

# Common good fund aid for two projects

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FUNDING from Dornoch Common Good Fund is to be used to support two ongoing projects in the town.

Dornoch Area Community Interest Company (DACIC) has been granted £39,760 towards the first phase of Project Curlew – the transformation of the town's former abattoir site.

And Dornoch Heritage is to receive £27,365 for the second phase of the Historylinks Museum extension scheme.

Members of Sutherland County Committee sanctioned the two applications for funding at a virtual meeting last Thursday.

Project Curlew, which is being undertaken in five phases, aims to bring part of the slaughterhouse site into community ownership and erect a £2.5 million community centre with curling bar, multi-use games area and golf driving range.

The Scottish Land Fund has already awarded £216,411 for the purchase of the site, which is subject to ground investigation work.

The first phase involves building a car park with space for 40 cars and six coaches.



**Dornoch Heritage hopes to build a £250,000 extension to Historylinks in order to put more items from its collection on display and host exhibitions.**

Councillors heard that the application for common good fund money was subject to match funding being secured.

County committee chairman Richard Gale said: "Project Curlew is an excellent proposal which will benefit Dornoch and the

surrounding areas. DACIC are taking back ownership of what is effectively a derelict waste piece of land and have ambitious proposals to seriously improve the area and offer new facilities for community and visitors."

Dornoch Heritage hopes to

construct a £250,000 extension to Historylinks to enable it to display more objects and host exhibitions.

Councillors were told that there were currently 11,826 objects in the museum's collection but space to display less than 1000.

The common good fund award will be used to cover planning and warrant fees as well as professional fees.

A report before the committee stated: "This will bring the project to a shovel-ready state in preparation for the fundraising for the construction of the museum extension."

Dornoch Heritage is already in discussion with several funders including SSE and Heritage Lottery Fund as major funders, and Museum Galleries Scotland and others, in addition to local fundraising and members' donations.

Councillor Gale said: "Historylinks Museum offers a great facility to locals and visitors and keeps the history of Dornoch and the surrounding areas alive.

"This is an excellent project and I commend the endeavours of the very committed voluntary group that runs it. This extension will be a real boost to the museum and a draw for tourists."