

Inverness City Arts Working Group

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Inverness City Arts Working Group** held on 7 March 2017 at 2.00pm in the 1st Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness.

Present:

Mrs H Carmichael
Mr T Prag
Mr G Ross

In Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager, Corporate Development
Mr J Kelman, Principal Project Manager, Development and Infrastructure
Ms C Shankland, Exhibitions Officer, High Life Highland
Ms R Cleland, Corporate Communications Manager, Chief Executive's Office
Ms L MacGregor, UHI Art Student, River Ness Public Art project
Mr D McNaught, DeuXality
Miss L Farquharson, Administrative Assistant, Finance Service

Mr T Prag in the Chair

Business

1. Apology for Absence

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mrs E McAllister

2. Declaration of Interest

The Working Group **NOTED** the following declaration of interest:

Item 5 – Mr G Ross (non-financial)

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 item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Actions from Previous Minutes

There had been circulated Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 December 2016 which were **NOTED**.

At this point, it was confirmed that the Minutes of this meeting - and also the Minutes of the meeting held in December - would be submitted to the next City of Inverness Area Committee meeting on 19 June 2017 for approval.

Members were also advised as follows –

- actions under the Project Management decisions had been undertaken;
- the Access Panel had been consulted in respect of the installation of pavement studs for the River Connections seats;
- work was currently underway with Bespoke Atelier on the identification of sites at the Ness Islands; and
- the Common Good Fund budget had been approved for the current year.

5. River Connections Public Art Project Programme

Declaration of Interest - Mr G Ross declared a non-financial interest in this item on the grounds of having a close relative who was a local artist but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraph 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude his involvement in the discussion.

There had been circulated Report No ICArts 01/17 by the Inverness City Area Manager dated 1 March 2017 which provided an update on progress with the project, including the work of the Gathering Place Evaluation Panel. In this regard, a recommendation had been made in respect of the new contract for the Gathering Place.

At this point, it was confirmed that the Evaluation Panel had met on 15 December 2016 to assess the tenders for the Gathering Place with a second meeting having taken place on 26 January 2017.

Thereafter, the Working Group was provided with an update on progress in regard to each project as follows:-

River Connections

Mary Bourne had completed the River Connections project and all remaining seating had now been installed in Bank Street. In addition, pavement studs were to be installed around the seating to make a barrier for the visually impaired.

Rest Spaces

The first Rest Space 'Explore' was now ready to be installed. During discussion, the Working Group **AGREED** to release Phase 1 - the Viewing Platform 'Explore' - which was due to be installed on Bank Street. Phase 2 'Perch' and 'Bask' would be released at a later date.

Sculptural Destination

There had been some reservations expressed by residents in Wells Street about the green spaces of Friar's Shott. However, it was noted that a

Community Engagement Event was to be held in May at the Methodist Hall for residents to meet the artist.

Trail

The Project Team were liaising with other City Centre Signposting projects within the City to make sure that people could move around the City in a coherent way. In this regard, and following discussion as to whether to brand the Trail in the same way as the other Signposting projects, it was agreed to retain the Trail's own identity (although it was noted that there could be some cross-over in terms of branding).

Children's Water Feature

The Ness Islands had been considered as a potential site for the Children's Water Feature and in this regard the Exhibitions Officer (assisted by Laraine MacGregor (UHI Art Student) who was on placement with the River Ness Public Art project) gave a presentation on the Art and Design workshops which provided an opportunity for children to work closely with the Artist to input into the design of the Water Feature. In this respect, four Primary Schools had been selected - St Joseph's Primary, Crown Primary, Merkinch Primary and Daviot Primary. The workshops had taken place on 27 and 28 February and the ideas from the pupils would now be considered and interpreted by the Artist.

Thereafter, the Working Group:-

- I. **AGREED** the recommendation within the report to commission Sans Facon for the new Gathering Place;
- II. **AGREED** the approach to community engagement as proposed by the Artist;
- III. **NOTED** the progress which had been made on Rest Spaces, Sculptural Destination, the Trail and the Children's Water Feature as detailed in the report; and
- IV. **AGREED** the options which had been presented in regard to access issues concerning the River Connections project.

6. Financial Monitoring

There had been circulated Report No ICArts 02/17 by the Inverness City Area Manager dated 1 March 2017 which set out the revenue monitoring position for the period to 31 January 2017 and showed the actual expenditure to date.

During a summary of the report, the Inverness City Area Manager confirmed that there was a reduced contingency with pressure on the Management Budget.

Also, in regard to Other Spends, it was noted that the Common Good Fund had made the allocation for £114,000 for the current financial year. Application for funds had been sent to Creative Scotland and confirmation had

been received from HIE that their grant had been extended to November 2018.

The City Area Manager invited the Working Group to note that now that the project programme is in place, officers will be mapping out the need to make sure that officer time is allocated when it is needed and is profiled so it is very clear when going forward that enough money will be available. The next meeting of the Inverness City Arts Working Group will be looking ahead to see if there is a need to re-budget.

Thereafter, the Working Group noted the terms of the report as presented and **AGREED** that public consultations on specific projects must be contained within that budget.

7. Press relations and forthcoming PR opportunities and risks

It was **AGREED** that the Members on the Evaluation Panel should announce the successful artist for the Gathering Place. In this respect, it was noted that, due to the contractual process, the announcement of the successful Artist would be made in May 2017.

8. Augmented Reality App

There had been circulated Report No ICArts 03/17 by the Corporate Communications Manager dated 1 March 2017.

In this regard, the Communications Manager and Darroch McNaught, DeuXality, undertook a presentation at the meeting on Augmented Reality Apps during which it was confirmed that Augmented Reality was the idea of using targets or geo-located pinpoint locations to highlight local attractions e.g. the Castle whereby a phone could be focused on the Castle and a three dimensional image received.

Following discussion, it was **AGREED IN PRINCIPLE** that further consideration could be given to the use of Augmented Reality along the River on the basis that more detailed proposals would be submitted in due course to highlight how this could enhance a particular location.

9. Date of next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the date of next meeting would be confirmed in due course.

The meeting ended at 3.50pm.