

**City of Inverness Area Committee**

Minutes of Meeting of the **Events and Festivals Working Group** held in 1st Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness on Tuesday, 18 August 2015 at 3.00 pm.

**Present:**

Highland Council

Mr G Ross

Mrs G Sinclair

Mr H Wood

Other Representatives

Mr M Smith, Manager, Inverness BID

**Officials in Attendance:**

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Manager

Mr G Reynolds, Inverness Events Manager

Miss J Green, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Development Service

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

Ms L Mackay, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office

**Mrs G Sinclair in the Chair**

**Business**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Fraser Parr, Highland Council, Ms J Cuddy, Manager, Eastgate Shopping Centre and Mr C Marr, Chief Executive, Eden Court Theatre.

**2. 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.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

There had been circulated Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 6 July 2015 which were **NOTED**.

## 5. Update on 2015 Events

An update was provided at the meeting by the Events Manager on the Inverness Gala, Highland Games and 10k Road Race.

During discussion the following comments were made:-

- the Saturday was really successful and the spectators enjoyed both the Highland Games and the 10k Road Race;
- the Inverness Harriers anticipated a minimum of 1000 runners at next year's 10k Road Race as a result of the inaugural race;
- it was pleasing to see the number of nationalities in the stand and the high turnout from the Army;
- the Games Committee were giving consideration to moving some of the events staged on the Sunday into the programme for Saturday;
- the marquees at Bught Park could be used in the evenings by other groups;
- there was potential to increase the involvement of school pupils by including football tournaments; and
- consideration was to be given to increasing the variety of food and drink and crafts which were available.

It was **AGREED** to consider the comments that were raised during discussion and finalise arrangements for next year's events at a future meeting.

## 6. 2015 Budget Forecast

An update was provided at the meeting by the Events Manager on the budget forecast which was **NOTED**.

## 7. Report to City of Inverness Area Committee September 10 2015

An update was provided at the meeting by the Events Manager on the report, supported by the Provost, to be circulated to the City of Inverness Area Committee on 10 September 2015, which requested consideration of the budget for 2016/17 to assist in marketing and planning of future events.

During discussion the following points were raised:-

- the report should include the comment that Inverness Events and Festivals was proven to be the best marketing tool the Council had;
- Inverness BID now concentrated on three events, Easter, the Car Show and the Street Festival, which were all in their fifth or sixth year, and in addition provided encouragement and support to other events; and
- the list of future events would be included in the report and further detail would be reported closer to the time once the arrangements had been agreed with the various stakeholders.

It was **AGREED** to circulate a report to the City of Inverness Area Committee on the 10 September 2015.

## **8. Any Other Business**

An update was provided at the meeting by the Events Manager on the Winter Festival Programme.

During discussion:-

- it was agreed to contact schools about the Guy Making Competition for Bonfire night;
- in relation to arrangements for the Christmas Lights Switch On Event which would be held at the Market Brae Steps instead of the Town House due to the renovation works, it was agreed to speak to Mr J Beaton, Area Lighting Engineer and to consider available funding;
- it was agreed that the press conference to launch the Winter Festival Programme should be held after the report had been approved at the City of Inverness Area Committee on 10 September 2015.

Thereafter, it was **AGREED** that all of the above issues be perused and a press conference to launch the Winter Festival Programme be held following the meeting of the City of Inverness Area Committee on 10 September 2015.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 8 October 2015.

The meeting ended at 4.15 pm.