

The Wick Project

Newsletter 2 – October 2012

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.

The Wick Campus

As part of the requirements of Scottish Government funding, the Council is working in partnership with Hub North Scotland Ltd (the Hub - www.hubnorthscotland.co.uk) to complete the remaining design and construction of the new facilities. This process also involves the Scottish Futures Trust www.scottishfuturestrust.org.uk acting on the Scottish Government's behalf. More information on these organisations can be found by clicking on the links.

hub North Scotland – local involvement

hub North Scotland are delighted to be partnering Highland Council in this exciting new Schools Projects.

In this respect, members of the hub North Team plan to visit Wick on the 12th and 13th November to meet with local members of the Supply Chain and the Local Community. We will provide times and location prior to our visit but meantime if you would like further information please contact Jill Adie on 07875388898 or by email

jill.adie@hubnorthscotland.onmicrosoft.com

The Hub/Council Process

The Council and the Hub have a process to follow. Detailed below is this process, with an approximate timeline:

New Project Request (NPR) – submitted by Council to Hub on 2 July 2012

NPR response – Hub accepted NPR in Aug 2012

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

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Stage 2 – Hub then develop the design, and negotiate a detailed contract with the Council. Formal submission of this Stage from Hub is expected midsummer 2013. 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 – begins in Autumn 2013, with schools scheduled to become operational in August 2015.

The above at this stage involves only the High School and Community facilities within the Campus. The new 'South of the River' Primary part of the Campus will follow the same process, and will have 'caught up' as far as time is concerned with negotiations and contract sign by midsummer, so that the whole campus build starts at the same time.

Stakeholder Group

This is currently being reformed to include the Primary School Stakeholders. A meeting has not yet been arranged – principally because there has been no real development of the plans for the campus in recent weeks.

In particular, the **floor plans** for the High School and Community Facilities have not changed since issued in Newsletter No. 1.

Wick Campus – Primary School

The Brief has been agreed, with the accommodation as follows:

- 13 Classrooms, each with built in store and cloakroom
- Expressive Arts room and store
- Break out Space
- 2 Nursery Rooms, with kitchen, cloakrooms, toilets and storage
- 2 Learning Support Rooms
- Enhanced Provision Area for children with specific needs
- Games Hall – 2 badminton Court size, with changing and stores
- Offices – Administration, Head Teacher and Depute, Staff Work Base (continued on next page)

Wick Campus – Primary School (continued)

- Medical Room, Inter Agency Meeting Room, Offices for Childrens' Services and Active Schools Coordinator
- Pupil toilets
- Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and grass pitch
- External areas including garden area – for work and play (pupils have already been involved in designing this with Council's Landscape Architect).

The Headteachers of Pulteneytown / South and the joint Parent Councils have met with the architect a number of times, and have agreed the outline floor plan in principle, and currently the detail is being discussed between the architect and Headteachers.

The NPR (see process earlier) for the Primary School part of the build will soon be submitted to the Hub, and will 'catch up' with the remainder of the Campus in design terms by the end of the year.

Safe Routes to School meetings have yet to begin, but are due to be arranged shortly.

'North of the River' Primary School

This new school, to replace Hillhead Primary and North Primary Schools, is to be built on the North Primary School site.

Initial discussions with Headteachers began towards the end of last session, which included a visit to three new Inverness primary schools earlier in the year.

Discussions with Headteachers continue, with two joint Parent Council meetings to discuss the brief having already taken place. A visit to new Primary Schools in Inverness / Conon Bridge is arranged for the end of September, with a further joint Parent Council meeting due at the beginning of October to largely agree the Brief.

Provisionally, the accommodation being discussed with Headteachers / Staff / relevant Stakeholders and Parent Council is as follows:

- 14 Classrooms, each with built in store and cloakroom
- 2 Expressive Arts room and store
- Library
- Break out Space
- 2 Nursery Rooms, with kitchen, cloakrooms, toilets and storage

Continued:

- Possibility of a third pre-school area (being discussed with relevant Stakeholders)
- 2 Learning Support Rooms
- Enhanced Provision Area for children with specific needs
- Games Hall – 2 badminton Court size, with changing and stores
- Dining Area with Storage
- Offices – Administration, Head Teacher and Depute, Staff Work Base
- Medical Room, Inter Agency Meeting Room, Offices for Childrens' Services and Active Schools Coordinator
- Pupil toilets
- Community Room with storage
- Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and grass pitch
- External areas including garden area – for work and play (pupils will be involved in designing this with Council's Landscape Architect).

Further discussion with Head Teachers / Stakeholders / Parent Councils will continue and finalise the Brief, with the initial designs following.

Consultation on the design continues throughout the process.

The Hub is also to finalise the design, and build this new school, and like the Campus, the new school is due to become operational in August 2015.

Safe Routes to School meetings - an important part of the process - have yet to begin, but are due to be arranged shortly.

Other Consultation – both new Primary Schools (and Campus)

Two other groups will form later in the process.

The **Integration Sub Group**, involving the Headteachers, Quality Improvement Officers, Additional Support Needs Specialist, pupils, Parent Council representatives, and ECS Management will work to ensure that the amalgamation of the two schools in each case will form as seamlessly as possible.

The Commissioning Sub Group – Educationalists, Property and Health & Safety specialists, Safe Routes team, IT specialists, High Life Highland representatives and Facilities Management officers will ensure that the new buildings are ready for occupation in all its aspects.