

The Wick Project

Newsletter 3 – Mar 2013

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The Wick Project includes the Wick Campus (incorporating the 'South of the River' Primary School, High School and East Caithness Community Facilities) on the Wick High/Pulteneytown Academy Primary School site, and the new 'North of the River' Primary School to be built on the current North Primary School site.

This Newsletter brings everybody up to date with progress.

On the Web

This newsletter and newsletters 1 and 2 issued in June and October last year are available at <http://www.highland.gov.uk/learninghere/schools/schoolsbuidlingsprogramme/>

In addition, presentations used at Stakeholder Meetings for the two new Primary Schools, along with minutes of the new Stakeholder Group, are also included here. Note however, that these are still in development, and are a 'snapshot' of the designs to get feedback from Stakeholders.

Reminder - Hub/Council Process

The Council and Hub North Scotland Ltd (HNSL) have a process to follow. Detailed below is this process, with an approximate timeline:

New Project Request (NPR) – starts the process

Stage 1 – HNSL respond to Council accepting that the project can be delivered within Affordability Caps set by the Council. The Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) and then the Council have to assess, and then decide on moving to the next Stage.

Stage 2 – HNSL then develop the design, and negotiate a detailed contract with the Council. Again both the SFT and the Council have to assess the proposal, and agree to sign the contract. This period may take up to 3 months.

Construction – for the Campus, begins in late 2013, for North of the River later (smaller project) with all facilities scheduled to become operational in August 2015.

Where are we now?

Wick High School and Community Facilities have begun the Stage 2 design process, with the Primary Schools' NPR due for submission to HNSL in April/May 2013.

New Stakeholder Group

A new Stakeholder Group has been formed which covers the whole Wick Project. This has representatives from the five Parent Councils of the schools involved, their Headteachers, High Life Highland, including the Library and Swimming Pool users, local Members, Wick, Sinclair Bay and Tannach and District Community Councils, Officers of the Council and HNSL.

The new group met for the first time on Monday 4th March 2013.

The minute of this meeting is on the web (see opposite), but highlights of this meeting are noted below, along with further information on developments

Progress with Developments

It was confirmed that the Council is committed to developing all the facilities for occupation by August 2015. It was noted that the total expenditure on this project would be in the order of £55M overall.

The **New Project Requests** for the two new Primary schools will be issued to HNSL by the Council in April / May 2013.

The current proposal for the new **North of the River Primary School** was shared with the meeting – this is still under development, with consultations between the architects, Staff and the Parent Councils of both existing schools continuing.

Proposals for Engagement with Local Supply Chain

Hub North Scotland Ltd (HNSL) (<http://www.hubnorthscotland.co.uk/>) introduced Miller Construction, their construction partner for the project.

Miller Construction gave a presentation on how they intend to engage with local businesses who wish to become involved with the project.

In particular, Miller are organising a **"Meet the Buyer"** event, on **Thursday 27th March, 1330 – 1700 in the MacKay Hotel, Wick** – this will be advertised in the local Press and websites. Click on <http://www.millerconstruction.co.uk/Meet%20the%20Buyer%20Event%20for%20Caithness%20and%20Sutherland%20Subcontractors.aspx>

Pre Planning Public Consultations

These have provisionally been set up follows:

Wick Campus – Monday 22nd April

Wick North of the River Primary School – Monday 29th April

Please look out for the venue and times in the local Press.

These consultations give the opportunity for members of the public to comment on the current proposals.

New Primary on the Wick Campus – please see Council Website for further details



New Primary North of the River – please see Council Website for further details

