



The Ridge, Dunbar

Letters of Support

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 2 August 2019 at 13:41:34 GMT+1

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Letter of Support

I have visited the Ridge project and was really blown away by the atmosphere. It seemed lively and vibrant. I love the old close with the ranges and the excavations that are going on there. What a team and I'm sure they already have lots of success stories.

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 2 August 2019 at 15:03:24 GMT+1

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: The Ridge

Hi just wanted to let you know how much people in Dunbar and further afield appreciate the fantastic work you all do at the Ridge. I've popped in several times and seeing the people who may never have had a proper chance in life gaining self esteem through learning Stone masonry, building work and other skills is an absolute inspiration. Also all the recent workshops are fantastic.

Well done to you all long may it continue and you deserve every bit of support you have had, both now and in the future

[REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]

Date: 2 August 2019 at 18:40:09 GMT+1

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Black Bull Close

Best Wishes

[REDACTED]

(I am more than happy to sign my email, I think I fired it away a bit too quickly!)

On Fri, Aug 2, 2019, 18:38 [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the team at The Ridge in Dunbar. You turned a run-down short cut into the High Street into a truly special garden. It is a lovely space to reflect and enjoy nature in unlikely spaces. I am very looking forward to any further development of the Black Bull Close. Thanks again for your hard work.

Best Wishes

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 2 August 2019 at 19:59:47 GMT+1
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A few words about the Ridge

Hi there,

I think The Ridge is an incredible asset to the town. I have seen first hand teenagers who are struggling at a school come to life when learning new practical skills in the backlands project. The creation of the beautiful backlands area of the town by The Ridge provides an excellent spot for [REDACTED] to explore together, for my kids to learn about growing /looking after plants and a quiet beautiful space outside just to enjoy each other's company away from screens/technology!

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 3 August 2019 at 08:07:48 GMT+1
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: A request from the Ridge

Hi [REDACTED]

Not sure what you are looking for but here we go...

To whom it may concern

I have been very impressed with the work the Ridge have done.
The walk way down to the coop has been transformed into a lovely place to walk and does not make me feel nervous walking down it in the evening anymore.
The people who work at the Ridge are very friendly and informative about the things they are growing.
Building repair and wall repair has inspired me to do repairs to my garden wall.
[REDACTED] has enjoyed the archaeology event, the minecraft event and the cartoon event run there
his feed back on the minecraft event.....'the mine craft was good but I would have preferred it if we had less time measuring and more time on the computer.'
(as a mum less time on the computer is good for me lol)
[REDACTED] loved the battle re-enactors so much so she now wants to join the group.
We all loved the 'How to Storm a castle'
The pot luck supper was also a lovely way to connect with new people in my community.
Finally although I could not stay long the menopause shed is a great idea for women reaching that scary time of life.

Well done Ridge - keep up the good work I applaud you!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] **Date:** 3 August 2019 at 11:19:59 GMT+1
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Asset transfer

Hi,

I wholly support the transfer of assets to the Ridge. I know some people who have mild learning disabilities that are involved in projects that the Ridge runs. They have gained a tremendous amount from being involved in a local project. They have developed practical skills and also developed their self confidence. I am aware of others who would really benefit if the project were to expand so I fully support the transfer of assets to enable this to happen.

The project has significantly improved the backlands area and is something for Dunbar to be really proud of. The variety of projects brings the community together and provides amazing work opportunities to young people. The project is particularly good at working with people who often feel they have little to offer. It is something to be very proud of.
Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 3 August 2019 at 12:01:40 GMT+1
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter of Support

The Ridge echoes the Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership goals of Inclusion, Achievement, Ambition and Progress for ALL within a supportive environment.
The impact of the Ridge for vulnerable young people is truly significant. [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 4 August 2019 at 15:20:23 GMT+1
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ridge Feedback

Hi [REDACTED]
I hope you are enjoying a [REDACTED]. I speak as I find i.e. my personal contact with the ridge

1. Ridge support and Employability - following a rather harrowing time for us as a family last year, when [REDACTED] needed help with Universal Credit and PIP, [REDACTED] gave us her support to wade through the minefield of these benefits. I am unsure whether things would have worked out for us without [REDACTED] help.
 2. I was given a tour of the Backlands in November 2015 and given outlines of the plans for the area. Privately, I thought the proposal would never work. What has been achieved in the following 4 years is truly remarkable and has made huge improvements to the lives of all the people who have been involved in the transformation whether through gardening or stonemasonry or any of the other activities
 3. Many community based activities have been held in the Backlands area and one that was particularly helpful to me and my wife (as Grandparents) during the summer holidays 2019 were Workshops aimed at 8-12 year old kids . I refer to the Workshops "Crafting the Past" and using minecraft to build the backlands on screen and a two day workshop to construct a Comic Graphic Novel.
- best regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 2 August 2019 at 00:26:27 BST
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter of Support

I write in support of this amazing initiative.
Having witnessed the absolute dedication that the people who have transformed this former desolate area of Dunbar, into a thriving, welcoming ,vibrant meeting place,I have no hesitation believing that they will be stalwart guardians of this historic place.

They have shown that they understand the needs of the community and how they can be involved.
Young ,middle aged, elderly, those with mental health and community order issues and school children, have all been welcomed at The Ridge.

On a personal level, I have enjoyed the peace of just sitting in the beautifully restored garden area, attending local history events and watching the amazing project that is the ongoing revelation of Black Bull Close.

All involved have my outmost admiration and I sincerely hope that they will be granted guardianship of this amazing area of Dunbar.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 1 August 2019 at 20:13:14 BST
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: A request from the Ridge

Dear [REDACTED]
I am hugely appreciative of the achievements of the Ridge in transforming the look and feel of the Backlands, but more particularly in providing people who have lost their way in life a new sense of purpose and a feeling of self worth.
The proposal to transfer the ownership of the Backlands Garden and Black Bull Close has my personal support.
Kind regards,

**Dunbar and East Linton
Area Partnership**

To Whom it May Concern

1st August 2019

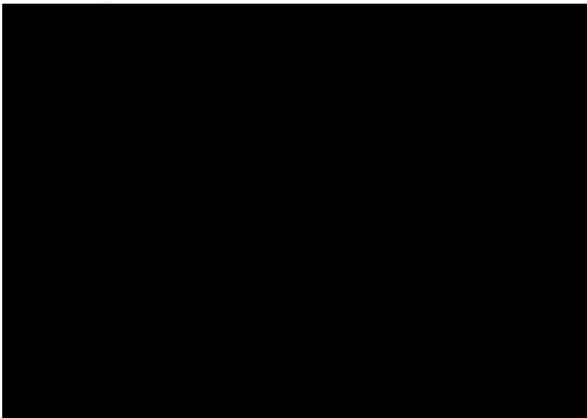
Letter of Support

Community Asset Transfer of Backlands to The Ridge

I am very pleased to provide a letter of support for the Ridge in their current application for the Community Asset Transfer of the ownership of the Backlands Garden and Black Bull Close.

The Ridge have established themselves as an extremely active and valuable organisation which is of great service to the Dunbar community. The work that they do in support of young people in Dunbar is truly inspiring.

They have so far managed to transform the Backlands from a piece of wasteground into a beautiful and productive garden, which also provides employment and training opportunities for young people. I wish them every success in their latest venture



From: fraser.stewart <[redacted]>

Date: 1 August 2019 at 12:58:49 BST

To: [redacted]

Subject: Letter of Support

Hello.

I support the Ridge Backland project. I am a professional photographer and have been photographing the progress of the project from its early stages and I think this is a fantastic project. I wrote a blog about it -

[redacted]

[Urban Revival](#)

Renewal and regeneration seem to be the buzz words nowadays in urban development. Revival is an old word, often associated with religion where one's soul is revived, and one which seem to be ...

[redacted]

I hope that the land ownership will be transferred to the Ridge.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Comics With The Ridge

[REDACTED] I have known for the past few years about the wonderful community work which the Ridge has been doing, and have visited the garden on a number of occasions with students who have had a tour of the garden and been enthralled when learning about what has been discovered from archaeological work there.

Thanks to our collaboration with the Ridge, it has been possible to undertake a project which we were enthusiastic about bringing to fruition.

To summarise: school librarians and teachers encourage reading in order to raise literacy levels, and we promote all types of literature. Graphic novels are for many of our students a preferred format, and this format makes literature accessible to many who otherwise struggle to read, such as those who are dyslexic. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] discussed ideas for a project whereby a group of students would make a graphic novel about Dunbar, based on the Backlands Garden and wider Dunbar. Aims included increased literacy, enjoyment of the participation in a group activity with peers, and fostering a sense of community. Thanks to the Ridge, who provided funding and also obtained Area Partnership monies, we were able to offer two days of workshops earlier this summer, whereby young people worked under the direction of Magic Torch Comics, and compiled artwork and ideas. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Not only was it a productive and fun holiday activity for a group of local children, which we were able to offer free of charge, an unexpected bonus was that it also became a transition activity for primary school pupils. As it was a partnership between the DGS school library and the Ridge, the workshops were held both at the Backlands and in the school library, and pupils were able to see a little of what the secondary school has to offer, and to start to familiarise themselves with the school, at a time when they could relax in the unfamiliar surroundings when the school was quiet.

This activity would not have taken place without our partnership with the Ridge, and I hope that we may continue to offer it in future years. I hope too that we'll collaborate on other events. The Ridge has become a real focal point in the town, and is a hugely innovative and valuable community resource, through which we can educate and provide enjoyment for our young people – and the not-so-young too of course!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 1 August 2019 at 17:54:20 BST

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: A request from the Ridge to you

[REDACTED] I hope the following will suffice – pretty busy with family etc so done in a rush:

“Dunbar Basics Foodbank (DBFB) has developed a beneficial working relationship with the Ridge Dunbar for the past three years. The Ridge aims to provide local, effective, personalised and holistic support for local people to help them move towards contribution and fulfilment. The partnership has focused on: sharing information, talents and resources; providing a seamless service to many shared clients; reaching out and giving support to the vulnerable, lonely and refugees. We have referred many clients to The Ridge for further specialized support and we have recently provided funding for a member of staff from the Ridge to attend a week long Welfare Rights Course. We meet informally every week for the benefit of our shared clients. This new venture will certainly provide a much needed local resource, enhance the services they already provide and one we will certainly use. Much of the great work carried out by the Ridge fills the many gaps in Social Service provision and the staff there go over and above their remit to support their clients”.

Blessings,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 2 August 2019 at 11:34:09 GMT+1

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: A request from the Ridge

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing in support of the proposed Community Asset Transfer of the Backlands Garden and Black Bull close. The organisation that

