

Cross-Party Group on St. Andrew's Day

Wed.3 November 2021 at 6pm Virtual Meeting

Minute

Present

MSPs

Paul McLennan (Convener), Craig Hoy, Jenni Minto

Invited guests

Ian Sirrell (Scottish Govt), Lucy Carmichael (Scottish Govt)

Non-MSP Group Members

Dennis Canavan (Secretary), Rev. Neil Galbraith, Christina Hendry, Dave Moxham (STUC), Anthony Horan (Catholic Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh), Dave Williamson, David Lonsdale (SRC)

Apologies

Ephraim Borowski (SCOJEC), Jalal Chaudry

Agenda item 1

Minutes of meeting of 8 September 2021 approved. No matters arising.

Agenda item 2

Ian Sirrell outlined Scottish Govt's Winter Festivals Programme. £400,000 support from Scot. Govt. 4 big national events: Torchlight Procession in Glasgow; Winterland in Perth; Fairplay in Edinburgh in partnership with FairSaturday; Caledonian Festival (virtual).

Other events in pipe-line including multi-cultural celebration led by BEMIS.

Applications still open for Robert Burns events.

Total of 110-120 events celebrating St. Andrew's Day.

Main message: kindness and fairness .

IS referred to a study on economic impact of Robert Burns but unaware of any similar study re. St. Andrew's Day.

IS will forward to DC further details of events.

PM referred to importance of involving business community and potential for business opportunities. DL agreed and will forward some contact details to DC.

DW stressed importance of involving schools . IS referred to annual schools debate on or around St. Andrew's Day.NG referred to school children participating in Conga event at Hampden Park.

DW raised importance of involving COSLA and individual Councils .

PM mentioned the need for an over-all strategy for celebration of St. Andrew's Day and agreed to contact Jenny Gilruth, Culture Minister, regarding this. PM and DC to draft letter to Minister,

Agenda item 3

DC reported that he had contacted Lord Jim Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, re. suggestion of an inter-faith event to celebrate St.Andrew's Day, possibly in 2022. Moderator tabled DC's letter at a meeting of Scottish Church Leaders Forum. Consensus was that Inter-faith Scotland was the best vehicle to take his forward. DC agreed to contact Director of Inter-Faith Scotland.

Agenda item 4

It was agreed that next meeting would take place in early part of 2022 possibly with Jenny Gilruth at a date and time suitable to the Minister.