



L Seton

Leisure Culture and Wellbeing Manager

Dumfries and Galloway District Council

By Email Only lee.seton@dumgal.gov.uk

13 December 2022

Dear Lee and Ian,

Cycling Event August 2023

Firstly, many thanks for attending the last CCA meeting. It was very helpful to have you along to both update us and to hear, first hand, the views being expressed in the community. To recap I carried out an initial consultation on the proposals that were outlined at the August meeting. I contacted all local organisations/businesses and a number of individuals who had been affected by the last event. I invited their views on another event being held in Caerlaverock in August 2023. In addition we placed notices on three local notice boards and advertised the issue on our website. We invited all who wished to put forward their views to do so at the meeting you attended.

At our meeting I read out the responses I received to my consultation and invited comments from the floor which you heard. I hope you found these informative. The CCA has not taken a position of direct opposition to the proposed events but we do have significant concerns about it. These revolve around an almost universal objection to the event by our local businesses and the farming community. Our businesses face being closed down for two days and hence losing money they can ill afford. Our farming businesses will see their operations interrupted at a crucial time for the harvest and silaging. Both will have practical and financial consequences.

You heard a number of comments that Caerlaverock should not suffer financially from an event merely because it benefits the wider area of Scotland. The prestige of holding this event in Scotland/Dumfries and Galloway is not in dispute but the bill should not be paid by the Caerlaverock Community.



The suggestion that CCA set up a working party to liaise with the Council is not supported. As we put it to you, it is the Council that is seeking to isolate this community hence it, and World Cycling, should lead the way. I did emphasise that your Council should be making direct approaches to all of our businesses and farmers to see if there is a way to work with them, and ensure that they are not affected as they fear if this event is to go ahead in this area. Once you have done so we as a Community Association would be happy consider your proposals but this would not be community lead. If, as I fear the levels of objection remain the event should not take place in Caerlaverock.

In this respect, the question was asked, "Is this a done deal and the event will go ahead even if the community as a whole objected?" You were unable to answer this. Please do not underestimate the very real fear that any consultation is merely "window dressing". I seek your assurance that this is not the case.

I look forward to hearing how you intend to take this matter forward in this community.

Yours sincerely

David Gilbert

Chairperson