

# NTBCC Culture and Communities convenor's report

The CEC Culture & Communities Committee met on 29 February — after a two-and-half-month hiatus — with an agenda of (arguably) minor issues, <<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=6783&x=1>> including:

## 1. Nelson Monument (Business Bulletin 6.1)

The lower part of the monument is to reopen to the public in April.

## 2. Signage for Buskers (Business Bulletin 6.1)

This was about signage, but the background is the ongoing uncertainty about enforcement being discussed by the Convenor of Culture & Communities, the Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning, council officers and the police, and involving the interpretation (or not) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

## 3. Fireworks Control Zones (FCZs) (7.6)

Local authorities will have discretion to designative FCZs in November 2024. Also the public can request an FCZ. (This wasn't possible by November 2023.)

## 4. Events Budgeting (8.5)

Culture events and sports events currently have equal priority (3.2). Currently the budget is £296k (6.1). What is covered? What is not covered?

## 5. Parks and Openspace Investment Update (8.7)

An update on past investments. Still no money for Calton Hill, despite being priority park 6 out of 58 for lighting improvement.

## 6. Motion by Cllr McFarlane - Million Tree City - Consideration of Allergens (9.2)

*"Notes the advice from Allergy UK to avoid planting certain tree species ... where the pollens can sensitise susceptible people ... requests that officers ... involved in the Million Tree City project to increase diversity of tree species to avoid excessive quantities of a specific pollen type..."*

Lib Dem amendment (which was passed) *"Notes the need to plant trees which establish themselves and grow quickly, including pioneer species such as silver birch to swiftly increase the number of trees in the city."*

Background: birch is the commonest tree pollen allergen in northern countries. It can be carried hundreds of miles in the wind. The trees are short-lived.

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More substantial issues will come up at the next meeting on May 16, these include:

- Ed Winter Festivals Annual Update
- Use of West Princes St Gardens and Ross Bandstand
- Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspaces
- Thriving Greenspaces Strategy
- Provision of Public Conveniences
- Million Tree Annual Update
- Edinburgh's Winter Festivals Contact Management
- Tree Management and flood mitigation

Simon Holledge, 10 March 2024