

**Minutes Of Meeting 4**  
**Nairn Academy Stakeholder Group**

**17 February 2022**

**Via Microsoft Teams**

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Initials</b>
<b>Highland Councillors</b>	
Tom Heggie – Chair	TH
Laurie Fraser	LF
Elizabeth MacDonald	EM
<b>Parent Council/Community Council Representatives</b>	
Mark Gunn, Nairn Academy Parent Council	MG
Alastair Noble, Nairn West & Suburban CC	AN
Loreine Thomson, Nairn River CC	LT
Hamish Bain, Nairn River CC	HB
<b>Nairn Academy</b>	
Julie MacDonald, Head Teacher	JM
Sarah Abenheimer, Depute Head Teacher	SA
<b>Highland Council Officials</b>	
Robert Campbell, Estate Strategy Manager	RC
David Walker, Estates Officer	DW
Fiona Shearer, Area Education Manager	FS
Gordon Stewart, Education Advisor	GS
<b>Highlife Highland Officials</b>	
Simon Swanson, HLH Corporate Programme Manager	SS
<b>WSP</b>	
David Harvey, Senior Project Manager	DH
<b>Balfour Beatty</b>	
John Cairns, Social Impact Advisor	JC
<b>Reiach and Hall Architects</b>	
Keri Monaghan	KM
<b>Apologies</b>	
Finlay MacDonald, Head of Property & Facilities Management	
Sharon Barrie, Programme Manager Property	
Philip Shannon, Design Consultancy Manager	
Murray Anderson, Account Director Balfour Beatty	
Peter Saggars	
Tom Brady, Project Director Balfour Beatty	
Sally Gunn, Nairn Academy Parent Council	
Susannah Holmes, Principal Estates Officer	
<b>Minute</b>	
David Walker	

Item	Discussion and comment	Action
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TH welcomed everyone to the meeting.</li> <li>• It was noted that Gordon Stewart has taken over Kenny Murray's role as Education Advisor on the project.</li> </ul>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of last meeting</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comments – accepted.</li> </ul>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Project update</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RC shared a presentation detailing recent progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The presentation covered an update on recent progress, an update from the school, and a review of the site selection process. The presentation will be uploaded to the Council website.</li> <li>- JM expanded on some of the school updates from RC's presentation. JM noted that there were some aspects of the new school buildings they had visited that they liked and some aspects that they couldn't see working.</li> <li>- JM stressed the opportunity to strengthen pupil aspirations such as training for pupils who wish to work in childcare and noted that the school were keen to continue with their orchard, working with Farmer Jones and their memorial garden.</li> <li>- JM noted that the intention is to have the cafe as an intergenerational space which is open to the community.</li> <li>- JM confirmed that she was linking with Balfour Beatty in Developing a Young Workforce to have a career event to allow young people to see what career opportunities are available.</li> <li>- LT asked why there had not been consideration given to including a primary school on the site.</li> <li>- FS confirmed that that it had been discussed some years ago and primary school Head Teachers were consulted. It was noted that it would have needed a Statutory Consultation which would have delayed the project and it was subsequently ruled out.</li> <li>- LT requested a copy of a report where this decision was confirmed.</li> <li>- FS confirmed that she would check if the proposal went to Committee but did not believe it did.</li> <li>- RC confirmed that the Council had approved a 15-Year Capital Programme and there were other primary school priorities across the school estate when comparing the Suitability, Condition and Capacity of the Nairn primary schools against other schools across the school estate. RC noted that the Council had significant budget pressures and further investment in other primary schools would be prioritised.</li> <li>- TH agreed that it had been decided that there were other priorities across the school estate, and it was felt that the priority was a new secondary school building in Nairn.</li> <li>- MG noted that a 3-18 campus in Nairn was previously discussed and confirmed as a non-starter, so a new secondary school building was the only viable option.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>JM/JC</p> <p>FS</p>

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4.	<b>Contractor update – Balfour Beatty and Reiach and Hall Architects</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KM shared some concept images of the site and discussed the brief as well as some of the technical requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- KM noted that the intention was to provide a building centred on the student experience.</li> <li>- KM discussed the view that the building can be the third educator after parents and teachers.</li> <li>- KM noted the requirements around daylight and insulation.</li> <li>- KM noted some of the technical requirements such as the need for the building to be sustainable and the need to be cognisant of embodied carbon and the materials used, particularly with a focus on the lifecycle of materials.</li> <li>- KM shared an indicative site layout showing where a building of the briefed size may potentially sit on the site and shared some graphics detailing the way the designers are grouping different subjects to help aide the design.</li> <li>- Presentation Questions and Answers</li> <li>- LT asked whether the project team were aware of plans to build houses near the school site.</li> <li>- KM confirmed that the team were aware that PAN (Proposal of Application Notice) notices have gone in for potential development near the school side.</li> <li>- LT noted that as part of the development there are plans to install a walkway over the railway line and asked how this would impact the school.</li> <li>- KM confirmed she was thinking about ways to get people across the site and noted there a cycle route near the railway line and a potential walkway could tie in this cycle path.</li> <li>- TH noted that development plans are not finalised so future developments will factor in the school site.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• JC gave an update from Balfour Beatty. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- JC noted that a pupil engagement session had taken place with Nairn Academy pupils, SA and THC staff led by KM.</li> <li>- Balfour Beatty welfare unit is on site. Ground investigation work has begun via Survey Solutions and a Geography class has had an information session on the works.</li> <li>- Archaeological Geophysical survey is now underway via AOC Archaeologists.</li> <li>- Bore hole testing trial pits to start on site soon.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
5.	<b>Nairn Library – possible relocation</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SS discussed the opportunity to consider bringing the public library into the new school building.</li> <li>• SS noted that there will be a consultation period which is due to start of March 7th for 1 week and will take the form of a face-to-face event in the library. After this feedback will be collated and presented to the Council.</li> <li>• SS stressed the importance of people engaging with the consultation and ensuring all views are formally recorded rather than through the stakeholder group.</li> </ul>	SS

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB questioned the length of the consultation period (1 week) and noted that Community Council's needed longer as they only meet once per month.</li> <li>• SS noted that the consultation will be for the wider public and the intention to hold the consultation had been discussed previously</li> </ul> <p><b>Post meeting note:</b> It has been agreed that there will be week's face to face consultation in the library which will be mirrored by a week of consultation within school. There will then be a further 2 weeks for written responses to be submitted. All feedback will be captured on a dedicated form for this engagement. Forms will be available in the library, in the school and on the Nairn Library website. The engagement will commence on 7 March 2022 for 1 week of presentations with the closing date set for 25 March 2022 for all comments to be back by.</p>	SS
6.	<b>AOCB</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SA reiterated her offer for Community Groups in the Stakeholder Group to visit the existing school.</li> <li>• MG asked for the meeting presentations to be uploaded to the THC website.</li> <li>• MG noted that the provision of transport needs to be considered with the school moving towards a community hub and asked whether full community integration can be considered.</li> <li>• TH confirmed that this was being addressed in the Nairn Community Planning Partnership.</li> <li>• FS added that the project will link in with Safer Routes to School.</li> </ul>	DW
7.	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 28th March 2022, 7pm via MS Teams (meeting subsequently postponed).</li> </ul>	