

PRESS RELEASE.....8th November 2007.....Errol Airfield
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The latest stage for the new and exciting residential and industrial opportunity at Errol Airfield comes before Perth and Kinross Council's next Development Control Committee on 15th November. At a previous meeting of the Committee in April this year, the Members delivered a positive decision by 11 votes to 2, that they were 'Minded to Grant', subject to appropriate conditions and a Legal Agreement covering issues relevant to the Development, being brought back to Committee for consideration. The Development Control Committee will deliberate on these issues, although the final decision on the development will come from the Scottish Ministers, who require to be statutorily consulted on this type of proposal.

The proposal is to build 240 houses, reduced from 410, of which there will be 60 affordable plots that have been gifted to Fairfield Housing Association.

Conditional on approval, there will be a commitment by the Morris Leslie Group to build their new headquarters and training centre at Errol, which will effectively anchor the company locally and allow the Group to continue its expansion plans that currently has over 1,110 jobs employed in property owned by the Company in Perth and Kinross. In total an additional 60,000 sq.ft of commercial property will be built on site allowing further economic development at a time when it is sorely needed.

A suggestion that, where practical, locally produced Errol Brick is used in the development, which will help to protect the 27 jobs currently employed by that company as well as improving the carbon footprint. Similarly locally produced trees and shrubs should be used in the landscaping.

The proposal already brings an unprecedented raft of planning gains to the local community that former local developments have never offered. As well as the 60 affordable plots and the total of 60,000 sq. ft. of industrial, there is a £200,000 contribution to the Errol Community Association to allow completion of the new Errol Community Hall, a contribution to the upgrade of the 'cutting' on Station Road, a proportional contribution to education that the possible 40 Primary pupil places that may be required for 240 houses. Bearing in mind that there is a current refurbishment of Errol Primary School that will have planned for some future growth and that this development will not see houses being occupied for at least 2 years.

At a time, when on a daily basis, we hear of the need for more housing, more affordable housing, more economic development and all preferably on 'brownfield sites' the Errol Airfield proposal ticks all of those particular boxes as well as offering further generous planning gains that truly benefits the local community.

