

Inverness West Link Stage 2 - Community Liaison Meeting No. 5
Monday 24th February 2020, 7pm Graham Ross Suite Charleston Community Complex.
Present

Cllr Graham Ross (GR)	The Highland Council
Malcolm MacLeod (MM)	The Highland Council
Colin Howell (CH)	The Highland Council
Bryan Stout (BS)	The Highland Council
Mike Stephens (MS)	The Highland Council
Iain MacLennan (IM)	The Highland Council
Steve Scott (SS)	R J Macleod
Cathy Shankland (CS)	The Highland Council (Inverness City Arts)
Andrew Smith (AS)	Ballifeary Community Council
George Greig (GG)	Inverness West Community Council
Maria De La Torre (MDLT)	Lochardil & Drummond Community Council
Brian MacKenzie (BM)	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 those present; GR went on to say he had noticed good progress continues to be made on the West Link Project.	Note
1.2.	Apologies Roy Sinclair Inverness Rowing Club.	Note

Point	Item	Action
2.0	Approval of Minutes meeting 4	
2.1	<p><i>5.2 DR asked if anyone attending the Rowing Club would have to pay parking charges once the new car park was constructed.? Over 600 people attended the recent regatta. At present the Rugby Club and Golf Club do not pay for parking.</i></p> <p><i>CH responded that it was not his area of responsibility and DR should raise the matter with Shane Manning THC Principal Traffic Officer.</i></p> <p>PW stated that if parking charges were applied that this would seriously impact on the Rowing Club. It is not unusual for members to attend the rowing club for up to 10 sessions per week. The proposed parking charges per year would potentially be more than the Rowing Club membership fees. GR said that the proposal for parking charges was being reviewed at the moment, however he believed if given the choice people would rather pay for car parking rather than lose jobs and services.</p> <p>PW commented that other sporting facilities did not pay parking charges for example the Rugby Club and Aquadome. GR replied that he understood the issue and that consultation would be held.</p> <p>MDLT said that part of the problem was a lack of buses to the area.</p> <p>GR replied that Community Partnership were looking into bus provision along with SUSTRANS, HITRANS and Stagecoach.</p>	Note
2.2	<p><i>5.4 GR said the Rowing Club should be congratulated regarding the recent regatta, it is the biggest event of its type in Scotland with over 150 boats competing over 2 days.</i></p> <p>PW asked that this be corrected to state 570 boats.</p>	Note
2.3	The minutes from meeting 4 were then approved.	Note
3.0	Inverness City Arts	
3.1	Cathy Shankland from Inverness City Arts gave a presentation confirming the reasons for installing the 'Rest Space' art piece at Loch na Sanais on the Torvean Park. Presentation attached in Appendix 1.	Note
3.2	<p>BM asked what the width of the steps was and what was the height of the railings?</p> <p>BS answered that the width of the steps was 910mm with a railing height of 1200mm.</p>	Note

Point	Item	Action
3.3	CH went on to say that that IWL2 Planning conditions required that pieces of art were installed within the site and the Rest Space had been accepted by THC Planning as contributing towards those requirements. The Contractor RJ McLeod has now been instructed by THC to erect the Rest Space art work.	Note
3.4	SS confirmed that the path/parkrun track along with the erection of the art piece would take place in the summer. CH stated that public access to the park would not be allowed until the IWL2 project was complete He went on to say that the area where the site cabins were presently situated would be used as a temporary car park.	Note
3.5	AS commented that this was an inoffensive way on installing the art work, however some members of Ballifeary Community Council were very much against the installation. He went on to say that the objectors could see the point of installing it at the original location on Bank Street Inverness but that next to the loch on Torvean Park the point is a bit lost. AS questioned if the position in Torvean Park was the best location? CS replied that many site visits had been carried out by both the Artist and Inverness City Arts and following these visits the site at Torvean was decided to be the best position.	Note
3.6	AS asked regarding no disabled access to the Rest Space could it be confirmed that that none was required? CS confirmed that as the structure is an art piece no disability requirements applied. CH confirmed that there was no budget available to create a ramp to make it disabled access compliant.	Note
3.7	AS enquired about costs regarding how much were Creative Scotland funding and what was the total cost? CH said that there were no costs to the IWL2 scheme for the piece as it was already constructed. MM said that ant erection cost would be paid out of developer contribution and SUSTRANS funding. The works would not be directly funded by THC, incidental cost to be included in parkrun track costs.	Note

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3.8	<p>CH went onto explain that the THC always had a planning condition to include art provision in the IWL2 project.</p> <p>BM asked if the erection of the Rest Space did not go ahead would an alternative art piece need to be installed.</p> <p>CH said an alternative would not be required but this is seen as an opportunity to install art at little additional cost.</p> <p>BM commented that he could sort of see the point at the original location at the side of the River Ness, but it does not enhance the current proposed location.</p> <p>MM said that the elevated position would open the lochan to visitors and give a different perspective of the view to visitors to the park.</p> <p>BM thought erecting the art piece at the castle would be a better idea.</p> <p>CH replied that the Torvean Park is the preferred location following advice from the artist.</p> <p>MDLT commented that she thought it would merge with the landscape.</p>	Note
3.9	<p>BM commented that the information boards at Friars Shot faced the wrong way, as people must turn around to view the scene.</p> <p>CH said that this would be considered if any interpretive boards were erected on IWL2.</p>	Note
4.0	IWL Stage 2 Update RJ McLeod	
4.1	<p>Steve Scott, Project Manager RJ Macleod gave a short presentation regarding the works progress to date. The report is appended to the minutes in Appendix 1.</p>	Note
4.2	<p>GG asked about the proposals for trees and landscaping</p> <p>SS said there was a planting schedule which contained a significant number of trees.</p> <p>BS said there would be considerably less gorse planted on IWL2 than IW1.</p>	Note
4.3	<p>GR said there were road closures in the next month.</p> <p>SS confirmed that the closures would be published in the press and stakeholders would be informed.</p>	SS
4.4	<p>AS asked about the upcoming road closures conflicting with other works in Inverness?</p> <p>IM explained that the works were uploaded into the Scottish Road Works Register. Efforts will be taken to avoid any conflict with other works.</p>	Note
4.5	<p>GR commented that there were significantly less vehicles on Glenurquhart Road per day since the IWL1 opened and it was expected that IWL2 once complete would also help ease congestion.</p>	Note

Point	Item	Action
4.6	AS commented that the tower lights being used by the Contractor on the A82 were very bright and shone in drivers' eyes. SS said he would review the lights and adjust as necessary.	SS
4.7	GR asked how the ongoing works in the Caledonian canal were progressing? SS confirmed the in-canal works are on programme and the canal was scheduled to be open on the 23 rd of March	Note
4.8	GR thanked SS for giving the presentation and commented on how well the project was progressing	Note
5.0	AOCB	
5.1	BS said that he attended a meeting along with Neil Young THC Transport Planning Officer, Mark Clough THC Senior Engineer and Bo Hickey, Infrastructure Officer for Sustrans to discuss chicane layouts. Unfortunately, no conclusion was arrived at. However, Sustrans confirmed they had no issue with the use of bollards. Another meeting was to be held on 26 th February to further discuss Sustrans views on IWL2 and new guidelines. The present design was a bollard arrangement however following discussion with Sustrans it may be changed to a chicane. All bollard proposals to be reviewed, THC to consider all Sustrans recommendations.	BS
5.2	AS asked where the bollards are being placed? BS responded that they were being placed at both ends of the path leading to the underpass and the access at the Premier Inn. AS asked if the bollards would deter motorcyclists and mopeds? BS said they would not as trikes and tandem bikes had to be accommodated.	Note
5.3	MDLT asked if the cycling provision on Dores Road Link Path and its junction at Dores Road be reviewed? BS said that THC Development Control were reviewing the situation regarding crossing points and would be holding discussions with developers to discuss any improvements. BS would find out what the likely outcome of those discussions would be.	BS
5.4	BS and BM to convene a separate meeting to enable BM to get his points regarding cycling provision tabled.	BM/BS
5.5	BM said there was no justification for bollards and suggested a guardrail at the end of the path. BS said this would be discussed at a separate meeting	Note
5.6	MDLT said that guard rails can be an obstacle for cyclists	Note

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5.7	CH explained that there may be further changes to IWL2 proposed by Sustrans as they were seeking permission from Transport Scotland to allow a Toucan crossing to be constructed west of the roundabout on the A82 Trunk Road. Ducts had been placed under the recently constructed part of the A82 for future proofing.	Note
5.8	AS asked if there were controlled pedestrian crossings on the A82? BS confirmed that crossings are to be constructed adjacent to the existing Tomnahurich Bridge at the new Torvean Bridge and on the General Booth Road.	Note
5.9	AS said he was concerned regarding the lack of controlled crossings on Glenurquhart Road GR said that Transport Scotland were constructing a crossing at the Scotmid shop on Glenurquhart Road and he believed that there was to be another constructed on Kenneth Street.	Note
5.10	AS pointed out that a number of people were crossing the Inverness West Link Stage 1 road to access the Aquadome and not using the underpass provided. BS said that the underpass under the West Link Stage 1 was currently closed due to the ongoing canal works however here may be an opportunity to review pedestrian movements once the underpass reopened.	Note
5.11	AS asked about the planting proposals for Inverness West Link Stage 2? IM invited AS to the West Link Stage 1 site office to review planting information.	AS/IM
6.0	Date of Next Meeting	
	GR closed the meeting by thanking those attending and confirmed the date for the next meeting as the 1 st June 2020 at 7pm at the Graham Ross Suite Charleston Community Complex.	Note