Laura Crawford

From: Bolan, Peter

Sent: 19 September 2025 09:00

To: Planning

Subject: Ref: LA01/2024/0444/F

Attachments: LA01:2024:0444:F Letter of Support Dr Peter Bolan.docx

To whom it may concern

Please find attached letter from myself in support of the new developments at Portstewart Golf Club, Ref: LA01/2024/0444/F

Kind Regards Peter



Dr Peter Bolan

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Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
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18th September 2025

Re: Planning Application Ref: LA01/2024/0444/F - Portstewart Golf Club

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to confirm my strong support for the planning application submitted by Portstewart Golf Club (Ref: LA01/2024/0444/F). The plans for course upgrades on the Riverside and Strand layouts, the addition of modern covered practice bays, an improved short game area, enhanced landscaping, and a much-needed overspill car park represent a forward-looking investment. These proposals will not only strengthen the facilities available to members and visitors but will also deliver lasting benefits to the wider Causeway Coast and Glens area.

Portstewart Golf Club holds a vital place within the local community, serving not only as a leading sporting facility but also as a hub for social and cultural activity. The club provides substantial employment in the area, including jobs directly through its day-to-day operations and indirectly by driving business to local suppliers and service providers. Its influence extends well beyond golf itself, contributing significantly to the strength of the local economy and playing an important part in sustaining the tourism and hospitality industries that are so crucial to the region.

As one of Northern Ireland's most highly regarded golf destinations (and indeed on the entire island of Ireland), Portstewart Golf Club attracts thousands of visitors from across the world each year (over 10,000 from the US alone). These golf tourists contribute significantly to local hotels, restaurants, shops, and transport services, generating economic activity far beyond the club itself. The international reputation of the Strand Course, having hosted prestigious tournaments such as the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open, further enhances the area's profile on the global stage and strengthens Northern Ireland's standing as a leading golf tourism destination.

The planned improvements will ensure the club continues to meet the highest standards expected by members, visiting golfers, and tournament organisers. Facilities such as modern practice bays and upgraded short game areas are essential for attracting and retaining top-level events, while improved landscaping and parking provision will enhance the overall visitor experience. These investments will secure long-term benefits, supporting

sustainable tourism growth, creating further employment opportunities, and ensuring the club remains a key driver of economic vitality in the region.

For these reasons, I strongly support this application and respectfully urge the Council to grant planning permission.

Yours faithfully

Dr Peter Bolan
Director Golf Management
Senior Lecturer in International Tourism Management
Ulster University