

# Ness Castle stakeholder group meeting 8 minutes

## Microsoft Teams

8 September 2021 at 6:30pm

Present	Representing
Cllr Alasdair Christie	Council Member THC
Gail Beverage	Holm Community Council; Ness Castle resident
Murray McCheyne	Holm Community Council
Donna Grant	Lochardil PS Parent Council
Ruth MacKay	Head Teacher, Holm PS, THC
Audrey Kellacher	Head Teacher, Lochardil PS, THC
Fiona Shearer	Area Care & Learning Manager, THC
Dorothy Gibb	Principal Estates Officer, THC
Fiona Sangster	Project Co-ordinator Estates, THC
Alan Paul	Estates Officer
Ian Graham	Road Safety Officer
Steven McRoberts	Contract Manager, Kier Construction
Finlay Niven	Senior Site Manager, Kier Construction
<b>Apologies</b>	
Robert Campbell	Estates Strategy Manager, THC
Kenny Murray	Education Adviser, Capital Estates Projects, THC

Item	Discussion and comment	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Covid update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cllr Christie welcomed everyone to the meeting.</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>Confirm stakeholder attendees and terms of reference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No further comments received.</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SMR introduced Finlay Niven, Senior Site Manager for Keir Construction.</li> <li>Finlay shared and ariel photograph of the site. AC asked for pictures to be circulated and shared on THC social media/website. SMR to send to DG.</li> <li>Relocation of site office is now underway.</li> <li>Foundations are in and the focus now is on the steel structure and ground works.</li> <li>Despite losing four days due to a combination of procurement and lost time due to delivery delays, the project is still on track at present.</li> </ul>	<b>SMR/DG</b>
4.	<p><b>Safer Routes to School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DG introduced Ian Graham to the group. Ian has recently joined THC as a Road Safety Officer.</li> <li>IG talked about the School Travel Plan he is working on for Ness Castle. There are plans for a road safety assessment, looking at what can be done to improve the safety of travel</li> </ul>	

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	<p>routes for those walking or cycling to school and also for those using wheelchairs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IG will create a map of safe routes to distribute to parents/pupils.</li> <li>The option of a Park and Stride from the nearby Tesco was discussed – encouraging parents to drive part of the way and then walk the rest.</li> <li>There are plans for a consultation which will be designed on survey monkey. IG will prepare this and then discuss it with the Stakeholder group before arranging for it to be opened up for two months to provide an opportunity for feedback and ideas. The survey will be advertised on THC social media, issued to teachers in the area, the Community Council and residents association, and also through local adverts in shops etc.</li> <li>Need to identify a way of sharing and gathering information from prospective parents/pupils once the new HT is in place.</li> <li>IG also offered to liaise with both Holm and Lochardil Primary Schools.</li> <li>DG noted that the outcome will be broad covering lots of areas. When school goes live the Travel Plan will become a living document and will be updated regularly.</li> <li>MMC was encouraged by IG joining the group and the progress made.</li> <li>MMC added that the Ness side development will not be built in a way that a bus can access it until 2024 therefore, bus transport will not be an option from that housing estate to begin with.</li> <li>AC noted that Developer Contributions should be made available for funding buses.</li> <li>DG confirmed that school estate capital funding is not available to fund buses. Developer contributions should be considered. Off-site works including street lighting and traffic signals on Dores Road are required through the planning conditions for the school; this is something that should perhaps have been considered at the planning stage for the housing development.</li> <li>The CC and Councillors are to contact Planning to encourage the creation of the bus route being required sooner.</li> <li>AC to request a status report on developer contributions and send to FS for distribution.</li> <li>MMC also noted that this issue should be re-visited when the bus route is installed, and people should be encouraged to use the bus service. As previously discussed, the option of a bus monitor being employed is an option.</li> <li>DGrant commented that the option for park and stride from Tesco's would be a concern to her as a parent as the road is extremely busy and suggested that other options should be considered e.g. Crossing Patrollers.</li> </ul>	<p>IG</p> <p>IG</p> <p>MMC/AC</p> <p>AC</p>
5.	<p><b>Staffing and migration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FShearer noted that the Head Teacher post has now been job-sized – this takes into account Phases 1 and 2, the number of</li> </ul>	

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	<p>classes, staff requirements etc. but this may change when we know the final rolls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The HT post is expected to be advertised this month with the appointment being made as soon as possible.</li> <li>Similar to what happened at Milton of Leys, it is hoped to start engaging with families in the area soon.</li> <li>The subject of migrating staff is to be followed up with Workforce Planning. This usually starts in January/February each year after nursery and P1 enrolment weeks.</li> <li>AC asked about Placing Requests to the new school. FShearer confirmed that current legislation around placing requests will be followed. It is hoped that the pressure on Lochardil and Holm primaries will ease as some pupils will move to Ness Castle. THC will engage with families at those schools first to identify requirements, before accepting placing requests.</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>Community benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No further progress at present although SMT confirmed that there was now a new Kier member of staff in place so discussions would take place soon.</li> <li>List of items already established to be worked on but also looking to identify local community benefits so would welcome suggestions/ideas.</li> <li>MMC expressed his delight at the noticeboard installed at the site and asked about displaying a CC newsletter. MMC to send to DG who will liaise with FN to have displayed.</li> <li>AC noted the HLH commitment to use their community staff to work with Holm, Lochardil and the new school.</li> <li>No site visits have been planned with Holm or Lochardil pupils as yet, partly due to Covid restrictions, but Kier are happy to do this in the future. Meanwhile, Kier have offered to visit the schools to give presentations and to engage and promote the construction industry.</li> <li>DG suggested that ariel photographs of the site were sent to the schools regularly to share with pupils.</li> <li>AC noted that the THC Press Office has purchased a drone. Ruth Clelland contact for this should we wish to use it.</li> <li>SMR talked about the Hollowbuilder software used weekly on site which basically provides a digital streetview walk through effect and suggested that this could be shared with pupils.</li> <li>AC asked that the group consider Inter-generational benefits, not just children but the wider community. AC and MMC to discuss options for this. AC also appealed for Drummond School to be included in any offers of site visits/engagement.</li> </ul>	<b>MMC/DG</b>
7.	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MMC asked if all of the tree removals had now taken place.</li> <li>DG informed the group that there were still two trees that we intend to have removed – the oak tree and a beech tree close to the new school entrance. We have to go back to Planning before we can remove them. DG to send MMC a plan showing the two trees referred to.</li> </ul>	<b>MMC/AC</b>
8.		<b>DG</b>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AC requested that the local community to be informed through the noticeboard in advance of the trees coming down.</li> <li>DG noted that the reasons for the removal of the trees were discussed at the last meeting in June. The oak tree had been mis-classified as a veteran oak and had therefore previously generated a lot of interest in saving it. It has now been re-examined and classified as a category U tree but there may still be some concern locally about its removal. Similarly, the beech tree has been identified as having a fungal disease that has the potential to cause catastrophic failure so there is concern that sharing this information may cause alarm. DG to go back to Planning in the first instance before any information is displayed about their removal.</li> <li>MMC asked if a name for the new school had been decided. FShearer noted that this had been discussed at the last meeting and that there was a procedure to follow when the new HT had been appointed. Although we are referring to it as the school at Ness Castle for now, locally it is already being referred to as Ness Castle Primary School. The official name will be determined after consultation with prospective pupils and staff as well as the Stakeholders, Councillors and local community.</li> </ul>	DG
8.	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>Wednesday 27 October 2021 at 6.30 pm on Microsoft Teams</p>	