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28 May 2021

Dear fellow East Sutherland resident

Communities for Coul (C4C) is a not-for-profit company formed by a group of local people. We are united in our belief that the people of East Sutherland were dealt a grave disservice when Scottish Ministers refused the planning application for a world class golf course to be created at Coul Links, despite our local Councillors voting 16:1 to grant approval.

In an attempt to redress this injustice, we aim to submit a new, community led, planning application with stronger economic and environmental elements and show that this is the settled will of local residents and local politicians.

We want to **Create Prospects** for our community, which will span across all East Sutherland:

- Nearly £50 million private investment is secured if Coul Links goes ahead, including a new eco-hotel;
- To open the doors of Coul Links, the hotel and associated new businesses will need 180 employees;
- We have therefore created the North Highlands Hospitality Charter which requires Coul Links and its associated businesses to provide the best possible jobs for our people;
- In return for C4C getting planning permission, the community will receive an equity share in the golf course, with proceeds being spent on local good causes.

While doing so, we will **Protect Places** we love:

- Coul Links is protected by its SSSI status, however, "*designation does not impose an automatic prohibition on development*". 10% of all UK golf courses are sited on SSSI's;
- Coul Links will be built on just 1% of the Loch Fleet SSSI and the developer will be required to fund a full, environmental management plan for all the Coul Links section of the SSSI (25% of Loch Fleet);
- Since the last application, there have been two serious fires on the land, invasive species of flora are spreading and off-road vehicles are making regular appearances. Coul Links needs long-term assured investment and proper management.

We believe we represent the view of the majority of the people who live in our fragile communities, but this has never been properly evidenced. So we are asking everyone to please vote and tell us whether or not you support what we are trying to achieve.

Should the outcome of the vote be positive, this will provide us with a mandate to progress our aim.

This gives all of us a second - and final - chance to use the creation of a world class golf course as the catalyst for providing many local jobs, economic prosperity for our towns and villages, futures for our young people and funding to protect the environment.

Those that oppose the development are highly motivated and will undoubtedly vote NO. If you are in favour, please don't forget to vote, don't let our young people down and don't let this opportunity slip between our fingers - make the effort and vote YES!

Best wishes and stay well.

Communities for Coul.