

### River Connections – Mary Bourne

#### Background and concept

River connections is a programme of public art commissions to enhance the River Ness Flood Alleviation Scheme creating a sense of place at the environmental heart of the city

A series of interventions along the river, including seating areas and poetry set into paving stones and coping stones of the flood wall which refer to the natural history and other river stories.

#### Update August 2019

This project is complete.

#### Consultation

Consultation was carried out through the following methods for the River Ness Art Programme

- Public consultation events
- Public Survey - launched January 2016
- Exhibition
- Artist – led community consultation and co-curation
- Informal public consultation by artists and team members
- Community engagement and research in development of artists' briefs
- Professional advice (evaluation panel)
- Meetings with specific community and business groups
- Stakeholder events (including community councils)
- Education Programme
- Social media and website
- ICArts Working Group - Member engagement with Community Councils, Inverness BID and the Lochness Tourism BID

## Public consultation events (all commissions)

- Trinity Hall - 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015 – all Community Councils invited. Attended by Community Council representatives who received a presentation on the concept of linking the River and the Community. This embedded the theme of the project programme which has underpinned all work to date
- Eastgate Centre - 23 January 2016 – Full details of the project programme were displayed in the central forecourt on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Display Boards and Members of the ICArts Working Group along with the Lead Artist and Officers were present and discussions took place with members of the public who were informed about the projects. This fed into project development which allowed for continuing focus on linking the River with the Community.
- Inverness Museum & Art Gallery exhibition and media launch - 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – a further opportunity was given to meet the Artists and provide information to Media from which significant TV and Newspaper coverage followed. This event was designed to increase the profile of the Project Programme and again gave clear focus on linking the River and the Community.

## Specific Activities undertaken as part of the Engagement Events

### Exhibition – Promotional Opportunities

- An exhibition about all the River Ness Art Projects was displayed at the Engagement Events held in the Eastgate Centre Inverness on Saturday 23 January 2016 and then viewed in Inverness Museum and Art Gallery until 20 February 2016.
- A series of 6 pull up banners were commissioned and maquettes of some of the artworks were exhibited.

## Stakeholder events (including Community Councils)

- The Engagement Events at Eden Court - 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016 (all commissions) and
- Eden Court - 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 (My Ness) provided for input from cross – sections of the Community including Business Representatives, those with an interest in the built environment and Community Councils.

## Education programme

- Schools project with Architecture + Design Scotland - this was undertaken as part of the Development Phase of the Project Programme. In 2013/14 it involved engagement with young people about what they thought of the River

and how they believed the Project Programme could be developed to best reflect their views.

- Artist-led adult workshops
- 2015 Mary Bourne – River Connections
- The Bike Shed 7/8/9 May
- Poetry Portholes project for flood wall
- Poetry and stone carving workshops led by Mary Bourne and Ken Cockburn with Breathe (alcohol and drug misuse rehabilitation group)
- Community Portholes incorporated into Flood Wall (now installed) and set of postcards created Sat 23rd May
- Faith Writing Group – circle poems for Flood Wall with Ken Cockburn
- Pole UK – Polish Creative Writing group – circle poems

### Social Media

- Email [icarts@highland.gov.uk](mailto:icarts@highland.gov.uk)
- Twitter [#rivernessarts](https://twitter.com/rivernessarts)
- Facebook
- [http://www.highland.gov.uk/homepage/39/river\\_ness\\_art\\_project](http://www.highland.gov.uk/homepage/39/river_ness_art_project)

### Planning

This Artist installation formed part of the River Ness Flood Alleviation Scheme works. Planning permissions for was deemed as Permitted Development

### Impact Assessments

- **Environment**

An environmental Impact Assessment was undertaken by Mott MacDonald and formed part of the Ness River Flood Alleviation Scheme planning application ref 08/008628/FUL. The available document can be found on the following link [https://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/files/E9D516DBBD7AC272BD8082C8868B18B8/pdf/08\\_00862\\_FULIN-ENVIRONMENTAL\\_MANAGEMENT\\_PLAN-521084.pdf](https://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/files/E9D516DBBD7AC272BD8082C8868B18B8/pdf/08_00862_FULIN-ENVIRONMENTAL_MANAGEMENT_PLAN-521084.pdf)

- **Access**

Consultation with the Access Panel was undertaken on the art pieces including River Connections. This engagement resulted in a decision not to use studs in the area.

An impact assessment has been undertaken on the overall programme. There were no particular impacts identified as a result of this series of art work pieces however,

as noted above, it was agreed that to improve accessibility, studs would not be used in the area.

- **Risk**

Discussions with Community Services took place prior to installation regarding allowing the correct space between the seating area and the edge of the pedestrian footpath. The works have been completed in accordance with this requirement.

## **Funding**

The River Connections project was fully funded from the Inverness Common Good Fund.

The budget for the project is as follows:

<b>Overall Budgets</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Agreed Budget</b>	<b>Spends to Date</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
	River Connections	£ 60,000.00	£59,895	£105

## **Programme Termination/Adjustment**

The project is completed.