

ICArts Working Group

Minutes of the Meeting of the **ICArts Working Group**, held in the Second Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness on 13 May 2016 at 2.00pm.

Present:

Provost Helen Carmichael
Cllr Thomas Prag
Cllr Graham Ross
Cllr Bet McAllister

In Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
Ms C Shankland, Exhibitions Officer, High Life Highland
Ms S Barrie, Acting Programme Manager, Development & Infrastructure
Ms C Jarmy, Clerical Assistant, Business Support

Mr T Prag in the Chair

Business

1. Appointment of Chair

Following the resignation of Mr K Gowans, it was **AGREED** that Mr T Prag would chair this meeting and thereafter act as Joint Chair with Provost H Carmichael for future meetings.

It was also **NOTED** that there was now no representative from the SNP Group on the Working Group but that they would be entitled to take up their place again in the future if they chose to do so.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

3. Declarations of Interest

The Committee **NOTED** the following declaration of interest:-

Items 5 and 6 – Mr T Prag (non-financial)

4. Exclusion of the Public

The Working 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. Gathering Place Focus Group

Declaration of Interest – Mr T Prag declared a non-financial interest in relation to part of this item on the basis of being a member of the Eden Court Board 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 him from taking part in the discussion.

Minutes of ICArts Focus Group 28th April 2016

There had been circulated Minutes of Meeting of the ICArts Focus Group held on 28 April 2016.

In this regard, it was **AGREED** that the Minutes should be amended to reflect the absence of Mr G Ross.

It was also **AGREED** that the final version of the Minutes should be agreed with the Working Group Members following amendment by the City Manager in conjunction with Democratic Services.

6. Gathering Place Project Programme

Declaration of Interest – Mr T Prag declared a non-financial interest in relation to part of this item on the basis of being a member of the Eden Court Board 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 him from taking part in the discussion.

The Acting Programme Manager highlighted the progress made on the Gathering Place Project Programme and in this regard it was suggested that a Site Visit should be undertaken at the Eden Court River Walkway.

During discussion, Members also raised the following issues:-

- use of the old roadway – there was an opportunity to create a new pedestrian environment in the vicinity of the Gathering Place which would enhance the use of this space;
- the wider environment – consideration should be given to the adjacent pedestrian accesses to the Hospice and Eden Court as there could be advantages in enhancing such accesses;

- enhancement of the Augsburg Flower Beds – there was an opportunity to enhance the local environment by including the adjacent Augsburg Flowerbed in the plans to invest in environmental improvements. In this regard, it was confirmed that the City of Augsburg had also expressed an interest in becoming involved in this aspect of the project and it was suggested that contact be made with the Mayor’s office to progress this in due course;
- forward public relations strategy – the need to develop a wider understanding of the project as it moved from the concept stage through to detailed design was outlined and it was felt that this could be an opportunity for stakeholders to become involved. As such, it was suggested that an Information Day should be held as soon as possible to highlight how the project team were taking account of the river and the community environment. In relation to the forward public relations strategy which had been circulated, it was stressed that it was important for the project to be presented in a positive way and that it was vital that the Working Group responded appropriately to any concerns coming forward from the local community; and
- it would be helpful if Members could be briefed prior to the next City Committee meeting and a Community Engagement and Stakeholder event held on the same day if possible (with attendance by one of the artists and an invitation extended to Mr J Mooney) and a detailed design schedule prepared prior to the event to show the positive impact of the artwork in the context of the surrounding area.

Thereafter the Working Group **AGREED**:-

- (i) that an Information Day should take place for Members and Stakeholders;
- (ii) to adopt the forward public relations strategy;
- (iii) to move forward to the detailed design phase;
- (iv) that an interview should be arranged for the Joint Chairs and one of the artists with the local press; and
- (v) that a Site Visit should be arranged for Members.

7. Date of Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday, 22 June at 9.00am and that additional meetings might be called in the interim if necessary.

The meeting ended at 3.15pm.