

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**ALNESS ACADEMY REPLACEMENT - STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**Minute of Meeting No. 3**  
**Thursday 7 November 2016, 7PM**  
**Alness Academy**

<b>Attendees:</b>	<p><b><u>Highland Council - Members</u></b>  Maxine Smith  Martin Rattray  Mike Finlayson  Carolyn Wilson</p> <p><b><u>Highland Council - Officials</u></b>  <u>Chair:</u> Brian Porter, Head of Resources  Philip Shannon, Consultancy Manager  Robert Campbell, Estates Strategy Manager  Susannah Irvine, Estates Officer</p> <p><b><u>School Representatives</u></b>  Laura Gordon, Head Teacher Alness Academy</p> <p><b><u>High Life Highland</u></b>  Graeme Ross, Area Facilities Officer  Janette Douglas, Youth Development Worker</p> <p><b><u>HUB North</u></b>  Andrew Low</p> <p><b><u>JM Architects</u></b>  Brian Thomson</p> <p><b><u>Community Representatives</u></b>  Kelly Dallas, Bridgend Primary Parent Council</p>	<p><b>MS</b>  <b>MR</b>  <b>MF</b>  <b>CW</b></p> <p><b>BP</b>  <b>PS</b>  <b>RC</b>  <b>SI</b></p> <p><b>LG</b></p> <p><b>GR</b>  <b>JD</b></p> <p><b>AL</b></p> <p><b>BT</b></p> <p><b>KD</b></p>
<b>Apologies:</b>	Derek Martin, Phillip Shannon, Bruce Ross	
<b>Minute:</b>	Susannah Irvine	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION/COMMENT</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>APPOINT A CHAIR</b>	
<b>1.1</b>	Brian Porter was appointed as Chair of the meeting.	<b>Note</b>

<b>2</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	BP welcomed everyone to the meeting.	<b>Note</b>
<b>2.2</b>	BP raised the need to increase the number of attendees invited to the group, and to encourage attendance. If anyone has not been included in the meeting invite that should be, please forward there details for inclusion. LG to confirm new Head Girl and Boy details.  If you cannot attend the meeting, please send someone who can represent your interest in the stakeholder group.	<b>All</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>PROJECT OVERVIEW</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	BP provided a brief recap on the project programme and delivery model. The projects target completion date is March 2020 as set by Scottish Government. The school will be delivered by HUB North. JM Architects will be the design team for the project.	<b>Note</b>
<b>3.2</b>	It was stated that in relation to project scope, community facilities, and discussion in relation to the Averon centre, there was a pressing need for a settled position to be reached to allow the Alness project to remain on track for March 2020. .	<b>All</b>
<b>3.3</b>	LG set out her thoughts on what some of the benefits of reviewing the local provision of sport/leisure facilities might mean, to have an expanded provision of facilities within the new school:	<b>Note</b>
<b>3.5</b>	In discussions questions were raised about funding enhanced facilities within the new school project, the future of existing facilities, concern about support for any change within the local community, the need for wider views and consultation if any change were to be considered.	<b>Note</b>
<b>3.9</b>	AL made the point a decision needs to be made ASAP in order to stick to programme. The project is due to go in for pre planning in Mid-February; The SG had a target of March 2020 that had to be met. Also any project slippage could lead to increased cost.	<b>Note</b>
<b>3.10</b>	In conclusion, the pressing timescale was noted. While there was no clear consensus on the way forward, were any proposals to be developed to review local sports and leisure provision, that ought to be after further local consultation. BP to consider how such consultation could be progressed while keeping to the overall project timeline.	<b>Note</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>PRESENTATION BY DESIGN TEAM</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	Site constraints were noted. Live building, Right of way across the site. Football Club lease, Future expansion site. CW noted	<b>Note</b>

	that the Alness United lease should not affect the site choice.	
<b>4.2</b>	It was agreed the existing football pitch site should be considered for the next meeting. Moving away from the dark damp corner closer to the new housing development and the vehicular entrance. More visible location suitable for community access.	<b>Note</b>
<b>4.3</b>	The question was asked if a running track could be included, as there is no facility in Alness or nearby. RC confirmed it wasn't currently in the brief but if there was a requirement it could be looked at. LG confirmed athletics was taught at the school.	<b>Note</b>
<b>4.4</b>	The question was asked if the new assembly space would have full school capacity. It was confirmed the capacity would be 240 students at one time. LG confirmed one of the learning plazas would be used for break out / overflow.	<b>Note</b>
<b>4.5</b>	The light wells across the school were commented on as a safety issue. RC confirmed the handrails would be of a suitable height to satisfy building regulations. LG confirmed they were required to create a bright open feeling space.	<b>Note</b>
<b>4.6</b>	MR asked about smaller classroom sizes in new build schools. SI confirmed that THC's space standard of 60sqm was greater than HUBs recommended 56.25sqm.	<b>Note</b>
<b>4.7</b>	LG talked about her vision for the school, to invite the public in and offer adult learning too. The issue of security was raised if the school was opened up to the public. LG confirmed there would be Public / Invited and Private areas of the school and security issues and lockdown arrangements would be managed. It is no different than the pupils currently attending classes at the Avern.	<b>Note</b>
<b>4.9</b>	The consensus was the design should be less "boxy" and more inviting.	<b>Note</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	The group were asked to consider any other community representatives that should be invited to join the stakeholder meetings. It is important the stakeholders group has sufficient numbers and suitable representation.	<b>Note</b>
<b>5.2</b>	Anyone missing from the invite list, details should be forwarded to SI for inclusion. In particular it was considered that further community representatives could be considered.	<b>Note</b>
<b>5.3</b>	Drop in sessions will be held with the wider community once the design has developed to a suitable stage to display visually and gain feedback prior to planning.	<b>Note</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</b>	

<b>6.1</b>	The next meeting will be held at 6.30PM on Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2017 at Alness Academy.	<b>Note</b>
------------	---	-------------