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To whom it may concern,

My husband and I would like to take this opportunity to offer our support to the application for the Trailhead Café and grounds, Traquair Road, Innerleithen.

We both firmly believe that the Trailhead Café will be of benefit to the Innerleithen community and visitors for several reasons:

1. There is a need for an additional Café away from the High Street. This has become evident from the numerous elderly residents we have heard complain about the lack of space to walk past bikes, which have been left on the pavement outside Cafes on the High Street whilst their owners partake in refreshments.
2. Furthermore, we have also heard from many bikers stating that although they enjoy visiting the current Cafes in Innerleithen, they have complained that there are not enough Cafes in Innerleithen to supply the demand, as the bikers have frequently tried to have tea / coffee / lunch etc and there has been no space left for them in the Cafes. In many cases, they have had to leave the town for provisions. If this continues, in the long term this will be detrimental to Innerleithen as a biking / tourist destination, which will have a future negative impact on the many businesses who have come to rely on bikers as a source of income in Innerleithen.
3. There is ample outdoor space at the location of Trailhead Café for bikes, wheelchairs, buggies, prams, walkers, dogs and horses, which is perfect as they are such a short distance from the railway paths, popular with users of all of the above.
4. It is admirable to see this industrial site transformed into a living garden space with garden tables and benches (with some adapted to be suitable for wheelchair and buggy users).
5. The site is both children and dog-friendly, with a children's mud-kitchen and the potential to have a sandpit in the grounds.
6. We believe there is also potential for book readings in the grounds for children in the future and it will be a perfect site to offer information on bike routes, walks and local businesses.
7. We have taken great pleasure in supporting the Café on the few occasions it has opened, as great care has been taken to provide refuse bins for litter and the atmosphere has been friendly and positive.
8. The owners are helpful and courteous, and we were particularly impressed at the Enduro World Series 2021, Innerleithen when they offered bike washing facilities at their premises for no charge other than a request to donate to support the local Mountain Rescue.
9. Trailhead Café and grounds being granted permission, will not in any way interfere with the graveyard across the road as the Trailhead area is enclosed within the industrial grounds of the site.
10. No noise has been emitted from the premises other than very low levels, way below those of its original purpose as an industrial site.
11. We believe that this will be an ideal addition to the growth of Innerleithen, without detracting from any of the other local businesses.

My husband's family have lived in Innerleithen for several generations and I have lived in Innerleithen for over 25 years and we both heartily recommend the Trailhead Café as a positive concern that deserves full support from the Council.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

David Boyd

Fiona Boyd