

BLAIRGOWRIE COMMON GOOD FUND COMMITTEES

7 May 2014

EVENTS ON COMMON GOOD LAND**Report by Depute Director (Environment)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The report seeks approval that the Executive Director (Environment) be delegated to authorise the location and relocation, as required, of events on Council Parks and Open Spaces which form part of the Common Good.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 Parks and green spaces managed and maintained by the Council add to the quality of life experienced by residents in the area and visitors to Perth and Kinross. They are a focal point for communities, and their importance to people's everyday lives are widely recognised.
- 1.2 Commercial and non-commercial events in Parks attract thousands of residents and visitors to the area. New and repeat event visitors bring important economic benefit to local businesses and add vibrancy to the area. Key Park events include the Perth Show, Scottish Volleyball Championships and Highland Games across Perthshire.
- 1.3 As well as being a driver for tourism, a strong programme of events and festivals adds to the vibrancy and vitality of the area, and to the overall quality of life for residents. Perth and Kinross has a good track record in hosting a broad spectrum of sporting, cultural and community events, with significant growth in attendances and participation in recent years.
- 1.4 With the restoration of city status to Perth and the emerging Regeneration and City Development strategies, it is recognised that our parks and open spaces will play a significant role in attracting and hosting events over the coming years.
- 1.5 The wide range of parks and green spaces in the Perth and Kinross area vary considerably in size, character, level of "on site" facilities, (e.g. parking, electricity and water supply) as well as the nature of suitability for events.
- 1.6 Parks and green space are readily accessible and affordable for a wide range of organisers and are booked by a mixture of commercial and non commercial groups, individuals, businesses and organisations (charitable or non charitable). The parks are also used for Council events and civic ceremonies.
- 1.7 In recent years, a range of upgrading and refurbishment work has been completed to key parks throughout the Perth and Kinross area including MacRosty Park, Crieff; Kirkgate Park, Kinross; Larghan Park, Coupar Angus and Victoria Park, Aberfeldy. Drainage improvement works recently

undertaken on the South Inch will allow that space to be used more widely in the future.

1.8 Commercial use of parks include fairs, circuses, car rallies, tent shows and balloon flights. The type of non-commercial events booked by a community or charity include:

- Highland Games (Perth, Pitlochry, Crieff, Birnam) and Pipe Band Championships
- National sports events – Scottish National Volleyball Championships; cross country championships; 10K runs; Rugby Club “Golden Oldies”
- Firework displays
- Race for Life, an annual event on the North Inch with around 3,000 participants
- Strathmore and the Glens Farmers Market, Wellmeadow, Blairgowrie
- Fun days
- Car Boot Sales
- Religious events e.g. Wellmeadow – Songs of Praise
- Diamond Jubilee Celebration Events in 2012.
- Galas and fetes

1.9 At present, the location of events or movement of an event from one location to another is reported to the relevant Common Good Fund Committee for a decision where the land involved forms part of the common good.

1.10 Recent experience has also shown that poor ground conditions and / or restricted access can happen quickly and do not permit reporting to the relevant Committee, with officers determining the most appropriate alternative location. An example was the move of Perth Highland Games from the lesser South Inch to the North Inch due to the condition of the ground.

2. PROPOSALS

2.1 With the potential projected increase in events, it is proposed that the location and relocation of events on Council Parks and Open Spaces be delegated to the Executive Director (Environment), or their nominee, to ensure that decisions can be made quickly where an event or events need to be relocated urgently owing to ground or inclement weather conditions. The Environment Committee noted that a report was being prepared for all Common Good Fund Committees recommending that the Executive Director (Environment) be delegated to authorise the location and relocation, as required, of events on Council Parks and Open Spaces which form part of the Common Good.

2.2 Regardless of the circumstances, local elected members would be informed of the location for an event, or change of location, within their ward.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The report outlines the economic benefits that events bring to the Perth and Kinross area and the pivotal role that the Council's parks and green spaces play in hosting and staging these events.
- 3.2 The proposed change should ensure that we retain the vibrancy of our parks, still provide popular destinations for communities, event organisers and sports groups and contribute to the economic development of the area. It will also ensure that, where necessary, events can be relocated without delay.
- 3.3 It is recommended that all the Common Good Fund Committees:
- (a) agree that the Executive Director (Environment) be delegated to authorise the location and relocation, as required, of events on Council Parks and Open Spaces which form part of the Common Good.

Author

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Barbara Renton	Depute Director (Environment)	24 April 2014

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	Yes
Financial	Yes
Workforce	Yes
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	Yes
Assessments	None
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Yes
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	Yes
Consultation	Yes
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	Yes
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 The proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives

Corporate Plan

1.2 The proposals relate to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities:

- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives;

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 There are no financial issues arising from this report.

Workforce

- 2.2 There are no workforce issues arising from this report.

Asset Management (Land, Property and IST)

- 2.3 The Council is preserving its grounds maintenance assets by utilising Parks and Open Spaces as effectively as possible.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.
- 3.2 This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following Outcome:
- (i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals. The proposals have been considered under the Act and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

- 3.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.
- 3.5 The proposals have been assessed in terms of the requirements to manage the Council's Greenspace assets in a sustainable long term way.

Legal and Governance

- 3.6 The Head of Finance and the Head of Legal Services have been consulted on the content of the report.

Risk

- 3.7 There is a risk of events being lost to the local area if decisions to move their location on common good land cannot be made quickly.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Legal Services, the Head of Democratic Services, the Head of Cultural and Community Services, and the Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

External

- 4.2 Event organisers will be consulted on a case by case basis if a change of location on common good land occurs.

5. Communication

- 5.1 Local elected members would be informed of the location for an event, or change of location, within their ward.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

- Charging Criteria for Parks Events and Football Bookings presented to the Environment Committee on 26 March 2014 (Ref 14/119).