

City of Inverness Area Committee

Minutes of Meeting of the **Events and Festivals Working Group** held in Committee Room 2, Town House, Inverness on Monday 27 February 2018 at 10.00 am.

Present:

Highland Council

Mr I Brown
Mr G Ross
Mrs T Robertson

Other Representatives

Ms P Burnett, Communications and Business Development Manager, Eden Court
Ms J Murray, Victorian Market Manager
Mr M Smith, Manager, Inverness BID
Mr M Whyte, Inverness College UHI
Ms A Wilson, Manager, Sales and Marketing Manager, Glenmoriston Town House (Inverness Hotels Association)

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager, Highland Council
Mr G Reynolds, Inverness Events Manager
Mrs A MacArthur, Administrative Assistant, Chief Executive Service

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs B McAllister and Ms J Cuddy, Manager, Eastgate Shopping Centre.

2. Appointment of New Member

Having welcomed Mr Martin Whyte to the meeting, it was **NOTED** that Mr Martin Whyte, Inverness College UHI had been appointed to the Events and Festivals Working Group.

3. Exclusion of the Public

It was **AGREED** that, under Section 50A(4) 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. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

There had been circulated Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 11 December 2017 which were **NOTED** with the following matters arising from the minutes:

4a Merchandising – the first Merchandising Sub Group meeting had been due to be held after the last meeting of the working group, but an unexpected Marketing and Merchandising meeting had been called on 17 January 2018 by Ruth Cleland, the Corporate Communications Manager at headquarters. The meeting had been attended by Ms J Murray and further information had been required for the large remit of that meeting. A second meeting will be held on 5 March to be attended by both David Haas and Jo Murray who will report back to the working group.

4b Riverlights – A visit to Durham had been undertaken with HIE. The Event Plan and Business Case for Riverlights was now being prepared for consideration by the Committee in August. Following the updated Street Lighting report presented to the City of Inverness Area Committee by the Director of Community Services on 22 February 2018, Riverlights had received favourable support and comment from the press. The proposed integration of Riverlights into the Street Lighting programme and the event timetable and scope is as follows:

February 2018 – Consultation with Community Partners – now in progress

August 2018 – Pilot Event Site Design

February 2019 – Riverlights Pilot Event

February 2020 – Riverlights – expansion to Bught Park

February 2021 Riverlights – Expansion to Harbour

February 2022 Riverlights – Expansion to Fort Augustus

October 2022 Riverlights – Inverness to Fort William

28 February 2018 – collaboration meeting with the Inverness College UHI.

23 March 2018 - Events Advisory Group Meeting – HIE

26 March 2018 – First Meeting chaired by Scottish Waterways.

4c Event Manager Continuity – Discussions were now underway.

4d – Bught Area Event Management Group – to be discussed at Item 11.

6. 2017/18 Budget

The Events Manager confirmed that the current expenditure of the Events and Festivals budget for 2017/18 was £292,217 of a total budget for the year of £320,000. In this regard, it was forecasted that the year-end budget would be balanced. The slightly increased budget for next year was due to the increased security requirements at events.

The 2017/18 budget position was **NOTED**.

7. 2017 Programme

The Winter Wonderland and Hogmanay events were successfully delivered without incident. The Whin Park event was staged in very difficult sub-zero temperatures, a big thank you to the team. A meeting had been held with David Sutton regarding the Whin Park Maintenance Programme. It was vitally important that the Whin Park pathways were kept in a good state of repair. The partial pathway between the Rugby Club and Whin Park required hardstanding as the path was in a very poor condition and led to people walking on the road.

The response to the Hogmanay Show had been tremendous and again the event passed without incident.

In relation to the Hogmanay Show, the Events Manager provided an update on arrangements being made to book bands for 2018 and emphasised the quality of the award winning bands which had previously been attracted to perform at the event. The Hogmanay show had been a credit to the Highlands and good quality feedback had been given for a very polished show and the quality of the production. It was noted that access to the Event Control Room would be restricted in future; and that the possibility of televising the Hogmanay event on line was to be explored.

Thereafter, the position was **NOTED** and the Working Group **AGREED** to:

- i. arrange for the exclusion of public to the Event Control Area; and
- ii. to research the possibility of televising the Hogmanay event with BBC Alba.

8. Riverlights Update

The working group **NOTED** the discussion that had taken place under item 5.

9. Marketing and Merchandising Sub Group

The working group **NOTED** the discussion that had taken place under item 5.

10. Meeting with UHI

Mr David Whyte looked for an enhanced relationship with the UHI and the Council. The Events Manager had met with George Parker and the UHI had been keen to link with the Council and bring future events into the curriculum with student involvement. Mr Chris O'Neil, the new UHI principal was very supportive and keen to have students involved, he would be giving a presentation to the next meeting of the Inverness City Committee.

The position was **NOTED**.

11. Bught Park Area Event Management Group

The Events Manager provided an update on the Traffic Green Line established by the sub group and the first major event, the Inverness Rowing Club Regatta had adopted the traffic management recommendations and it had worked well.

The recommendations had also been during adopted the Race for Life planning.

Mr G Ross stated that the residents of houses in the area had concerns with the impact of road closures for events held in Bught Park. Businesses were eager to have the main artery road leading from the ice rink to Whin Park and the Rugby Club remain open at all times so that businesses were not impacted.

Consideration was currently being given to permanent additional traffic management signage

Thereafter, the position was **NOTED**.

12. Correspondence Received – Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland

The Events Manager advised of a letter received from the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland (based in Lewis) whose preference for no Sunday events was noted. It was noted that the city's programme was designed not to clash with Church services wherever possible.

The Committee thereafter **AGREED** to delegate the response to similar matters to the Chair, Events Manager and Inverness City Area Manager.

13. Date of Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the date for the next meeting would be 16 April 2018 at 10.00 am.

The meeting ended at 11.10 pm.