

**The Highland Council
City of Inverness Area Committee**

Minutes of Meeting of the **Inverness City Arts Working Group** held in the Second Floor Committee Room, Headquarters, Inverness on Thursday 28th April 2016 at 1.30 pm.

Present:

Mr K Gowans
Mrs B McAllister
Mr T Prag
Mrs H Carmichael

In attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
Mr J Kellman, Principal Project Manager, Development and Infrastructure Service
Ms C Shankland, Exhibitions Officer, High Life Highland
Mr A Campbell, Director at Dress for the Weather, Lead Artist
Mr P Deverell, Director, Creative Scotland
Ms N Drummond, Team Leader Development Management, Development and Infrastructure Service
Miss L Mackay, Administrative Assistant, Business Support

Mr K Gowans in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr G Ross

2. Declarations of Interest

There are no declarations of interest

3. Exclusion of the Public

The Working Group **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public should be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Gathering Place Focus Group - Feedback

The Gathering Place Focus Group took place at 10am on Thursday 28th April 2016 and officers and members fed back to the Working Group. Discussion took place regarding the feedback as follows:-

- It was a very positive meeting with a viable site worthy of investigation being offered from officers with all external organisations present offering positive comments about the site
- The outcome of the meeting was the preferred site identified is directly opposite Eden Court between the main road bridge and the infirmary bridge (Eden Court Riverwalkway)
- Reasoning behind the recommendation Included;
 - the context of the site in relation to the roadway, river and neighbouring buildings including the Castle
 - in terms of amenity there was minimal impact visually and it would enhance the area
 - it is already a busy area with a tourist tie in and a part of the Cultural Quarter as identified by the Inverness City Vision
 - the site is not particularly susceptible to flooding
 - It's surrounded by complimentary contemporary art and architecture
 - There is consistent water flow at the bank and the structure can be scaled to fit the environment
 - It wouldn't impact on residential amenity as it is a generally non-residential location
 - It is not envisaged that there are any insurmountable technical challenges.
- The Project Team have visited the site and are also very favourable towards it, they especially valued the performance aspect of Eden Court that could be tied in to the performance aspect of the Gathering Place.
- All other sites suggested had similar reasons why they were not suitable, this site did not bring up those same issues
- It is important going forward that the press are brought in early and kept well informed throughout.
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- The public requested the project was not at Friars Shott and the Working Group has listened to this
- The Economic Assessment by Mr S Westbrook clarified that this area was adjacent to Eden Court was favoured, There will not be another public consultation; the issues raised in the survey have been addressed. There should be public engagement, workshops, walkthroughs and open days for example.
- A report will be produced with the recommendations of the Focus Group and it will then be for the Working Group at the next meeting to take decisions regarding the next steps for the Project.

Thereafter the Working Group:-

- I. **AGREED** That a report should be produced in the next 10 days to go to the next Working Group regarding the next steps for the Gathering Place Project and
- II. **NOTED** that a press release would follow

5. Children's Water Feature

The River Ness Public Art Evaluation Panel took place on Monday 18th April after a call for artists on the Creative Scotland and the Highland Council websites. There were 7 expressions of interest, 3 were shortlisted and Bespoke Atelier was selected

by the panel. The student panel did a shadow evaluation the following day and came up with the same conclusion

Ms C Shankland presented the proposal that was made to the panel, it covered:-

- A selection of the Artists previous work, including patterns, illustrations and map making in a variety of materials
- The Artists work very closely with communities that they are producing art for
- The Artists had carried out research and offered site analysis and potential themes and inspirations including the green spaces and the industrial nature, quiet versus busy in a short space of time, patterns from the area based on wildlife and nature, scented and decorative plants
- They offered four potential sites as a starting point for investigation as part of the brief with students

Mr K Gowans offered a presentation of a Water Feature art piece from Saskatoon, Canada to offer an example of what can be achieved.

Discussion included the following:-

- Safety has to be a top consideration
- It should be accessible for all
- Children like to explore and think that they might be being dangerous
- It could be spread out across the city, rather than just one piece a number of smaller pieces leading to a bigger piece
- Whin Park could be used as a finisher
- Can't take it too far from a regeneration area
- If it is split up into too many small things it may not be seen as an attraction

Thereafter the Working Group

- I. **AGREED** with the selection of Bespoke Atelier by the Public Art Evaluation Panel
- II. **AGREED** that a full report should be presented to the Working Group

6. Date of next Meeting

The Working Group **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Friday the 13th May 2016

AOCB

The meeting concluded at 2.35 pm.