

**City of Inverness Area Committee  
Inverness City Arts Working Group**

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Inverness City Arts Working Group** held in the Second Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness on Tuesday 9 April 2019 at 2.00 pm.

**Present:**

Mr I Brown  
Mrs H Carmichael  
Mrs I Mackenzie  
Mr G Ross

**In Attendance:**

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager  
Ms R Clelland, Corporate Communications and Resilience Manager  
Mr J Kelman, Principal Project Manager, Development and Infrastructure Service  
Miss J MacLennan, Principal Administrator, Chief Executive's Service

**Also in attendance:**

Ms C Shankland, Exhibitions Officer, High Life Highland

**Mrs I MacKenzie in the Chair**

**Business**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Item 5 – Mr G Ross (non-financial)

**3. Exclusion of the Public**

The Working Group **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public 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.

**4. Actions from Previous Minutes**

There had been circulated Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 15 January 2019, the terms of which were **NOTED**.

Arising from the Minutes it was reported that:-

## Item

4. the letter to the artist for the Sculpture Destinations had been sent.
5. planning permission had now been granted for My Ness. In relation to The Trail, discussions were continuing with Creative Scotland investigating possible funding sources.

### 5. **River Connections Public Art Project Programme**

**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 him from taking part in the discussion.**

There had been circulated Report No ICArts 03/19 by the Inverness City Area Manager dated 2 April 2019. In presenting the report, an update was provided on the Project Programme which included detailed information on the progress of each project. More detailed discussion did however take place on the following:-

#### **Rest Spaces – Dress for the Weather**

Preliminaries works had been undertaken. Currently, some final details were being addressed in relation to the installation which principally related to ensuring that the structure meet all current Health and Safety Regulations through appropriate Risk Assessments noting new information. It was anticipated that it would be in place as soon as reasonably practicable once the position had been confirmed.

#### **My Ness**

A new Fishermen’s Hut was proposed as part of the overall development. Initially, the Ness Angling Club (NAC) had hoped to construct it through “in kind” support from the club’s members, although this had since not proved feasible. Consequently, it had since undergone a formal design and construction process. Indicative costs were provided and Members were advised that it was the responsibility of the NAC to access sources of funding. Work was ongoing and constructive discussions were continuing with the NAC Secretary and nominated Representative to ensure that appropriate assistance was being given to the NAC.

The tendering process for contractors to carry out the installation of My Ness was underway. Once received, officers would evaluate them. Members would be kept apprised of progress and it was noted that the revised budget had been reduced as a result of the reappraisal of the Project agreed by the City of Inverness Area Committee on 1 July 2016.

In relation to general aspects of the Programme itself, the following matters were discussed:-

## Planning Permissions

It was recognised that each project had involved different artists and different briefs and therefore the process had been complex but officers had worked hard to progress matters in full compliance with legal requirements and Council's Standing Orders. Indeed, as well as the consultation which routinely took place once an application was submitted, in relation to My Ness, officers had consulted with appropriate bodies (SEPA, Scottish Natural Heritage, Flood Team etc) in advance.

Furthermore, progress on each project had been well documented and minuted at meetings of the Working Group, the minutes of which were reported to the City of Inverness Area (CIAC) Committee, without objection. It was also open for any Member of the CIAC to join the Working Group to influence what was proposed. Accordingly, for information and clarification, the Inverness City Area Manager confirmed the status of each project, in terms of the planning process, as follows:-

- Rest Spaces – Dress for the Weather – deemed, as street furniture, as Permitted Development in February 2015 (subject to the assessments currently referred to above)
- Sculptural Destination - Permitted Development
- My Ness – Full Planning permission granted under delegated powers on 19 February 2019. In this regard it was also confirmed that it had been advertised in January 2019, contrary to some suggestions that it had taken place over Christmas. A presentation had also been made to Ballifeary Community Council, whose broad co-operation had been welcomed, by the Inverness City Area Manager on 18 March. Assurances on points raised at the meeting, had subsequently been given at a further meeting with the Treasurer of the Ballifeary CC in relation to water flow, trees and wildlife which had been well received.
- Children's Feature – received Full Planning Permission in December 2018

It was accepted that these terms might need explanation but information surrounding all planning applications was publicly available. In addition, the reports and minutes of meetings of the South Planning Application Committees where any River Connections planning applications had been considered were online, in the public domain, and could be provided to whomever as necessary. Due Public Consultation had taken place and, where appropriate, comments taken into account.

My Ness, tenders were expected shortly and there would be an opportunity, when publicly announcing who the successful contractor was, to address concerns.

The Working Group **NOTED**:-

- i. the developments with the Rest Spaces;
- ii. the progress with the Children's Water Feature;
- iii. the progress on "My Ness" (formerly the Gathering Place);

and **AGREED**:-

- iv. drawings of the Fishermen's Hut be circulated to Members of the Working Group together with information as to its progress; and
- v. Members be kept informed of the outcome of the My Ness tendering process.

## **6. Financial Monitoring**

There had been circulated Report No ICArts 02/19 by the Inverness City Area Manager dated 24 December 2018. The report set out the revenue monitoring position for the period to 31 December 2018 and showed the actual expenditure to date.

The budget remained on target but it was important to draw Members' attention to the fact that the longer the projects continued the greater pressure on Budgets. In relation to sources of funding, the City of Inverness Area Manager confirmed that these were all still available.

The Working Group otherwise **NOTED** the content of the report.

## **7. Press relations and forthcoming PR opportunities and risks**

For My Ness, tenders were expected shortly and there would be an opportunity, to announce the successful contractor following due process. Any press releases for all the artworks should contain planning status information for transparency. The Communications Plan would be updated accordingly as the projects developed.

The Working Group **AGREED** that, as the delivery of each project approached, the City of Inverness Area Manager liaise with the Corporate Communications and Resilience Manager to cover the key facts, with Members being informed accordingly.

## **8. Date of next Meeting**

The Working Group **NOTED** that the date of the next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 11 June. If required, a meeting could be called before that date.

The meeting was closed at 4.20 pm.