

Torridon Primary School Update - Repurposing the school

Our consultants SKS are currently conducting a feasibility study to help determine which of the many ideas for Torridon Primary School we should proceed with.

As part of this, they are keen to speak to as many people in the community as possible. They will be with us next week on 15th & 16th November. They will host drop-in sessions at Torridon Stores & Café and Torridon Community Centre and everyone is encouraged to attend. A separate invite will be sent out shortly.

Our main SKS contact is Kerrien Grant, also on the team are Nicky Hesketh and Susan Warren. Plus Matt Bridgestock from JGA Architects. Members of the local sub committee who have been working on the school project will also be there.

After these sessions we will receive an options appraisal report from SKS. The report will tell us which ideas could work, and those that won't. And why.

So, if you have something to say, it is vital that all your ideas are discussed with the team during the drop-in sessions. This will evidence the community's enthusiasm for making them happen and help to inform appetite for a wider community meeting as part of the upcoming decision-making process.

Development Plan update

Repurposing the school is just one aspect of the development plan. To maintain momentum, it is crucial to get additional help, and not just rely on volunteer time. It is proposed to employ a Community Development Officer from April 2024, initially on a 12-month contract. To pay for this resource we submitted an expression of interest to Highland Council (HC) Community Regeneration Fund (Round 2) for £40k. We have now been asked to submit a full application so that's the first hurdle successfully negotiated!

But (there's always one) as the fund is oversubscribed, we are unlikely to receive the full amount. This means we need to explore options for match funding - for example, perhaps a local crowd funder. Another option we are looking into is to apply to The National Lottery, but this is still likely to require a local top up of some sort. If we can't find match funding we won't receive the bulk of the money from HC, so we'll keep you posted!

Keep up to date

Further updates will be sent out via Visit Torridon mailing list, please share the information with anyone who you know is not online, paper copies are available on request. You can view all documents associated with the repurposing of the school and the full development plan at <https://www.tkcc.scot/communitydevelopmentplan>

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