

CULTER COMMUNITY COUNCIL



St Quentin
18 Hillside Road
Peterculter
Aberdeenshire
AB14 0TX

05 February 2012

Mr Garfield Prentice, Senior Planner
(Planning & Infrastructure)
Aberdeen City Council
Business Hub 4
Marischal College
Broad Street
Aberdeen AB10 1AB

Dear Mr Prentice,

**Planning Application P11 1864³: Woodend Farm, Culter House Road, Peterculter:
Change of use of Land from Agricultural (crop rotation, grazing etc.) to Cricket Ground**

The members of Culter Community Council (CCC) discussed this application at their last meeting. It was recalled that we actually had a presentation on this proposal (March 2011) where it was linked (as a 'donation of enabled land for community use' as a Cricket Ground) to planning application P111144 for the clearance of an adjacent site of old agricultural buildings and greenhouses used commercially so that 14 houses and small park/garden could be developed instead.

At that time, discussions in the Planning Sub-group and subsequently with the full membership of CCC were around the site being considered brown field rather than green field, and the consequent safety of the number of people (especially children) using Culter House Road (an aspirational path in the City's Core Path Network) and its four adjacent District Wildlife Sites for walking, cycling and horse riding.

The outcome of those discussions was that CCC would support – in principle – the proposals for housing plus land for a cricket ground provided that conditions were applied for traffic control for the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, horses and riders.

When planning application (P111144) came forward for the site clearance and for the 14 residential house development, the members of CCC remained of the same opinion as discussed above and outlined the conditions they wished to see attached if permission was granted. (See letter of 26th August 2011). They also expressed concern that the original proposals had been separated into two applications.

Following discussion on this present application (P111863) for the provisionally donated land, the members of CCC asked me to write to you with the following comments and requests:

- The members did not see that Green Belt Policy 28 would be infringed if this change of use was permitted, but will accept the expert opinion of the Senior Planning Officer on this.
- If planning permission is granted then the members ask that the following conditions are attached:
 - A short stretch of pavement is provided on either side of the entrance to the Cricket Pitch – for safety.
 - “Beware” type signs are erected at appropriate places along Culter House Road to alert drivers to pedestrians, cyclists, horses and riders also using the road.
 - If, for any reason, the Cricket Ground does not come to fruition and cannot be put to community use satisfying Green Belt Policy, then the land reverts to being ‘Green Field’.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Lavina C Massie
Planning Liaison Officer
Culter Community Council

cc:

Councillor Marie Boulton
Aileen Malone
Alan Milne

BONACCORD CRICKET CLUB

(Formed 1958)

Bonaccord Cricket Club was formed in 1958, an amalgamation of the cricket sections of British Telecoms and Royal Mail, both organisations in those days were under the auspices of the Post Office.

The Club was known as P.O. Bonaccord in the early days and was restricted to employees of BT and RM. With the split of the organisations in the 1980's it was decided to do away with the restriction and become an "open" Club. This opened the way for a more ambitious approach and we were able to recruit better class players, this bore fruit by making us a more successful Club since that time.

We have played in the Aberdeenshire Cricket Association Leagues (locally known as the Grades) since the beginning. There are over forty teams in the Association and are split into four Leagues. In the early years we played in the lower leagues 4, 3, 2, with limited success, winning Grade 3 twice and knockout competitions six times. In 1989 we managed to win Grade 2 and apart from one year we have competed in the top echelon of Grades Cricket, (Grade 1) since then.

We struggled at this level through the nineties but managed a breakthrough in 1999 by doing the double, winning the Aberdeenshire Cup and the Grade One Title. Since then we have gone from strength to strength, winning the Grade 1 title and the Aberdeenshire Cup a further five times. In addition we have won the annual seven a side competition for the last 12 years.

We have also entered the National Small Clubs' Cup, since the year 2000. This competition is for all Clubs in Scotland not competing at the top National League level, this we have won three times in 2006, 2008, 2009.

With that record behind us we consider we have been the most successful cricket club in Aberdeen Grades Cricket since 1999.

With this success over the last twelve years we feel to progress as a Club we need to look to a higher level of competition. The next level to Grades Cricket is the Strathmore Union but to proceed to this level we must have our own ground.

In the early 1990's Stoneywood/Dyce Cricket Club, in a similar situation to what we find ourselves in now, followed this path. In less than twenty years they are now playing at the highest level of Cricket in Scotland with some of their players representing Scotland at International level on a regular basis. This may seem "pie in the sky" thinking but our clubs' players and officials feel with some hard work there is no reason why we could not follow this example.

The Generous offer of the ground from Mrs Julie Nairn of Woodend Farm has, hopefully, opened a door for us to go forward and establish ourselves at this higher level.

To progress we need to establish roots in the Peterculter community, encouraging the youth of the area to take up the game, by providing facilities, kit, equipment and coaching at the ground, as well as the opportunity to play Cricket. We would also involve the schools in the Milltimber and Peterculter area giving them the opportunity to use the facilities at the ground or by visiting the schools and coaching pupils there. Organised coaching sessions could be arranged in the daytime during the school summer holiday period.

The older population of the area would also be included. Anyone who plays the game or once played the game or just fancies the chance to try out would be welcomed with open arms. We could organise mini leagues for locals which would be played in the summer evenings

We would of course require funding for this ambitious project. To this aim we have already spoken to local business people in the area and have been promised financial support to create the pitch and get us started. We intend to approach other local bodies and businesses when we are more certain of the way our future progresses.

We also plan to approach various funding bodies such as the National Lottery, Olympic and Commonwealth games charitable organisations (after the games are over). Other funding bodies in Scotland will also be approached, Cricket Scotland Development Trust, Sports Scotland and any others our research can highlight.

We have been promised support from local MSPs and our Member of Parliament for the area to help when approaching these bodies which cannot fund such a project until the Club has land.

We ask you the planning authority for the area to look on this application favourably and give our Club the opportunity to create something new and unique in the Peterculter Community.



Doug. Cruickshank
Hon. Secretary
Bonaccord Cricket Club
22 November 2011