

Report on	Autumn Corporate Events Update
Date of Meeting	10 September 2020
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Sharon Arbuthnot

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide a further update on the Corporate Autumn Events.
2.0	Background
2.1	No advice has been given yet regarding mass gatherings and maximum numbers permitted to attend an outdoor event. However, from Monday 24 August 2020 the maximum number of people who can meet outdoor has been reduced from 30 people to 15 people. Any meetings of more than 15 people will be required to complete a risk assessment.
2.2	To ensure all options were investigated; site visits took place in particular looking at the logistics of hosting firework displays with officers and Health and Safety.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Health and Safety would recommend a 2m social distancing measure should any event occur. If families arrive in their 'Household Bubble' that will be permitted.
3.2	It is envisaged that the maximum attendance permitted at an outdoor event during autumn could be between 300 to 500 people. However, at this stage it is hard to judge with the recent increase in positive Covid-19 cases and the tightening of some of the relaxed measures what this will look like come October.
3.3	It is important to note, hosting an event with a maximum capacity of up to 500 people or even 1000 people would greatly reduce the numbers from previous events and in most cases decrease the audience by at least over one third or more.
3.4	To ensure the maximum capacity numbers were not exceeded, any events organised would have to be ticketed. This will also enable Council to contact the people attending any event with guidance on the lead up to the event and in addition may support contact tracing if required.

3.5 It is vital to highlight that if an event was at capacity (based on the maximum attendance numbers in line with Executive guidance); Council must also consider the risk of non-ticket holders attending the area outside the event arena. Depending on the probability of this occurring and the level of risk associated the PHA and/or the PSNI could cancel the event due to public safety.

3.6 The Marketing and Communications plan will be vital to the success of any event, this year more than others.

3.7 Consultations took place with each of the Town Centre Forums. A series of options were discussed with the proposed options included below.

3.8 Coalisland Halloween Event – Gortgonis Site (Council Site)

Three options were investigated; Option one was to organise a Firework Display similar to previous years however with the social distance measures in place this would impact massively in attendance figures permitted on site.

Option two, host a lower scale firework display which would have reduced visibility from neighboring residential area and again significantly reduced the attendance numbers.

With this in mind, we propose the following:

Event Proposal

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Source Halloween themed lighting to be positioned at the Cornmill Centre Coalisland. The lighting could be programmed and run for a few hours each evening over a number of days. People could come and view this with their own families and in their cars at a safe distance from others.• External community activities could be organised and promoted which could take place over a number of days. For example, the bi-lingual Ghost folk lore tours, football tournament and Halloween themed story telling.• No Firework display would take place this year. This would reduce, numbers of people coming together. |
|--|

3.9 Dungannon Halloween Event – Market Square Dungannon (Town Centre Location)

In depth discussions took place with regards to hosting a Fireworks display similar to last year in the town centre. However due to the social distancing and maintaining the maximum capacity, hosting an event in the town centre would be challenging. Additionally, the PHA and/or PSNI may have concerns which could result in the event being cancelled.

With this in mind, we propose the following:

Event Proposal

- Halloween themed lighting erected in Market Square Dungannon for a number of days to celebrate Halloween. This would enhance the atmosphere within the town centre for residents and shoppers.
- Halloween Story Telling by characters in costume from a Halloween decorated set in Ranfurly House. The stories could be produced by local school children and streamed online.
- The Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House could host Halloween workshops for families (either online/or as ticketed event).

3.10

Maghera Halloween

St Patrick College site and the vacant site on the Tobermore Road was visited and considered for a firework display. The main concerns as with the other sites include:

1. The uncertainty around the numbers permitted to attend any outdoor gathering.
2. The limit on numbers would result in more than one third of last year's attendance figures not being permitted to attend.
3. The continued daily incline in Covi-19 positive cases impacts on the confidence of our local residents.
4. The risk of localised lockdowns or second wave which would result in no event proceeding.

With this in mind, we propose the following:

Event Proposal

- Develop a Halloween trail from the Walled Garden adjoining the new Largentogher Walk.
- Social distancing measures would be in place and tickets would be issued to manage numbers.
- The Halloween trail could be open for a number of days subject to demand.
- The option encourages people to get outdoors and active within their Bubble with no mass gathering of people.
- Run competitions in the schools for children to design monsters/witches etc for the walk and then have them made as figures and integrated into the walk, may encourage families and grandparents' aunts' uncles etc to participate
- No fireworks display for this year.

3.11

Mid Ulster Sports Arena

Historically this event has always attracted an audience of approximately 5000 people. Similarly, to the other events, a number of options were investigated for this year. However, the issues still need to be considered.

With this in mind, we propose the following:

	<p>Event Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a Halloween trail for children and families on the site. • The Trail would be Halloween themed and would take into consideration the social distancing measures. • A ticket management system would be in place to manage numbers. • Allocated time slots to ensure residents safety. • Due to demand the trail could run over a number of days.
<p>3.12</p>	<p>Magherafelt Christmas</p> <p>As with other town Centre events during these surreal times restricting the numbers would be extremely difficult. Firework display tends to attract large numbers of people, which leads to mass gatherings of people.</p> <p>With this in mind, we propose the following:</p> <p>Event Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A virtual switch on –this could be pre-recorded to avoid people coming into the town centre. • Santa could visit the residential areas within the town centre to ensure the kids saw Santa. • Enhanced lighting/lighting feature on Broad Street to link with the existing lighting features. The lighting could be launched at the virtual switch on and remain on during the run up to Christmas. • The lighting would increase the feel-good atmosphere in the town centre whilst increase civic pride within our residents. • Local artists would be invited to participate in a recorded Christmas song. • Shops would be encouraged via the chamber to get involved in the Christmas window decorating competition.
<p>3.13</p>	<p>Other Christmas Events</p> <p>Discussions will take place regarding all our Christmas events. Proposals will be developed after consultation with our Town Centres Forums and presented at the next meeting for approval.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Other Considerations</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p>
	<p>Financial: All event proposals will be delivered within budgets.</p>
	<p>Human: Officers will develop the proposals subject to approval.</p>
	<p>Risk Management: Risk Assessment will be completed where necessary.</p>

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To celebrate Halloween and Christmas in Mid Ulster a new way. With no mass gatherings of people, but in a safe way enhancing the atmospheres within our town centres and instilling civic pride with our residents amidst these uncertain times.
6.0	Documents Attached & References