

Minutes Of Meeting 5
Nairn Academy Stakeholder Group

Thursday 25 August 2022 at 7 pm

Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees	Initials
Independent Chair	
Jimmy Gray - Chair	JG
Highland Councillors	
Laurie Fraser	LF
Michael Green	MG1
Barbara Jarvie	BJ
Paul Oldham	PO
Parent Council Representatives	
Mark Gunn, Nairn Academy Parent Council	MG2
Sally Gunn, Nairn Academy Parent Council	SG
Community Representatives	
Hamish Bain, Nairn River CC	HB
Graham Stuart, Nairn West & Suburban CC	GS1
School Representatives	
Julie MacDonald, Head Teacher	JM
Sarah Abenheimer, Depute Head Teacher	SA
Highland Council Officials	
Robert Campbell, Estate Strategy Manager	RC
Susannah Holmes, Principal Estates Officer	SH
David Walker, Estates Officer	DW
Fiona Shearer, Area Education Manager	FS
Gordon Stewart, Education Advisor	GS2
Lewis Hannah, Ward Manager	LH
Highlife Highland Officials	
Simon Swanson, HLH Corporate Programme Manager	SS
Reiach and Hall Architects	
Keri Monaghan	KM
Apologies	
Sharon Barrie	
Tom Brady	
David Harvey	
Kate Lackie	
Minute	
David Walker	

Item	Discussion and comment	Action
1.	Welcome and introductions	
1.1	JG welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that he had been asked to chair the meeting as an independent chair.	
1.2	JG paid tribute to the late Councillor Tom Heggie, and the group paused for a moment of reflection.	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting	
2.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.	
2.2	RC asked if there were any objections to the meeting being recorded to aid with the minute taking. There were no objections.	
3.	Terms Of Reference and group membership	
3.1	RC shared the Terms of Reference for the stakeholder group and gave a recap of the purpose of the group for new members.	
3.2	RC asked whether there were any additional members of the Nairn Academy Parent Council that wished to join the group. MG2 confirmed that there will be for the next meeting but not just now.	
3.3	JM noted that the school are keen to have Pupil Representatives at future meetings as well as the Primary School Head Teachers and Primary School Parent Council Representatives. RC confirmed that Primary School Head Teachers would be invited to the next meeting and an invite extended to Primary Parent Councils.	JM/DW
3.4	SA noted that it could be good to invite Inverness College UHI at some point in the future as well as Green Hive and Men's Shed. RC suggested that they could be invited to the next stakeholder meeting and have a separate item on the agenda for them.	DW
3.5	BJ suggested that Access Panel could be added to the group. SH confirmed that they will be consulted with internally to get their direct feedback rather than through the stakeholder group.	DW
4.	Project update – Highland Council	
4.1	RC shared a presentation detailing the background and latest progress of the project. The presentation covered Scottish Government Learning Estate Investment Programme Funding Outcomes, Construction Cost Pressures, Current Project Position, Key Design Criteria and Next Project Steps.	
4.2	MG2 asked about the dominant cost drivers around the 2 and 3 storey option and whether the Council were likely to be forced into an option due to cost constraints. RC confirmed that there was a balance to be struck between capital costs and long-term benefits in terms of reduced energy and operating costs. A Passivhaus design plays an important role in determining the preferred option. Taking all factors into consideration, the 3-storey option is preferred, and the Community will be fully engaged during the Planning process.	
4.3	PO asked for clarification on the PAN Public Events. SH confirmed that a public event will take place at Nairn Academy on Tuesday 6th September at 4:30pm and 6pm and there will be two online events on Thursday 8th September at 2pm and 7pm.	
4.4	PO noted that a resident in Loch Avenue had not been aware of the new school plans until this week. SH confirmed that all neighbouring properties within the radius of the development as required by Planning had a letter dropped advertising the previous drop in event on 15th June 2022. A letter drop is planned for the upcoming events too.	DW

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4.5	HB advised RC that he was waiting for a response from an email with points about Nairn Academy. RC confirmed that he would investigate.	RC
4.6	HB asked why Nairn River CC member Loreine Thomson did not receive an invite for tonight's meeting. LH confirmed that he would contact HB in the morning to discuss.	LH
4.7	HB asked whether the new houses projected for Ardersier Port had been included in the number calculations. RC confirmed that School Roll Forecasts are updated every year in collaboration with colleagues in Planning. The Housing Land Audit is also updated every year which considers changes in development rates. RC also noted that provision for either a small extension to provide extra classroom provision or a much larger extension as required is being factored into the design.	
4.8	GS1 noted that he was aware of complaints about the standard of the existing synthetic pitch and asked whether a condition assessment had been carried out. RC confirmed that the pitch was resurfaced last year as it was in poor condition. The Council has a contract that covers inspection and maintenance with a specialist contractor and the pitch will continue to be maintained.	
4.9	GS1 asked about the possible relocation of the public library. RC confirmed the High Life Highland consultation has concluded and the next step will be considered by Council Members. No decision has been made yet, but the Council have all the feedback including the petition. The decision does not affect the progress of the design as the design has been future proofed so the library could move in at the beginning or in the future.	
4.10	PO asked about in which form the discussion around the library with Members would take place. RC confirmed that the issue would be raised next week with Committee Chairs before further discussion with Ward Members.	RC
4.11	HB queried whether the Council had responded to the library petition. RC noted that the petition went to Stewart Fraser (THC Head of Legal) and it was understood that a reply had been sent. RC to confirm with Stewart Fraser.	RC
5.	Design update – Balfour Beatty and Reiach & Hall	
5.1	KM shared a presentation detailing the approach the Nairn site, a more detailed look at the building including proposed site and floor plans, and some design principles that are influencing the design.	
5.2	MG2 asked about whether the external shading would be adjustable so angles could be varied at different times of the year. KM confirmed that the shading was unlikely to be as dense as shown in the presentation, but it was likely that it would be fixed and designed in such a way that it provides the right amount of shading required throughout the year to avoid overheating the building.	
5.3	MG2 queried the future maintenance of proposed landscaping and garden areas as there have been issues at other schools. KM confirmed that the design team were aware of maintenance issues, and they were following the Council's brief as well as liaising with the Council's Landscape Architect.	

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5.4	MG2 noted that a 3-storey building offers the potential for solar gathering and the ability to store this energy. KM noted that the Electrical Engineers working on the project are proactive with suggesting new technologies, but she would pass on the suggestion for consideration. The roof space is planned to have air handling units and there will be air source heat pumps, so energy is renewable.	KM
5.5	MG2 queried the point about no gas in the building for subjects such as Science. KM noted that discussions were taking place surrounding bottle supply for items such as bunsen burners. Those small areas will likely be the one spaces where there will be a gas supply.	
5.6	PO noted that residents in Duncan Drive and Glenelg Gardens have issues with flooding with water believed to be coming from the school after heavy rain and asked whether this will be reduced in the plans. KM noted that space has been designed in to take surface water run-off.	
5.7	BJ asked about provision of outdoor classrooms. KM noted that there was external covered space which could be utilised for this purpose.	
5.8	BJ noted that there may be Health & Safety issues with having gas bottles on the upper floors and asked whether external Science provision has been considered. KM confirmed that it hadn't been considered and bottles would offer flexibility, but no decisions were confirmed. There will be a Construction Skills Yard externally. SH added that using electric bunsen burners has not been ruled out. These are being trialled at other schools, however the temperature required to do certain experiments is not achievable at present. There is a possibility of using a hybrid between the two options (gas and electric).	
5.9	MG2 noted that on a previous project a gas main was not put in and there was a subsequent requirement to retrofit it at considerable cost and urged the project team to be cognisant of this.	
6.	Date of next meeting	
6.1	RC confirmed that a date for the next meeting will be set in due course.	RC/DW
7.	AOCB	
7.1	As there was no other business, the meeting was concluded at 20:16.	