

EVENTS AND FESTIVALS WORKING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held in the 2nd Floor Committee Room, Town House on Friday, 27 February 2015 at 3.00pm

Present

Highland Council

Mrs G Sinclair

Mr G Ross

Mr H Wood

Mr F Parr

Other representatives

Ms J Cuddy

Mr M Smith

Mr C Baillie (Highland Games)

Mr A Dick (Highland Games)

Also in attendance

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Manager

Mr G Reynolds, Inverness Events Manager

Miss J MacLennan, Democratic Services Manager

Miss L Farquharson, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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. Minutes of Previous Meeting

There had been circulated Minutes of the Meeting of the Working Group held on 29 August 2014 which were **NOTED**.

5. Inverness Hotels Association

It was **NOTED** that Ms I Davies, Inverness Hotels Association, had resigned as a member of the Working Group and that another representative from the Association would be sought in due course.

6. Inverness Highland Games

Representatives from the Highland Games Committee were in attendance at the meeting in order to discuss the arrangements for the Games on 18 July 2015. The Chair started the discussion by thanking the Games Committee for the successful delivery of the 2014 Games; the Masters World Championships; and the Guinness World Record establishing Tomatin Toss.

During the discussion:-

- It was noted that Inverness Harriers had been invited to serve on the Games Committee to help generate increased local participation in the track and field events;
- Consideration was given to the incorporation of additional events, such as a Road Race or Hill Race;
- The Working Group considered the promotion of sponsorship opportunities in relation to the road race and other new events;
- It was noted that if additional events were to be included that consideration needed to be given to the timings of such events on the day;
- It was agreed that Bught Park was considered to be the most appropriate venue for an expanded event; and decided that a feasibility study should be undertaken by the City Manager and the Events Manager;
- It was noted that work was underway with the Military exploring possibilities for their involvement at future events;
- It was agreed that the work undertaken to have specific attractions for children should be continued and increased wherever possible to increase the appeal of the event for families;
- If possible, special guest should be invited to attend in order to further increase interest and attendance;
- consideration should be given to identifying sources of additional funds

Thereafter, it was **AGREED** that all of the above issues should be pursued and that the City Manager and Events Manager should undertake a feasibility study as soon as possible on the potential use of the Bught Park in July.

It was also **AGREED** that a further meeting of the Working Group should be scheduled for early April in order to consider the results of the feasibility study and to allow an update to be provided on any further progress with the issues which had been raised.

7. Review of 2014 Events

A verbal update was given at the meeting by the Inverness Events Manager on the following:-

- (i) Highland Military Tattoo
- (ii) Masters World Championship 2014;
- (iii) Parade of Highland Clans;
- (iv) Guinness World Record – Caber Tossing;
- (v) Kirking of the Council;
- (vi) Royal National MOD;
- (vii) Halloween Cancellation;
- (viii) Bonfire;
- (ix) Christmas Lights;
- (x) Ding Dong Merrily Old High;
- (xi) Halloween Take 2;
- (xii) Winter Wonderland;

(xiii) The Red Hot Highland Fling.

It was noted that all the events had been successfully and safely staged within budget and had been well attended.

The Working Group noted the postponement of the Halloween Show (due to flooding at Ness Islands); the cancellation of The Wee Hot Highland Fling (following the fatal road traffic accident on the morning of December 31st); and the work that was now underway to redesign the Christmas Lights Switch On Event (following the commencement of building work at the front of the Town House).

In this regard, it was **AGREED** that further discussion should be undertaken between the Inverness Events Manager and BID representatives in relation to the arrangements.

8. Budget Update 2014/15

A verbal update was given at the meeting by the Inverness Events Manager in regard to the Budget 2014/15 which was forecast to be within budget. This was **NOTED**.

9. Marketing and Promotion Review

A verbal update was given at the meeting by the Inverness Events Manager during which it was confirmed that further discussion would be undertaken with BID representatives in relation to help with publicity for the Hogmanay arrangements; and also the promotion and advertising of other events throughout the year where possible.

The position was **NOTED**.

10. Dates of Meetings in 2015

It was **NOTED** that dates for further meetings during the year would be confirmed in due course.

The meeting ended at 4.50pm.