

Additional Stakeholder Organisation Engagement

Challenge URL: <https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/29fuel9z7l>

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Response from GRASS (Grassmarket Residents Association)

Title	Response from GRASS (Grassmarket Residents Association)
Idea	<p>I have reviewed in outline your request for assistance in shaping the public spaces management plan consultation. It raises more questions than it answers, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) We have participated in several of these exercises over the years eg 2016 focus group. We neither see the outcome of these consultations nor evidence that they have been acted upon. We have to ask will 2020-21 be any different. 2)I find the technology involved in the four streams and 'conversations' complex, confusing and not conducive to complete unless one has limitless time. Hence I have written you an email. You are more than welcome to treat it as public information and add it to the appropriate places on your website. 3) There is no indication as to how the responses to any public survey will be evaluated. Does an Edinburgh citizen who does not live in the city centre

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	<p>and who had a good time at a Summer Sessions pop concert count as counterbalancing a city centre resident who has been affected by noise and crowds on the night as well as disruption to the Gardens for weeks on either side of the event?</p> <p>4) The city centre spaces with which we are most concerned, namely the Grassmarket and Princes Street Gardens are important to the city for much wider reasons than festivals, films and other events. They are an integral asset to the city's heritage and the health and wellbeing of its residents. The pandemic, for example, revealed the popularity of the Grassmarket as a place to sit as many residents do not have access to private green spaces.</p>
<p>Why the contribution is important</p>	<p>A management plan for these spaces needs to take a much broader approach.</p> <p>A couple of examples may be effective in illustrating the problems of the Grassmarket which experiences a number of competing demands already from large walking tour groups, a Saturday market, pubs and restaurants who seize every chance to extend their outside tables and chairs legally or illegally as well as Fringe shows, buskers and people, both tourists and residents, trying to cross the space. A small but effective initiative by residents working with Council staff and the police was a ban on amplified music accompanied by large and well designed publicity hoardings. A less successful example was the closure of Victoria Street for a week for the filming of Fast and Furious without any prior consultation until street closure notices appeared. One has to ask whether the filming was compatible with the city's carbon neutral ambitions or how much money it generated for the Council. It strikes us that there are far too many Council officials from different departments involved in decision making about events and filming without anyone consulting residents. Someone from roads used to notify us but that seems to have stopped in recent years. Residents expect us to know what is happening in advance and whom to complain to which can be difficult to ascertain at weekends when officials are unavailable. The Grassmarket is also unsuitable for many events eg those involving young children as there are no public toilets.</p> <p>I apologise as this may not be the type of response that you are looking for. Looking at your headings you have covered the main issues of concern. It would be much more productive if you can send us a draft for the Grassmarket and the Gardens to react to in terms of issues like parking, litter removal etc. It has been our experience that the many fine words that have been written about managing the Grassmarket as a public space have rather too rarely been put into practice.</p> <p>Elspeth Wills – Chair, GRASS 20/12/20</p>
<p>Created by</p>	<p>Ian_CEC (Site Admin)</p>
<p>Date</p>	<p>29 Dec 2020 03:52PM</p>
<p>URL</p>	<p>https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/29fue19z7l/response-from-grass-grassmarket-residents-association</p>
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<p>Rating</p>	<p>Average: 3.50, Number of votes: 4</p>
<p>Topics</p>	
<p>Number of comments</p>	<p>2</p>

<p>Comment by Ian_CEC (Site Admin) 29/12/2020 15:55 Status: Approved</p>	<p>In response to points 1 - 3 (by Admin Ian)</p> <p>1) This Collaborative Engagement is public, and the comments and ideas are public. These will be used to produce a draft management plan that will be made public, prior to consideration by the March Culture & Communities Committee.</p> <p>2) There are a lot of processes, activities, areas and information to consider, many quite complex, and several tools/formats to engage were considered. We decided to use the Dialogue 'conversations' web tool to best engage collaboratively while keeping everything public. The whole Events, Filming, Festivals area is complex, multiplied with possible variations for different areas across the City. We recognise that this engagement is not easy and requires some investment of time from the community but hope Edinburgh will be able to reap the rewards of this investment.</p> <p>3) This Collaborative Engagement will develop and refine the draft management plan, that if approved by Committee, will be publicly consulted on in April/May. Its anticipated that a combination of engagement, officer and Councillor input and consultation response will refine the draft to become the approved management plan. The final version will be publicly available prior to consideration for approval by Culture & Communities Committee in June.</p>
<p>Comment by Holledge 03/01/2021 19:39 Status: Approved</p>	<p>I agree with many of Elspeth's points above, however I think it's important that we, the public and specifically community councils engage with this process in good faith.</p> <p>The 'collaborative engagement' is complex, but it is open and unconstrained. In the past we have criticized CEC consultations for being too narrow, simplistic and obviously designed to produce a result in agreement with published proposals. If we respond to a freer, less controlled consultation by saying it is too complicated, then we are making impossible demands on CEC consultation designers.</p> <p>I hope Elspeth will look at the ideas that are being published — particularly in the first section or 'conversation' — and at least vote on the ideas. If she doesn't have time to engage then please at least support those who are giving their time to this process!</p>

1 of 2 - EDINBURGH'S FESTIVALS CONTRIBUTION

<p>Title</p>	<p>1 of 2 - EDINBURGH'S FESTIVALS CONTRIBUTION</p>
<p>Idea</p>	<p>1. INTRODUCTION</p>

	<p>Edinburgh’s major festivals welcome the city reviewing its approach to public space management.</p> <p>We look forward to seeing the key principles and guidelines emerging from this consultation, and we set out below those areas where we see that further development is needed in order to strike the best balance for the city’s future. Many of these issues are interconnected and span several of the specific ideas that have been posted to the consultation site, so while we have tried below to follow broadly the structure of headings suggested, we have provided this response as one whole document rather than posting comments in individual sections. In order to meet the word limits of the software, we have split this response between the two 'Ideas', 1 of 2 - Edinburgh's Festivals Contribution (sections 1-4) and 2 of 2 - Edinburgh's Festivals Contribution (sections 5-7)..</p> <p>Festivals Edinburgh is the collective body for the eleven major international cultural festivals from Easter through the August peak season to Hogmanay – Edinburgh International Science Festival, Edinburgh International Children’s Festival, Edinburgh International Film Festival, Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival, Edinburgh Art Festival, Edinburgh International Festival, Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Edinburgh International Book Festival, Scottish International Storytelling Festival, and Edinburgh’s Hogmanay.</p> <p>In a typical year, most festivals will stage work in different open spaces, with a mix of public and private ownership/management. Four festivals make major use of outdoor space: Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Edinburgh International Book Festival and Edinburgh’s Hogmanay. Most of the other seven festivals also feature outdoor programming as a smaller part of their offer, ranging from storytelling walks, photo exhibitions and art installations, to open air film and carnival celebrations, and the International Festival’s opening and closing events.</p> <p>However, there are no typical years at present, and the fragile situation the city faces emerging from the Covid-19 crisis must be fully reflected in the Public Spaces Management Plan in order to realise the best balance of benefits for city residents. The long-term scarring to the culture and events sectors could have an irreversible impact on the quality of life benefits for residents and on Scotland’s creative and service sector workers, without a joined-up plan to retain and reimagine their positive impacts.</p> <p>Local residents make up the biggest single segment of audiences for our world-renowned festivals with 1.8 million attendances a year, and their love for our signature homegrown events over 70+ years has created Edinburgh’s heritage as a world-leading festival city. Generations of citizens have taken part in inspiring new experiences, and the festivals in turn have spearheaded the city’s global reputation as pioneers in contemporary creativity. Now is the time to map out how Edinburgh needs to future proof our world-leading festival city so we can be at the forefront of leading positive change as we emerge from the pandemic.</p> <p>Success means achieving a balance of cultural, social, economic and environmental sustainability. The extraordinary layout, fabric and environment of Edinburgh are part of the identity of the city and its festivals and critical to future success. We are keen to play our part alongside other city partners in looking at the long term infrastructure and management needs for a world class, liveable and sustainable cultural capital and festival city, where a strong case can be made for investment in this future from all those who benefit from it.</p>
<p>Why the contribution is important</p>	<p>2. Reflecting Edinburgh</p>

'Temporary uses of public space should actively promote Edinburgh's role and reputation as:

- the capital city of Scotland
- a globally recognised festival city
- an historic city (with Unesco World Heritage Site status)
- a cultural and sporting city
- a great place to live, do business, visit or study'

This section is classed as a guideline, but is central to the rationale for the Public Space Management Plan in setting out key aspects of Edinburgh's distinctive city identity and how city strategies seek to build on these strengths for citywide benefit and balance them with everyday uses.

The content of this section should be included in an opening context-setting section of the PSMP, setting a clear direction for post-Covid adaptation and renewal and referencing other relevant city strategies including the Open Space Strategy on management of the city's natural environment and the Event Strategy covering the set of signature annual city festivals and events strategically supported by the Council as well as the approach to supporting wider events and community-led activity. This will help all who use the Plan to understand from the outset the reference points for achieving a balance between the wide range of needs and preferences of different residents to enjoy their public spaces through everyday use and experiences beyond the everyday; and the need to realise social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits for the whole city.

3. Environment and Amenity

The festivals strongly support the guideline on considering permanent power supplies for areas frequently used for festivals and other events. As part of the festivals' [collective environmental policy](#) commitment to make our contribution to Edinburgh being a zero carbon city by 2030, we are looking for Council plans to increase 'plug and play' event infrastructure and working with partners including the University's centre for carbon innovation on piloting clean power generators.

Appropriate cost recovery needs a flexible case by case decision to balance immediate income imperatives with the city's wider objectives, as there will be cases where cost sharing may be needed to achieve other goals such as encouraging a wider footprint of events across the city or supporting organisers developing new ventures. This flexibility is also relevant to the **Key Principle: Parking** which should be aligned with the Environment and Amenity guideline so the principle is that any loss of parking income will be subject to appropriate cost recovery from the organiser.

The city needs more event-ready spaces where hard standing and power and IT infrastructure are inbuilt, as part of a sustainable cultural infrastructure strategy. With seriously limited public funding, it will be important to focus on how additional investment can also be generated to resource this e.g. property developers' premiums. However, given the lack of hard standing space in many parts of the city and limited gap sites with strong potential as new event locations, any blanket ban on temporary structures or equipment on grass or earth could have a damaging impact on a range of events at all scales, and issues should be managed through area guidance instead.

For festival and event operators to play a full part in the emissions reductions required by 2030, the necessary shifts need to be made with a plan for all organisations and businesses to transition over time and for

	<p>affordable alternatives to be available, including the city's infrastructure making it easy to source clean power from the grid.</p> <p>4. Sharing Information/Community Engagement</p> <p>We support the commitment to a streamlined approach to ensure residents, community representatives and other interested parties are consulted about events and given an opportunity to feed back on them in planning stages.</p> <p>Using a web platform and digital notifications to registered community groups of upcoming proposals could be a good way in many circumstances to increase early stage communication of potential plans, which is important for affected residents. It will be important to ensure that processes are as light touch and streamlined as possible, consistent with the scale of proposal and capacity of different types of event organisers.</p> <p>In the case of recurring annual signature events such as the major festivals, we would ask that CEC play a part in supporting a more systematic engagement with stakeholders. We endorse the Fringe Society's proposal for a reinforced EPOG process to consider major applications for using public space taking into account views of all stakeholders in advance, and with a clear mechanism for impacted stakeholders to report issues with noise, after hours hospitality operations, litter/recycling and provision of security during event delivery.</p> <p>The festivals are often approached by local residents and businesses who are keen to see more activity in their areas, asking about opportunities for events. So we see it as important that the city supports ongoing placemaking conversations with communities, as this can be more powerful than one-off consultations to hear from a wider range of voices including people who wouldn't necessarily speak up about a specific proposal. Having a better ongoing understanding of different residents' desire for a range of activities in their area could help provide a context for decisions where lengthy case by case debates could mean areas may miss out on opportunities if processes are overly time-consuming.</p>
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Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 1.75, Number of votes: 4
Topics	
Number of comments	2
Comment by Holledge 20/01/2021 14:47 Status: Approved	<p>Quote " ...given the lack of hard standing space in many parts of the city... any blanket ban on temporary structures or equipment on grass or earth could have a damaging impact on a range of events at all scales, and issues should be managed through area guidance instead." unquote.</p> <p>Disappointing to read this. Every other major European city (to my knowledge) uses hard-sanding for fun fairs, equipment and temporary buildings. The consequences in the past for Edinburgh not following normal practice, have involved losing amenity access to the parks involved for up to half the year. Citizen groups are strongly opposed to this abuse of public</p>

	<p>spaces.</p> <p>Quote, “Local residents make up the biggest single segment of audiences for our world-renowned festivals with 1.8 million attendances a year”. What is the definition of "local residents"? In the past reference has been to EH postcode residents, but only half of these actually live in Edinburgh. As this is (apparently) as official statement by Edinburgh Festivals, all the facts here need to be presented without ambiguity.</p>
<p>Comment by Stephen 20/01/2021 21:38 Status: Approved</p>	<p>Of course we must build up our tourism / hospitality industry BUT to a sustainable controlled level that our city can support without adverse effects. There can be no return to the overheated excess of before with its massive detrimental impact in terms of environmental damage, residential amenity, congestion, pollution, distortion of the housing market.</p> <p>The sector is undoubtedly an important part of the city’s economy (but not, as often claimed, the most important – it ranks 6th in numbers of jobs), but needs to be honest about its contribution. Wild fantasy figures (£1bn? £1.6bn?) are regularly proclaimed, but with no corroborating evidence or confirmation that environmental and carbon footprint costs are being taken into account.</p> <p>Edinburgh is not Prague or San Francisco or Rome; we are a small city with, unusually for the UK, a densely-populated city centre. It is simply not possible to squeeze mega-concerts and similar events into the tight-knit fabric without considerable disruption and damage to residents and businesses who pay for the city administration over the year but feel threatened or squeezed out. Yet dubious impresarios keep trying, year after year. They would be better directing their energies to pressing for a purpose built venue, perhaps near the airport, that could accommodate such events without causing problems.</p> <p>Many cities, including Dublin and Madrid, have now seen the folly of the numbers game and are now trying to scale back the sheer numbers game in favour of quality tourism which appreciates their heritage and ambience without destroying it. Yet our own promotional bodies and apologists still seek ever-spiralling increases in visitors.</p> <p>The pandemic also brutally shows what over-dependence on one sector of the economy can bring when it fails. In a post-Covid world with greater awareness of green issues the city’s government must spread future economic promotion over a wider range, particularly genuine growth industries such as the IT and creative sectors. We’d all like people to visit and enjoy our city, but at a level and in a manner which allows us to continue to enjoy it as well.</p>

2 of 2 - EDINBURGH'S FESTIVALS CONTRIBUTION

Title	2 of 2 - EDINBURGH'S FESTIVALS CONTRIBUTION
Idea	<p>continued...</p> <p>Edinburgh's major festivals welcome the city reviewing its approach to public space management. In order to meet the word limits of the software, we have split this response between the two 'Ideas' 1 of 2 - Edinburgh's Festivals Contribution (sections 1-4) and 2 of 2 - Edinburgh's Festivals Contribution (sections 5-7).</p> <p>5. Use of spaces across the city</p> <p>This PSMP guideline reflects the situation that had developed during peak season prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, when rapid growth in city population, day and international visitors was leading to city centre pinch points at peak times where concentrated people flows need to be better managed.</p> <p>The range of challenges and opportunities has grown and changed as the city emerges from the immediate pandemic and looks to adaptation and renewal. The Public Spaces Management Plan of 2021 will urgently need to prioritise supporting the revival of city centre vitality and a return to employment growth, as well as targeting the ongoing aim of spreading the benefits of additional footfall across a wider area. This context needs to be clearly reflected across the principles and guidelines.</p> <p>Despite the immediate challenges for live festivals and events at all scales, they have a vital longer-term role in helping places to thrive by creating focal points and opportunities to come together for individuals, families, friends, communities and visitors. However, even beyond the period where additional public health distancing requirements are in place, audience behaviour may be different and smaller outdoor events may be more common for a time.</p> <p>Some of the spaces covered in the Area Conditions section have limits set on the number of days of event usage across a 12-month period, based on previous patterns of demand and intensity, and it will continue to be vital to ensure a balance of uses of public space according to the needs and preferences of different groups. The new challenge may become how to support enough activities that boost residents' quality of life and bring footfall to an area. For the coming period, the PSMP should ensure that there is room for flexibility in decisions about extending the number of days of usage for smaller parts of public spaces, to enable individual events to take place at a lower intensity around the year where appropriate.</p> <p>The PSMP already mentions the need to take into account the economics of staging events and delivering community benefit in working with event organisers to identify viable opportunities. It will be even more important to consider these economics in future as event organisation is much more fragile after the damage of what will be more than a year without significant live operations. Events are only viable for any organiser where there is sufficient footfall, and so wider city planning may be able to build on the work of the Fringe Society with researchers and partners analysing data on ticket buyers and transport to inform approaches to spreading activity across the city.</p> <p>For the festivals as charitable organisations, larger-scale performances, city centre events and ticket-buying audiences are also integral to their community benefit and this must be taken into account. They generate the income that provides the foundations for supporting community and learning programmes, attracting private and</p>

	<p>public supporters to enable citywide programmes that engaged over 90% of schools and 130 community groups in 2019.</p> <p>For the objective of dispersal of events, there needs to be further consideration of what will make spaces fit for purpose and easy to use for organisers of all scales. Consideration should be given to developing specific event areas where practical infrastructure - mains power, hard standing and good travel and transport provision - is already in place or can be developed. A desire for dispersal requires resource, financial and otherwise, to make spaces suitable for event use, and there needs to be prior consultation to better understand what is required for users and organisers.</p> <p>In some comments on the consultation to date, it has been suggested that revenue from events in specific areas should be ring-fenced for improvement of those areas. While this may well be a good principle in many cases, there also needs to be flexibility for CEC to use revenue to take a citywide approach to develop new opportunities – otherwise the income from the most popular locations could not be used to develop other sites or to support enabling infrastructure such as transport provision as part of a wider dispersal strategy.</p> <p>On a related point, there are several comments on the consultation about the potential for commercial events to contribute to public good improvements. While the Festivals Edinburgh member festivals are all set up for not-for-profit benefits, so this point is relevant to a different segment of the events landscape, everyone interested in the development of the Festival City needs to keep in mind that there can be a tension between expecting CEC to generate additional income and complaints that some events are over-commercialised. The more that commercial events are asked to return additional fees to the Council for wider purposes, the more their need to monetise commercial opportunities such as hospitality, paid attractions and increased ticket prices. All events in public spaces should be supporting the public good, whether in cash or through contributing to the city’s success and quality of life, and there needs to be balanced consideration of how that can best be achieved.</p> <p>Looking at the desired outcome from a wider perspective – that any commercial enterprises (not just events) benefiting from the city’s amenities should make a contribution to the quality of the public realm – it could help with this conundrum to look more broadly than the events sector and consider how businesses across the city who benefit from the high quality of life offered by Edinburgh’s lively culture, festivals and events scene can contribute to its upkeep and development.</p>
<p>Why the contribution is important</p>	<p>6. Managing activities and events in public spaces</p> <p>As part of the architecture of planning the major annual cycle of festivals and events, a standing festival city operations planning group is needed bringing together festivals, CEC officials and multi-agency specialists to map out the annual and perennial cycles needed to manage major events at this level of ambition. This could include consideration of the issues raised by the Fringe Society for annual events in the same space each year, that there should be clear communication of any development work - including for utilities, data cabling and renovations.</p> <p>Such a group can also contribute to vital city planning for key aspects of city management that need to be in place to provide a high quality experience for residents and visitors alike to enjoy major city festivals and events, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrianisation, security measures and high quality permanent traffic management measures that don’t detract from the quality of the experience for people using city spaces

- Well trained street managers ensuring regulations are in place and being enacted
- Work with local businesses on access and delivery times
- Eco-, family-friendly and accessible facilities – including recycling, water, picnic stations, advice and resources for people with limited mobility.

7. Application Process for Organisers

We support the concept of a fully functioning web platform for applications for public space, a single point of entry approach to the application journey and the proposal to establish an Events & Filming office and team to process all applications.

The Events & Filming Office needs to have the resources and expertise to be a one-stop shop for potential organisers and to be able to co-ordinate planning effectively across the Council, similar to functions we have seen in place in other cultural capitals such as Montreal and London. This should take into account the need of smaller, community and volunteer-led organisers for support, as well as the need to sustain Edinburgh's world class standing for major festivals and events.

Streamlining the application process based on the scale of proposals is important to maximise opportunities for beneficial events to take place with minimum process. For large, recurring events a reinforced EPOG process and standing festival city operations planning group will be useful models as set out in our comments in previous sections. The Fringe Society also flags that CEC previously usefully played an active role in convening interested local groups to discuss plans for the peak summer festivals season and the festivals collectively endorse the value of such an approach.

The application process will involve a graduated degree of consultation and information sharing depending on the scale of event. In the case of the city's signature major festivals and events, this will need to balance appropriate scrutiny and transparency with keeping up the momentum needed for festivals and events to take place successfully, given the cost and time impacts of additional layers of governance. **Identifying aspects of the approvals process for recurring events that could be put in place long-term and not just on an annual basis will help provide the lead times and certainty needed for events and festivals to have the best chance of returning viably and sustainably to contribute to the city's recovery and renewal.**

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Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 2.33, Number of votes: 3
Topics	
Number of comments	2
Comment by Holledge 20/01/2021 15:26 Status: Approved	We hope Festivals Edinburgh will recognize our large city centre resident population. This is around 50,000 people depending on definition. Residents must be consulted about events in public spaces that have impact on their

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lives. They must not be cut out of the process.

The hiatus of the pandemic should be a chance to rethink the relationship between festivals and tourism. It is no longer sustainable for the Festivals to operate for the purpose of inflating tourism. In the past this has resulted in the wrong types of tourism development — involving labour problems, disruption to housing etc —while commercialising the festivals themselves, to the marked detriment of artistic standards.

The original Edinburgh Festival of 1947 was begun, to "provide a platform for the flowering of the human spirit". Post-COVID our festivals need to rediscover their idealism. That is the way to win back the trust and respect of residents, as well as festival-goers.

Regarding the suggestion to, (quote) “consider how businesses across the city who benefit from the high quality of life offered by Edinburgh’s lively culture, festivals and events scene can contribute to its upkeep and development” (unquote), our concern is that local businesses are actually disadvantaged by commercial events, that are organised by, and benefit, outside organizations — the Fringe, the pop gigs and Underbelly 'festival' operations are all examples of this.

Comment by Stephen
20/01/2021 21:38
Status: Approved

Of course we must build up our tourism / hospitality industry BUT to a sustainable controlled level that our city can support without adverse effects. There can be no return to the overheated excess of before with its massive detrimental impact in terms of environmental damage, residential amenity, congestion, pollution, distortion of the housing market.

The sector is undoubtedly an important part of the city’s economy (but not, as often claimed, the most important – it ranks 6th in numbers of jobs), but needs to be honest about its contribution. Wild fantasy figures (£1bn? £1.6bn?) are regularly proclaimed, but with no corroborating evidence or confirmation that environmental and carbon footprint costs are being taken into account.

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Many cities, including Dublin and Madrid, have now seen the folly of the

For sub-groups

numbers game and are now trying to scale back the sheer numbers game in favour of quality tourism which appreciates their heritage and ambience without destroying it. Yet our own promotional bodies and apologists still seek ever-spiralling increases in visitors.

The pandemic also brutally shows what over-dependence on one sector of the economy can bring when it fails. In a post-Covid world with greater awareness of green issues the city's government must spread future economic promotion over a wider range, particularly genuine growth industries such as the IT and creative sectors. We'd all like people to visit and enjoy our city, but at a level and in a manner which allows us to continue to enjoy it as well.

New Town & Broughton Community Council Submission Part 1

Title	New Town & Broughton Community Council Submission Part 1
Idea	<p>We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important subject and in particular appreciate the change to a more open form of consultation which allows suggestions to be aired and explored. This contrasts well with previous Council "consultations" which were often narrow, simplistic and too obviously designed to produce a pre-determined result which agreed with officers' preferred proposals.</p> <p>Our views can be summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The management plan to be for spaces all the year round, not just for events• Primary use to be as open space, with events as occasional users• Spreading events over a larger area of the city, consistent with protection of amenity• Distinction between community and commercial events; and quality of events• All commercial events to be subject to full consultation, not just notification• Environmental protection and controlling impact• Financial and economic impacts• Robust and efficient management• All requirements / restrictions etc to be strongly enforced <p>Detailed comments on each of these topics are set out below.</p> <p>Scope of Plan</p> <p>The current epidemic has shown the importance of access to public spaces for physical and mental well-being. We have therefore suggested that the scope of the new Plan should extend to management and protection of these spaces overall, and not just to events within them. We understand that this concept has been favourably received by members.</p> <p>This approach will also help to reinforce an appreciation that parks and open spaces are primarily recreational and leisure spaces accessible to all, with only occasional events held within them, rather than being unavailable for extended periods. When major events are taking place, other spaces should deliberately be kept clear to achieve a balance – for instance, during the International Festival & Fringe, there should be no major events in Princes</p>

Street Gardens to provide an oasis of calm and quiet to counter frenetic activity elsewhere.

We agree that there is scope for extending activities beyond the central area, providing that the identified spaces are adequate in size, have good public transport links and mobility-challenged access to avoid intrusive traffic and parking in neighbouring streets, and that the nature and management of the activity has minimal impact on local residential properties in terms of noise, crowd control etc. It may also require CEC to install access paths, electrical, water and drainage services to minimise disruption and pollution on sites identified as suitable.

Types of Events

The type and quality of events must reflect the character of Edinburgh as a city and its heritage, and must contribute to it socially, aesthetically and economically. In the past there have been advocates for ever-increasing levels of intrusive tourism and festivals way beyond a small city's capacity to function and absorb without detrimental effect on its fabric and inhabitants; indeed, some regard "punching above its weight" as a virtue rather than the problem it actually is. The "Thundering Hooves" attitude is now invalid and unacceptable as a future direction. The PSMP offers an opportunity to correct this approach.

Approval should also require quality materials and detailing, commensurate with the city's ambience. We agree that installations for events should support and reinforce the special 'place' quality of their surrounds, and that organisers should therefore set out in their application the measures they intend to take to achieve this, particularly in the World Heritage Site. Temporary installations should not be erected close to monuments, iconic views should not be blocked, streets should not be overwhelmed with advertisements and litter.

In addition to failing to meet acceptable standards of local consultation, the current "Spaces for People" programme exhibits all the wrong ways to effect even temporary changes – plastic barriers and bollards, mesh fencing panels, elements haphazardly selected and laid out, crass signage. Edinburgh can do better than this, and deserves to do so.

The approval process should distinguish between community events, run by local charities and resident and business groups, and commercial events run by for-profit organisations or those charities which nonetheless have highly paid executives or divert resulting funds away from local initiatives.

All such commercial events should be the subject of full consultation, not just notification as currently suggested. Merely "notifying" local organisations and relying on a "check-list" approach to be filled by the event organiser is not sufficient. The notification procedure used for planning applications – a fully-detailed application, publishing on a weekly list, advertisement, advising local community councils and other bodies, setting out mitigation measures to avoid local impact, complying with other standards such as construction and safety, and then reporting back to an appropriate committee with a recommendation – would be an appropriate and workable model. There are actually very few major events annually to which this would apply, so this would not impose an increased burden on council staff if an appropriate fee is charged.

Controlling Environmental Impact

We agree with the view that "Edinburgh's public spaces should be used in a way that enhances the city's cultural identity, reputation and quality of life". Proposals which fail to demonstrate this should be dismissed at the application stage. While we would not wish to descend into small-town parochialism, the drive to "internationalise" the city's tourism and events

For sub-groups

	<p>must be balanced by a realistic appraisal of how much can be absorbed without detriment.</p> <p>All events should require an environmental impact assessment. This would be small for local community events which did not introduce any structures or fixtures, but might be significant for larger events or those with a prolonged duration. This should cover greenspace protection including surface and sub-surface impacts (damage to walls, banks, drains, compacted soil etc); vegetation damage to trees, shrubs and grass; biodiversity impacts to all significant forms of life from animals to micro-organisms; as well as air, water, noise, and light pollution, anti-social behaviour (i.e. littering, graffiti etc); and set out remedial or mitigating measures as well as proposals for subsequent reinstatement. A bond could be required to ensure that the site is promptly returned to its original state after the event concludes.</p> <p>The city has an ambitious Carbon Neutral target, and it is therefore imperative that organisers submit estimates of their carbon footprint including all associated travel and manufacture. Carbon offsets which transfer pollution elsewhere are not acceptable. Oil-based generators should not be used; all events should use mains electricity or “green” generation.</p> <p>A major concern in recent years has been the damage to green space by structures compacting the ground and obstructing tree roots, and the consequent extended recovery time before the area is usable by the public. Other European cities restrict Christmas Markets, funfairs or similar installations to hard landscaped areas. The PSMP should impose a blanket ban on any heavy structures on soft landscape.</p> <p>Noise has been a major concern in past events, especially city-centre concerts, both for nearby residents and for attendees. A requirement should be that specific restrictions based on scientific monitoring must be agreed and adhered to.</p>
<p>Why the contribution is important</p>	<p>The value of the city's open spaces has become even more apparent in the present pandemic, and we support the concept of a coherent approach to their management rather than the present somewhat ad-hoc arrangements spread over several departments. Accordingly, we feel that the Plan should cover all aspects of open space management within the city, within which the administration of events are accommodated, rather than being a procedure to deal solely with events themselves. Also, given the impact such events can have on local residents and businesses, we consider it is essential that full consultation is undertaken to allow community views to be addressed, rather than mere notification which is suggested at present.</p>
<p>Created by</p>	<p>NTBCC</p>
<p>Date</p>	<p>20 Jan 2021 03:46PM</p>
<p>URL</p>	<p>https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/29fuel9z7l/new-town-broughton-community-council-submission-part-1</p>
<p>Status</p>	<p>Approved</p>
<p>Rating</p>	<p>Average: 4.80, Number of votes: 5</p>
<p>Topics</p>	
<p>Number of comments</p>	<p>0</p>

New Town & Broughton Community Council Comment Part 2

Title	New Town & Broughton Community Council Comment Part 2
Idea	<p>Financial and Economic Aspects</p> <p>The pressure to raise some income from assets such as parks is understandable, but this should not override the protection of environment and amenity. All income from events should be visibly used for the maintenance of parks and spaces, and not diverted to “administration” or other council expenditure or causes.</p> <p>Organisers of commercial events should be asked to show what benefit their event has for local residents and support for local businesses. Those which cannot do so, or where the benefit goes primarily to outside interests, should not be accepted.</p> <p>In no instance should CEC pay commercial operators to put on a festival. All costs must be met by the organisers through sponsorship if necessary, and any surplus after deducting reasonable fees should be reinvested in the maintenance of the space.</p> <p>It should be noted that considerable areas of public realm in Edinburgh are Common Good Land, and there are consequent restrictions on uses and therefore a requirement for a stringent open and transparent process. An independent trust should be appointed to manage all such land.</p> <p>All commercial events must demonstrate that they are fully compliant with CEC’s Modern Slavery charter, and that all staff are paid at least the National Minimum Wage. Sufficient funding should be lodged beforehand with a third party to ensure this.</p> <p>Unsubstantiated and exaggerated claims for the value of certain events to the city have been made by their organisers and their apologists with no explanation as to how the figures have been calculated. In future all such claims must be transparent and grounded in reality. They should also identify who receives the benefits – whether they support local businesses and organisations, or are they creamed off by parties who do not have any beneficial connection with the city.</p> <p>Robust and Efficient Management</p> <p>We agree generally with the “Guidance on Managing Activities and Events in Public Spaces” set out in your consultation document, with the provisos about proper consultation rather than merely notification to Community Councils and affected parties; and distinguishing between community and commercial events. Also the need for proper insurance cover.</p> <p>Each space or venue should have a stated maximum capacity which should not be exceeded in ticket sales or persons admitted.</p> <p>Currently responsibility for various aspects of the process is divided between different functions who do not always appear to communicate. While the individual expertise of specific departments is recognised – eg building standards and safety – there should be a small co-ordinating team to process the applications, drawing together departmental and community comments and advice and ensuring all permissions, financial bonds etc are in place.</p> <p>To enable a full assessment to be made of each proposed event, full details of any impacts arising should be included in their application. These should cover the points raised above, and also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety issues – including building warrants and compliance certification • Certification, delivered by external independent assessors

For sub-groups

- Transport and accessibility
- Parking disruption for staff, visitors and local residents and businesses
- Fireworks
- Public Conveniences and Welfare
- Waste and Recycling
- Flyposting

We agree that the obligations for an intending organiser need to be made clear and agreed before any event starts, including all permissions and licences. To this we would add consultation and genuine dialogue with affected stakeholders and a demonstration of willingness to resolve any issues.

There should be a stronger vetting process for event organisers, particularly those who have caused issues previously, such as those who in the past:

- have left unpaid accounts with the Council or city businesses
- have failed to apply for necessary planning and other permissions
- have not met basic requirements on safety, noise limitation, adverse impact, crowd control, modern slavery requirements
- have not demonstrated any local benefit to businesses
- have failed to take immediate remedial action when complaints have been raised
- have been in receipt of council funding and then have diverted any profits elsewhere
- have shown lack of consideration for or co-operation with neighbours

Where appropriate, such offenders should be asked for large advance deposits as guarantees of ‘good behaviour’ before consent is granted; and which would be forfeit if issues arise.

Enforcement

All requirements and restrictions need to be strongly enforced to minimise problems. This is an area generally in which CEC is weak. It is essential that there is an easily contactable 24-hour single point of complaint, backed up by a fast response team to undertake remedial action.

Other Measures

The PSMP should not be a substitute for avoiding a holistic approach to managing events within the city. For instance, Edinburgh has a dense residential population which contributes to its success, but there is a clear conflict between protecting residential amenity and accommodating large music concerts with issues of noise, crowd control etc. It must therefore be recognised that at present the city simply cannot always host these without unacceptable impacts, and that parallel to the PSMP there should be continuing development of facilities such as a potential 7-10,000 seater stadium / sports centre at a suitable location such as Ingliston.

We note that many of the points raised at this stage require more detailed work to make them practical. We would be pleased to comment further on these as they develop, and also to see the draft of the application form when it is ready.

Why the contribution is important

The value of the city's open spaces has become even more apparent in the present pandemic, and we support the concept of a coherent approach to their management rather than the present somewhat ad-hoc arrangements spread over several departments. Accordingly, we feel that the Plan should cover all aspects of open space management within the city, within which the administration of events are accommodated, rather than being a procedure to deal solely with events themselves. Also, given the impact

For sub-groups

	such events can have on local residents and businesses, we consider it is essential that full consultation is undertaken to allow community views to be addressed, rather than mere notification which is suggested at present.
Created by	NTBCC
Date	20 Jan 2021 03:48PM
URL	https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/29fuel9z7l/new-town-broughton-community-council-comment-part-2
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 5.00, Number of votes: 4
Topics	
Number of comments	0

Leith Central Community Council

Title	Leith Central Community Council
Idea	<p>Please note that we have read and endorse the submission from our neighbours, the New Town & Broughton Community Council. We share their views on Environmental impact and robust assessment of applicants.</p> <p>The wards shared by Leith Central, Leith Links and Leith Harbour & Newhaven are not only the most densely populated areas in Scotland, according to Open Space Audit December 2009 p. 18, they have the lowest amount of accessible open space per 1,000 people in Edinburgh. It is with this statistic in mind that we ask that the priority should be on improving these green spaces for residents, rather than making them available for commercial uses.</p> <p>There are several parks in the Leith Central Community Council area; Pilrig Park is the largest of these and the park most recently targeted as a site for large scale events.</p> <p>Regular users include:</p> <p>The pupils of Pilrig Park School, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pairce and Broughton Primary, children from the Meadows nursery.</p> <p>Children and families using the play areas.</p> <p>Many dog walkers, and personal exercisers.</p> <p>Sports teams, clubs and groups including primary age and teenage football teams, Redpath Albion, Broughton Primary School runners, Edinburgh Shinty Club.</p> <p>Local residents enjoying the green space of the park in an area characterised by a high proportion of tenement properties and residences without gardens or private outside space.</p> <p>People using the park as a pleasant and convenient cut-through between Leith Walk and Bonnington – as demonstrated by the ‘desire line’ paths that have been created through the centre of the park. These include cyclists, in support of CEC’s active travel policy.</p> <p>Aside from the team sporting activities, these are typical of all parks in our area.</p>

Why the contribution is important	<p>The importance of Parks to the community</p> <p>Parks exist for the direct benefit and Common Good of Council Tax paying residents of Edinburgh. Benefits to visitors are secondary. The use of parks as a means of indirect benefit to residents of Edinburgh as a cash cow to raise revenue for outside businesses, should be a last resort not a central plank of Council policy.</p> <p>The health and recreational benefits to residents are especially important just now, and are always disrupted by the Licensing of large scale commercial events of more than a few days duration.</p> <p>Resources and information can be found here for example. https://thelandtrust.org.uk/the-land-trust-charitable-aims/thebenefits/</p> <p>Reports on this subject have been presented to previous incarnations of CEC's Transport & Environment Committee.</p> <p>Parks and Green spaces are the living, breathing lungs of our City. City of Edinburgh Council is a leading partner of Edinburgh Living Landscape and it is clear that the disruption to our Green spaces caused by extended large scale events undermines the policies and approaches developed by the City of Edinburgh Council working within ELL.</p> <p>Although contractors make good the damage they do, the nature of replanting parks usually means that the disruption to regular users is significantly longer than the initial period of disruption. It also represents a diversion of limited Council resources from planting and development to remedial work.</p> <p>Responses to the consultation</p> <p>We support the following measures:</p> <p>Large standing events should be sited on hard well surfaced sites or on parks of acreage large enough to sustain them without disruption to normal use. One measure which could help would be to set a maximum area used for events which should for example not exceed more than 20% of available surface.</p> <p>If parks must be let for events longer than a weekend period then a formula for letting fees should be fixed, based on compensation for loss of use to residents and a clear minimum percentage of the profit to licensees.</p> <p>Clashes with school holidays should be avoided, especially for smaller parks.</p> <p>There should be clear guidelines on ground damage and hefty fines for the damage of grass, soil compaction, delayed remediation etc.</p> <p>Several sites around the city should be developed to provide dedicated hard standing spaces for events.</p> <p>Events such as markets, should be spread across the city, with the concomitant benefits to local businesses; many comparable European Cities, such as Strasbourg do this.</p>
Created by	Ian_CEC (Site Admin)
Date	20 Jan 2021 06:26PM
URL	https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/29fuel9z71/leith-central-community-council

For sub-groups

Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 5.00, Number of votes: 2
Topics	
Number of comments	0

Cockburn Association - PSMP Comments & Thoughts

Title	Cockburn Association - PSMP Comments & Thoughts
Idea	<p>The Cockburn Association welcomes the development of a Public Spaces Management Plan, seeking to amalgamate and improve existing policies, plans and guidelines into a single unified document and process. However, we note that the Public Space Management Plan offers no strategic insight or assistance with the controversial issue of the commodification of open space. Instead, it proposes a set of administrative protocols that sets out conditions rather than policies.</p> <p>We appreciate that the material posted on the City Council’s consultation hub is not a consultation <i>per se</i>, but an effort to illicit key issues and ideas to help inform the drafting a formal consultation document which will be subject to the normal processes. We welcome this approach.</p> <p>A precise of the issues</p> <p>It is generally accepted that this is not a management plan for public spaces <i>per se</i>, but an operational guide for the management of events (including filming) in a limited number of Council-controlled public spaces.</p> <p>The starting point for plan should be a “first principles” review and consideration of the scale and nature of the use of public spaces. Many if not most events and activities are relatively modest and limited in their impact. An analysis of existing activity would be very useful in preparing the PSMP.</p> <p>We accept that activities in public spaces can be positive and indeed desirable. They can contribute to interest and vitality and can support local communities. They can also be divisive, exclusive/restrictive and anti-community as well introduce disruptive and intrusive activities in places most appreciate for peace and tranquillity. It is this paradigm that the development of the plan should concentrate, and a criteria-based approach developed. At the moment, it is left to the event organiser to determine how the event is to be delivered. Whilst this might seem logical from an events management perspective, from a civic perspective, the Council should set criteria to which the operator must adhere to. For example, a default position against the use of amplified music would mean that any event which wishes it, must justify the need against set criteria (e.g. impact on residents) and outline management and mitigation measures before consent is considered. Similarly, the closure of streets for filming should be an unreasonable disruption and justification would need to put forward.</p>

The current processes exclude civic engagement. This should change. Of course, very small activities over short periods of time could be exempt but some form of public signposting is needed much in the same way as a planning application. The information required for event approvals at the moment is very light. This Plan provides a very positive opportunity to address this, and we would advocate the creation of a task group to help define what types and levels of information should be required.

Future imperatives

The current premium on open space as a result of Covid-19 isn't reflected in this paper. Covid has helped society understand and appreciate the value of open spaces, providing places for well-being activities. Commodifying open space is counter to this and the Plan should reflect this.

Various consultation surveys show that the most valued attributes of parks and gardens are their tranquil and green nature (West Princes Street Gardens, for example). These qualities can be shared and experienced by all visitors, whether residents, workers or tourists. The default position for the PSMP must be the retention of these qualities. Commercial events with an element of exclusive ticketing or branding should be avoided or kept to a minimum. The Summer Session concerts illustrated the conflict between open space as a performance arena and open space as a civic amenity, especially for commercial ventures that require a high degree of exclusivity. Hoardings, crowd-control gates and threats of street closures to management public safety are all illustrations of the unsuitability of such activities in public parks.

A paper considered by the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 10 January 2021 on filming noted that this activity generated less than £250,000 for the city although it highlighted the brand and marketing value. The benefit of allowing public spaces to be used for private ventures should be required to demonstrate a direct benefit to the City. At the moment, there is little in the way of meaningful consultation with residents and civic groups on the impacts of street closures, etc, only noting that local businesses impact may be able to negotiate compensation from filming companies.

This suggests an Activity for Activity's sake ideology behind the initiative. A more strategic approach considering the carry capacity of places to absorb events and activities is needed, where civic and amenity requirements are equal to tourist and cultural economic activities.

Need for overarching Strategy

In agreeing with the need for effective operational management of events, there is a need for a more strategic management plan for the wider use of streets and other public spaces and going well-beyond event management. The impact on public spaces due to construction and development activities can bring significant issues including pedestrian disruption, noise, etc.

It is the nature of many spaces that they are unable to take significant pressures of major events. The damage to East Princes Street Gardens caused by successive Winter Festivals/Christmas Markets highlights all too well the issue. The 6 weeks operation with its large space deck resulted in

	<p>the gardens being closed for a total of 6 months. Thus, a civic asset was unavailable for public use as a result of a commercial venture for a significant period of time. This cannot be acceptable.</p> <p>A Public Spaces Management Strategy should also include other issues affecting public space, such as street closures facilitating construction work, etc.</p> <p>Pseudo-public space</p> <p>Pseudo-public spaces – spaces that appear to be public but are owned and controlled by private interests are a feature of Edinburgh. The criteria used for assessing suitability for events or other activities should be applied these spaces as well. For example, Bristo Square and George Square are owned by the University and host large scale events but would not be covered by the PSMP despite the potential impacts and the perceived civic nature of the space.</p> <p>Other examples include the various New Town gardens. Charlotte Square has become synonymous with the Book Festival, but its management sits outside the PSMP as it is a private space. Concern has been expressed over many years about the physical state of the land post the festival, which has visual amenity impact borne by many. As such, its regulation through the PSMP would be beneficial to the city.</p> <p>Such spaces need to be included in the PSMP because their use as event spaces can have significant impact on public amenity.</p> <p>Overlap with other consenting regimes</p> <p>Following on from this point, it is important that the PSMP articulates the wider consenting regime. The scandal of the space deck being erected in East Princes Street gardens without planning consent illustrates this issue perfectly. The Cockburn has undertaken a very quick review of other open spaces and has found that major events have operated without planning consent, or so it seems.</p> <p>Common Goods Land</p> <p>Much of Edinburgh’s public space is Common Good Land. It is held for the benefit of citizens. As such, a separate vehicle for oversight should be required as part of the management process. This might be built into the PSMP and should require special attention to the played</p>
<p>Why the contribution is important</p>	<p>Our ideas address the issue of the commodification of Edinburgh's open spaces, which is emerging a significant public issue. A Council report in January 2018 warned that the city was struggling to cope with the mass influx of visitors. In 2019, the erection of a huge space deck without planning consent in East Princes Street Gardens to facilitate the Christmas Market caused a huge outcry and highlighted the deficit in political and civic control of the city's most important public spaces.</p> <p>A public summit held in January 2019 by the Cockburn called City for Sale: the commofication of Edinburgh's public spaces illustrated the scale of civic concern.</p>

For sub-groups

	Our comments and thoughts seek to constructively bridge this concern with the positive aspects of events and activities in public places, suggesting that a wider framework for management behind that controlled by the Council is required including the need to development a Public Places Management Strategy to guide operational issues.
Created by	Cockburn
Date	20 Jan 2021 06:27PM
URL	https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/29fuel9z7l/cockburn-association-psmp-comments-thoughts
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 5.00, Number of votes: 4
Topics	
Number of comments	0

Cockburn Association - PSMP Summary comments & suggestions

Title	Cockburn Association - PSMP Summary comments & suggestions
Idea	<p>Summary and Some Cockburn suggestions</p> <p>The following represents some ideas and thoughts which we feel should be considered as part of this exercise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All events, in all public spaces including streets should be covered by any emerging plan; • The remit of the PSMP should include all public spaces, and not be limited CEC owned and/or controlled spaces is too limiting and not acceptable; • Common Good Land is not CEC property – this requires a separate process for management and event approval and management; • Commercially exclusive events which require restriction of public access for even relatively short period of time should be discouraged; • For major events that require ticketing, the assumption should be that most tickets should be free to users, allowing a small percentage of sold tickets for VIP and commercial reasons. As in New York City, the assumption should be use of a public space is for public benefit and enjoyment; • Community events and major commercial events require different and bespoke registration and management processes and fee structures; • The acceptability of holding major events in public spaces at times of year when access to public spaces are in high demand for informal recreation, rest and well-being should be heavily restricted; • The PSMP must have city-wide and community-wide climate mitigation, climate adaptation, biodiversity, tree expansion and sustainability issues at its heart. ISO20121 should be the minimum standard required. • Future events in public spaces should be required to clearly express how they will add to or detract from the quality of life in the city as a whole and their host residential communities. • All collateral impacts of events in public spaces e.g. noise, pollution, policing costs must be identified, and mitigation frameworks brought

For sub-groups

	<p>forward and incorporated into events approval and management processes. The cost of meeting these and remedying any impact must fall wholly to the event and not the public purse.</p> <p>The Cockburn Association would be delighted to assist in the development of this ideas and the furtherance of effective management policies for the city's public and quasi-public open spaces.</p>
Why the contribution is important	As per the first set of comments and thoughts
Created by	Cockburn
Date	20 Jan 2021 06:28PM
URL	https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/29fue!9z7l/cockburn-association-psmp-summary-comments-suggestions
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 5.00, Number of votes: 5
Topics	
Number of comments	1
Comment by Richard_NTbcc 20/01/2021 19:46 Status: Approved	Support the broad scope outlined above to include ALL public spaces & also the differentiation in terms of process required for Common Good land (covering approval but also extent of public consultation / community involvement).

Cockburn Association - Whose Festival Is It Anyway?

Title	Whose Festival Is It Anyway?
Idea	<p>One year on from the Cockburn Association's highly successful City for Sale? The Commodification of Edinburgh's Public Spaces event, the global pandemic has rocked the City's Festivals and the country's tourism and hospitality sectors.</p> <p>It has highlighted serious issues of economic resilience and public well-being. It has caused many to question the wisdom of growth-centric policies. It has also created a moment for the city, its businesses and its residents to pause and reflect on how Edinburgh's many Festivals should operate in a post-COVID world.</p> <p>With a long history of providing a public forum for such discussions about the city, the Association has arranged this <i>Cockburn Conference</i> to explore these issues in greater detail.</p> <p>Building on our recent "Our Unique City" manifesto, a living document that outlines our vision for life in Edinburgh in a post-COVID era, and Professor Cliff Hague's 2020 Cockburn Annual Lecture in which he explored the roots of, and routes to, Edinburgh's current Festivals offering, Conference panelists will discuss topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some reflections on how we arrived here. • The impact of festivals and festivalisation on the city

For sub-groups

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacity limits Edinburgh has for Festivals and tourism and the tensions that have arisen when these limits have been tested. • The implications of the global pandemic, digital technologies and the climate challenge for future Festivals <p>We will forward the findings and conclusions of this conference to the Public Space Management Plan (PSMP) team.</p>
Why the contribution is important	<p>Edinburgh has many festivals which both directly and indirectly impact on the management of public spaces, on their accessibility to residents and on their physical integrity and sustainability.</p> <p>Post-Covid, the nature, scale and frequency of festival activity in public spaces may be very different.</p> <p>The proceedings from 'Whose Festival Is It Anyway' will signpost some of the challenges and opportunities for festival activity in Edinburgh's public spaces in a post-Covid and carbon neutral city.</p>
Created by	Cockburn
Date	20 Jan 2021 02:34PM
URL	https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/29fue19z7l/whose-festival-is-it-anyway
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 5.00, Number of votes: 3
Topics	
Number of comments	0

West End Community Council

Title	West End Community Council
Idea	<p>The West End Community Council has found the overall process difficult to engage with on a collective basis but appreciates the open approach of the consultation rather than a presentation of a largely completed PSMP for rubber stamping. This has created a lot of imbalances in the conversations and ideas which often overlap or have been omitted and the process has been very time-intensive for volunteers.</p> <p>We have approached voting on a combination of 3 criteria, A city-wide perspective, West end specific, and Quality of the idea rather than the title.</p> <p>Some clear themes have emerged, There is not sufficient engagement from all areas, whilst some responses have been individual in nature Many ideas have been populated in the last few days, leaving little time to review them.</p> <p>The voting will provide little assistance as the PSMP is collated from the ideas as the criteria were not clear, a second period to review and vote</p>

For sub-groups

	<p>would have been effective. A vote on each comment would have been good a simple thumbs up/down maybe?</p> <p>There is a strong feeling that broader community engagement should be part of the PSMP processes in future with much greater transparency enabled by technology with a portal much like planning.</p> <p>The breadth and depth of the PSMP as proposed is inadequate, it needs to address these issues in all public spaces whether of short or longer duration, frequent or infrequent across all parts of the city, in green spaces or on our roads and pavements whether owned or not by CEC.</p> <p>The West End whilst fortunate in many respects is often overlooked in many matters in CEC processes/policies (such as spaces for people) but our community has much to offer in this and we ask for greater engagement in the future. We are sure other areas have similar views and this may have driven the low/late response.</p> <p>The impact of covid and climate change has been touched on in a few comments, however, both are likely to cause fundamental shifts in our public environment and its management for many years to come The PSMP should reflect this in a forward-looking way with ambition and pragmatism</p> <p>Future steps</p> <p>A rationalization of ideas and creating a little more structure should reveal areas that need further development a short second call for further ideas might be effective and allow voting to be more meaningful.</p> <p>We look forward to a broader public consultation in the near future.</p>
Why the contribution is important	Local people are the experts in their locality and diverse views from a variety of respondents make consultation and outcomes more relevant, effective and more likely to be supported broadly. Edinburgh is lucky to have residents with a depth of knowledge and experience far greater than any one organization or department so tapping into this effectively should improve the outcomes for the city as a whole
Created by	WECC
Date	21 Jan 2021 02:30AM
URL	https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/29fuel9z7l/west-end-community-council
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 5.00, Number of votes: 1
Topics	
Number of comments	0

National Galleries Scotland

Title	National Galleries Scotland
Idea	In general, National Galleries Scotland (NGS) supports the high-level guiding principles drafted by CEC for the management of public

spaces. Our experience, however, is that translating sensible principles into operational practice is very challenging in and around our city centre sites. The management of various needs and interests, which can at times be competing, forms part of this. NGS is committed to working with CEC and other stakeholders, as part of the wider effort to improve the management of these spaces for the benefit of the public. The following notes reflect our experiences and concerns going forward.

General Considerations: Public Areas around the Scottish National Gallery (SNG)

- Over the past decade, there has been a steady increase in demand for access to and use of The Mound Precinct and surrounding areas: tourist visits to Edinburgh; increasing visits to SNG are among the contributing factors.
- As a 24-hr business and world-class visitor attraction, NGS has complex servicing needs for access at all times, also for security, fire access etc. On-going construction works have further complicated access into this area.
- This historic site forms the precinct and access for two world-class cultural institutions; the Scottish National Gallery and the Royal Scottish Academy (RSA). The RSA offers a year-round programme for the public and also has complex servicing needs in order to maintain its operations.
- The expectations and demands of various users – local residents, tourist visitors, attractions, traders, event organisers can often be in competition for access and use of space; the management of these has become more complex and the burden often falls to NGS to manage these ‘on the ground’.
- There has been Increasing pressure to exploit the commercial potential of the site, eg from event organisers.
- The need to link this area to a more developed sustainable transport plan for the city centre is keenly felt by NGS.; the same applies to wayfinding – the lack of city-wide coherence in wayfinding is an obstacle.
- The security issues around The Mound precinct have become more complex – in particular, the need to manage the risk around crowded areas.
- There is greater awareness from the public and stakeholders of the impact of activities and events in and around The Mound precinct; there is greater awareness of environmental impact of events as well as a strong urge to see the spaces used in ways that seem appropriate to this World Heritage site with its iconic views and buildings.
- The physical nature and layout of site has changed considerably due to various interventions in recent years, including the SNG project and associated landscaping. Disabled access should be a top priority.

Why the contribution is important

Specific Issues: The Mound Precinct

- There is an urgent need for greater clarity and transparency of decision making, especially when different users and interests are in disagreement with proposals.
- Communication around events in The Precinct could be improved. We would welcome a central point of reference and consistent communication.
- Clarity is needed around the management of longer-term contracts and how these are integrated with other, day-to-day activities.

For sub-groups

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current ‘programming’ in the precinct is of mixed quality. There should be an agreed standard and managed programme for events. • The maintenance and cleanliness of the public realm requires more attention. • The current ‘Mound Agreement’ for the management of the precinct area is now very outdated and urgently needs revision. Some key areas of these spaces currently have no agreed management arrangements. The area around the Playfair Steps, for example, needs to be included in future agreements and better management of this important pedestrian access route is essential. <p><u>Specific Issues: East Princes Street Gardens</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Trading partners, The Scottish Café and Restaurant and our Gallery shop are vital to the sustainability of NGS and these need optimum levels of access and wayfinding for the public. • There is now an opportunity to completely re-think the use of the gardens post-COVID as part of the wider review of the public realm in the city centre. • There is an urgent need to protect the new landscaping in the gardens and to prioritise the use of this space for public enjoyment as a garden rather than a venue for events. We would urge that any future large events should be on hard standing only. • The length of time taken to install, and de-install larger events with all the associated disruption has been a major issue for NGS and our audiences. We would propose that stricter time limits on these are imposed and enforced as part of future planning agreements. • Agreements with any event organisers around repairing damage need to be strengthened and enforceable. • When this space is used in the future for events, there is a need to adopt an approach that feels unique and distinctive to Edinburgh, appropriate and respectful to the setting, and, most important, gains support from local residents, audiences & stakeholders.
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Date	21 Jan 2021 11:35AM
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Topics	
Number of comments	0

Edinburgh World Heritage

Title	Edinburgh World Heritage
Idea	Edinburgh World Heritage welcomes the stakeholder consultation. Even temporary changes to the World Heritage Site have the potential to have a major impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the site, especially

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	those that become regular events or festivals. We have the following comments to make:
Why the contribution is important	<p>1. A single point of contact for the management of Events, Films and Festivals is welcomed. It will significantly aid communication and feedback with stakeholders such as Edinburgh World Heritage.</p> <p>2. We note that many of the proposed areas for hire are within the World Heritage Site or Conservation Areas. Will Planning Consent also be required as part of this application process?</p> <p>3. Each location is unique in terms of its physical features, accessibility and its heritage values and structures. In developing the conditions for each location (and regularly reviewing them), the Public Events manager should consult EWH, the WHS Officer, the City Archaeologist, and the Museum Services Conservation officer to gather together information on the historic significance of the site.</p> <p>4. We recommend that a brief Heritage Statement/Summary is prepared for each location, outlining the main values and features of the site and any constraints that should be applied. Linking the statement to the application form would ensure that the officer considering the application has a good understanding and access to this information. The applicant will be able to design their event to complement/enhance the location and avoid submitting inappropriate proposals.</p> <p>5. We recommend that the table of available areas should mention Heritage Value and link to the Heritage Statement for each area.</p> <p>6. The Mission Statement should mention that the use of the space should respect the Heritage Values and Attributes of each area. This would come under 'special place' but would reinforce the need to consider and assess the impact on Heritage for the duration of the event. The World Heritage Site and its OUV's could be mentioned under the 'city's unique offering'.</p> <p>7. As cemeteries have very different values, needs and requirements – should they be separate/omitted from the greenspaces? They are now managed by Bereavement Services who are developing their own Strategy and Management Plans. There don't appear to be any burial grounds on the proposed list of locations.</p> <p>8. We recommend that the applicant thinks about how to avoid potential damage to historic fabric and assets by good design. Method Statements should be submitted to show how these will be protected and the conditions should include the requirement to screen waste containers, generators and other back of house equipment with barriers of appropriate material and quality for the location. The appearance and quality of the infrastructure for any event/festival is critical to maintaining the high standards that are expecting within the WHS.</p> <p>9. Under the Obligations for the Organiser – we suggest that the timely reinstatement and repair of any damage to the event site is included. Any accidental damage to historic built fabric should be restored by an appropriately qualified specialist with the appropriate materials and traditional methods.</p> <p>Fiona Rankin World Heritage Site Project Manager</p>
Created by	Ian_CEC (Site Admin)
Date	23 Jan 2021 10:50AM

URL	https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/29fuel9z7l/edinburgh-world-heritage
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 0.00, Number of votes: 0
Topics	
Number of comments	0

Grange / Prestonfield Community Council

Title	Grange / Prestonfield Community Council
Idea	<p>Subject: The CEC Public Space Management Plan (PSMP) 2021: Submission to CEC: Posted 17 Jan 2021</p> <p>Directed to the Theme: 'PSMP key principles and guidelines'</p>
Why the contribution is important	<p>1. Commentary: Reflecting Edinburgh (Guideline):</p> <p>“Thundering Hooves 2.0’, the strategy to strengthen Edinburgh’s position as the world’s leading Festival City” speaks to ‘vaulting ambition’ in an era of now radical change. The focus must shift <i>from</i> event frequency and scale <i>to</i> event holistic worth and sustainability. A return to ‘business as before’ on forceful, intensive, event promotion and hosting is no longer an option.</p> <p>The use of public spaces must reflect Edinburgh’s physical capacity and the ‘domestic’ priorities of <i>everyday</i> economic and business life alongside the need to protect ‘Edinburgh’s unique city offering’. As matters stand, the ‘tail has taken to wagging the dog’. <i>City projection</i> has outpaced <i>city protection</i>.</p> <p>A summary statement of the GPCC position would be as follows. The PSMP going forward must inevitably lead a shift in scale and density of approved events in comparison with the last decade or so. A continued drive to position Edinburgh as ‘the world’s leading Festival City’ will ultimately lead it to a fall from grace. The mood across the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC) is flagging this now.</p> <p>Edinburgh no longer needs ever-louder global applause for its cultural endeavours and it certainly doesn’t need an unchecked banner-headline as a party city. Nature, by way of climate and health exigencies, is telling us something different. CEC implicitly acknowledges the change. It’s time to square the circle in terms of the events calendar and its presently heavy imposition on the use of public infrastructure, space and amenity. The city’s character has been compromised and distorted. CEC as the guiding hand is as aware of this as anyone. The city can do less, and so do better.</p> <p>2. Commentary: Environment and Amenity (Key Principle):</p> <p>This principle needs to be reinforced by explicit CEC recognition that the drive to ‘internationalise’ this Festival City is now imposing significant net costs in terms of disruption, congestion and environmental burden. The costs are largely unquantified and are borne by the erosion of the ‘quality of life’ that is held central to the city’s character.</p> <p>A much stricter trade-off is warranted to govern event frequency and scale, and the off-the-shelf outsourcing of event management and participation to event producers and participant suppliers from well beyond the city and region. Local costs are best offset by retained local benefits.</p>

3. Commentary: Sharing Information (Key Principle):

Applications for space / site use should set out both 'proposals' likely to carry an 'adverse impact' from 'site occupation' *and* intended remedies. It is not enough to flag likely disruption by way of 'coordinated communications to residents and / or businesses'. The sharing of information should extend to clear pro-active recognition of community group and local business feedback on 'proposals' *before* event 'plans' are rubber-stamped.

4. Commentary: Statistics (Guideline):

There is an evident disinclination within community councils to take easily-paraded CEC / developer / event organiser statistics at face value. The phrasing 'not been able to trust', and the sentiment that 'reasonable dialogue' is consequently undermined, speak to the problem, perceived or real.

Climate, environmental, net zero carbon and now COVID-19 realities point to the need for an ongoing cost-benefit audit of city festivals and events much wider in scope, more rigorous in analysis, much less bland in terms of simple 'economic multiplier' assertions, and much less 'triumphalist' in terms of headline jobs and incomes 'delivered'. The 'benefit' ledger is easy to exaggerate. The 'cost' ledger builds out very substantially when (longer-term) 'sustainability' dynamics are introduced, as they ought to be and, in time, must surely be. Conflicts of ambition and of interest make for the compromise of both 'trust' and 'reasonable dialogue'.

Two proposals follow.

Proposal I. CEC should publish a detailed **Event Calendar Cash Flow** recording actual and projected *cash* income and expenditure entering CEC books and attributable to sanctioned and individually-identified 'events' (and the related parties). We mean here **cash-flow accounting**. Communities, residents and local businesses should see the *cash* involvement of CEC itself in the year-round festival and events calendar. This is a 'transparency' issue. Cash flows are the basis of all other accounting constructs.

Proposal II. CEC should fund an independently-monitored '**CEC Event Audit Desk**'. This function would be mandated to widen the nature of the financial and cost-benefit analysis and assessments of the festival and events (and also filming) calendar. It should verify methodologies and fact-check 'headline claims'. It should seek to extend the audit (by way of relevant partnerships) to encompass the city's adopted 'net zero-carbon' objective. We see revenues sourced from, for example, the tourist 'bed tax' as the funding channel.

5. Commentary: Carbon Footprint (Guideline):

Information on event carbon footprints and carbon offsets should be proactively published by CEC, not just 'always be available'.

If CEC wants to flag the virtue of leading a global 'target destination city' to a 'greener future', it should carry the obligation to drive home the message and to make some different choices in how it sanctions the use of the space and infrastructure for which it is the appointed steward.

6. Commentary: Carbon Neutrality 2030 (Key Principle):

This is a massively ambitious target, perhaps wholly inconsistent with the pending Local Development Plan (LDP), *City Plan 2030*, perhaps not.

The wide discussion leading up to and around *City Plan 2030* draws attention to this goal but is muted on how a heavy emphasis on city events can skew or hinder progress towards the objective. It is not too late to review the LDP due later this year in the light of new and more immediate

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	priorities for PSMP, and so to make any changes to the LDP needed to reinforce and facilitate the PSMP. GPCC
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Topics	
Number of comments	0

Leith Links Community Council

Title	Leith Links Community Council
Idea	<p>Leith Links Community Council (LLCC) has given due consideration to the City of Edinburgh Councils (CEC) private collaborative engagement regarding its Public Spaces Management Plan, and we offer the following submission for the consideration of Council Officers and Councillors.</p> <p>Parks and greenspaces are shared spaces essential to public wellbeing. They are used by citizens for a variety of uses such as playing sport or taking part in exercise, walking dogs, children playing, going for walks and meeting friends & family. The benefits of citizens of all ages being able to access high quality green space are well know, and officers involved in drafting the PSMP should be aware of these, if they are not we strongly suggest they follow up on the benefits as soon as possible before proceeding any further.</p> <p>There is always a very consistent message from communities about parks and greenspaces, not just Leith Links but others such as Pilrig Park etc. And that message is that communities value parks and greenspaces. These areas are living areas that form an integral part of our communities all year. And whilst event organisers may have a specific interest for the duration of their event, communities have an ongoing interest to protect and preserve our greenspaces not only for us here and now but for our future generations in a city where we are building vast numbers of new homes, many of which have little if any garden or outside space.</p> <p>The private collaborative engagement process</p> <p>LLCC is supportive of attempts by CEC to enter into meaningful engagement on the provisions of its services, and all matters which impact on citizens lives. We recognise this private collaborative engagement process as being well intended and a genuine attempt at gathering views.</p>

However, it is the view of LLCC that the process has not been user friendly at all;

Firstly, we were concerned about the process initially only being opened up to recognised stakeholders however, we have not seen a list of which stakeholders were invited by CEC to participate and are therefore unsure as to whether all relevant stakeholders for public spaces in our area were invited.

Secondly, we are concerned that although the initial message from CEC was that this was a process in which only recognised stakeholders could participate, it soon became clear that CEC was also making statements that any citizen could participate. This was confusing for people, and may have led to citizens being excluded as some were being told only stakeholders could participate whilst others were told they could participate.

Thirdly, the method was confusing. Having been directed to the CEC Consultation Hub we were then directed to five different web urls to take part in various aspects of the process. This felt confusing!

Fourthly, whilst recognising that the ongoing global Covid-19 pandemic has placed some restrictions upon how CEC engages with communities, we do not consider that there was an appropriate level of community engagement around this process. For example, there could have been workshops for each public space, or around each principle. Many in society are well able to take part in zoom or teams sessions (although many citizens are excluded for various reasons) and would have been able to offer input into a way they felt able to do so. Particularly when the web submissions process was so complex.

In terms of learning lessons from this process it is the position of LLCC that CEC considers carrying out a review of the engaged method & processes which have been used with a view to learning whether a similar approach should be used in the future or not, as it is was used or in some adapted form. This review should include community representatives, in house CEC officers with skills, knowledge & experience in quality community engagement including engaging with those hard to reach groups, that professionals with knowledge of such matters from outwith CEC be part of this review and that an appropriate Convenor or Vice Convenor be part of that review. Once the review is undertaken an outline should be shared with citizens.

Consultation on draft Public Spaces Management Plan

We understand that in due course a draft PSMP will be presented by CEC officer to the Culture and Communities Committee, if this draft if accepted it will go to a public consultation.

We strongly urge CEC to take time to properly consider how such a consultation will take place and how it can be done in a way that supports the citizens of Edinburgh, and those further afield, to take part in an easy &

accessible way. It is vital that CEC officers learn lessons from this private collaborative engagement process.

Ongoing community engagement

LLCC believes that the citizens of Edinburgh desire to be involved in decision making on an ongoing basis. LLCC believes that public spaces such as parks and greenspaces are areas of great importance to communities and as such citizens should be consulted on an ongoing basis about their use, management and development.

As such we believe that there should be meaningful and easy to access community engagement when each event application is being considered. And that this engagement should not be restricted to identified stakeholders to all citizens with an interest in a particular public space.

Further, we believe that there should be community engagement at the conclusion of each permitted event to ensure that citizens are able to feed back any positive or negative aspects of each particular event.

Of particular concern is that CEC have stated – *‘It is not anticipated that feedback will immediately influence an individual proposal’*, we believe that *this is a specific and direct attempt to limit community involvement & influence which is not acceptable. As is the CEC statement that ‘Feedback will be assessed (usually annually) and the findings made public’* is not acceptable. Annually is simply too long and disproportionate to value citizens & communities as a whole attach to valuable & important parks and greenspaces.

Whilst we accept that ongoing community engagement may place some pressure on the local authority we believe such ongoing community engagement is an essential part of managing our parks and greenspaces, and that such costs should be borne by the applicants rather than the public purse.

Leith Links Community Council Policy on Events on Leith Links

We ask that you note the content of our policy on events in Leith Links, which details our position on events in parks and greenspaces such as Leith Links. Which we ask you to take into consideration for Leith Links in particular but also more broadly for any park and greenspaces.

Unfortunately whilst attempting to copy & paste the document here it is not permitted due to the character limit, and there is no option to upload documents. However the document can be viewed in our website [clicking here](#)

Why the contribution is important

Parks and greenspaces are important to people.
Being involved in decisions that affects their lives and their communities is important to people.

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Topics	
Number of comments	1
Comment by LeithLinksCommunityCouncil 20/01/2021 21:35 Status: Approved	<p>External bookings for events on Leith Links</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>At regular intervals, LLCC receives and responds to requests from City of Edinburgh Council (Suzanne Anderson, Programme Officer - Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Service) for its views and comments on various applications asking for 'PERMISSION TO HOLD AN EVENT IN PARKS, GREENSPACE AND CEMETERIES'</p> <p>Rather than having to write out a separate detailed response every time, it is judged helpful to make public the general policy of LLCC on this matter. Further points and details can be added to the general policy requirements, as needed.</p> <p>1.0 The default position of Leith Links Community Council (LLCC) is to oppose and refuse requests to use Leith Links for commercial events. This is a public space and common good land. It belongs to the people, not to the Council. It is much needed and much used by the local community for leisure and exercise. Free access to open air green space is an important factor in the promotion and maintenance of health and well-being (physical and mental). The Covid19 pandemic in 2020 has dramatically emphasized the need for outdoor space for both exercise and socializing. Leith Links has been incredibly busy all year. The population of Leith in general</p>

and the

Links area in particular is growing significantly as more and more high-density housing

is built nearby. Leith is already one of the most densely populated districts in the UK,

outside London, and there is very little green space per head of population in Leith

compared with in other areas of Edinburgh. It is unacceptable for a private, commercial event that makes profit for its organizers, but that does not directly

benefit the people of the Leith Links area, to prevent free access by local people to

their own public space, especially for an extended period.

1.1 There should be no costs incurred by the tax payer in the provision of events on

Leith Links; all costs must be borne by the event organiser, unless they strike a

specific funding deal with the Council. Costs should not be absorbed by the

Council as this results in Council Tax funds etc. being spent for the benefit of

private businesses rather than for the community (see also Section 4., below)

1.2 However, should a request to hold an event be received, it is the policy of Leith

Links Community Council (LLCC) to advise City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) as

follows, as regards requests for permission to hold an event on Leith Links park:

1.2.1 To view favourably and to facilitate requests that conform to the conditions laid out (under 2-5 below), plus any other additional special conditions pertaining to individual applications.

1.2.2 To politely decline any requests that cannot undertake to meet these conditions in full (or that have demonstrated in the past failure to meet these conditions).

1.2.3 To invite Leith Links Community Council to take part in pre-event and post event planning exercises/meetings.

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2. General Conditions

2.1 Points of Principle

Application Stage

- All applications and requests for permission should be shared by CEC, for consultation, with Leith Links Community Council, with the greatest possible period of advance notice.

- Apart from any sections that may need to be redacted for privacy or commercial

reasons, CEC will share ALL the available information about the applicant and

the application with LLCC, so that a fully informed evaluation and decision can be

made.

- LLCC would like a commitment from the Council to not accept incomplete applications.

Decision stage:

- Priority should be given to local and community events, especially when these

are traditional / regular. For example – Leith Festival Gala Day, Funfair (during

Leith Festival week), Mela.

- Short events (one/two days) will be viewed more favourably than long events.

- No more than 4 major events should be held in one year (to preserve the grass).

- If possible, events should be well spaced-out in time, with at least a month between each (to let the grass recover).

- Because (different parts of) the park are used by a football club and a cricket club,

events should not be considered in those areas unless they fall outwith the relevant sporting season. That is, only July and (part of) August are available

where there are football pitches, and only October- April is available where there

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are cricket pitches (also the special (and expensive) all-weather cricket pitch must

be avoided completely as it is very susceptible to damage).

- Events / Organisers that have caused trouble in previous years should be

especially carefully monitored, and could potentially be 'barred' (say, if trouble is

caused more than once).

3. Specific Conditions of Let

(These exist alongside the policies, conditions and requirements of CEC and

do not replace these)

3.1 Safety and Security

- Event organisers must ensure that all staff and volunteers are fully trained and

supervised at all times.

- Adequate site security and stewarding must be provide