

TO BILL

PO Box 892  
DENMARK WA 6333

PBR.10.A

September 15 2016

Shire Of Denmark  
ICR16942067

21 SEP 2016

COUNCILLORS	
CEO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DIR of FINANCE	
DIR of PLANNING	

Mr Bill Parker  
CEO  
Shire of Denmark  
PO Box 183  
DENMARK WA 6333

Your Reference: KD/TM OCR15834569 File: PBR.10.A

Dear Mr Parker

Re: Community Financial Assistance Grant – Contribution to Practice Wall for Denmark Tennis Club

At the September 10<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Denmark Tennis Club, I had to report that the Shire of Denmark has reversed its decision to grant our club the sum of \$5000 towards the cost of its proposed practice wall.

This was a huge disappointment to everyone, as the decision making and hard work is all but complete and there has been an air of anticipation about the commencement of works.

Indeed, our representative, Dennis Buffart, had had discussions with Mr Kim Dolziadelli and Ms Annette Harbron in late May, and was given to understand that carrying the funds forward for one more year was assured if we wrote a letter to request such an extension.

Our secretary wrote a letter, dated June 13<sup>th</sup> 2016, to formally request the extension. To date, we have had no written reply, even though our secretary has phoned and left messages for Mr Dolziadelli over the past three months. Our only information, in fact, comes from a verbal response that I received from Teiga Murray on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, the week after I visited the council offices with a copy of our secretary's letter.

On the strength of Dennis' discussions with Mr Dolziadelli and Ms Harbron, we have had drawings completed by Mr Keith Simpson, and plans developed to submit to council. With the need for the ground to dry out substantially before any work could commence, we did not rush this process.

I wish to outline briefly, the situation which describes the need for the practice wall at the Denmark Tennis Club:

- Three years ago there were no junior club members. We now have over one hundred primary school aged children engaged in the Hot Shots program, as well as a mid-week junior coaching program , and increased court use by both the Denmark Senior High School and the Agricultural College;
- The club has committed some \$3000 to purchase a ball machine and a practice wall is urgently needed to allow independent practice by juniors while we have the momentum created by this surge in interest;
- The program is being run by dedicated and experienced adult volunteers from the tennis club and parent body.

We do regret the time taken to get the project to this stage, especially with the juniors' new season due to commence at the beginning of term 4. However, there were a number of factors that held us up:

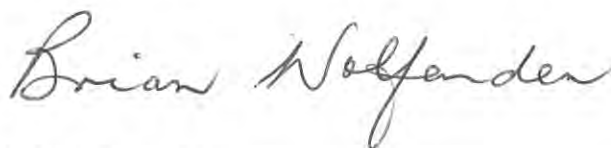
- We had a considerable wait before finding out that our application for a grant of \$5000 from the Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) was unsuccessful;
- The club had to apply to the Denmark Country Club to ask for an advance (loan) of \$5000 to compensate for the amount that DSR decided not to fund;
- Fundraising by the tennis members took time to execute and accumulate, but we were successful in generating \$6000 through hundreds of hours of volunteer activity to staff a number of events around Denmark;
- Adverse weather conditions have precluded the use of machinery in the area and – as you know – have forced the closure of the Denmark Golf Club for many weeks.

Throughout all this time, with all of the delays, members of the tennis club including Rob Slater, Stuart Duncan and Dennis Buffart maintained contact with the Shire of Denmark's staff to keep them informed of our commitment to the project and update them of our progress and difficulties. There was never a suggestion from the Shire that the funds would be lost. To discover that this is the case when it is too late for the club to take action to preserve the Shire's contribution is quite devastating to many of the members who have worked so hard to ensure that the project is realised.

There has been one additional significant development which I would ask that you consider when reviewing the Shire's decision on this matter. One of our members has offered to contribute the amount of \$5000 to the project if the council will honour its original grant of \$5000. This would be in memory of his late wife, who was a keen tennis player. The donation would be contingent upon the construction of a suitable memorial to his wife. There would also be recognition of the Shire's role in creating the practice wall, a significant asset for the club, its members and the community for many years to come.

The members of the Denmark Tennis Club respectfully request that the Shire reconsider its decision in the light of the circumstances I have described.

Yours sincerely



Brian Wolfenden  
Chairperson  
Denmark Tennis Club

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