

**The Highland Council
City of Inverness Area Committee**

Minutes of Meeting of the **Inverness City Arts Working Group** held in the First Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness, on Thursday, 6 August 2015 at 11.30am.

Present:

Mr K Gowans (Chair) Mr T Prag
Mrs B McAllister Mr G Ross

Officials in attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
Mr C Howell, Head of Infrastructure, Development and Infrastructure Service
Ms C Shankland, Project Manager, High Life Highland
Miss J MacLennan, Democratic Services Manager

Also in Attendance:

Mr A Campbell, Dress for the Weather
Ms Una Lee, Urban Designer, Development Plans

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs H Carmichael (Provost) and Mr D Taylor (Creative Scotland).

2. Declaration of Interest

Mr G Ross - Items 6 and 7 (non-financial)

3. Membership

It was **NOTED** that Mrs Helen Carmichael had now replaced Mr Ian Brown on the Working Group (following her appointment as Provost and Leader of the City).

In this regard, it was **AGREED** that the City Area Manager should write to Mr Brown to formally convey the thanks of the Group for his contribution and the work which he had undertaken to date.

4. Exclusion of the Public

The Group **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50(A) 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.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

There had been circulated Draft Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 29

May 2015 (which were to be submitted to the next meeting of the City of Inverness Area Committee) which were **NOTED**.

6. Flood Alleviation Scheme – Project Update

Declaration of Interest – Mr G Ross declared a non-financial interest in this item on the grounds of having a close relative who was a local artist but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors’ Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude his involvement in the discussion.

A Verbal Update by the Head of Infrastructure was provided at the meeting on the delivery of the River Ness Flood Alleviation Scheme (particularly pertaining to its effect on the art works) during which it was confirmed that Phase 1 was now complete with work continuing in relation to Road Safety Audits.

In regard to Phase 2, which was expected to be completed by the end of August, it was confirmed that discussion was ongoing with Harbour Officials in relation to security fencing and it was hoped that this would be resolved at an early date.

It was also advised that the pedestrian crossing in Huntly Street and replacement of the Bridge joint were to be undertaken in September and that liaison on technical issues would be continued with artists who were working on the project.

The Working Group **NOTED** the position as detailed.

7. River Ness Flood Alleviation Scheme – Public Art Project

Declaration of Interest – Mr G Ross declared a non-financial interest in this item on the grounds of having a close relative who was a local artist but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors’ Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude his involvement in the discussion.

There had been circulated Report No. ICArts 07/15 dated 28 July 2015 by the Inverness City Area Manager which highlighted progress made since the last meeting and provided an update on the Launch Event and Private Members Briefing.

An update was also provided at the meeting on the current status of the following projects – River Connections, Sculptural Destination, The Gathering Place, The Trail, Rest Spaces – Dress for the Weather and the Children’s Riverside Feature.

During discussion, Members stressed that a clear analysis of what was achievable in relation ‘The Gathering Place’ was necessary, particularly in regard to any potential delays and the subsequent impact on the other projects, and that a report in this regard should be submitted to the next meeting.

It was also suggested that public consultation should be undertaken on the siting of the project (which was crucial to all the other projects which had been listed) and that no decisions should be taken or opinions formed by the Group in advance of such consultation. In this regard, there was a need for close liaison with Corporate Communications as this was a very public project which was likely to be subject of much interest by the local media in the coming months.

In relation to 'The Trail', it was agreed that work should continue on the website and interactive app with direct links to GPS for Android and iPhone with costs in the region of £3-5k.

It was also noted that costs for the 'Gaelic Trail' as described by Ruaraidh MacLean at the last meeting were expected to be an additional £2250 plus expenses and in this respect it was suggested liaison should be undertaken with TBID and the Gaelic community to explore the potential for the sharing of these costs if possible.

Thereafter, the Working Group **AGREED**:-

- (i) to fund an Economic Impact Assessment to cost a maximum of £3k which would establish the potential impact of locating the Gathering Place in locations which had been assessed as technically feasible by Officers, all set in the context of the remaining projects within the project programme;
- (ii) to the inclusion of direct links for Android and iPhone Apps at a maximum cost of £5k, within the Trail project; and
- (iii) to the additional cost of the Gaelic Trail, subject to the anticipated costs detailed above being shared if reasonably possible in the view of the City Area Manager in consultation with the Chair.

And **NOTED**:-

- (i) the progress in establishing the timelines for project delivery and ensuring the optimum application of resources;
- (ii) the ongoing work on the preferred siting of some installations, particularly in relation to the options for The Gathering Place (including the provision of an Economic Impact Assessment to ensure they were in scope for the project) and the potentially competing interests for using the site at Friar's Shott; and
- (iii) the development work being undertaken on the Children's Riverside Feature, the Trail and Rest Spaces.

8. Wayfinding in Inverness City Centre

There had been circulated Report No. ICArts 08/15 by the Inverness City Area Manager which summarised the outcome of a recent review and analysis of wayfinding in Inverness City Centre and explained how understanding of the City could be improved by adopting a Legible City approach.

Initial steps to develop this approach were also highlighted, including consultation with relevant stakeholders to produce a prototype map.

During discussion, it was confirmed that development of wayfinding in the City Centre would allow the provision of a recognisable and trusted approach for tourists in the area and would highlight places of interest. In this regard, it was suggested that liaison should be undertaken with the Inverness Marketing Group wherever possible.

It was also confirmed there might need to be some refinement to what was being proposed in light of the discussion at the previous item but that this would be conveyed to Members in due course if necessary.

Thereafter, the Working Group otherwise **NOTED** the proposal as detailed.

It was also **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to the City of Inverness Area Committee the appointment of a Consultant to engage with and secure buy-in from relevant stakeholders and to develop a prototype map which would be funded by the Inverness Common Good Fund up to a maximum of £5,000.

9. Financial Monitoring

There had been circulated Report No ICArts 09/15 dated 29 July 2015 by the Inverness City Area Manager which set out the revenue monitoring position for the period to 30 June 2015 and showed actual expenditure to date.

In this regard, it was confirmed that a new form of statement would be issued in future to provide additional information.

Thereafter, the Working Group otherwise **NOTED** the terms of the report as circulated.

10. Mercure Project - Update

It was **NOTED** that the Inverness City Area Manager had met with the Hotel Manager and that with the Hotel ownership changing hands, a meeting in August/September would be arranged between the new owners and the Hotel Manager who had been briefed on the original project which had been seen positively and worthy of revisiting.

In addition, a claim for outstanding Streetscaping funds relating to the Ramada and other projects had been submitted to Creative Scotland who were being kept informed.

11. Date of Next Meeting

It was **AGREED** that the meeting scheduled for 21 August should be cancelled on the basis that a revised date for this meeting would be confirmed in due course.

The meeting ended at 1.30pm.