

Lecht Ski Company Ltd.

Lecht
2090

Strathdon, Aberdeenshire, AB36 8YP

Tel : 44 (0) 19756 51440

Fax: 44 (0) 19756 51426

www.lecht.co.uk

E-mail: gdp@btinternet.com

Mr R. Stewart
Director of Planning
Moray District Council
High Street
Elgin

Dear Mr Stewart.

Mountain Bike trails at the Lecht Ski Centre

I would like explain the reasons for the attached application to install two mountain bike trails on the hill Carn Mhic an Toisich at the Lecht Ski Centre.

The weather patterns over the last few winters have produced less reliable snow conditions for winter sports. Although there is still significant snow fall these tend to be mixed with periods of very warm conditions. The winter period is still the key income revenue period but being less reliable the Lecht needs to increase its income from activities outside the winter period to remain viable.

The Centre has existing facilities for outdoor summer activities, with sufficient existing car park areas and with the new café building housing all the other required facilities of cafes, toilets, hire shop etc.

The application is for two mountain bike trails, of different standards, to attract non-ski related tourism. Scotland is fast becoming renowned for mountain bike trails and the key attraction for coming to the Lecht will be for access to these trails by use of the existing chairlift. The only other fixed uplift available to them is at Nevis Range at Fort William.

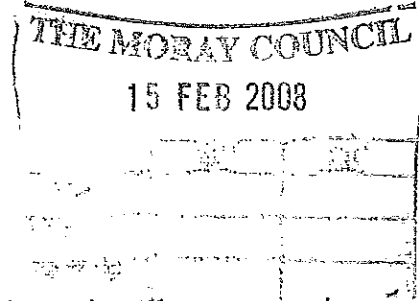
The chairlift will provide access to the top and the trails will connect at the top and bottom with existing tracks completing the loop. The area is totally enclosed within the existing ski areas and the tracks are totally in the Moray Council area. The tracks will generally be constructed by using material quarried close to the tracks, the holes refilled with the spoil and then reinstated with natural vegetation. The project is designed and will be supervised by Mr P. Laing who is considered one of the key designers in the UK having designed and constructed the trails for Tweed Valley Forest Park and many other Forestry Departments trails.

The addition of the tracks will supplement the existing summer rides, of deval carts which use the chairlift and the go-carts and ATV bikes. However the tracks will provide an all weather attraction as bikers like to get wet and muddy and the trails can



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Directors: A.J.McIntosh, G.P.du Pon, Dr. J.L. Thorogood. CEng,MIMechE.
Registered in Scotland No. 63713. Registered Office. 36 Albyn Place, Aberdeen
VAT Reg. No. 296 7389 87



be used when other attractions can not. The anticipated increase in customers is initially about 100 people a weekend over the summer months.

The window of opportunity to build the trails is quite small, being very dependant on the weather conditions and I anticipate one trail will be developed in 2008 and the other one in 2009.

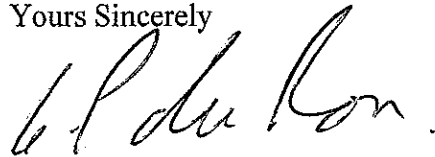
Should the trails be successful, then it is anticipated that we will apply for permission for a further track to join in with the tracks and trails on the Glenlivet Estate, to the North of the Lecht.

This additional attraction will secure the employment for our full time staff, normally around 9 persons from the Tomintoul area throughout the summer.

I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated to the members of the planning committee for their consideration.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G.P. du Pon".

G.P. du Pon
Managing Director