

MINUTES OF STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING 3

NAIRN ACADEMY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Date: 08/12/21

Via Microsoft Teams

<p>Present</p> <p>Highland Councillors Tom Heggie (TH) - Chair Laurie Fraser (LF) Peter Saggars (PS)</p> <p>Parent Council/Community Representatives Mark Gunn, Nairn Academy Parent Council (MG) Sally Gunn, Nairn Academy Parent Council (SG)</p> <p>Loreine Thomson, Nairn River CC (LT) Hamish Bain, Nairn River CC (HB)</p> <p>Nairn Academy Julie MacDonald, Head Teacher (JM) Sarah Abenheimer, Depute Head Teacher (SA)</p> <p>Nairn Academy Pupil Representative Kamil Baczkiewicz (KB)</p> <p>Highland Council Officials Robert Campbell, Estate Strategy Manager (RC) Susannah Holmes, Principal Estates Officer (SH) David Walker, Estates Officer (DW) Fiona Shearer, Education Area Manager (FS)</p> <p>Highlife Highland Officials Simon Swanson, HLH Corporate Programme Manager (SS)</p> <p>WSP David Harvey, Senior Project Manager (DH)</p> <p>Reiach and Hall Architects Keri Monaghan (KM)</p>	<p>Apologies Elizabeth MacDonald, THC Councillor (EM) Finlay MacDonald, Head of Property & Facilities Management (FM) Sharon Barrie, Programme Manager Property (SB) Philip Shannon, Design Consultancy Manager (PSh) Kenny Murray, Education Advisor (KM) Murray Anderson, Account Director Balfour Beatty (MA)</p> <p>Minute David Walker</p>
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1.	Welcome & Introductions	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TH welcomed everyone to the meeting. 	
2.	Minutes of Last Meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment – accepted. 	
3.	Project Update	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC shared a presentation detailing recent progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visits to Lossiemouth High School, Elgin High School, Alness Academy and Merkinch Primary have taken place. - Meeting with Community Council representatives to update on progress and discuss future engagement took place on 3rd December. - Report on review of Capital Programme will be presented to Council on 9th December. - Further dialogue with Planning has taken place regarding future housing developments in the Nairn area. - Review of school roll forecasts and future expansion strategy based on the above is underway. • RC also took the group through the different design stages such as preparation and briefing, concept design and technical design. RC updated the group that Stage 0 is complete while Stage 1 is scheduled to be completed by the end of December. • Presentation Question and Answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MG asked if lessons had been learned from previous issues in other projects around toilet provision and used the example of Culloden Academy. - RC confirmed that THC aim to agree a consistent approach to toilets. The intention is to provide open plan, anti-bullying toilets with full height cubicles for privacy. This can lead to improved behaviour and aid inclusion as well as reducing vandalism. - FS reassured the group that the design will be right and some issues that have arisen in other schools are because they were refurbishing existing areas with certain space restrictions whereas this is a new build, so these issues are not anticipated. - JM added that when agreeing on designs the key issue is communication. Visits to other recently completed new builds have shown there are positive, workable designs and solutions. - MG asked if the sustainability targets are achievable for the project. - RC confirmed that there are a number of key targets linked to the Scottish Government's Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP) funding and experience is being gained on the Tain 3-18 	RC/DW

	<p>Campus project. RC confirmed the targets are challenging but achievable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JM asked about the timing of site investigations. - SH confirmed that site investigations were programmed for early in the new year and dates will be firmed up and communicated to the school once the programme is confirmed. Balfour Beatty will also need to confirm what areas will be required for the investigations so the school can plan around what areas will be unavailable. - LT asked what is planned around outdoor learning and how will potential disruption be managed due to new school building being constructed in the school grounds. - RC confirmed that it will be challenging but funding will be provided to release school management to work on the project and with the project team and contractor to minimise disruption. - SH noted for outdoor space that the site is relatively large, particularly once the existing building is demolished. SH noted that the school orchard is to be retained and discussions are ongoing with staff around what is required externally. - JM noted that Nairn are very keen on outdoor learning and the orchard and memorial garden were to be retained. - JM noted that disruption during the construction phase will need to be managed and additional space off site may be needed for PE. - LT asked why the proposed capacity of the new school (760) is lower than the current school capacity and asked about future roll projections. - RC confirmed that the capacity is in line with the LEIP space metrics. Future expansion will be factored into the design. THC will look at different scenarios of the impact on roll growth on individual subjects to determine the approach to future expansion. - LT asked whether the catchment area for Nairn were to be reviewed. - TH noted that a rigorous statutory consultation would be required for any change to the catchment area. - RC confirmed that there were no plans to change the catchment area for Nairn Academy. - LT asked whether another site for the new school had been considered. - RC confirmed that it hadn't. Again, a statutory consultation process is required to relocate a school, and the time required to undertake this would have jeopardised the ability to meet the LEIP Phase 2 completion deadline of December 2025. There is a pressing need for a new building given the poor suitability and condition of the existing building. Therefore, given the opportunity to bid for funding and the limited life remaining in the current building the Council agreed that the existing site was the best solution. - JM added that the school had been pushing for a new building and this opportunity offered a positive solution for the future. - KB raised the importance of gender natural toilets to the pupils at Nairn Academy. The pupils have an Equality Team and KB added that the building needs to be fully accessible for disabled users. 	<p>SH/DW/MA</p> <p>SH/DW/JM SA/KM</p> <p>RC/DW</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TH noted that the designers will listen to the pupils comments. - JM confirmed that school pupils will be engaged in the process throughout. - SH noted that DW is setting up stakeholder workshops with internal stakeholders and there will be a session for pupils to attend to ensure we are addressing all their comments. - 	<p>JM</p> <p>DW</p>
4.	Contractor Update – Balfour Beatty/Reiach and Hall Architects	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC introduced the group to Keri Monaghan who is the architect for the project. - KM discussed some of her background with the group such as the fact that she has specialised in Education projects and has worked with THC on the new Ness Castle Primary School project. - KM shared a plan of the existing site and noted some issues for consideration such as the proximity of the railway line. - KM noted that the site was relatively generous and added that the existing building has a lot of single storey areas. Therefore, once the building is demolished it will free up a large area of the site. - KB asked whether additional access points will be considered in the project as there is currently an issue around traffic congestion. - KM noted that the Transport Assessment will address these issues and added that there may be a potential to unlock the site which will be considered for both the new school building and future expansion. - SH added Safer Routes to School colleagues will be consulted. - HB asked whether there will be briefings for local residents as the works will be disruptive. - TH confirmed that this would be part of the Planning process. - RC confirmed that drop in events for the Community and dialogue with neighbours will take place. There is an obligation on the contractor to engage with residents regarding noisy and disruptive works. 	
5.	Nairn Library – Possible Relocation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SS noted that HLH will do the consultation on the possible relocation of the library. SS added that co-locating had been successful in other areas such as Wick and Aviemore and had led to benefits such as longer opening hours. • RC noted that it is important to futureproof the design so that a library can be included. The layout will accommodate a library that could be a school library only or a public library. The school are keen to include a community cafe and THC will be looking to maximise the community use of the sports facilities. • LT noted that moving the library away from the town centre would be an issue for some people and it would take away footfall from the town centre. 	<p>SS</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SS noted that this will be part of the consultation and added that it's important that the needs of current library users as well as future library users are taken into account. • RC noted that there is a similar issue with the Tain Campus and added that THC will work closely with HLH regarding consultation. 	<p>SS</p> <p>RC/SS</p>
7.	AOCB	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TH noted that Kirsty Ellen has been appointed by THC to work on Community Food Growth projects. • SA noted the future employment benefits and confirmed that the school were keen to work with this project. • SA offered Community Groups in the Stakeholder Group a chance to visit the existing school. • FS noted that this cannot currently happen due to Covid19 restrictions but can go ahead when restrictions allow. 	<p>SA</p>
8.	Date of Next Meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be arranged w/c 7th February 2022 (subsequently arranged for Thursday 17th February) 	