

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
ALNESS ACADEMY REPLACEMENT - STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minute of Meeting No. 4
Wednesday 18 January 2017, 6.30PM
Alness Academy

Attendees:	<u>Highland Council - Members</u>	
	Maxine Smith	MS
	Martin Rattray	MR
	Mike Finlayson	MF
	<u>Chair:</u> Carolyn Wilson	CW
	<u>Highland Council - Officials</u>	
	Brian Porter, Head of Resources	BP
	Philip Shannon, Consultancy Manager	PS
	Susannah Irvine, Estates Officer	SI
	Derek Martin, Care and Learning Manager (Mid)	DM
	<u>School Representatives</u>	
	Laura Gordon, Head Teacher Alness Academy	LG
	Gillian Winter, Alness Academy Parent Council	GW
	B Corr, Alness Academy Parent Council	BC
	K Sutherland, Alness Academy Parent Council	SS
	Kelly Dallas, Bridgend Primary Parent Council	KD
	Ewan Scott, Bridgend Parent Council	ES
	D Cleary, Alness Academy Parent Council	DC
	Theresa Swayne, Kiltearn Parent Council	TS
	Fiona Fraser, Kiltearn Parent Council	FF
	Diana MacLeod, Alness Academy Parent Council	DMacL
	Gordon Robertson, Alness Parent Council	GR
	Willima MacPherson, Alness Academy Parent Council	MMacP
	Maryanne Sutherland, Alness Academy Parent Council	MS
	Mandy Robertson, Alness Academy Parent Council	MR
	Pamela Comery, Bridgend Parent Council	PC
	Kathryn Roberts, Bridgend Parent Council	KB
	Robert MacKay, Coulhill Parent Council	RMacK
	Gemma Dunnett, Ardross and Newmore Primary	GD
	Morag Wright, Coulhill Primary School	MW
	<u>High Life Highland</u>	
	Graeme Ross, Area Facilities Officer	GR
	Fiona Hampton, Head of Business	FH

	<p><u>HUB North</u> Andrew Low</p> <p><u>JM Architects</u> Stewart Davies</p> <p><u>Community Representatives</u> M Loynd, ERCP Brian Ross, Alness United Tommy Regan, Alness United P Munro, PM Alness Hector Munro, Kiltarn Community Council Mary MacDonald, Alness Community Council</p>	<p>AL</p> <p>SD</p> <p>ML BR TR PM HM MMacD</p>
Apologies:	Robert Campbell	
Minute:	Susannah Irvine	
ITEM	DISCUSSION/COMMENT	ACTION
1	APPOINT A CHAIR	
1.1	CW chaired the meeting.	Note
2	INTRODUCTION	
2.1	CW welcomed everyone to the meeting.	Note
3	PROJECT OVERVIEW	
3.1	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, working with Aberdeenshire and Moray council to deliver joined up value through collaboration. JM Architects will be the design team for the project.	Note
4	PRESENTATION BY DESIGN TEAM	
4.1	<p>SD from JM Architects outlined the site context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing School in centre of site. • Tree lined strip out with THC ownership. • Pedestrian Access over railway-bridge in centre of site or in North West corner. • Vehicle access from South East of site. • Football Club lease to front pitches and clubhouse. 	Note

4.2	<p><u>Option 1</u> – North West of Existing School (North Pitches)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible retention of existing Car Park • Sheltered Courtyard • South facing frontage 	Note
4.3	<p><u>Option 2</u> – South East of Existing School (football Club Pitches)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible retention of existing carpark • More Space • South facing courtyard • North facing frontage 	Note
4.4	<p><u>Feedback on Option 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North corner of site is dark and damp • Tree line shaded 	Note
4.5	<p><u>Feedback on Option 2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More open to view • Spacious • Better daylight • More potential for future expansion. 	Note
4.6	<p>It was explained that the site options were being presented again to the group for a view, in recognition of the number of additional attendees at this meeting, and to give opportunity for discussion and comment.</p> <p>It was agreed that option 2 (South East) was the preferred site choice and JM Architects should develop a proposal for this site, to be tabled at the next meeting.</p>	SD
4.7	<p>Members of Alness Parent Council asked why the Averon Centre wasn't moving to the school site. The following reason was given:</p> <p>Approximately £35M investment was available for a school, in order to secure this funding the project needed to be delivered by March 2020. This requires fast movement to meet the demanding programme. No funding has been secured for the Averon Facilities.</p>	Note
4.8	<p>Alness Academy was compared to the new Tain 3-18 campus. BP confirmed that Tain was a different project as three schools were moving and all sports facilities are currently on the site.</p>	Note
4.9	<p>SI confirmed the current proposals for Alness Academy included enhanced facilities including a 6 lane 25m pool, sauna, Jacuzzi and 2 Synthetic pitches. HLH to manage access for community out with school hours.</p>	Note
4.10	<p>FH confirmed the school would have priority until 6PM and the facility was likely to have enhanced opening hours to the community out with school hours, as new facilities attract more users.</p>	Note
4.11	<p>The issue of future expansion potential was raised. SI confirmed future expansion was a requirement within the</p>	Note

	education brief, both for roll increase beyond projected maximum for the academy, and also for the possible future location of a primary school.	
4.12	<p>Concerns were raised over construction on a live school site. DM confirmed during any building works, disruption is kept to a minimum through regular weekly meetings and daily works catch ups between the main contractor and the school. There are some opportunities to enhance the curriculum through interdisciplinary learning topics regarding design, build, and developing the young workforce. It is anticipated that the building of a new school, with its associated improved facilities for learning and teaching will more than offset any temporary disruption.</p> <p>It was also noted that site option 2, would remove the requirement for construction traffic traveling through the site, as it could all be contained to the South of the existing school during the build.</p>	Note
5	PROGRAMME UPDATE	
5.1	<p>AL gave a brief update on programme, outlining the next steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Following site location decision today, the architects will work up site option 2, working towards a planning application early 2018. 2. Site investigation works are ongoing. 3. The design will be costed for affordability. 4. JM Architects will come back to the next stakeholders for consultation on the design progression. 5. Major planning application, will carry out a pre planning consultations before Christmas. 6. Looking to accept a tender in Easter 2018. 7. Site start summer 2018. 8. Building occupation target set by Scot government is March 2020. 	Note
5.2	AL noted the project is likely to be a DBDA (Design Build Direct Agreement) contract.	Note
6	COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT	
6.1	DM thanked everyone for attending and was pleased to see a broad range of stakeholders.	Note
6.2	Anyone missing from the invite list, details should be forwarded to SI for inclusion.	Note
5.3	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.	Note
6	DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING	

6.1	The next meeting will be held at 6.30PM on Wednesday 1 st March 2017 at Alness Academy.	Note
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