

**Minute**

**Subject:** Site Recovery Group Meeting

**Venue:** Library, St Ambrose High School, Coatbridge

**Date:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 5.00pm

**Attendees:** Terry Currie DL (Chair)  
 Dr Christine Davidson (Independent scientific advisor)  
 Michael McGinley, Head teacher, Buchanan High School  
 Ellen Douglas, Head teacher, St Ambrose High School  
 Kate Robb, Parent council, St Ambrose HS  
 Mark McQuade, Parent council, St Ambrose HS  
 Katrina McGhie, Parent council, Buchanan HS  
 Anita Cassidy, Parent, Buchanan HS  
 Paul Breslin, Parent, St Ambrose HS  
 Andrea Ford, Parent, St Ambrose HS  
 Keith Falkingham, EIS  
 Angela Boyd, SSTA  
 Louise Brown, NASUWT  
 Sharon Harvey, UNISON  
 Josh Petrie, Pupil, Buchanan HS  
 Demi Kelly, Pupil, Buchanan HS  
 Niamh Carroll, Pupil, St Ambrose HS  
 Hannah Cunningham, Pupil, St Ambrose HS  
 Father Michal Kane, Chaplain, St Ambrose HS

**Also present:** Gerard McLaughlin, North Lanarkshire Council  
 Stephen Penman, North Lanarkshire Council  
 Matt Costello, North Lanarkshire Council  
 Chris Sullivan, North Lanarkshire Council  
 Dr David Cromie, NHS Lanarkshire  
 Matthew Byerly, WSP

**Apologies:** None

**Scribe:** Margaret Sharp, North Lanarkshire Council

Item	Subject	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b></p> <p>Everyone was welcomed to the group and introductions were made.</p> <p>The Independent Chair highlighted the following points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ his purpose is to make good progress in relation to the Review Recommendations and to receive assurances that actions have been implemented diligently;</li> <li>▪ his intention is to give everyone the opportunity to contribute to the discussion;</li> <li>▪ it is important, at the outset to state that, although all individual points may not be agreed upon, it is important that respect is maintained at all times;</li> <li>▪ a number of other people will be invited to attend to the meetings. They too should be treated with respect. All members are encouraged to be prepared to challenge but it is important to do this in a constructive manner;</li> <li>▪ to avoid talking over one another the normal meeting practice of seeking the Chair's permission to speak should be adopted;</li> <li>▪ to ensure that all business is progressed and give everyone the opportunity to contribute, it will be helpful if points are made in a concise fashion;</li> <li>▪ frequency of meetings and specific meeting dates will be discussed further down the Agenda; and</li> <li>▪ Minutes should be issued in a timely fashion and issued to everyone quickly. Communications will be discussed further down the Agenda.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Terms of Reference</b></p> <p>A copy of the Terms of Reference was distributed and discussed. Details of which are outlined below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To receive and consider ongoing monitoring reports from North Lanarkshire Council in respect of water quality, indoor air quality and the gas membrane.</li> <li>2) To receive and consider reports from North Lanarkshire Council about works to address ground settlement on the campus and other ongoing maintenance.</li> <li>3) To question officials from North Lanarkshire Council about these reports and raise any concerns about their contents.</li> <li>4) To seek the opinion of independent experts on monitoring results.</li> <li>5) To raise concerns about any health, safety or maintenance issues in respect of the campus.</li> <li>6) To publish periodic reports (the frequency of such reports being a matter for consideration by the group) on the group activities to be shared with the wider campus communities and the Education and Families Committee of North Lanarkshire Council.</li> </ol> <p>The group agreed they were satisfied with this and happy to proceed.</p>	
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Council Response to Review</b></p> <p>Stephen Penman introduced himself, Andrew McPherson and Chris Sullivan to the group and gave a brief overview of the council's response to the review. It was acknowledged that the level of concern was not identified by the council as quickly as it should have been. The Council is keen to implement the review recommendations including air quality testing, water testing, internal and external maintenance and annual assessments. Reports will be published on the progress of ongoing monitoring and assessment.</p> <p><u>PCB hotspot</u></p> <p>The identified hotspot has had work undertaken. Area removed, capped and slabbed. Consultants have validated this work. Validation certificate completed.</p> <p>A few questions were asked regarding further hotspots and soil samples. It was confirmed that there are no further contaminants.</p> <p><u>Gas Membrane</u></p> <p>Chris Sullivan showed a diagram of the gas membrane and how it works. Air testing mechanism for monitoring and recording emissions is currently being researched. Cannot dig down to obtain samples in case membrane is breached. This will ultimately be incorporated into the building management system.</p> <p>Keith Falkingham, EIS, asked if it would be possible for this to monitor other gasses and emissions. It was advised that other gasses could be monitored but only volatile organic compounds would cause concern.</p> <p><u>In-air Testing</u></p> <p>Air quality monitors have now been installed in schools in 4 locations across 2 campuses. Commissioned by Glasgow Scientific Services to monitor carbon monoxide and dioxide. Tests are carried out at 5 minute intervals. All results are satisfactory. Sensors have been fitted across estates and will be monitored through contractor. It was stressed that data sharing is a key part of the process.</p>	

Buchanan & St Ambrose High Schools Site Recovery Group

	<p>The group was asked if the monitoring should be continued. Council happy to continue monitoring process, establish baseline and share information. This would help gain assurance that the site is as safe as possible. Dr Christine Davidson suggested that volatile organic compounds could be added to the testing suite. Andrew McPherson agreed that the council would design a new testing regime and confirm that it was suitable with Dr Davidson.</p> <p><u>Water Testing</u></p> <p>A diagram was shown providing details of the water supplies to the school and the significant changes made. Chris explained the difficulties with the previous system and then detailed some of the works done to upgrade the system including re-alignment, replacing of copper piping, upgrade to constant flushing system and update of signage.</p> <p>A water quality testing regime is currently ongoing. Over 1200 samples have been carried out in this area alone.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Campus Maintenance</b></p> <p>Currently landscaping of playground and landscaping &amp; settlement of ground surrounding building. Internal decoration of school for children.</p> <p>Settlement surrounding building going forward – settlement action plan to be produced and shared with group in future. There is no settlement at this time. May schedule settlement work at Summer break in line with action plan.</p> <p>Question was asked regarding the water at Buchanan. Copper pipes still in use at school but only with non-drinking water. No problems have been highlighted since last chemical analysis. Quality will be monitored as part of ongoing testing regime.</p> <p>A question was asked about taps being removed from use. Chris Sullivan explained the need for the removal of ‘dead legs’ and will be happy to clarify if further information is required. It was again stressed that the need for communication is paramount.</p> <p>Christine Davidson advised that she was encouraged by some of the things she had heard over the course of the meeting. She clarified also that just because something is detected doesn’t mean that it is hazardous. Colleagues were asked to obtain a sample of blue water, if present, to be tested.</p> <p>If it is a concern of the group that further air sampling is proposed then it has to be recognised. Proposal for volatile organics for testing purposes. It is important to state that there has been little or no volatile compounds in recent/historical contamination.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding arsenic contamination. Arsenic was not detected in testing. No reason to suspect it is coming from the ground.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p>Stephen Penman outlined that it was important to the council that the group remains independent to the council. An email address has been established at <a href="mailto:siterecoverygroup@northlan.gov.uk">siterecoverygroup@northlan.gov.uk</a>. It is also important that it remain open and transparent.</p> <p>It was agreed that a website for the group is to be designed by school pupils (aided/designed with the help of Corporate Communications Team if required). Website for sharing of information only (no feedback). All feedback should be made via the mailbox.</p>	

<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>Structure of Meetings - This was discussed briefly. An agenda would be based on core business with standard items.</p> <p>Measures should be put in place to explain the current situation to pupils with learning difficulties. Communication is key. Council officers agreed that this would be progressed.</p> <p>The chair raised the attendance of council officers. The group confirmed they were happy for this to continue at present.</p> <p>A brief discussion took place regarding the benefits and disadvantages of NHS/private medical testing. Dr David Cromie fielded questions and provided information. He reiterated the findings of the independent review, which was consistent with NHS Lanarkshire's advice, that general testing was not considered appropriate.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Meetings will take place in St Ambrose High School, Coatbridge at 5.00pm</p> <p>22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019</p>	