

WEST LINK COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

Inverness Leisure Centre
Monday 2nd November 2015

Present

Cllr Graham Ross	The Highland Council	Cllr GR
Sergeant Gwen Ross	Police Scotland	S.GR
PC Ross Polworth	Police Scotland	RP
Roy Sinclair	Inverness Rowing Club	RS
George Hawco	Inverness West Community Council	GH
George Greig	Inverness West Community Council	GG
Colin Howell	The Highland Council	CH
Jimmy Smith	The Highland Council	JS
Stewart Wardlaw	The Highland Council	SW
Mike Smith	Inverness City Centre Business Improvement District	MS
Maria De La Torre	Lochardil Community Council	MT
Steve Whymant	Morrison Construction	SWy
Mathew Anderson	Scottish Water	MA

Apologies

None

Point		Action
1	Chairman's introductions & purpose of the meetings	
1.1	Cllr GR opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, and hoped that the series of meetings would be helpful and informative.	
1.2	All attendees introduced themselves to the group.	
2	Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising	
2.1	The minutes of the meeting of the 31st August 2015 were accepted as read.	
2.2	RS stated that at the last meeting he raised the issue of the progression of the Rowing Club development plan, and requested that West Link Scheme plans be provided for review of potential impacts. JS to provide.	JS
2.3	In respect of paragraph 4.12 and parking for major rowing club events, JS confirmed that he had held discussions with the police and parking on verges was not deemed acceptable. RS stated that the new proprietor had allowed parking at the Torvean Caravan Park as a one off for the October regatta and	

	this was extremely successful and helpful. RS to liaise with JS to consider parking provision at the next event in February when parking facilities may be limited by the ongoing works and the occupation of part of the Rugby Club parking area. RS suggested that the Bught camping site may be considered as an option and JS agreed to explore this option with the Rowing Club.	RS/JS
2.4	Further to paragraph 4.14 and CCTV coverage of underpasses, JS confirmed that he had met with RP and ducting will be included in the construction contract. Outline proposals are to be sent to Police Scotland.	JS
2.5	CH explained that the now approved the minutes would be uploaded to the THC West Link web page, and he would look to get agreement from attendees to upload future minutes so that the information is available to be read by any interested party. All present agreed to this.	CH
3	Stage 1 and Canal Parks Advance Works – Service Diversions and Tree Clearance	
3.1	The Contractors MM Miller are progressing well and are on programme, with the bulk of the trees now felled. Felling of two trees, one on Glenurquhart Road and one at Canal Park, was delayed whilst environmental considerations were reviewed. MM Miller are currently undertaking BT & SSE diversion works at Ness side.	JS
3.2	The works include a major diversion by Scottish Water of water mains. MA explained that Scottish Water has appointed Morrison Construction who are progressing the works. JS explained the route by reference to the plan in the presentation (which is available on the Council web site). MA explained that there would be two temporary water shut downs. The first affecting some 2200 houses will commence at 10pm on 11 November and be back live by 6 am the following morning. Scottish Water will letter drop in advance all properties affected and make bottled water available for the duration. This will largely affect households in the Kinmylies area. Following on from a question MA confirmed that New Craigs was not affected by the interruption of supplies.	MA
3.3	MA explained that the interruptions were to do jointing works on the existing main to allow future connections and the new water mains will not become live at this time.	
3.4	JS explained that the new water main was routed through the Inverness Leisure car park and that certain areas of the car park would be restricted as works are progressed. These works are programmed late November/December to coincide with quieter times of the leisure centre. Access through to overspill car parking at the rugby club will be provided at this time, the importance of good signage was recognised. It was noted that there is no lighting in the rugby club car park and JS is to consider temporary lights on time switch for this duration. Another option suggested was to use lighting within the Sports Centre car park, which may also be effective.	JS
3.5	MA explained that water main diversions were also required at Ness-Side and	

	the interruption to supplies is programmed for January. Few properties are affected, however they will all be notified in advance by letter drop.	MA
3.6	JS explained that when BT had completed their jointing works on Glenurquhart Road by 6 th November, then there will be no more traffic management on Glenurquhart Road as part of this contract.	JS
3.7	JS confirmed that MM Miller had opened up Bught Road to coincide with events including the Marathon and Halloween, and this would be done for the 5 th November Firework display and consideration is being given to the Winter Wonderland event. These measures were appreciated by the meeting. Cllr GR confirmed that over 20,000 people had attended the successful Halloween event.	JS
4	Associated Projects, Golf Course, Golf Club and West Link Stage 2	
4.1	Stage 1 and the Canal Parks Enhancement will be tendered in the very near future with a start of construction planned for Spring 2016.	JS
4.2	JS confirmed that tenders for the golf course will be issued in the new year, with works commencing in Spring 2016.	JS
4.3	MT recognised that traffic flows may increase following the opening of Stage 1 and asked that Stage 2, the Canal crossing, follow on as soon as possible. JS explained that the Canal crossing would be completed after the golfers had been relocated, and that this was dependent on the completion and establishment of the course and the construction of the new club house and maintenance facilities. JS confirmed that development of housing in the area is constrained until the completion of the West Link, so early pressures from such development will not occur.	JS
4.4	Cllr GR explained that it was the intention to do some of the earthworks for the planned Mile End housing development so that the spoil could be incorporated in the golf course construction. This development will not be completed until after the West Link is open.	
4.5	RS pointed out that the Rowing Club should be benefitting from additional investment like adjacent sporting facilities affected by the Inverness West Link project. RS also asked about progress on the design of Stage 2 given Scottish Canals consideration of development in the area. JS explained that, with the exception of the design of the new swing bridge, stage 2 design has been put on hold until Scottish Canals have confirmed their development proposals, if any. JS committed to further dialogue with the Rowing Club as the designs for Stage 2 progress.	JS
4.6	RS explained that the Rowing Club are considering development of their facilities but recognise that these cannot be finalised until all developments in the area are known.	RS
5	AOCB	
5.1	RS expressed concern regarding potential instability of the canal banks	

	following tree felling. JS explained that the works in proximity of the Canal had been approved by Scottish Canals as part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent process. JS also confirmed that sheet piling will be installed within the canal banks to reinforce areas in close proximity to the West Link construction.	
5.2	Cllr GR expressed his gratitude for the Group's commitment to the meeting and the open nature of the discussions.	
5.3	CH identified the 24hr helpline number of 07557 744442 which can be called at any time if anybody wishes to raise any issues with the construction phase of the West Link. Note this number is advertised on the Councils West Link Web page.	
6	Date of Next Meeting	
6.1	7pm Monday 14 th March, venue to be confirmed	