

Inverness West Link Stage 2 - Community Liaison Meeting No. 7

Monday 8th February 2021, 7pm Virtual Meeting held via Microsoft TEAMS Group Chat.

Present

Cllr Graham Ross (GR)	Councillor, The Highland Council
Malcolm MacLeod (MM)	ECO Infrastructure and Environment, The Highland Council
Colin Howell (CH)	Head of Infrastructure, The Highland Council
Bryan Stout (BS)	Principal Engineer, The Highland Council
Iain MacLennan (IM)	Senior Engineer, The Highland Council
Steve Scott (SS)	Project Manager R J Macleod Ltd
Andrew Smith (AS)	Ballifeary Community Council
Barry Kane (BK)	Dalneigh & Columba Community Council
Brian MacKenzie (BM)	Highland Cycle Campaign
Paddy Walsh (PW)	Inverness Rowing Club
Roy Sinclair (RS)	Inverness Rowing Club
George Greig (GG)	Inverness West Community Council
Maria De La Torre (MDLT)	Lochardil & Drummond Community Council

Point	Item	Action
1.	Chairman's Introductions & Purpose of Meeting	
1.1.	Cllr Graham Ross (GR) opened the meeting and welcomed those present; GR went on to say that the project was nearly at an end and that he was grateful for the continuing attendance from the community	Note
1.2.	Apologies Cllr Bill Boyd The Highland Council Mike Stephens The Highland Council	Note

Point	Item	Action
2.0	Approval of Minutes meeting 6	
2.1	<p><i>(CLM6) 2.2/2.3 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 BM asked that the minute be changed to record he said that there was no justification for any barrier on the path.</i></p> <p>BM said he had been invited to a meeting tomorrow 9th Feb to discuss the bollard position with CH and BS. BM to discuss with MDLT regarding any issues she may want raised.</p> <p>GR asked that the group be updated regarding the outcome of the meeting.</p>	<p>Note</p> <p>BM CH BS</p> <p>BS</p>
2.2	<p><i>(CLM6) 2.1/4.1 Roy Sinclair (RS) said that consultation on parking charges would not be carried out until April 2021 after IWL2 was complete. The Rowing Club would not want their members charged for parking while attending the rowing club in common with people visiting other sporting venues such as Highland Rugby Club. RS went on to say that some members attended the club in excess of 10 times a week. CH said he would arrange for Shane Manning who is the THC Principal Traffic Officer responsible for car parks, to contact the Rowing Club.</i></p> <p>MM said that parking charges will be discussed at the Project Board Meeting later this week.</p> <p>MDLT said that at the last meeting there would be public consultation regarding car park charges. MM confirmed this would still be the case</p>	<p>CH</p> <p>MM/CH</p> <p>MM</p>
2.3	<p><i>(CLM6) 4.4 GR mentioned that the SUDs ponds adjacent to the golf course were full of water. BS said that ground investigation works were to be carried out to ascertain if the ponds were functioning as designed. CH explained any investigation would establish the availability of free draining material to allow water to percolate away.</i></p> <p>IM said that an instruction had been issued to the Contactor to carry out further work to allow water to percolate in the free draining layers. This work will recommence once the weather had improved to minimise remedial works in the area</p>	<p>IM</p> <p>IM</p>

Point	Item	Action
2.4	<p>(CLM6) 4.10 AS said the paint on the Tomnahurich roundabout was beginning to fade. IM will inspect the roundabout and a decision will be made regarding any action that may be required.</p> <p>IM said that as the blocks had been in place for 2 years it would be normal to see some deterioration. However, the recent weather combined by the road brush, which was permanently on site keeping the carriageway debris free, may have caused the blocks to be dirtier than normal. He went on to say this did not impact on the blocks' effectiveness.</p>	<p>IM</p> <p>Note</p>
2.5	The minutes from meeting 6 were then approved.	Note
3.0	IWL Stage 2 Update RJ McLeod	
3.1	Steve Scott SS, Project Manager RJ McLeod gave a presentation regarding the works progress to date. The report is appended to the minutes in Appendix 1.	Note
3.2	<p>AS said there was a rumour that the bridge did not fit and that there was a 60mm gap at one end.</p> <p>SS assured AS that this was not the case. SS went on to explain that the bridge was designed in such a way there was a 50mm gap at both ends that was filled by a flexible nose plate to allow for expansion.</p>	Note
3.3	<p>AS asked for an updated regarding the Park Run path</p> <p>SS responded that tree felling had been carried out to remove any dangerous trees and branches and that path construction would commence later this week. SS confirmed that the path would be surfaced with a quarry dust in the same way as the other 'country style' footpaths constructed as part of the project.</p> <p>AS went on to ask was tree planting included in the Park Run path works, SS responded that there was no tree planting but that there was grass seeding of the path verges included in the works</p>	Note

Point	Item	Action
3.8	GR thanked SS for the presentation and congratulated all involved on progress so far.	Note
4.0	AOCB	
4.1	<p>RS said that Inverness Rowing Club wanted to discuss safety procedures with Scottish Canals. Scottish Canals have said to the Rowing Club that they will involve them in their operational procedures once Scottish canals had completed familiarisation with the bridge operation sequence.</p> <p>BS confirmed that there is an amber coloured light on each bridge as agreed with Scottish Canals, to advise rowers prior to the initiation of the bridge opening sequence. BS also confirmed that there is an audible warning in addition to the wig wag lights for vehicular traffic which should additionally alert rowers prior to bridge opening.</p> <p>RS commented that the rowing club will be interested in the outcome of Scottish Canals familiarisation of the new bridge and with the operating procedures.</p> <p>GR said that he hoped that any required alterations to the operation of the bridge that may impact upon the Rowing Club will be dealt with during the commissioning phase.</p> <p>RS said that the Rowing Club intended to hold a regatta in November as usual if Covid-19 restriction allowed. RS believed that the original planning conditions contained an agreement that the Torvean Bridge would remain open to canal traffic during the regatta to allow rowers unrestricted passage. RS asked could THC confirm if this planning condition had been met?</p> <p>BS responded that this agreement had not been formalised however discussions are ongoing.</p> <p>BS went on to say that the bridge would be controlled by THC Roads for two years following completion of the project therefore the need for the bridge to remain open during the regatta was covered.</p> <p>RS said that the need for the bridge to stay open during the regatta had been first discussed a number of years ago and it would be helpful if the issue could be clarified.</p>	BS

Point	Item	Action
4.2	MDLT also commented on the good progress made and asked about paths reopening. SS said that as progress allowed, paths would be reopened once complete including surfacing.	
4.3	GR complimented RJ McLeod regarding maintaining public access where possible and that the site appeared neat and tidy.	
4.4	<p>AS said that he was concerned that it had been reported to him that plastic tree guards had been left at the Holm Mills Bridge during the current works.</p> <p>SS replied that he was not aware of this but assured AS that the works were not complete and the area would be tidy and safe following completion of the path.</p>	SS
4.5	<p>MDLT asked about the planting proposals around the SUDs ponds?</p> <p>SS said that there would be trees and shrubs planted and grass sown</p>	SS
4.6	<p>AS stated that the area adjacent to the Tomnahurich roundabout has become a wilderness.</p> <p>BS said there was discussions ongoing regarding maintenance responsibilities.</p> <p>GR said that recent areas that had been sown with a wildflower seed mix were very successful</p> <p>MLDT commented that the Botanic gardens had scheme in place regarding wildflower planting and it was an increasingly popular concept.</p> <p>AS asked that the local community be engaged in plans for this area and he would forward information to GR for consideration.</p>	AS

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4.7	<p>GR asked had arrangements been made regarding an opening ceremony.</p> <p>CH responded that there would be a ceremony, however it would be dependent on Covid-19 restrictions.</p> <p>GR said that members of the Community Liaison Group should be invited as they had significant involvement.</p> <p>CH agreed that the Group had made a significant and positive contribution to the project and it was only right that an invitation be extended.</p>	
5.0	Date of Next Meeting	
	<p>GR closed the meeting thanking everyone for their attendance and contribution. The final meeting of the Community Liaison Group would be held on March 22nd 2021 at 7pm. Due to ongoing Covid-19 restriction it is likely this meeting would also be virtual, however invitations sent out nearer the time will confirm the meeting format.</p>	Note