

West Link Community Liaison Meeting No. 8

Monday 18th September 2017, 7pm Council HQ.

Present

Graham Ross	The Highland Council
John Stephens (JS)	Wills Bros Civil Engineering Ltd
Brian Conneely	Coffey/EGS JV
Colin Howell (CH)	The Highland Council
Iain MacLennan (IM)	The Highland Council
Bryan Stout (BS)	The Highland Council
Roy Sinclair (RS)	Inverness Rowing Club
Alastair Maclean	Police Scotland
Maria De La Torre	Lochardil & Drummond Community Council
George Greig	Inverness West Community Council
Brian MacKenzie	Highland Cycle Campaign

Point	Item	Action
1.	Site visit	
1.1.	The meeting was preceded by an opportunity to visit the new Rugby Clubhouse. A number of the group and various members of the rugby club visited the new building.	
2.	Chairman's Introductions & Purpose of Meeting	
2.1.	Cllr Graham Ross opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.	
3.	Approval of Minutes	
3.1.	Roy Sinclair advised that a number of points made regarding the design development of Stage 2 were not included in the minutes.	
3.2.	These were discussed again and ultimately Colin Howell agreed to facilitate a meeting between Allan Maguire and the Rowing Club.	CH

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3.3.	<p>Items omitted from previous minute and discussed again; The rowing club are progressing with plans to redevelop their facilities. As yet no proposals have been shared with THC. Rowing Club have appointed an architect to develop their design and wish to know about services to be delivered in Stage 2. Rowing Club request joined up thinking in the development of West Link Stage 2 involving Rowing Club and Scottish Canals. Rowing club request to be present at meetings THC have with Scottish Canals. Rowing club are pushed for space in their current facilities but nonetheless are producing quality athletes.</p>	
3.4.	Cllr Ross reminded the meeting that no proposals for the development of this area have been presented to or approved by Members.	
3.5.	The minutes of the meeting of 12 th June were otherwise accepted as read.	
4.	IWL Stage 1 & Canal Parks Enhancement Works	
4.1.	John Stephens of Wills Bros provided commentary describing progress and work done. No new drone footage was available. Overall the Works remain ahead of schedule with opening looking likely to be achievable in December.	
4.2.	Work on the Canal Parks Pavilion is nearing completion with hand over anticipated in advance of 30 th September. The car park is complete but will not be handed over in advance of the clubhouse building. The synthetic pitch is complete and could be available for training in advance if alternative changing facilities are secured.	
4.3.	The current focus is on the in river work which is well advanced and on the bridge where the deck is complete and parapets are installed with work progressing to waterproof and install footways programmed for this week. Work on the stone walls is well advanced. Completion of the surfacing is expected late October and into November. Landscaping is progressing well.	
4.4.	Remedial works to a section of surfacing on the A82 at the new roundabout will be carried out next week. Work programmed for Wednesday 27 th Sept and may run into Thursday. Work will be carried out under stop/go traffic management.	
4.5.	There remains confusion about the closure of the Canal Towpath. This has been closed by Scottish Canals due to works on the Ness River Weir and is not connected with the West Link Construction. Further information on these works can be found at https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/news/features/ness-weir/	
4.6.	Roy Sinclair enquired about access through the site for the rowing regatta on weekend of 11 th /12 th November. This will be reviewed nearer the time and will be facilitated if safe to do so at the time to allow access from parking at leisure centre and Bught area to the	IM

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	tow path.	
4.7.	Cllr Ross will chair the initial meetings of an events management group which will be formed principally to coordinate parking and traffic management issues arising from such events. The first meeting of this group will be on 2 nd October.	
4.8.	Cllr Ross thanked John Stephens for his update and praised the Contractor for their progress. The engagement with schools was noted and the use of Facebook to provide open and transparent access to the public to engage with the project was well received.	
5.	Golf Course Construction and Housing Site Preparation Works	
5.1.	Brian Conneely of the Coffey/EGS Joint venture constructing the new golf course then gave a presentation on progress on their site.	
5.2.	On the new golf course the earthworks are virtually complete. About 85% of the drainage and 70% of the irrigation has been installed. Nearly 85% of the top soil respread has been completed. 9 of the green complexes have been seeded. Work is ongoing to the perimeters of the waterbodies. These have been lined and are being filled but water levels are consequently lower than will be upon completion. The turf nursery is also established.	
5.3.	The golf clubhouse and maintenance building contract was discussed. This is a separate contract and expected to go to tender at the end of this month. Construction would start late this year or early 2018 to be ready for use to coincide with the handover of the golf course for use from April 2019.	
5.4.	Work on the golf course will see seeding continue until the end of October. Landscaping planting of trees and shrubs will follow late in the year with footpath construction programmed for January/February.	
5.5.	Reworking on the existing course will recommence soon with work to fairways this month and in October to form the new 18 th green, practice area and the new tees for 1 st hole. The 1 st green constructed earlier is now growing in well.	
5.6.	Members of the group have previously had the opportunity to visit the West Link Construction site. Cllr Ross asked if a visit to see the golf course construction could be arranged. Due to the stage of construction this will need to be a walk over tour and an invite will be issued later.	BS
6.	AOCB	
6.1.	Colin Howell advised that the new road has safety audits carried out at various stages and that a Stage 3 Road Safety Audit would be carried out once it is open.	
6.2.	There are currently plans being drawn up for an event, such as a fun run, to be held on the new road prior to opening.	

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6.3.	A presentation on West Link Stage 2 will be given to the next meeting.	BS
7.	Date of Next Meeting	
7.1.	Monday 18 th December at 7pm	