

21 December 2005

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am very pleased to write this letter in support of the Thurstonland CC Development Plan.

Since January 2004 I have been coordinating a unique £50,000 Cricket Heritage Project in Kirklees and Calderdale, sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the University of Huddersfield. Thurstonland are one of the clubs we have been working with on the Project.

Thurstonland CC have been particularly helpful and enthusiastic over the last two years, and have really entered into the spirit of the Project and been aware of its key objectives. In many ways, Thurstonland is a wonderful example of a community club: well organised, keen to encourage junior cricket, and eager to play their part in village life. They have opened up their pavilion to use by community groups, and also opened up their archives to our researchers.

I would like to emphasise the role played by Thurstonland CC in our Project. In July 2005 they helped us stage a special cricket heritage exhibition in the village pub, The Rose & Crown, and supported this event with great enthusiasm. In addition, at the onset of the Project, two club members came forward and have since played a major voluntary role in our work. Lee Booth (1st XI captain) has created a wonderful interactive website which displays all our research findings (www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk), and Andrew Pearson (club secretary) assisted us by researching the history of three nearby clubs (Cartworth Moor, Holmbridge and Cumberworth) in advance of further local exhibitions. These have been substantial and invaluable contributions to the Project, and they show that Thurstonland club members are not only dedicated to their own club, but also have a broader love of, and attachment to, local cricket in West Yorkshire.

I should also add that when BBC Radio 4 contacted me in Summer 2005 wanting to base an 'Open Country' documentary around a village club in West Yorkshire, I thought immediately of Thurstonland – because of their contribution to our Project, and because, as a club, they epitomise what local league village cricket is all about. The documentary, when it was broadcast in July 2005, was excellent testimony to the importance of Thurstonland Cricket Club in, and to, the local village community.

It gives me great pleasure to support Thurstonland's Development Plan – a thriving club, situated at the heart of village life, that is fully aware of its own history and the challenges that lie in the future.

Dr Peter Davies
Senior Lecturer in History, University of Huddersfield
Project Leader, 'The Cricketing Heritage of Calderdale and Kirklees'