

Cllr Richard Lewis

Convener of Culture & Sport, Festival & Events Champion

Colinton Community Council – 13 September 2016

Remit

Edinburgh International Cultural Summit

The 3rd Edinburgh International Culture Summit runs from 24 to 26 August 2016. The Edinburgh International Culture Summit brings together Culture Ministers, artists, thinkers and arts leaders from around the world to share ideas, expertise and best practice, with a view to inspiring positive change in cultural policy and investment.

The theme of Summit 2016, 'Culture: Building Resilient Communities' reflects the Summit's strong belief in the vital role that culture plays in the life of any successful community.

I will be attending the Gala Dinner on the 24th August at the Scottish Parliament along with the Chief Executive.

Shanghai Culture Week

Shanghai Culture Week took place in Edinburgh at the beginning of August and was a fantastic showcase of the talents from one of China's largest cities.

The opening concert at the EICC featured three of the Shanghai's top youth orchestras – the Shanghai Young Philharmonic Orchestra, the Shanghai City Symphony Orchestra and the Shanghai City Young Symphony Orchestra - performing a programme of Western and Eastern classical music, including works by Grieg, Handel, Bizet and Tianhua.

Other public events for Shanghai Culture Week included a free exhibition of Shanghai Design at the EICC and the 'History Meets Innovation' fashion show, featuring the Chinese cheongsam dress, at the National Museum of Scotland on 11th August.

Music is Audible Working Group

The consultation on the change to the inaudibility clause in the current Licensing Policy has concluded and a report on the results and feedback from the consultation was considered by the Licensing Board at its meeting on 29th August 2016. The decision taken was to hold a hearing – allowing those for and against the policy change to make their case to the Board members.

Culture & Sport Committee

This took place on Tuesday 23rd August and we had a presentation from Duncan Hendry, Chief Executive of Festival City Theatres Trust on their performance over the last financial year. We also heard from Nick Bone and Saras Feijoos about the successes of the Edinburgh Performing Arts Development Project.

The committee discussed reports on plans to commemorate Elsie Inglis, the Edinburgh MELA, and Edinburgh's Christmas and Hogmanay key performance indicators.

Launch of the 2016 Green Pencil Award

I was delighted to join the pupils from Preston Street Primary School and the children's author Vivien French at Princes Street Gardens for the launch of the 2016 Green Pencil Award. This year's theme for the annual writing competition is Scotland's Glorious Gardens and pupils from P4 to P7 can write a poem or a short story which focuses on anything from a memorable visit to a Scottish garden like the Royal Botanic Gardens or a creative depiction of what the ideal Scottish garden would look and smell like.

Transfer of management responsibility for school sport facilities

The Council has agreed, in principle, to transfer the management of school sport facilities to Edinburgh Leisure. This will begin with the new James Gillespies High School and further new build high schools will be transferred as they open to pupils. The plan is that the transfer for all twenty high schools (including Firrhill High School) will be completed by the start of the 2017/18 curricular year.

Constituency

PPP1 School Closures

The independent inquiry into Edinburgh's school closures has started and is being led by respected construction and procurement industry expert John Cole CBE.

All pupils were back in their own schools as normal for the start of the new session on Wednesday 17 August.

In total, 17 schools were closed with 7,600 pupils affected as we put in place a huge logistical plan to provide alternative arrangements. More than 5,000 children were educated at over 70 different schools and education facilities during the three months until the summer holidays.

The report into the school closures is expected to be finished by the end of the year.

Waste

There are still waste issues arising across the City, missed collections and complaints are still around twice the level of 2014.

TTRO

Nothing to report.

Cllr Richard Lewis

Convener of Culture & Sport

SNP Councillor for the Colinton/Fairmilehead Ward

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