

# Cross-Party Group on St. Andrew's Day

Wednesday 16 March at 6pm Virtual Meeting

Minute

Present

MSPs

Paul McLennan, Alex Rowley, Michelle Thomson

Invited guests

Ian Sirrell (Scot. Govt.), Lucy Carmichael (Scot. Govt.), Katie McCauley (PM's office )  
, Aidan Strang ( PM's office).

Non-MSP Group Members

Dennis Canavan, Jalal Chaudry, Rev. Neil Galbraith, Dave Williamson, Maureen Sier,  
Ruhya Parris

Apologies

Isabel Smyth, Anthony Horan, Joe Goldblatt, Pat Kelly, Murdo Fraser MSP, David  
Lonsdale, Michael Veitch, Craig Hoy MSP, Ephraim Borowski.

Agenda item 1

Minutes of meeting of 3 November 2021 approved. No matters arising.

Agenda item 2

Report of Convener's meeting with Minister Neil Gray MSP: Strategy for St. Andrew's Day was discussed. IS indicated that the Scottish Govt. would not be producing a strategy for St. Andrew's Day as such but would be doing a review of the Winter Festivals Programme which should be finalised by the end of April.

Agenda item 3

Call for evidence. PM to co-ordinate with DC re. drafting letter to interested organisations/individuals and open invitation on website asking for submissions by end of April. IS could not give out contact list to CPG but could send notification to interested organisations.

## Agenda item 4

Up-date on St. Andrew's Day events 2021..

Despite Covid, about 100 St. Andrew's Day events went ahead, due largely to success of St. Andrew's Fair Saturday. Largest amount of Scot. Govt. funding went to EventScotland. Events held at various venues, including Oban, St. Andrews, Edinburgh and Glasgow with multi-cultural events across 7 Local Authority areas.

54 organisations staged St. Andrew's Fair Saturday events- international dimension.

A debate for young people was held virtually.

The general theme for St. Andrew's Day was kindness/thinking of others and people were encouraged to send out appropriate messages and do acts of kindness

## Agenda item 5

Inter-faith Event.

PM and MS suggested it should be held in Scottish Parliament building, possibly a reception in the Garden Lobby. RP proposed a theme of Refuge and Shelter.. MT suggested a musical component. There could be a series of events, including a debate in the Chamber. PM to take forward suggestion of debate along with other MSP members of CPG. NG stressed the need to involve community groups. Important that the event be truly multi-faith and multi-cultural.

PM to enquire about availability of Garden Lobby. Suggestion that a working group be set up to take this matter forward, including MSPs and others interested.

## Agenda Item 6

Future meeting with Minister Neil Gray. PM and IS to try to arrange this for May after review of Winter Festivals is finalised.

## Agenda Item 7

Suggestion re. audit of local authorities to find out what they do/planned to do to celebrate St. Andrew's Day, including possible recognition of holiday. DC said he had contacted all 32 Council leaders after the last LA elections and is prepared to do likewise after this year's LA elections.