

The Trail - Dress for the Weather

Background and concept

The purpose of this project is to map the river to create a trail from the Ness Islands to the river mouth, including local stories, natural history, heritage and other practical knowledge accessed through a traditional paper map or digitally by mobile phone. If budget or funding allows this may also include way markers

Update August 2019

This will be the last project to be delivered as it will incorporate all the artworks. The scale of the Trail will be dependent on remaining budget. Discussions have taken place with other sign-posting initiatives in the city including the Augmented Reality Trail. GPS and augmented reality targets can be incorporated into the Trail, to be accessed through a mobile phone, but will not link with the original augmented reality project. Extra costs will need to be found if this dimension is to be incorporated.

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
- 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 - 2nd 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 1st 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 - 19th 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.

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 - 23rd January 2016 (all commissions) and
- Eden Court - 22nd 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.

Social Media

- Email icarts@highland.gov.uk
- Twitter [#rivernessarts](#)
- Facebook
- http://www.highland.gov.uk/homepage/39/river_ness_art_project

Planning

No consents have been applied for as this project remains at the concept/design stage.

Impact, Environment and Risk Assessments

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

A risk assessment will be produced prior to installation

Access

Accessibility will be considered prior to the development of the design phase.

Funding

Funding for the trail is from:

- Inverness Common Good Fund
- Creative Scotland
- Highlands and islands Enterprise
- Development and Infrastructure Service

The budget for the project is as follows:

Overall Project Budgets	Agreed Budget	Spends to Date	Remaining Budget
The Trail	£ 25,000.00	£3,500	£21,500

Funders Position on Programme Termination/Adjustment

1. Programme Termination -

Creative Scotland - it is unlikely that Creative Scotland would seek to recoup payments already made, unless those payments were not used for the agreed purposes.

Highlands And Islands Enterprise (HIE) would withdraw the offer of any further funding and seek to recover from the Highland Council the sums paid out to-date of £10,374 on the grounds that the project was not completed following a decision made by the Council not to do so.

2. Termination of the Gathering Place (My Ness) Project and retention of the Children's Water Feature and Trail (the latter being agreed to be funded from the Education allocation within the Grant)

Creative Scotland – Noting the terms of the Grant, Creative Scotland would review their commitment to the Project Programme

HIE would withdraw the offer of any further funding and would review what had been achieved so far against the project's original goals. It is possible, following that review that HIE might seek to recover from the Highland Council the sums paid out to-date of £10,374 on the grounds that the project was not completed, on a decision made by the Council, to a degree to warrant the payment of the claim. The payment being made on the expectation that the project would be completed as agreed.

3. Termination of the current Gathering Place Project and agreement to seek a new Project for the Gathering Place/My Ness element

Creative Scotland - would not agree to support any further project to replace the current Gathering Place/My Ness element of the River Ness Public art project. Creative Scotland agreed to award funds based on the Stage 2 Capital application which remains the point of reference for releasing any funds relating to the project. It should be noted Creative Scotland's considerable concern at the level of expenditure incurred to date on the River Ness Public Art project, in particular the Gathering Place/My Ness design development, should all or part of the programme be terminated providing very limited public benefit for the cost incurred. Creative Scotland have confirmed their position is to see this project delivered as outlined in Highland Council's Stage 2 funding application

HIE - would withdraw the offer of any further funding and would review what had been achieved so far against the project's original goals and whether the original

fundere and particularly Creative Scotland remained in place. It is possible, following that review that HIE might seek to recover from the Highland Council the sums paid out to-date of £10,374 on the grounds that the project was not completed, on a decision made by the Council, to a degree to warrant the payment of the claim. The payment being made on the expectation that the project would be completed as agreed.

4. Termination of the Project Programme with funds being allocated to amenity improvements decided upon by the Council in consultation with Communities and funding partners.

Creative Scotland – position is as stated above

HIE - would withdraw the offer of any further funding and seek to recover from the Highland Council the sums paid out to-date of £10,374 on the grounds that the project was not completed following a decision made by the Council not to do so.

Highland Council – Funding was originally confirmed in August 2013 by the Planning Environment and Development committee when it approved funds from the City Gateway project for the ICARTS riverside project. The initial funding of £66k was supplemented by a further £40k at a later stage as another project was cancelled.

£40,000 of Development and Infrastructure funding has been drawn down into the Common Good account. £6,150 has been spent to date. The remaining £66,000 is unspent. The Director of Development and Infrastructure has advised that in the event of any of the above decisions being reached, any decision to continue funding would be referred to the Environment Development and Infrastructure Committee.
