

Dounreay Communities Fund
22 July 2026

FY 2026/27 FR-000003049 – Thurso Academicals Football Club		
<i>New equipment</i>		
TAFC have a long-term goal of being recognised as a Scottish FA Quality Mark Club and wish to continue to provide a safe environment for adults and young people to enjoy the sport. The SFA Quality Mark recognises clubs who attain an association standard for the governance and coaching provided. The club would like to ensure their coaching team have the required level of coaching qualification and that they have the equipment for their sessions to attain that association standard. The total cost of the project is £948, and support of £600 has been requested. Evidence of costs provided. The requested funding will contribute to: • Our members will benefit from having SFA qualified coaches planning and holding structured training sessions. • Increase the number of qualified coaches in the area who can hold safe, structured coaching sessions and will hopefully encourage more adults and young people to participate & maintain healthy living and sporting activities. • The members will benefit from safe structured training sessions. We want the game to grow so we may look to offer satellite sessions in rural areas to encourage adults and young players to stay in the sport by offering people in these areas access to structured sessions. • The funding will enable our identified volunteer coaches to gain the necessary qualifications and purchase the correct equipment.		
Does it comply with DCF criteria:	YES/NO	
• Total cost is less than £7.5k • Provides benefit to the local community • Supporting local sports club • Support for local sporting event • Supporting local youth group		
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO	£340 January 2023 to replace ageing equipment
Recommended support:		£474

FY 2026/27 – FR-000003242 – Home-Start Caithness – Summer Holiday Trip 2026

After the success of our summer trip in 2025, Home-Start Caithness are following up by organising a summer trip again to Landmark Forest Adventure Park in 2026, for local families supported by Home-Start Caithness facing financial hardship.

The project aims to provide families with a rare opportunity to enjoy quality time together in a fun, supportive environment. The trip includes: coach transportation; park entry tickets; a hot meal provided at Landmark; and nutritious snack bags for the return journey home.

This project is designed to bring joy and relief to families under pressure, foster social connection among parents and promote inclusive community engagement.

The total cost of the project is £3,000, and support of £850 has been requested.

The requested funding will contribute to:

- Family bonding and quality time: giving families who are under financial pressure the opportunity to enjoy a full day out together, strengthening parent-child relationships through shared positive experiences.
- Emotional and mental wellbeing: this project will help reduce the stresses and anxiety for both parents and children, boosting their morale and providing a break from daily life challenges. The trip will create lasting, joyful memories that contributes to emotional resilience.

Child development: exposure to stimulating outdoor environments supports physical, cognitive, and social development; encourages curiosity, exploration and active play in a safe setting.

Social inclusion and peer support: helps reduce isolation by connecting families with others. The project encourages friendships and informal support networks among parents.

Empowerment and participation: parents are involved in the planning and decision-making process, promoting confidence and ownership and builds trust in, and engagement with Home-Start Caithness and other local services.

Nutritional support: ensures all participants receive a nutritious hot meal and snack bags, which may be a rare treat for some families.

Accessibility: removes the financial and logistical barriers to participation in enriching activities, ensuring children from low-income households have similar opportunities as their peers.

Project date: 12/08/2026 – 13/08/2026

£1,720 match funding secured

Does it comply with DCF criteria: • Total cost is less than £7.5k • Provides benefit to the local community • Support for local children	YES/NO
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO
Recommended support:	£850

FY 2026/27 – FR-000003112 – North Highland Women's Wellbeing club – Wellbeing Festival 2026

This will be our third festival and each time we do this, it grows bigger and better. Just like our last one in 2024 (we took a year off for Rebecca's wedding as it clashed last year), this will be in the East Caithness Community Facility within Wick High School, so it's accessible to everyone.

Bringing together around 50 stalls from all over the Highlands, to showcase in one place, the vast amount of information and support available to the residents here.

We have space for 50 amazing organisations, local business women and community groups to attend with a stall, speaking to visitors from all over the Highlands throughout the day. NHS Highland are coming up with their gynaecology and sexual health teams, to help break down stigma and speak to people about what they offer their patients, alongside many others.

Our aim is to keep our wellbeing festivals free to attend for visitors, so that the information and experience is available to everyone from all backgrounds. However, this costs money to run and therefore a small helping hand would be much appreciated.

The total cost of the project is £1,157 and support of £1,157 has been requested.

The requested funding will contribute to:

- The whole day is to showcase the amazing support network and skills the Highlands have to offer, by bringing together so many organisations in one room. We also invite local small business (often female run), to attend alongside information stalls, so the local economy benefits from the event too.

Putting faces to the organisation names, is known to break down barriers to accessing care and support. Vulnerable people are much more likely to ask for help and support, if they have met a friendly face before.

Being able to take home information from each stall, either for themselves or loved ones, means that the wide variety of help available is reaching the right place - often difficult in remote locations.

All of our volunteers are from the North Highlands and organisations such as the NHS and Scottish Women's Convention are attending, to speak to residents about their experiences, with the aim to help improve services with a patient led focus.

- All signage purchased is recyclable and we keep single use plastics to a minimum.

Does it comply with DCF criteria:		YES/NO
• Total cost is less than £7.5k • Provides benefit to the local community • Support for local children		
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO NDA Funding 2022	£6,989
Recommended support:		£578.50

FY 2026/27 – FR-000003222 – Highlands & Islands Student Association (HISA) – Student Breakfast Club

The Highlands and Islands Student Association (HISA) at UHI North, West and Hebrides seeks funding to continue delivering Student Breakfast Clubs across UHI Thurso campus and associated North campus centres. The aim is to reduce food insecurity, improve student wellbeing, and support academic success by providing free, nutritious breakfasts to students facing financial hardship or long travel distances.

These breakfast clubs will operate across all local centres offering healthy options such as cereal, fruit, porridge, toast, and hot beverages. Funding will cover food supplies, basic equipment, coordination, and volunteer training for one academic year.

The total cost of the project is £4,404, and support of £4,014 has been requested.

The requested funding will contribute to:

- Provide approximately 9,894 free breakfasts to students at UHI Thurso and North campuses over the academic year.
Reduce student food insecurity by offering free, accessible breakfast options to an estimated 100 students weekly.
Improve student wellbeing through healthy nutrition and social connection.
Support academic success and attendance by helping students start the day nourished and energised.
Strengthen campus community by creating an inclusive, welcoming morning space at Thurso campus.
Empower student volunteers with opportunities to coordinate, deliver, and evaluate the service.

Does it comply with DCF criteria:	YES/NO
• Total cost is less than £7.5k • Provides benefit to the local community • Supporting local youth group • Support for local children	
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO
Recommended support:	£2,202

FY 2026/27 FR-000003191 – Thurso Hockey Club - Thurso Hockey Tournament Orkney 2026

Thurso Hockey Club is seeking funding to support a group of 14 players (6 cars) to attend a hockey tournament in Orkney. The team, composed of men and women over 18 with varying skill levels, aims to increase their skills, gain experience from more seasoned teams, and strengthen their bonds both within the club and with the broader hockey community in the North of Scotland. The trip will provide a valuable opportunity to showcase the team's abilities, promote the sport, and encourage more people to get involved with hockey in Caithness. The funding will also ensure that all players, regardless of financial situation, are able to attend, as we want to ensure that finances do not become a barrier to participation. Competing for funding alongside other deserving local charities remains a significant challenge.

The total cost of the project is £1,868, and funding of £1,868 has been requested.

The requested funding will contribute to:

- This will provide the club to attend the tournament, compete and meet new people, hopefully place higher than last year, encourage new members to get involved and retain current members. Learn new skills from other teams and give us the opportunity to practice what we have learnt in training. - Improved skills and performance: Players will gain valuable experience by competing against teams from across Scotland, leading to enhanced skills and performance. Community engagement: The trip will foster stronger relationships between Thurso Hockey Club and other teams, promoting collaboration and growth in hockey in the region. We also have some new players, this includes NDA graduates which this has helped them feel part of the community as they have moved far away from home. Increased participation in hockey: The project will encourage more people from across the county, including those with no prior experience, to join the club, promoting inclusivity and broadening the sport's reach. Health and wellbeing benefits: By staying active and involved in the sport, participants will experience improved physical and mental health, contributing to the overall wellbeing of individuals in the Thurso community.		
Does it comply with DCF criteria:	YES/NO	
- Total cost is less than £7.5k - Provides benefit to the local community		
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO	£1,151
Recommended support:		£934

FY 2026/27 FR-000003185 - Thurso In Colour - Colour and Green Canopy In Thurso

For a number of years, Thurso In Colour has been maintaining town flower displays to great acclaim from residents and visitors alike. Until now, it has been limited to three planters plus six hanging baskets in a central location. Because of past achievements, six large new barrel planters have been gifted.

This has allowed some innovation by placing in juvenile oak and Japanese cherry trees in some to bring a green canopy to Rotterdam Street in addition to summer blooms. It has, however, increased costs to source bedding flowers for which this application seeks to fund.

The total cost of the project is £1,000, and support of £600 has been requested.

The requested funding will contribute to:

- Improving the wellbeing of residents and visitors in showing bright summer blooms selected for the calming influence of trees in a street environment, and blooms with scents and visual attractiveness and local pollinators. Volunteers will be in regular attendance giving the impression of a town well cared for.

Does it comply with DCF criteria:	YES/NO	
- Total cost is less than £7.5k - Provides benefit to the local community		
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO	£600
Recommended support:		£500

FY 2026/27 FR-000003180 - Caithness Vikings Basketball Club - Basketball Opportunity Caithness

'Caithness Rural Basketball Outreach' Programme:

This pilot program aims to expand the basketball opportunities available within the county through delivery of a second session a week in Thurso, providing the people of Caithness an opportunity to play basketball and form social and community benefits in the Thurso and surrounding rural areas. This pilot would also allow us to find avid basketball players who are keen to join the team and compete in a competitive manner against other Highland and Island teams.

The total cost of the project is £1,586, and support of £793 has been requested.

The requested funding will contribute to:

- The people of Thurso do not have the opportunity to play basketball in Thurso, and transport to Wick to practice and play can be costly and unreliable, leading to isolation and lack of opportunities for those people.

A second session would allow the club to train in a more competitive manner and achieve better results against other teams who get sponsored and train multiple times a week.

NDA funding is needed as cost of hall hire is increasing year round, and the club does not have the necessary funds to cover two sessions a week without support through the NDA funding pilot.

Social interactions and reduction in antisocial behaviour through sporting outlet.
Exercise and improvement to health through regular cardiovascular activity.
Sense of unity and purpose in playing as part of a larger basketball team in Caithness.

Does it comply with DCF criteria:	YES/NO
• Total cost is less than £7.5k • Provides benefit to the local community	
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO
	£300
Recommended support:	£793

FY 2026/27 – FR-000003291 – Lybster Football Club – Pavillion Upgrade, Toilet and Changing room facilities

Lybster Football Club has been a central part of the community for generations, providing opportunities for people of all ages from Lybster and the surrounding area to take part in organised sport. Cow Park, our home ground, is a well-used and highly visible community asset located at the heart of the village. However, the toilets and changing facilities have now reached a stage where urgent upgrades are essential, one shower is broken and one of the toilets is also in poor state. The existing cubicles, toilets, sinks, showers and water heaters are outdated, inefficient and increasingly unreliable, creating ongoing challenges for the club, including safety concerns for players, volunteers and visiting teams.

This project will replace all essential fixtures with modern, durable and energy-efficient equipment. By improving the safety, hygiene and reliability of the facilities, we will remove barriers to participation and ensure that everyone—children, adults, women and girls, and people with additional needs, can access clean, safe and dignified changing

areas. These improvements will directly support increased physical activity by enabling us to host more training sessions, matches and community events throughout the year. The project strongly aligns with the outcomes of the Dounreay Communities Fund by enhancing a key community facility, improving local wellbeing, and supporting inclusive participation in sport. As a volunteer-led amateur club operating in a rural area with high levels of deprivation, we do not have the financial capacity to undertake these essential works without external support. Investment in local infrastructure has a visible and positive impact on community pride, safety and cohesion. Upgrading the Pavilion will improve the appearance and functionality of a prominent community space and demonstrate continued investment in local facilities.

This project represents an important step in sustaining Cow Park as a safe, accessible and valued venue for sport and community activity in Lybster and the wider Caithness area, ensuring long-term benefit for current and future generations.

The total cost of the project is £6,981 and support of £6,981 has been requested.

The requested funding will contribute to:

- Complete upgrade of two changing rooms and toilet areas, providing safe, clean and reliable facilities for players, volunteers and visiting teams.
Installation of 6 new sanitary fixtures (toilets, sinks and showers) and 2 new energy-efficient water heaters, reducing running costs and improving reliability.
Improved accessibility, including wider cubicles, safer flooring and better lighting, supporting participation for people of all ages and abilities.
Increased capacity for activity, enabling the club to host an estimated 20–30 additional training sessions and matches per year, particularly during wetter months when reliable facilities are essential.

Enhanced community use, supporting at least 5 additional community events annually, such as youth programmes, tournaments and local wellbeing activities.
Improved volunteer experience, reducing time spent managing breakdowns, cleaning issues and temporary fixes.

Strengthened long-term sustainability, with modern equipment expected to last 10–15 years, reducing maintenance costs and supporting future growth.

These outputs will directly contribute to increased physical activity, improved community wellbeing and the long-term viability of a key rural sports facility. The project will ensure Cow Park remains a safe, accessible and valued community asset for Lybster and the wider Caithness area. Many of the players, committee and wider community work at the Dounreay site.

Does it comply with DCF criteria:		YES/NO
• Total cost is less than £7.5k • Provides benefit to the local community • Support for local children		
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO	
Recommended support:		£3,490.50

FY 2026/27 – FR-000003275 – Thurso Heritage Society - Meadow Well Area Refurbishment

We have been working closely with some ex members of the now abandoned Thurso Community Council. They have been undertaking various improvements to the town infrastructure as had Thurso Heritage Society. One of the Projects they had undertaken feasibilities on is the Meadow Well upgrades. Thurso Heritage Society has agreed to seek funding to allow these important works to be implemented.

For many centuries the meadow well served as the towns main water supply and was a popular gathering place for the townspeople. The hand-operated pump can still be seen within the surrounding circular rubble well house which was erected in the early 19th century.

The last refurbishment on it was carried out by Thurso Rotary Club in 1981.

This phase of the improvements are to remove and dispose of a low wall and remove a derelict mast which was put in place to hold an illuminated advertising sign by an adjacent garage company in the '70's. It is also proposed to remove the cable that supplied the light by isolating its power supply and to safely cap and bury the cable. It is then proposed to level the area and to repave with reclaimed Caithness flagstone to match the existing pavement. This would bring the area in line with the surrounding area.

We have proposed to seek funding from 3 separate sources. Baillie Windfarm Community Fund have agreed to award the Project £2250 and we are applying for similar funding (£2250) from the Dounreay Community Fund

The final part of the Project will be to review and upgrade the info boards at the Meadow Well. It is anticipated that this will cost in the region of £500 and will be funded, as our part in the project, by Thurso Heritage Society.

The total cost of the project is £5,000 and support of £2,250 has been requested.

The requested funding will contribute to:

- The improvements proposed will tidy up an area of the town which not only houses and important heritage feature but it is becoming untidy, unsightly and unsafe.
- Thurso Heritage Society is made up from people in our community. Our Facebook page has over 7,000 regular contributors, local and far and wide. We will be keeping our Community aware of our activities through the mainstream media but also our social media stream. From the comments we have already received on the recent refurbishment projects for the seating at the Dunbar Hospital bus stop and the recent Sir Archibald Sinclair bust refurbishment project we know that improving these amenities even visually has an overall impact of improving the wellbeing of our town.

Does it comply with DCF criteria:		YES/NO
• Total cost is less than £7.5k • Provides benefit to the local community		
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO	£1,700
Recommended support:		£2,250

FY 2026/27 – FR-000003304 – Wick Academy - Wick Academy U18s/U16s Support

Wick Academy Youth Development Programme is looking for support to purchase new football kit and modern, safe goal nets for our U18s and U16s squads to use. The current youth kit is in poor state with constant wear and tear from training sessions and matches, to avoid creating financial pressure for families and limiting equal participation there is a requirement for a new set. Also our existing goals and nets are worn and increasingly unsafe, affecting both training quality and match preparation. Our new goals will be held at Wick High School at the All Weather pitch so as well as the Academy youths benefiting the school and wider community will also benefit.

This project will directly benefit 40 young footballers aged 13–18 from across Caithness, including many from communities surrounding Dounreay. Providing new kit ensures every young person can participate confidently and without cost barriers, while new goals and nets will significantly improve safety.

The project strengthens youth football pathways in an area where access to high-quality sporting facilities is limited and the area suffers from social deprivation. By improving equipment, we support physical activity, wellbeing, confidence and long-term engagement in sport. This investment will help maintain an inclusive, affordable and safe environment for young people, while contributing to wider community cohesion and positive development.

The total cost of the project is £7,622 and support of £3,750 has been requested.

The requested funding will contribute to:

- This project will deliver meaningful benefits to the 40 young people involved in our U16 and U18 squads, ensuring they have safe, modern equipment and equal access to quality kit. New goals will significantly improve safety during training and matches, reducing risk and allowing coaches to deliver more effective, structured sessions. The new kit removes financial pressure from families, ensuring every young person can participate confidently and without cost barriers.

Young people will benefit from improved wellbeing, increased physical activity, stronger social connections and a sense of pride when representing their community. The project supports skill development, confidence building and long-term engagement in sport, particularly important for rural young people with limited access to organised activities some living in areas of social deprivation.

The wider community benefits through strengthened youth pathways, increased participation, and a more inclusive sporting environment. Families, volunteers and supporters gain from a safer, more positive club environment that encourages young people to stay active and connected.

These improvements help sustain a vital community asset and contribute to broader community cohesion across Caithness.

Does it comply with DCF criteria: • Total cost is less than £7.5k • Provides benefit to the local community • Support for local children	YES/NO
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO
Recommended support:	£3,750

FY 2026/27 – FR-000003310 – Thurso Bowling Club – National Championships Ayr 2026

Thurso Bowling Club has been successful in our endeavour to reach the National Bowling championships in Ayr 2026. We played all the play off around our district culminating in the district finals in Brora over Friday and Saturday, 3rd and 4th July and were successful winning the Ladies Senior Fours (4 players), the Ladies Fours (4 players), the Ladies Triples (3 players), the Mixed Pairs (2 players) and the Ladies Under 25s Singles (1 player). The National Championships are held in Ayr from the 8th August until the 16th August and the teams need to stay in Ayr for their scheduled games. There are ten players going as some players won in more than one discipline. We have four players playing the full 7 days and 6 players playing 4 days. Of course most players are attending for the full 7 days but this claim will only cover their days of actual participation in their competitions.

The total cost of the project is £7,332 and support of £3,666 has been requested.

The requested funding will contribute to:

- Success at this level demonstrates that athletes from Thurso can compete and achieve the highest standards in their sport.
- District champions go on to represent the North of Scotland at national level and, if successful, may have the opportunity to represent their country.
- The achievements of our players raise the profile of Thurso Bowling Club, as well as Thurso and Caithness as a whole.
- Our club tops are highly recognisable, and we are frequently asked about Thurso when competing, making us ambassadors for Thurso and Caithness.
- Continued success helps promote both the club and the region on a national stage.
- Our achievements encourage more people to participate in bowling, as demonstrated by our growing membership.
- Membership at Thurso Bowling Club has increased steadily in recent years, reaching 165 members in 2026.

Does it comply with DCF criteria:		YES/NO
• Total cost is less than £7.5k • Provides benefit to the local community		
Funding received during last three years.	YES/NO	£2,000
Recommended support:		£3,666

Summary as of 22 July 2026

2026/27 Funding	Funding for FY 2026/27	£35,000.00
	B/Fwd FY 2025/26	£0.00
	Available funding for FY 2026/27	£35,000.00
<u>Funds Requested/Committed</u>		
Current total requested		£26,529.00
Current total proposed		£19,614.00
Funds agreed YTD		£9,975.50
Balance available as at		£25,024.50
<i>14-Jul-26</i>		
Balance available less proposed and agreed		£5,410.50