

Proposal for DACC May 2023 meeting - Agenda Item 6 (a)

Introduction

Dornoch Area Community Council (DACC) thanks Communities 4 Coul and Not Coul for their presentations at the recent information gathering meeting to discuss the planning application 23/00580/FUL for the '*Construction of an 18-hole golf course, practice area, access, parking, ancillary infrastructure and the change of use of existing buildings to form clubhouse, pro shop, maintenance shed and ancillary facilities*'.

DACC notes:

- the informative contents of these presentations,
- the changes to the submitted plans as compared to the previous application (17/04601/FUL),
- the large numbers of public comments to the planning application already submitted to the Highland Council ePlanning site ⁽¹⁾,
- the passionate views held and voiced by the opposing parties,
- the alarming population statistics for Sutherland as published by NHS Highland ⁽²⁾
- that DACC is not required nor competent to assess all the technical aspects of a complex planning application.
- That DACC exists solely to represent the views of its constituents (the Dornoch area community) to the Highland Council and others.

Summary

DACC concludes that the available evidence consistently shows that more than two-thirds of people resident in the DACC constituency support this application and the opportunities it will bring to the area. This is evidenced by the results of the survey conducted by Civica on behalf of the applicants (67% in favour), the number of supportive responses on ePlanning ⁽¹⁾ identified as coming from IV25 residents (as counted by both the applicant (78% in favour) and by a DACC member using different methodology (73% in favour)), and from the first-hand experience of members talking to their constituents.

Conclusion

In light of the above, DACC hereby lends its **support** to the planning application and calls on the various statutory consultees to work with all parties to find a way of ensuring this project can be delivered successfully for the benefit of not only the residents of Embo & Dornoch but also those living in the 'travel to work area' in East & Central Sutherland, whilst adequately safeguarding the natural environment.

Jerry Bishop

10 May 2023

(1) Total public comments standing at 984 at 30th April 2023

(2) [Sutherland: Partnership Profile - Public Health Intelligence \(November 2022\)](#)