

Inverness City Arts Working Group

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Inverness City Arts Working Group** held in the First Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness on Thursday, 10 August 2017 at 2.30pm.

Present:

Mrs H Carmichael
Mr A Christie

Mrs I MacKenzie
Mrs B McAllister

In Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
Mr J Kelman, Principal Project Manager, Development & Infrastructure
Ms R Cleland, Corporate Communications & Resilience Manager
Miss J MacLennan, Democratic Services Manager

Also in attendance:

Ms C Shankland, Exhibitions Officer, High Life Highland

Business

1. Appointment of Chair

It was **AGREED** to appoint **Mrs I MacKenzie** as **Chair**.

2. Apology for Absence

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr G Ross.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

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 Paragraph 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

5. Actions from Previous Minutes

There had been circulated Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 7 March 2017 which were **NOTED**.

In this regard, it was confirmed that updates would be provided during the next item on the Rest Spaces and Sculptural Destination projects.

6. River Connections Public Art Project Programme

There had been circulated Report No ICArts 04/17 dated 2 August 2017 by the Inverness City Area Manager which provided an update on the progress of the projects, with a particular focus on community engagement plans.

In this regard, it was noted that Mrs B McAllister had attended a Site Inspection earlier in the day regarding locations for the Children's Water Feature, the Sculptural Destination and the 'Explore' feature of the Rest Spaces project.

Specific updates were then provided at the meeting as follows:-

River Connections

There had been a series of interventions along the river, including seating areas and poetry set into the paving stones and copes of the flood wall which referred to the natural history and other river stories. As such, the project was largely complete and had come in under budget at £56k (which was £4k less than the original budget of £60k).

The only remaining issue was the addition of paving studs (which had been recommended by the Access Panel). In this respect, it was confirmed that consultation had been undertaken with Sight Action and RNIB and it was planned to also set up a Working Group (involving other Council Services) to consider this and other related issues. It was further agreed that consideration should be given to the production of a template/pro forma which could be used by the Access Panel and other organisations in the future as necessary.

Worker's Memorial

The Worker's Memorial, which had had funding support from the River Ness Public Art Project and had been created by one of the artists but was not one of the commissions, had been completed during the summer.

Rest Spaces

The first Rest Space entitled 'Explore', and which would project over the riverbank, was now ready to be installed. However, the preferred site had proved to be unsuitable as the Flood Wall (which had the original wall at its base at that point) was not strong enough to support the construction in that area.

An alternative site had therefore been identified and it was now proposed that the platform should be sited further along Bank Street and opposite the Mercure Hotel. In this respect, consultation would be undertaken with the artist and detailed photographs circulated to Members of the Working Group, along with arrangements for publicity of the new site in due course.

It was noted that further Rest Spaces would be budget-dependent.

Sculptural Destination

The artist had designed a work entitled 'Seer' based on the geology and mythology of the river which involved creating 'Seeing Stones' between which people could stand to view the city. She would be casting the 'stones' from resin infused with bronze powder which would glow when the sun shone on them and would be taking the casts from rock on either side of the river to illustrate the geological fault. The process of taking the casts would take place at the end of August/beginning of September and permission was currently being sought for this to take place with the work then being built in the studio.

The proposed site for this artwork was Friar's Shott and in this respect it was suggested that further detailed consideration should be given to location. Specifically, it was suggested that it might be more appropriate to locate the work on the flat grassed area which was further away from Friar's Bridge than the original location. As such, it was imperative that a meeting was set up with the artist, the Community Council and local residents to fully discuss this project in early September.

It was confirmed that the view of the Working Group was that the alternative site at Friars Shott (on level ground and adjacent to the Worker's Memorial) was preferred.

The New Gathering Place

This project had been re-tendered following which a contract had been issued to Sans Facon and OSA. The new artwork would be developed by the artists through engagement with the community although it had to be recognised that the budget had been reduced and therefore aspirations had to be managed. The final concept, based on the artists' assessment of the community's view of the link between the river and the people, would remain with the artists and would be produced in line with the Artists' Brief.

The launch event had taken place on 23 June 2017 and further engagement plans would be submitted by the artists in due course. In this respect, it was confirmed that the engagement plans would be circulated to Working Group Members when received and that engagement with the general public would be given a high priority.

Children's Feature

The Children's Water Feature would be an interactive artwork informed by and for young people with two site-specific locations on Ness Islands having been suggested by the artists.

Following consultation with the local Community Council and Working Group Members, a preferred site (Site 2) had now been identified which was near to the Suspension Bridge alongside the river. This site would now be discussed with the artists and progressed to the detailed design phase following which a further update would be provided.

The Trail

This was the last project to be delivered as it would incorporate all artworks and in this respect discussion had been undertaken with other sign posting initiatives in the city, including the AR Trail.

However, although GPS and augmented reality targets could be incorporated into the Trail using a mobile phone application, this could not link with the AR project so additional funding would be required if this was to be added.

In this respect, it was suggested that any potential opportunities to gain further income, perhaps through advertising, should be investigated in order to provide additional funding.

Thereafter, the Working Group **NOTED** the project updates as detailed.

The Working Group also **APPROVED** –

- (i) the recommended site (Site 2) for the Children's Water Feature; and
- (ii) the adjusted site at Friar's Shott in relation to the Sculptural Destination, noting that the local residents in the immediate vicinity were to be engaged.

7. Financial Monitoring

There had been circulated Report No ICArts 05/17 dated 2 August 2017 by the Inverness City Area Manager which set out the revenue monitoring position for the period to 30 June 2017, including details of actual expenditure to date.

In this regard, specific reference was made to the summary of funding allocation and the monitoring of management fees.

It was also confirmed that consideration would be given to the provision of maintenance arrangements for all projects.

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

8. Press relations and forthcoming PR opportunities and risks

A verbal update was provided at the meeting by the Communications and Resilience Manager on recent media coverage in relation to the projects within the public art project programme during which it was confirmed that a refreshed communications plan would be considered to coincide with revised timelines for projects where necessary.

It was also noted that media coverage would be arranged in terms of the appointment of the new Chair of the Working Group (perhaps through a walkabout around current projects), to provide further clarity (managed by the

artists) on what was being planned for the new Gathering Place project, to highlight the proposals (again managed by the artists) for the Children's Water Feature in particular and to involve local people who had a connection to the Worker's Memorial.

The position was **NOTED**.

9. Date of next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the date of the next meeting (which was likely to be in October) would be confirmed in due course.

The meeting ended at 4.20pm.