

The Wick Project

Newsletter 8 – July 2014

The Wick Schools Project

The Wick Schools Project includes the Wick Campus (incorporating the **Newton Park Primary School**, High School and East Caithness Community Facilities) on the Wick High/Pulteneytown Academy Primary School site, and the new **Noss Primary School** to be built on the current North Primary School site.

Please note the recently announced names of the new Primary schools.

On the Web

NOTE - the Council's website has been revised, so the previous link is no longer available. The new link is http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/893/schools_-_general_information/25/modern_school_buildings_programme. A menu on the left hand side of this page allows you to select which project you require.

The Wick Campus

It was reported in the last Newsletter that Hubco were due to provide the results of the Tender Exercise to Council in April. The result of this exercise showed that costs were significantly above what was expected. The increased costs are due to the market being 'buoyant', and transport, accommodation and subsistence, due to Wick's location.

During May and June, the Council, Hubco and Millers, and the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) have been in discussion on a resolution to this issue.

A report was submitted to The Highland Council on Thursday 26th June outlining a solution - namely that additional funding would be applied to the Wick Campus project from two sources – for the High School/Swimming Pool - the Scottish Government/SFT would provide an additional 12% funding, with the Council providing an additional sum to reflect the increased costs indicated above.

In addition, approval was sought to enter an Early Works contract with Hub, so that work can begin during the school holidays before the main contract and Financial Close is completed.

The Council approved the report unanimously.

There is still much negotiation to be completed, but we are now in a much better position to get to contract close.

Project Date

The Campus opening date remains the start of session 2016.

Noss Primary School

Progress

An Early Works package was signed between the Council and Hubco in April. The contractors have started the new build, taking over the playing fields, stripping the site, and setting out the foundations.

Work is progressing well.



The same issues regarding tender costs in the Campus also applied to this contract. The report to Council also requested additional funding by the Council to address these issues. This was again approved unanimously.

The main contract between Council and Hubco is due to be signed by 4th July 2014.

Work on the new school will therefore continue without a break.

Project Dates

Due to the tender issues, the handover date for the new school has been delayed by 2 weeks to 24th July 2015. This will allow the Council to complete the set up for the new school by 17th August, when Staff are due to return from the summer holidays.

Stakeholder Meeting

The next Stakeholder Meeting takes place on Monday 25th August at 7pm in Wick High School.