best managed by members of the community. I don't think there is any local organisation better placed to run and develop this land than The Place and their partners.
Signed: 



THE PLACE

Name:	[REDACTED] (young people)
Organisation/business:	
Statement of support:	it is sooo befer then the youth club down the street and well class sun very sunny sooo sooo crack sine menbal
Signed:	
Date:	

Thank you very much for your support!