

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Symington
[REDACTED]

4 November 2019

Dear Sirs,

FODC CAT Request

I write to support the application by Friends of Dundonald Castle.

I am a retired solicitor and attend a local leisure group (Scrabble Club) at the Visitor Centre for about two and a half hours most Wednesday afternoons. Even from this limited contact I can see that there is a demand for larger premises. The centre is well used by locals as a place to meet up over lunch or coffee and by tourists, often from abroad, interested in the castle. As a result, the seating currently available can seem a bit cramped. Groups of primary school children are also regularly to be seen enjoying a rare mix of fresh air and heritage. At other times I have seen how well the premises are used to back up larger cultural events such as the Dundonald Highland Games and open air evening entertainment at the castle.

The Visitor Centre is run in a very friendly and efficient manner by the current staff. The biographies accompanying the application on the SAC website have made it a bit clearer to me why the impression they give is of doing something bigger than simply running a cheery café. The management team are clearly committed to providing a social and cultural hub for their community and appear to me to have the skills and attitude to succeed. I hope you will share my confidence in them and grant their application.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]