



## **Strong Local Support for Coul Links**

### **Public Meetings held in Dornoch and Embo**

#### **Developers Present Net Environmental Enhancement of SSSI**

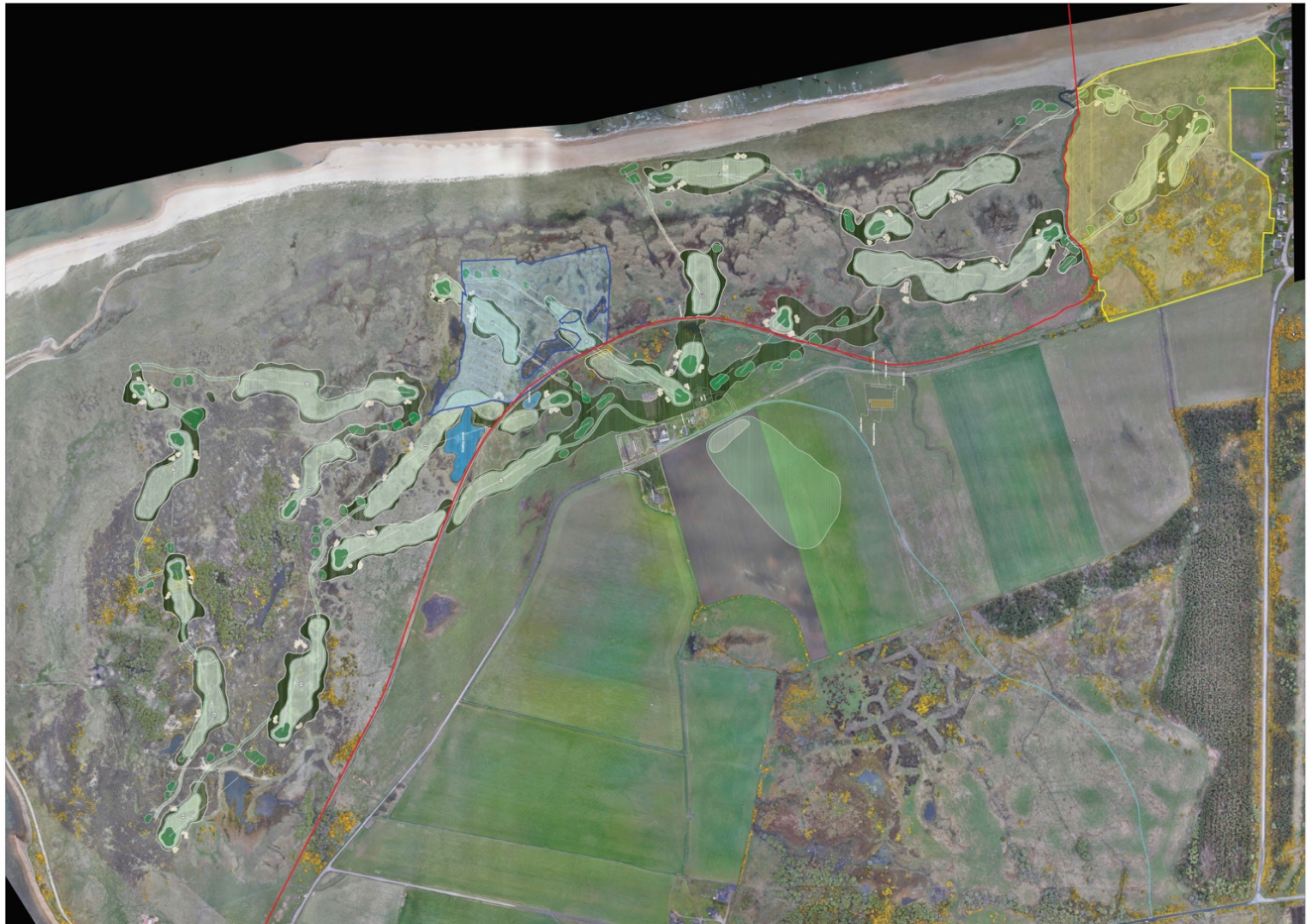
#### **88% of Surveys Expressed Support, 8% Neutral and 4% Opposed**

Coul Links developers held their 5th and 6th public meetings this week in Dornoch and Embo and received exceptionally strong public support and feedback. Specifically, business entrepreneur Todd Warnock, land owner Edward Abel Smith and Embo Trust, (Urras Euraboil) sponsored public meetings to profile their recently filed Planning Application. Presentations were delivered by Mr. Warnock outlining the economic benefits of the development as well as several important strategic environmental initiatives which will improve the SSSI site. Dr. Peter Cosgrove summarized his ecological assessment including a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) report provided in the Planning Application. The conclusion of the BNG report is the project would deliver “clear and substantive biodiversity net gain across a number of habitats”. The developers presented strong and compelling evidence the SSSI at Coul Links will be environmentally enhanced not degraded by the golf development. Mr. Warnock said “We believe the attendees were quite impressed with the scientific assessment that the migrating and breeding bird populations would be strengthened by our strategies. I think this data as well our commitment to a comprehensive Site Management Plan for Coul Links in conjunction with SNH, gave the public confidence we take the subject of environmental stewardship seriously”. World-renown golf architect Bill Coore spoke emotionally of his belief he and partner Ben Crenshaw had never worked on a site as special as Coul Links. Coore said “the opportunity for great golf at Coul Links is extreme and we are excited and frankly humbled by the prospect of building a course in the home of golf.”

The response of the local communities was exceptionally positive. The developers asked students from the Highlands & Islands Golf Management Program to welcome attendees of the meetings and asked them to complete a short survey. On Sunday night October 22nd, an estimated 120 people attended the meet held at the Dornoch Social Club. Of the 87 attendees who completed the survey, 74 were in favor of the golf development (85%), 6 were neutral and 7 were against (8%). On Monday evening, October 23rd an estimated 100 people attended the meet held at the Embo Community Centre. Of the 86 attendees who completed the survey, 79 were in favor of the golf development (92%), 7 were neutral and 0 were against (0%). Todd Warnock, the co-developer said “we were exceptionally honored our positive message resulted in such overwhelming support. Mike Keiser and I have always said we only want to build a golf course at Coul Links with community support and these results clearly demonstrate the community’s excitement for the project”.

The developers highlighted several environmental initiatives regarding invasive species management, remediation of a felled tree plantation, expansion of the habitat adjacent to the SSSI toward Embo as well as public access and education/information plans all of which will improve the environmental integrity of the site. The developers noted the golf course will include 22.7 ha of

tees, fairways and greens of which 14.0 ha are within the SSSI, 8.7 are outside the SSSI. Further, the developers have committed to remediate a 5.7 ha felled tree plantation inside the SSSI which is environmentally compromised. They have also committed to expand the habitat adjacent to the SSSI via the purchase, remediation and management of 14.3 ha near Embo which is currently the source of significant invasive species migration onto the SSSI. The net result of these efforts is to offset the 14.0 ha of golf course within the SSSI with 20.0 ha of environmentally improved habitat all under the proposed Site Management Plan.



Revised Coul Links course layout with highlighted felled tree plantation (5.7 ha) in blue and expanded habitat toward Embo (14.3 ha) in yellow. The border of the SSSI is in red.

**Key Contact Information:**

**Mailing Address:**

Coul Links Ltd  
C/O Links House at Royal Dornoch  
Golf Road, Dornoch, IVSA-3LW

**Richard Stuttard, STRI:**

Telephone: +44 (0) 1274-565-131

Email: [richard.stuttard@strigroup.com](mailto:richard.stuttard@strigroup.com)

**Chris Haspell, Project Manager:**

Telephone: +44 7793-217-928

Email: [chris@coullinks.com](mailto:chris@coullinks.com)

**Todd Warnock, Coul Links Ltd:**

Telephone: +44-7923-104-414

Email: [todd@linkshousedornoch.com](mailto:todd@linkshousedornoch.com)