



**Letter of support in relation to Melvich Community Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Melvich Community SCIO) taking ownership of Portskerra Playpark.**

**To whom it may concern,**

As one of the Highland Councillors for North, West and Central Sutherland, I fully support Melvich Community SCIO's plans to take ownership of the Portskerra Play Park, by the Community Asset Transfer process.

Melvich Community SCIO's stated objective is

*"To provide, or assist in the provision of, facilities for the recreation or other leisure-time occupation, in the interest of social welfare in an effort to improve the conditions of life of the inhabitants of the district of Bighouse, Melvich, Portskerra, Golval and Kirkton, all in the Parish of Farr."*

The SCIO's plans for the play park are exactly in accordance with this objective and would make a significant positive impact on the wellbeing of the local community.

Primarily, a stimulating, attractive outdoor space promotes children's physical, social and emotional development. Learning through play is the natural route for children and is supported by many respected studies. <https://www.playscotland.org/get-involved/schools/outdoor-play-and-learning/>

Provision of a new, carefully planned, sustainable and inspiring playpark in Portskerra will provide a safe space for children to gain from play and will also benefit the adults who spend time there. Carers will have opportunities to share in their children's experiences and/or socialise with other adults. This will boost the wellbeing of the community making it more active and resilient.

Yours faithfully,

Marianne Hutchison

03.11.2022