

City of Inverness Area Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the **Events and Festivals Working Group** held in Committee Room 1, Headquarters, Inverness on Thursday, 4 April 2024 at 10am.

Highland Council:

Mr I Brown
Mrs J Hendry
Mrs K MacLean

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Senior Community Development Manager Inverness & South
Ms G MacPherson, Committee Officer

Also in Attendance:

Ms K Raite, Inverness Events Manager
Mr D Johnstone, Visit Inverness Loch Ness

Mrs J Hendry in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Mrs G Campbell Sinclair and Mr R MacKintosh.

2. Exclusion of the Public

The Working Group **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public 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.

3. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statements

There were no Declaration of Interest/Transparency Statements.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

There had been circulated and were **NOTED** the minutes of the previous Meeting held on 23 February 2024.

5. City Area Community Events Programme 23/24

The Senior Community Development Manager and the Events Manager provided updates on the Events Programme as follows:

Highland Games Update

A grant of £18,000 had been secured for the event, with the conditions that the funds could only be used for the event they were granted for and that the big top was for the Ceilidh and Games Day. It could not be sublet, commercialised, or used for any other purpose without consent. Thanks were afforded to the Events Manager for securing the funding.

A presentation was provided by the Events Manager and Senior Community Development Manager which included the following updates:-

- an explanation of the site plan;
- traders and tenders;
- family friendly measures. Members were asked, and **AGREED**, that it should be a family event and it had been confirmed that children were permitted to attend the evening Ceilidh providing suggested measures were in place:-
 - children were to be wristbanded to show they were under 18;
 - no under 18s permitted without an adult;
 - a ratio of maximum 2 children per adult; and
 - a designated family friendly area.
- entertainment included Clan Stunt Bikes and it was also hoped that there would be ferret racing;
- regarding Highland Games Hospitality, the Events Manager was seeking suggestions as to whom might wish to buy a table and she would liaise with Visit Inverness Loch Ness outwith the meeting to discuss;
- the Working Group **AGREED** The Ghillies Kitchen as caterer for Games Hospitality. Further clarification was given to available menus which would be broad ranging and inclusive;
- the Events Manager was to engage with last year's sponsors and contact would be made with the Provost in relation to any new sponsors;
- the budget summary to date was provided; and
- the Events Manager had been in contact with the Guinness World Records regarding holding the world's largest Ceilidh.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- it was hoped that being open to all ages would attract a bigger audience;
- clarity was given in terms of sharing structures with private sector events occurring at the same time. Appreciation was given to LCC Live Events for their cooperation in this regard. The implications in terms of cost saving were clarified as well as attendant risks;
- the budget benefits of holding the Ceilidh would allow for the games we delivered at less cost than budgeted and therefore benefit the overall community events budget on the basis of expected ticket sales being realised;
- the aim was to deliver an additional event which gave greater profile to the culture of the Highland Games, open to the whole community to attend at a reasonable cost; and
- it was queried if the Inverness Castle project could be linked with the event

and the Senior Community Development Manager would contact Fiona Hampton of High Life Highland to offer the opportunity to publicise the investment in the Northern Meeting Park, subject to there being no negative implication for the Games budget.

Other Events

Red Hot Highland Fling

Plans were being developed and the Working Group would be briefed in due course.

Bonfire Night

Discussions had been held with Firework Scotland but no further details as yet.

The Working Group **NOTED** the position and **AGREED** the actions raised as detailed above.

6. Budget – Update – 2023/24

The Working Group **NOTED** the information that had been circulated on the budget and that reports on programmed spend would be taken to future meetings of the Working Group.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group **NOTED** that the date of the next meeting would be Thursday 23 May 2024 at 2pm.

The meeting concluded at 11.15am.