

WEST LINK COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

Inverness Leisure Centre
Monday 31st August 2015

Present

Cllr Graham Ross	The Highland Council	Cllr GR
Cllr Audrey Sinclair	The Highland Council	AS
Sergeant Gwen Ross	Police Scotland	S.GR
Craig Steedman	Inverness Leisure	CS
Brian Mackenzie	Highland Cycle Campaign	BM
Roy Sinclair	Inverness Rowing Club	RS
John Lister	Lochardil Community Council	JL
Andrew Maxtone	Holm Community Council	AM
Mary Matheson	Holm Community Council	MM
George Hawco	Inverness West Community Council	GH
George Greig	Inverness Community Council	GG
Kevin Finlay	Inverness South Community Council	KF
Colin Howell	The Highland Council	CH
Jim Smith	The Highland Council	JS
Ewen MacPherson	The Highland Council	EM
Stewart Wardlaw	The Highland Council	SW
Jackie Walker	The Highland Council	JW

Apologies

Stewart Nicol	Inverness Chamber of Commerce
Mike Smith	Inverness Improvement District
Graeme Ambrose	Inverness & Loch Ness Tourism BID
Inspector Anne Urquhart	Police Scotland
Inspector Alastair Garrow	Police Scotland
PC Ross Polworth	Police Scotland
Chief Inspector Jennifer MacDonald	Police Scotland
James Martin	Inverness Leisure Centre
Chris Macdonald	Ballifeary Community Council
Ted MacKenzie	Dalneigh and Columba Community Council
James Kidd	Muirtown Community Council
Maria De La Torre	Lochardill Community Council

Point		Action
1	Chairman's introductions & purpose of the meetings	
1.1	Cllr Ross opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.	
1.2	All attendees introduced themselves to the group.	
1.3	CH explained that JS was project manager and responsible for the design of the Scheme and EM will be on site supervising the construction of the Inverness West Link.	
2	Background & Description of the project using the project fly-through	
2.1	CH presented the Inverness West Link video flythrough (video is available to view on The Highland Council website).	
2.2	CH stated that the PowerPoint presentation will also be uploaded onto the Council's website.	
2.3	CH explained that the new Golf Course construction will commence in 2016 and will become playable, prior to Stage 2 commencing.	
2.4	CH reminded the meeting of the Scheme benefits which include the reduction of traffic congestion, more active travel routes, a new Canal crossing and the benefit to cost ratio.	
2.5	CH explained about the issue with working in and around the River Ness where we have a limited time to complete the works – July to mid-October. This window is driving the construction programme.	
2.6	Torvean slide – Canal Parks Stage 1, this will include a new 4G synthetic pitch realigned pitches and a new clubhouse. Highlife Highland manage the new facility for community and Inverness Rugby Club use.	
2.7	Canal Parks – flythrough was shown to the group. This again is available on the Council's website.	
2.8	<p><i>JL raised a question:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Will there be a reduction in number of car parking spaces compared to the current number of spaces?</i> <p>JS advised there will be no reduction in car parking spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Parking tonight is very busy and there are no special events taking place, will there be a parking area provided at Holm Mills side of the bridge to park and walk over?</i> <p>JS confirmed there will be a layby on LHS to allow park and walk, this was introduced following public consultations.</p>	
2.9	Torvean Golf Club slide – the new Golf Course will be on one side of the road, following commencement this will become playable in three years.	

2.10	<p><i>GG raised a question:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Is there a planning application for housing?</i> <p>CH advised yes there is a Highland Council application in land abutting the new Golf Course.</p> <p>JS advised this housing development will not commence, in house building terms, until after the Inverness West Link works are complete.</p>	
2.11	CH advised there may be an opportunity for a Regional Sports Facility but this was subject to further consideration at Committee.	
3	Delivery Programme	
3.1	The advanced works are due to commence Monday 14 th September. Tenders will be invited for Stage 1 in November with a start on site in Spring 2016. Stage 1 is the link from the Southern Distributor to the A82. Golf Course construction will commence in Spring 2016. Stage 2 will be completed in 2020 following relocation of the Golf Course, to construct the additional link over the Canal.	
4	IWL Stage 1 & Canal Parks Advance Works: service diversions and tree clearance	
4.1	<p><i>GH raised a question:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Concerns raised about tree felling during Stage 1 of the works.</i> <p>JS advised he is the point of contact up until 14th September and any concerns should be directed to him, telephone 01349 886741. When construction starts on the 14th September EM will take over as contact, the hotline number was provided to the group as 07557 744442.</p>	
4.2	JS advised that the next meeting scheduled for 2 nd November the Contractor's Site Agent will attend to give an update on progress. The meeting venue will be advised.	
4.3	JS identified the three distinct areas for advance works, advised of tree felling and where diverting of services will take place.	
4.4	JS advised Bught Road will be closed as part of a temporary road closure, this will then be permanently closed during the Stage 1 construction phase.	
4.5	<p><i>BM raised a question:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Will access to towpath be maintained at all times?</i> <p>JS advised the towpath will not be closed; access will be clear with no disruption, however fencing abutting the towpath is likely to be needed.</p>	
4.6	At the end of the slides, CH advised we will upload the slides to The Highland Council website.	
4.7	JS described the traffic management and diversions contained in the presentation.	
4.8	JS advised two bus stops on Glenurquhart Road will be temporary moved, these will be relocated west of Tomnahurich Bridge.	

4.9	There will be a press briefing on 01 st September.	
4.10	EM advised we shall endeavour to minimise traffic management as much as possible, this to be further discussed with the Contractor.	
4.11	<p><i>JL raised a question:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The second swing bridge is programmed into Stage 2; will this go ahead if Stage 1 goes over budget?</i> <p>CH advised we see this as one project, we have every intention not to delay Stage 2, we have been tasked by Members to ensure this goes ahead and this has been approved at Committee.</p> <p>Cllr GR explained that the swing bridge is scheduled at the end of the project due to the need to relocate the Golf Course. There is strong pressure to keep this on programme.</p>	
4.12	<p><i>RS raised a question:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Will the Rowing Club facilities be disrupted, when major rowing events take place there is a lack of parking spaces. The Police have advised that parking on verges will be an offence, concern raised as between 31st October / 1st November 2015 the Inverness Fours & Small boats weekend will be taking place.</i> <p>S.GR advised RS to liaise with her direct regards this issue.</p>	S. GR/ RS
4.13	<p><i>GH raised a question:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Will the trees which are felled be replaced like for like with the same species?</i> <p>CH confirmed there is scrutiny on what is felled and what will be replaced, and this has been agreed as part of the planning process. Tree selection is appropriate to the location.</p>	
4.14	<p><i>S.GR raised a question on behalf of PC Polworth:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>PC Polworth would like to discuss the underpasses further.</i> <p>JS previously gave a briefing to the Police two months ago and the potential misuse of underpasses was raised. PC Polworth to contact JS direct.</p> <p>Cllr GR was previously advised by Sam MacNaughton that CCTV will be in use and the lines of sight had been considered in the design.</p>	PC Polworth
4.15	SW asked the group if the community are happy with the way in which we are conveying this information. It was agreed that they were.	
4.16	CH suggested that by next meeting construction works will be under way and there may be more questions, EM and MM Miller Site Agent will be available to answer these. Cllr Ross advised the Liaison Meetings are to try and ensure everyone is aware of the works and know how to raise concerns.	
4.17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cllr AS asked if all the Community Councils were invited to the meeting?</i> <p>CH confirmed that they were.</p>	
4.18	JS stated that this meeting had concentrated on tree felling but at the next meeting more information will be given on the statutory undertakers diversions and it is hoped that Scottish Water will also attend this meeting.	

5	IWL Stage 1 Roadworks and Canal Parks Sports Facilities: Main works	
5.1	CH explained that due to the proximity and the integration in programming, the Canal Parks Project will be constructed with Stage 1 works.	
5.2	Stage 1 and Canal Parks will commence in Spring 2016 to allow the in-river works to be undertaken in the summer window.	
5.3	More details will be given at future meetings.	
6	Associated projects: Golf Course construction, Golf Club relocation and Stage 2 IWL Roadworks	
6.1	Future meetings will discuss issues in details in respect of the Golf Course construction project and the Stage 2 West Link construction.	
7	ACOB	
7.1	None	
8	Date of next meeting	
8.1	Monday 2 nd November, venue to be confirmed. CH thanked all for attending and again assured that the intention is to keep disruption to a minimum.	

Circulation:

Cllr Graham Ross
 Cllr Audrey Sinclair
 Sergeant Gwen Ross
 Craig Steedman
 Brian Mackenzie
 Roy Sinclair
 John Lister
 Andrew Maxtone
 Mary Matheson
 George Hawco
 George Greig
 Kevin Finlay
 Colin Howell
 Jim Smith
 Ewen MacPherson
 Stewart Wardlaw
 Jackie Walker
 Stewart Nicol
 Mike Smith
 Graeme Ambrose
 Inspector Anne Urquhart
 Inspector Alastair Garrow

PC Ross Polworth
Chief Inspector Jennifer
MacDonald
James Martin
Chris Macdonald
Ted MacKenzie
James Kidd
Maria De La Torre
Stuart Black
Ruth Cleland