



**Newlands and Kirkurd Playgroup
Newlands Centre
Romanno Bridge
West Linton
EH46 7BZ
01968 660367**

1 December 2015

Dear Councillors Archibald and Bhatia

Further to our meeting on 17th November, we have gone through our records of meetings during the period where we were involved in discussions with Scottish Borders Council and NCDT to support and explain our understanding of what we had agreed to with regards to the move to Newlands Centre.

Please find enclosed copies of meeting minutes, letters to NCDT and SBC and a history of the decision to move.

At the meeting with Karen Fagan, Jean Robertson and Susan Smith, we were told that there would be no space for the OOSC within the school and that we would therefore need to move to the Newlands Centre and pay an annual rent. Given that the OOSC was running at a loss it was immediately explained that this would cause the demise of the club. We were assured that there would be grant funding available to cover this additional cost. You will see from correspondence that by 2 November 2011 the Committee had been given the clear impression that OOSC rent was to be covered by grants.

Throughout all of the negotiations Newlands and Kirkurd Playgroup reiterated that the Out of School Club would not be able to pay any rent without the support of grant funding and our understanding was that we would be able to apply for Vulnerable Out of School Club grants.

Following the move to the Newlands Centre an application for a Vulnerable Out of School Club grant in 2012-13 was refused and it was explained that this grant was only available once which was not our understanding of the situation. After many meetings we were awarded a grant in 2013-14 but again have since been told that this was "exceptional".

Given our warnings about the financial situation of the OOSC and the assurances coming from SBC before the move to the Newlands Centre you might understand some of our frustration.

Yours sincerely
Rodna Angus
Manager
Newlands and Kirkurd
Playgroup and OOSC