

Inverness West Link Stage 2 - Community Liaison Meeting No. 3

Monday 2nd September 2019, 7pm Council HQ.

Present

Cllr Graham Ross (GR)	The Highland Council
Cllr Bill Boyd (BB)	The Highland Council
Colin Howell (CH)	The Highland Council
Malcolm MacLeod (MM)	The Highland Council
Mike Stephens (MS)	The Highland Council
Iain MacLennan (IM)	The Highland Council
Steve Scott (SS)	R J Macleod
George Greig (GG)	Inverness West Community Council
Maria De La Torre (MDLT)	Lochardil & Drummond Community Council
Brian MacKenzie (BMCK)	Highland Cycle Campaign
Paddy Walsh (PW)	Inverness Rowing Club

Point	Item	Action
1.	Chairman's Introductions & Purpose of Meeting	
1.1.	Cllr Graham Ross opened the meeting and welcomed everyone; GR went on to comment regarding the good progress being made on site.	Note
1.2.	Apologies Bryan Stout (BS) Principal Engineer Highland Council Dave Rothwell (DR) Inverness Rowing Club Roy Sinclair (RS) Inverness Rowing Club Ross Polworth (RP) Police Scotland Andrew Ross (AR) Scottish Canals	

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2.	Approval of Minutes	
2.1.	<p>The Minutes from Meeting 2 were approved</p> <p>The information outstanding had been forwarded to the Rowing club (RS) 5.1 below.</p> <p>BMcK was to meet with IM to discuss Bollards 5.2 below.</p> <p>AR Scottish Canals wanted clarification regarding what the potential issues might be. CH is to pass AR's contact details to PW to allow the Rowing Club to liaise directly.</p> <p>5.1 Roy Sinclair requested up to date drawings of the scheme. Bryan advised that they are the same as previously shared with the club but will forward copies of the canal infrastructure drawings once these are up-revved for construction use and issued to the Contractor.</p> <p>5.2 Brian Mackenzie commented on the staggered bollard arrangement proposed instead of the large hoop style fences used at stage 1 which Sustrans were not so keen on. Bryan to forward bollard layout detail to Brian.</p> <p>5.3 Roy Sinclair and Robert Gordon commented on a potential conflict issue when rowing boats may enter the restricted space between the bridges and felt there is a need for discussion with Scottish Canals to see how this can be managed. SC to be invited to next liaison meeting.</p>	<p>IM</p> <p>CH</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Note</p>

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3.	IWL Stage 2	
3.1.	<p>Steve Scott, Project Manager RJ Macleod gave a short presentation regarding the works progress to date. Full access to the site was gained on the 8th July. Heras fencing was now in place around the full site boundary. The Topsoil strip was now complete New General Booth Road roughed out – drainage installed and starting on services in the next couple of weeks. Surfacing on General Booth Road would be October /November Canal access road roughed out, drainage and services installed and due for surfacing October</p> <p>The Archaeological watching brief was nearly complete there were up to 7 archaeologists on the site in July and during that time Bronze Age Funerary Cup and Cremation Urn were uncovered. Test Piling had been successfully carried out on the canal tow path. The SUDS ponds had been excavated with Pond A being presently lined.</p> <p>R J McLeod are continue to be proactive regarding environmental considerations this has included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilising Modern Plant • GPS Machine Control • Aggregates sourced from local quarries • Reuse of fill material won on site • Crushing of former clubhouse for use in the works • Local workforce • Use of local contractors & suppliers <p>Regarding local employment, 94% of personnel currently on site live within the Highlands and Islands with 40% of personnel living within a 10 mile radius of the works. There are 2 local students employed for summer, a new Engineer from Skye and an Engineer currently at Inverness College.</p> <p>R J McLeod continue to provide community benefits , recently two RJ McLeod teams competed in the Highland Cross raising over £5,500 for local charities, over the past 7 years RJ's raised over £40,000 for the HC.</p> <p>RJ McLeod continue to support the following local groups:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling Without Age / Spokes for Folks • Sponsoring Maps for a local Orienteering Event • Highland Schools Hockey – Medals • Park Run - Markers • Charleston Academy Maths Dept. • Time Capsule • Bridges for Schools • STEM • ICE Visit <p>Works are on programme and are still due to be complete in December 2020.</p>	

Point	Item	Action
3.2.	BMcK asked if the SUDS Pond liner was porous? SS confirmed that the liner was non-porous and that the intention was that there would always be water in the pond to a depth of approximately 800mm (32 inches).	Note
3.3.	GG asked about the other SUDS Ponds and their effectiveness? SS confirmed that the ground was free draining and that there is every expectation that they will solve drainage issues in that area.	Note
3.4.	BMcK asked about access to the SUDS Ponds by members of the public and would they be fenced? CH confirmed that the pond would not be fenced in a similar way that the canal is not fenced. IM stated that the ponds did not have steep sides which would allow people to safely exit in the event they decided to explore the ponds.	Note
3.5.	MM stated that trees would be retained around the ponds and further tree would be planted as part of the works.	Note
3.6.	SS said there would be an open evening on the 12 th September from 6pm to 8pm to which the Community Council and members of the public would be invited.	SS/IM
3.7.	CH asked if the new General Booth Road would be open to traffic in December this year? SS said this was something the Contractor was looking into at present.	Note
3.8.	GR commented that the carriageway surface was being kept clean and that the traffic management was also good. SS responded that they were continuing to liaise with BEAR Scotland regarding Traffic Management and coordinated crossing the A82 with the Torvean Bridge openings. GG said that there were plenty of signs all well positioned.	Note
3.9.	BMcK said that there was extensive potholing on the canal tow path. CH said that this was Scottish Canals responsibility, but that THC would look at it to see what might be done.	IM
3.10.	SS said that after regatta in November the pump would be put in place and a signed diversion would be implemented.	SS
3.11.	SS said that trees were obscuring the view at the new control Tower. CH confirmed that the trees would be cut as necessary.	IM
3.12.	GR commented that in his opinion people would welcome the new section of General Booth Road, as the existing section was showing signs of deterioration.	Note

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3.13.	<p>CH asked when the bridge would be coming to site?</p> <p>SS replied that the bridge is expected in May 2020 there would be six deliveries and that a 500T crane would be required to lift the sections into place. A time lapse camera would be used to record construction and placement of the bridge.</p>	Note
4.	Torvean and Ness Side Development Brief - Update Malcolm MacLeod	
4.1.	Malcolm MacLeod, Head of Planning and Environment gave an overview of the development brief for the site.	
4.2.	<p>MM commented as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) Pond was to be a public open space with a footpath round the pond. • The old Torvean golf course area had a great vista and THC was working with RJ McLeod to create a path which could be utilised by the public and the Parkrun group. There would be a 2 circuits laid out a 2km track and a smaller 1km track. • There would be no public access to the new park until the works were complete. • The area where the site cabins are located will be used for parking once the works are complete; this will be a short term measure prior to permeant parking provision. • There may be charges for parking in the future. • The Council face a challenge regarding funding, sources may include Sustrans and Sport Scotland, supporting statements from local Community Councils, Cycling groups etc. would be welcome. • The development of this area would bring great benefit to Inverness as a country park. • Developer contributions were also a potential source of funding. • The Premier Inn was presently being extended. • Behind the Premier Inn there may be a development of 30 houses. • Potential site for a Gaelic School at rear of Premier Inn. • A further park may be developed behind the Premier Inn. 	
4.3.	<p>BMcK asked about the gradients and width of the path?</p> <p>MM confirmed that the path would be generally 2m wide and follow the existing topography of the park.</p> <p>MDLT commented that it appeared to be similar to the path round MacDonald Park.</p>	Note
4.4.	BB commented that the pond was a great centre piece and that the park was well established.	Note
4.5.	<p>CH said that at present RJ McLeod were responsible for maintaining the area.</p> <p>He went on to say that the rowing club may expand into the park in the future and that there was a potential site for a hotel.</p>	Note

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4.6.	GR stated that the Councillors wanted to maintain green space for community use.	Note
4.7.	SS asked would the Great Glen Way remain in its present form? MM confirmed it would.	Note
4.8.	MDLT welcomed keeping green space and commented that it would be good to keep any new hotel development to the fringes of the park.	Note
4.9.	MDLT went on to ask if there was enough parking provision for the proposed developments? MM replied that there was still detailed design to be carried out to establish parking requirements.	Note
4.10.	GR said that charging for parking was one of the very few ways THC can actually raise money.	Note
4.11.	MM said that THC were considering the viability of a park and ride scheme.	
5.	AOCB	
5.1.	SS mentioned that there would be an orienteering event held in Lochardil on Friday night which was being supported by RJ McLeod.	Note
5.2.	MDLT asked about the landscaping? MM stated that it would be generally grassland and low maintenance. GR was keen that the area would not be allowed to grow wild and unkempt.	Note
5.3.	GR closed the meeting by thanking those attending and commented that it was good to speak in an open and constructive manner and went on to thank RJ McLeod for their community involvement and benefits provided.	Note
6.	Date of Next Meeting	
6.1.	Monday 2 nd December at 7pm	