

The Wick Project

Newsletter 5 – August 2013

The Wick Project

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 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 whole project in Wick.

On the Web

This newsletter, together with newsletters 1 to 4, minutes of Stakeholder Meetings, together with plans of the new facilities are available at <http://www.highland.gov.uk/learninghere/schools/schoolsbuidingsprogramme/The+Wick+Project.htm>

The Wick Campus

Planning

Planning Permission for the Wick Campus was granted on 12th August. This is a major milestone for the project. The Decision Notice can be found at the web address above.

Hub – Stage 2

The Stage 2 submission by Hub North Scotland Limited (HNSL) is the next significant milestone stage of the project, due early November 2013. This will confirm the detailed design, the cost and facilities management arrangements. Thereafter, the only milestone remaining will be contract award (or Financial Close), which can only happen after Scottish Future Trust (on behalf of the Scottish Government) and finally the Council approve the DBFM contract.

The target date completion date is 20 Dec 2013.

Programme

Discussions are on-going with HNSL and Miller Construction about the key construction dates. At this stage it is anticipated that early enabling works will commence in November 2013 with construction on-site commencing around 24th January 2014. The community campus handover date will be agreed in early September in advance of the Stakeholder Group meeting on 16th September 2013.

Wick North of the River Primary School

Revised Plans

Since the last joint Parent Council meeting, further design work, as well as a value engineering exercise was carried out on the plans, to check that the design is efficient as possible a normal procedure in design development. During this time, the Head Teacher of Hillhead Primary raised concerns about the extent of external grass area available for playing football.

HNSL's architects submitted a revised design in July, which met the principles of the Council design, allowed the external grass area to be extended, and reduced the cost of the new building.

The Council met with representatives of the Parent Councils, the two Head Teachers, the Depute from Hillhead (who was acting Head Teacher last session) and Mr Bamfield, Council ASN Officer. The revised design was put forward.

In addition, a joint staff meeting, and a joint Parent Council meeting was held on Monday 26th August to share the revised plan. HNSL architects are developing the design on the basis of the revised proposals. The revised design – once developed - will be available on the Council's website accessible via The Wick Project link on the Council's home page.

Stage 1 process – acceptance

HNSL have accepted the New Project Request for the new school - a total cost for the build being a maximum of £14.5M.

Planning

The Planning Application will be submitted in early September 2013 – further details will be available on the Council's website via the link on the homepage.

Programme

It is intended that the new school will open in the new session in August 2015.

Stakeholder Group Meeting

The next meeting for the Wick Project Stakeholder Group is Monday 16th September 2013.