

NTBCC 10 March 2025 / Culture & Communities Summary

CEC Culture and Communities Committee met on 27 February 2025, including the following items:

7.3 Firework Control Zones (FCZ)

The Firework Control Zones were introduced in 2024, and in some form will be repeated in 2025. The report suggests a new consultation on a city-wide zone and three areas where there was violence in 2024. As before, community organisations can apply for local FCZs.

This report was referred to full council on a point of order by the Green Group, following disagreement about the viability of a city-wide FCZ etc.

The **Calton Hill Conservation Trust** made a deputation asking for a year-round FCZ. (Most fireworks on the hill were set off outside the 1-10 November time period).

The Trust also protested the re-opening of the road up the hill to general traffic — following commercial pressure from the Collective Gallery (City Observatory) businesses — contravening council policy (e.g. ‘Safer Parks’ report to Culture & Communities Committee, 7 March 2023).

7.4 Use of the Ross Bandstand

Report approved without questions (but with a minor procedural Lib Dem addendum) — *“revised approach to delivery of major events in the Ross Bandstand/West Princes Street Gardens”* following consultation.

Results of the 2024 consultation were reported

4.12.2 *“An average of 86% of respondents were supportive of the May and September major event proposal, with strongest support for live/recorded music, followed by theatre, cinema and sports”.*

It was noted that *“the largest single group of respondents having a connection to the FLY Music Festival (253)”* contributed to the survey.

While:

4.12.4 *“Support for a “major event” taking place within the Ross Bandstand/West Princes Street Gardens as part of the Summer Festivals in July and August was split with 51% in favour. . . ”*

[I understand the Cockburn have been studying this issue, while NTBCC have been working on Princes St/Waverley valley.]

7.5 Edinburgh Events Strategy

2.1 *“The strategy is designed to deliver the aims of the Citywide Culture Strategy through events and festivals by supporting and prioritising the delivery and development of environmentally responsible events and festivals that offer meaningful opportunities in which to participate, and which celebrate communities and cultural heritage.”*

Presents a new strategy for 2025-2030 (Appendix 1). Previous 2016. Events budget is £246,000 plus £50,000 for sport.

7.6 Grow Your Own Community Grant Scheme

Relates to the *‘Right to Grow policy on cultivatable Council-owned land’* and a *‘Grow Your Own’* community grant programme.

A Consultation on Management Rules for Public Parks, Beaches and Green Space (now open, closes 11 April 2025)

Sections on **dogs in parks, busking and amplification** and the **draft rules** (7 pages). *“In general, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the management rules?”*

Questions:

1. How will the rules be published/displayed in parks given that it is 7 pages long?
2. If the council can't make by-laws what authority will the rules have? What does 13.1 mean *“The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply to the interpretation of these Management Rules as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.”*
3. Are the rules consistent with national legislation e.g. banning of all drones (8.6) and all fireworks (9.4)?

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10 March 2025