

Minutes



Date & time: Tuesday 29th September 2015 at 6:30pm

Venue: IRA The Core

Contract title: THC Schools IRA

Contract No:

Purpose: Inverness Royal Academy Stakeholder Group Meeting No 12.

Attendees:

Gordon Piper, Chair	Depute Head - IRA
Fraser Parr	Councillor Highland Council
Emma Thalson	High Life Highland – Area Facilities Manager
Holly Kingham	Rep. Aldourie Parent Council
Columba Johnston	Acting Education Officer, C & L
Garry Smith	IRA Parent Council
Mina Johnstone	Rep. Holm School Parent Council
Robert Campbell	HC – Estate Strategy Manager
Donald Hall	High Life Highland
David Taylor	AECOM Project Manager

Item	Minute	Action
1.0	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Chairman welcomed attendees.</p>	
2.0	<p>Apologies Received</p> <p>Apologies were received from: Highland Councillors Alasdair Christie & Norrie Donald, Callum Mackintosh Area Care + Learning Manager – HC, Finlay Black PD Morrison Construction & Ray Doctor PM AECOM.</p>	
3.0	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>Minute of previous meeting held on the 23rd of June 2015. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted apart from correction 5(e) Transition Arrangements, second bullet point to read: <i>Transition Group will decide if pupils from Inverness Royal Academy will be given additional week prior to summer break 2016 to allow teachers to pack.</i></p>	
4.0	<p>Stakeholder Update</p> <p>Gordon Piper gave update as follows:</p> <p>(a) Construction and Programme Update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building works 1-2 weeks ahead • M&E slightly behind by a few days • Generally therefore on programme <p>(b) Communication. Communications are excellent and plus point for the project, activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor ensures positive links between site/school/ THC • Weekly meetings, no complaints or interruptions • Design Data Reviews (RDD) on weekly basis <p>(c) Community Benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 pupils have secured apprenticeships with MCL • Big Challenge Environmental Project; Beekeeping, Hedgerow planting, Bug Hotel 	

- Fundraising, Bake-off Staff & MCL for Romanian trip
- Materials for Art Dept. to brighten hoarding

(d) Community Access. Emma Thalson updated meeting as follows:

- 2nd stage consultation is underway, main issue is differences between THC offering and that proposed by Highlife Highland
- 2 week period started 28/09/15
- User groups engaged considering lets, costs, phasing, booking, fees and general T&C's
- With regard to equipment storage, provision would be made for existing equipment but no new provisions would be made. This position may be reviewed on the move had taken place.

Donald Hall, Highlife Highland gave brief presentation on opportunities available with IRA as "Sports Hub":

- Only one in Inverness (others at; Thurso, Tain, Dingwall & Aviemore)
- Will satisfy local needs and improve opportunities for whole community
- Currently commencing dialogue with stakeholders and reviewing requirements, will develop inclusive user group
- Kick-off in Spring 2016

(e) Transition Arrangements.

Group being set up by Callum Mackintosh to include representation as follows:

- The School (HT/DHT)
- Area Care & Learning Team
- ASN Team
- Quality Improvement Officer
- Workforce Planning & Staffing
- Catering & Cleaning
- Facilities Management
- Highlife Highland
- School Estates
- Architect
- ICT (Jujitsu)
- Transport Officer
- MCL would join the group later as needs on invitation

First meeting would be convened after the October holiday.

Gordon Piper confirmed the School Transition Group was up and running with good tidy-up, assessment of legacy equipment, consideration of transfer of CDT kit. In addition so far some 30 teachers had been shown round new school. Pupils will be shown round at a later date and it was recognized some "orientation" would be required recognizing there was now only 8 months to completion.

Recognized transfer of computers will be critical as they will be needed in both locations, this will be an action for the Transition Group.

5.0 **AOCB**

5.1 Robert Campbell briefed the group on the public art aspect; artist appointed and working with 1st/2nd year and smaller senior group and staff to develop ideas for inside and outside work. Options will be put to architect to get cohesive solution.

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5.2 Gordon Piper informed group on success of school with regard to Basketball. Basketball School of excellence established, only one in Highlands, very popular with pupils and highly motivational, 2 year funding received then reviewed.

5.3 Attention drawn to funding that may be available from Scottish Rural Development Fund (SRDF), Programme to include hedgerows, beetle bank, beekeeping etc. Any

works would have to be undertaken in conjunction with MCL ecologists and environmentalists.

5.4 Gordon Piper raised issue of maintenance of dry SUDS pond which has been constructed to accommodate 1/200 year storm. It is of the order of 4m deep with 1.2m fence. Whilst the need was recognized, a management plan was required to address safety and deposition of rubbish.

5.5 Variations to the project.

- Tanoy system now instructed. Questions were asked regarding alarms and bells, is this through same system?
- Interpretative Wipe Boards, the Contractor has been asked to price.
- Stage system and theatre lighting now included.

5.6 Questions were asked about the gardens/landscaping and whether there was a role for Inverness Botanical Gardens, particularly their work on gardens for people with learning difficulties? It was reported the Landscape Architect has a plan for low maintenance native plants that includes a Learning Garden for pupils.

6.0 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed next meeting, 1st December 2015

7.0 Site Walk Around

Site walk round would be arranged after the next Stakeholder meeting.

DISTRIBUTION: Attendees and Other Members of the IRA Group