

Minutes Of Meeting 2
Nairn Academy Stakeholder Group

Thursday 7th October 2021

Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees	Initials
Highland Councillors	
Tom Heggie – Chair	TH
Laurie Fraser	LF
Elizabeth MacDonald	EM
Parent Council/Community Representatives	
Mark Gunn, Nairn Academy Parent Council	MG
Sally Gunn, Nairn Academy Parent Council	SG
Nairn Academy	
Julie MacDonald, Head Teacher	JM
Sarah Abenheimer, Depute Head Teacher	SA
Highland Council Officials	
Finlay MacDonald, Head of Property & Facilities Management	FM
Robert Campbell, Estate Strategy Manager	RC
David Walker, Estates Officer	DW
Sharon Barrie, Programme Manager Property	SB
Philip Shannon, Design Consultancy Manager	PS
Highlife Highland Officials	
Simon Swanson, HLH Corporate Programme Manager	SS
WSP	
David Harvey, Senior Project Manager	DH
Balfour Beatty	
John Cairns, Social Impact Advisor	JC
Apologies	
Councillor Peter Saggars, THC	
Susannah Holmes, Principal Estates Officer	
Kenny Murray, Education Advisor	
Fiona Shearer, Area Education Manager	
Murray Anderson, Account Director, Balfour Beatty	
Minute	
David Walker	

Item	Discussion and comment	Action
1.	Welcome and introductions	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TH welcomed everyone to the meeting. 	
2.	Minutes of last meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments – accepted. 	
3.	Project update	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC shared a presentation detailing recent progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synthetic pitch has been resurfaced - Visits to other recently completed schools has been postponed but will be rearranged - ‘Tots and Teens’ meeting held with officials from East Lothian and East Ayrshire - Project Launch meeting has taken place with Balfour Beatty - Dialogue with Planning has taken place regarding future housing developments in the area - RC noted that while the roll forecasts do not show a huge impact over the next 15 years there will need to be, both a standard expansion zone located adjacent to a classroom wing and a larger zone identified for a future, larger extension. Analysis of practical classes to help inform the location for the expansion is required. • RC also took the group through the different design stages such as preparation and briefing, concept design and technical design. • Presentation Question and Answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MG asked if the demolition of the existing building is part of Balfour Beatty’s scope of work. RC confirmed that the project will be phased, and that the subsequent demolition is part of the one project. - MG asked whether RC is happy that the risk budget is sufficient. RC confirmed that risk has been factored in based on lessons learned from previous projects. Working with Balfour Beatty from an early stage should also help with cost and risk certainty. - LF enquired about schools that Balfour Beatty have worked on recently. JC confirmed that he would cover this in his presentation. - LF asked about issues in recently completed new builds such as regular fire alarms going off as well as the school having places for pupils to hide. RC confirmed lessons have been learned on other projects and we are keen to work with JM and her team to develop collaborative working spaces. JM agreed and confirmed that they were interested in outdoor learning spaces. 	RC/DW
4.	Contractor introduction	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JC shared a presentation with the group which detailed projects that the company are currently working on in the Highlands as well as recently completed Education projects such as Elgin High and Lossiemouth High. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JC noted that Elgin High was a similar project to Nairn Academy in that it was a similar size and phased in such a way as the new building was constructed in the school grounds while the current school building remained live. The school then moved across to the new building while the old building was demolished, and sports pitches completed. This is the same as the plan for Nairn Academy while the site has similar constraints such as its proximity to residential homes. • JC explained about the various community engagement initiatives that Balfour Beatty have done in the past and are keen to implement on this project. • Presentation Question and Answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MG asked about the possibility of a virtual 3D walkaround of the design proposals as things progressed. JC noted that costs for VR headsets and the need for high spec laptops have caused issues in the past but advised that Balfour Beatty's digital team had options for converting the BIM model to allow for virtual user engagement with proposals. - JM noted that the school have a Developing a Young Workforce scheme and asked whether JC to link up with the school contact for this. JC confirmed that he was happy to do this. - TH noted the positivity that everyone was engaged from an early stage and was excited about the community engagement benefits the project could offer. 	<p style="text-align: center;">JC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JC</p>
5.	Nairn Library – possible relocation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC noted that HLH undertook a user survey for consultation regarding moving the library into the new Tain Campus. There was a poor response and general lack of positivity. Based on this experience, how we engage with the community needs to be considered. • RC noted the many benefits of co-locating. SS echoed RC's comments and noted the benefits that have been realised in other sites where co-locating has happened. • SS noted that meaningful engagement with current and future (school etc) users is needed. • MG agreed that it made sense for the library to move into the new school building but noted that the school location is an issue as it is not central to the town centre. • FM noted that the Scottish Government's LEIP funding is based on the Council meeting key targets around high quality builds, energy efficiency and maintenance plans which would allow the library to be in a modern and well-maintained building. • RC noted that libraries that have been co-located in new schools have generally seen an increase in user numbers. 	
6.	AOCB	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	
8.	Date of next meeting	
		Note

Item	Discussion and comment	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="368 241 1070 306">• Thursday 25 November 2021 (subsequently rearranged to Wednesday 8 December)	