

The new Wick High School

CONSULTATION MEETING

Briefing Paper for the Chair – Cllr W Fernie

1. Welcome
2. Introduce self
3. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to consult on the proposal is to build a new Wick High School on either the existing High School playing field site or on Bignold Park and to determine what community facilities should be included within the new school campus.
4. Introduce those on the platform.
5. Acknowledge presence of and name ward members, MP/MSPs.
6. Acknowledge presence of Bob Barfoot from Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education.
7. Indicate that the proceedings are being recorded and that a summarised transcript of the questions and answers would be reproduced in the Consultation Report published at the end of the consultation period.
8. Ascertain that all who require one have a copy of the consultation paper.
9. **Repeat purpose of the meeting:** to consult on the proposal is to build a new Wick High School on either the existing High School playing field site or on Bignold Park and to determine what community facilities should be included within the new school campus.
10. State that the meeting is a statutory consultation in line with the relevant legislation.
11. On 12 November 2009 the Education, Culture and Sport Committee of the Highland Council agreed to revise its consultation procedures and align them with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act. This Act is now legislation. It is the basis of the consultation procedure tonight.
12. On 5th August 2010 the Education, Culture and Sport Committee agreed to consult on a number of proposals to change educational provision, amongst them the proposal before us tonight.
13. The relevant consultation paper was issued to those potentially affected by the proposal and to other nominated parties and made available to the public at large.

14. An advertisement was placed in the local press and on the Council's website to alert people to the proposal, including the time, date and place of tonight's meeting.
15. The consultation period lasts 6 weeks. It began on 23rd August and closes on 1st October 2010. All representations and submissions have to be received by the closing date and should be sent to Ron Mackenzie, Head of Support Services, Education Culture & Sport, Highland Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness..
16. All the comments made at tonight's meeting will be written up as a report. It will be made available to all interested parties at least 3 weeks before the Education, Culture and Sport Committee that meets in mid January 2011 when the results of the consultation will be considered.
17. There will be a presentation outlining progress to date, the proposal for discussion tonight and the way forward thereafter
18. PRESENTATION
19. Open the meeting to the floor.
20. If you would like to ask a question or make a comment, please raise your hand. You will be given the microphone. State your name and "designation" – eg parent, local resident and then ask your question.
21. First, ascertain if anyone would like clarification of any of the factual information contained in the consultation paper. Followed by other questions/comments.
22. After all the comments and questions have been asked, sum up by:
 - a) Thanking everyone for coming;
 - b) Reminding them about the final date for submissions/representations and to whom and where they should be sent ;
 - c) Remind everyone of the timeline for the Consultation process:
 - Consultation period closes on the 1st October
 - HMIE Report by mid November
 - Draft Consultation Report early December
 - Feedback/comments included when Consultation Report is presented to ECS Committee in January

Wick High School

Bignold Park – Additional notes for Bill Fernie

The Council has been looking at the issues surrounding both possible sites. In relation to the Bignold Park we have been advised that whilst open to challenge it would be possible to build on the park.

Challenge could be based on what we understand would be a need to make a comparable park facility available immediately the Bignold Park became unavailable to the public.

My own opinion is that there are mixed views locally on the use of the park and whilst we need to continue to consider both options I wish to confirm to you that my priority is for us to deliver a new school within the timescale envisaged by the Scottish Government in their funding allocation and so in considering the site for the new school I am clear that we will take all actions and decisions necessary to keep the project timescale on track.

Sam Cassells

Highland Council is in dialogue with Sam Cassells, Education Advisor for Architecture & Design Scotland.

Sam is employed by the Scottish Government to assist local authorities and local communities with major school projects.

Sam's role in relation to this project is to ensure that the consultation process reflects current best practice in relation to stakeholder engagement.

Unfortunately he could not attend tonight's meeting, however, he will be actively involved in the Consultation process from now onwards.