

Beauly Primary Stakeholder Group Meeting Minutes

Meeting No. 7

Microsoft Teams

22 January 2025 at 5:45 pm

Present:	
Stakeholders	
Jenny English	Parent Council
Siobhan Grieger	Parent Council
Catherine Rait	Parent Council
Deirdre Murray	Parent Council
Seona Fraser	Community Council
Helen Brown	Senior Case Worker for Kate Forbes MSP
Donna Forbes	Beauly Toddler Group
Councillors	
Chris Ballance	
David Fraser	
Emma Knox	
Highland Council	
Robert Campbell	Service Lead Capital Planning & Estate Strategy
Tracey Fraser-Lee	Head Teacher (Beauly PS)
Dorothy Gibb	Team Leader, THC Estates Team
Susie Lockett	Teacher (Beauly PS)
Fiona Sangster	Estates Co-ordinator
Fiona Shearer	Area Education Manager South
Apologies	
Cllr Helen Crawford	Local Member

1. RECORDING OF MEETING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMG informed the group that the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of the minutes. 	
2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DF welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. RC explained that although the Stakeholder Group had not met for some time, there had been some communication with the school and Parent Council in recent months and it was now possible to share some future plans with the further community. Apologies - Cllr Helen Crawford. 	

<p>3. MEMBERSHIP OF GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC explained that the membership of the group had been reviewed as the future plan for a new school now includes other options. • Some neighbours had previously been included because building on the existing site could have had a direct impact on them. However now that additional site locations are to be considered it is appropriate for the Community Council to take on the role of informing the local community of the plans. • An exception will be the immediate neighbours who live in the schoolhouse and DMG will update them regularly. • Pupils will be included in future meetings, but it is not necessary at this stage. • Stakeholders were asked to inform THC if they knew of other groups who should be invited to attend meetings. • RC noted that on occasions when a Stakeholder cannot make it to a meeting, they can nominate someone to attend on their behalf. • Stakeholders agreed to the updated Terms of Reference which will be circulated with the minutes of the meeting. 	<p>DMG</p>
<p>4. ACTIONS FROM MEETING WITH PARENT COUNCIL IN DECEMBER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractors have been appointed to install an intercom system for the main school gate. • RC looked into the concerns raised by TFL about the high maintenance costs to the school during this financial year. Some miscoding had been identified and is being addressed. • RC had agreed to attend the Parent Council meeting planned for January. However, it was later decided that holding a drop-in event for all parents, pupils and staff would be more appropriate. 	
<p>5. NEW BUILD UPDATE – ROBERT CAMPBELL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC shared a presentation and update on the current situation. • THC approved the Highland Investment Plan in May 2024 which sets out a longer term strategic approach to capital investment and looks at different ways of raising money to invest in THC assets. • A key objective is to see significant improvement in the school estate. • The concept is for new or repurposed Community Points of Delivery (PODs) which in most cases would be built around school provision but will have the potential for co-location of other public bodies, other partners and community facilities. • This will potentially reduce the number of assets overall in Highland although in Beauly there aren't as many to take into consideration as in some of the larger towns. 	

- The Phipps Hall and other community facilities will be considered and discussions will be taking place with High Life Highland.
- The Plan sets out an overall investment plan approach and identifies five projects for Phase 1 to be progressed to design and tender stage, and this includes Beauly Primary.
- THC had already been working on a project to replace the existing Beauly Primary School and had been awaiting confirmation from Scottish Government on LEIP funding but this was unsuccessful.
- The LEIP Phase 3 funding conditions required completion by the end of 2027 so THC had focussed on using the existing school site.
- Now that LEIP timescales are no longer a concern THC has identified three other potential school sites which will be looked at in the coming weeks.
- The report to Council in December 2024 identified that some projects including Beauly could be packaged with other projects currently in the approved programme. For example Beauly could be grouped with new Tornagrain Primary which is a similar design and concept.
- This could potentially reduce lead in times, achieve economies of scale and tie in with procurement processes that are already underway.
- Budgets, finances and delivery timescales will be discussed at the Council Meeting on 27 March.
- Next steps are to look at the three new sites as well as the existing site and identify a preferred option.
- Ground investigations will need to take place with landowners' permissions.
- THC has clear criteria that have been used before to compare alternatives, for example, safe travel routes to help identify a preferred option.
- A group will be set up to review options and will include HT, PC and others, and drop-in events will be held to gather information and opinions.
- SG mentioned that at the meeting in December it was noted that the preferred site would be known by February and asked if that is still the case as timeframes seemed to be changing with delays.
- RC noted that the team are currently working on this and the target is now to have a preferred option identified before the 27 March meeting. The decision on that date for a preferred option would allow THC to then start negotiating with landowners on site purchase if necessary.
- DF appreciated SGs concerns and had already discussed with RC the possibility of meeting with the stakeholders again before the meeting on 27 March. This would allow discussion on the outcome of the options appraisal on the preferred site and allow Members to be prepared with a strong voice for the full Council meeting.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC shared the master planning document provided by Mike Dawson, Consultant on the four sites in Beaulieu. • The report shows a map of Beaulieu with the existing school site and other potential sites all of which are large enough to accommodate a new school and nursery as well as other accommodation if required. • RC explained that although the existing school site could be used, there would be disruption for pupils and staff with a resulting longer time period until completion. Building on a new site would be potentially easier and take less time as there would be no need to build and demolish in stages on a live school site. • All three of the new sites would be potentially more suitable for a POD however two sites are further from existing housing so factors such as travel would also need to be considered. • RC then shared images from the previous design for the new build on the existing school site and also the design for the new Broadford Primary which will be similar to what is required in Beaulieu, as well as images of the proposed Dunvegan School which shows what can be achieved on a site with less restrictions than the existing Beaulieu school site. • RC asked for any initial thoughts on the sites being considered. • JE asked if either of the sites depended on the loop road being completed or if the school could go ahead before it was installed. • RC replied that if THC decided to build a school on the site they would be required to install the road as far as it was needed to access the school. Costs associated with this would be taken into account during the options appraisal. • HB asked if flood investigations had taken place with regard to the proposed sites. • RC replied that desktop studies have taken place but a full investigation would be required along with discussions with the Flood Team for all of the sites. • DF noted that at this stage it is important to keep as many sites on the table as possible because for various reasons preferences can change. 	
<p>6. WORKS IN EXISTING SCHOOL – ROBERT CAMPBELL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved security at the front gates is now in progress. • The main investment at present is the new kitchen/dining unit which is currently under fabrication and also the additional bay for the existing modular classroom to provide additional toilet facilities. • The contract for the groundworks has been awarded to Compass and works are due to start next week and be complete at the end of April. • PKL will install the kitchen/dining unit and Sibcas will add the additional bay to the modular classroom. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new units will be craned in when school is unoccupied, hopefully during the February break but a weekend will be considered if the winter weather causes any delay. • Demolition of the old dining unit will take place in the summer holidays and that area will increase play space available to pupils. • The condition of the existing school will continue to be monitored until the new school is completed. • Priorities identified at present are the toilets and an overall freshen up of the buildings. • TFL noted that whilst being mindful of spending money when a new school is planned it is important to keep the existing school in the best condition possible for the pupils. 	THC
7. EDUCATION/SCHOOL MATTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FS noted that enrolment weeks for Primary and ELC are imminent and when numbers are known classes and staffing will be looked at. • TFL noted that she was expecting a small P1 enrolment so there was likely to be 5 classes next session. • RC noted that school roll forecasts had been considered and that 6 classrooms were planned for the new building with expansion space also identified. • TFL noted that Wrap Around Child Care available in other schools has an impact on the school roll at Beauly. 	
8. AOCB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop in Event planned for 21 February. • SG asked if all four sites would be shared at the event or just the preferred site. • RC explained that feedback from the event would be included in the options appraisal so all four sites will be included. • RC noted that the current information on THC website will be updated, and the link shared with stakeholders. 	RC
9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 24 March 5:45 pm 	