

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Cultural Sub-Committee : 9 December 2008

Subject: Major Events 2009

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to outline to Members of the Committee the major events proposed for 2009.

2.0 Background

- 2.1** The Council's annual programme of outdoor events has grown over the past few years. The programme is a mix of community based events, such as local gala days and larger events, staged in partnership with external agencies and promoters.
- 2.2** As part of the Council's events strategy for 2008 – 2011, a draft major events programme (Appendix A) was approved at the HE & ED Committee meeting of November 2007.
- 2.3** Work has been ongoing in relation to developing the draft events programme for 2009 and, as agreed by Committee, discussions have taken place with organisations who may be involved in the delivery of major events in 2009.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1** Due to a variety of factors, the draft programme for 2009 previously considered by Members has somewhat changed.

- 3.2** The major events proposed for 2009 now consist of :-

May	-	Scottish Pipe Band Championships
May	-	Moss O'Balloch Music Festival (Classical/Americana/Country and Western)
July	-	Loch Lomond Highland Games
July	-	Clydebank Canal Festival
August	-	Clydebank Music Festival

- 3.3** The main changes to original proposals can be summarised as follows:-

- 3.3.1** There will be no Live at Loch Lomond Festival in 2009.

The Promoter has advised that the market is over-saturated with music festivals at present and indicated that the next event which he would wish to hold within West Dunbartonshire would be in 2010. The Events team is therefore exploring options for an alternative event in 2009.

3.3.2 Progress has been difficult in identifying a promoter or partner to stage the planned 2009 classical concert. Lately however, discussions have been held between Events & Halls and an established, experienced music promoter who is interested in promoting, either solely or in partnership with the Council, both a classical music event and a Country and Western/Americana festival in 2009. It is hoped therefore that suitable proposals are received from the promoter for both events to be staged in 2009. Alternatively in the absence of any promoter partnership it is proposed that the Council would stage a Country and Western/Americana event itself in 2009 with the classical event being considered for 2010.

3.3.3 In developing the number of small-scale events, it is proposed that a Clydebank Music Festival be established in 2009. This would centre around a one/two free music events staged at Dalmuir Park and feature a mix of local musical talent (bands, singers etc.) and bought in bands such as tribute acts, unsigned bands etc. It is anticipated that this event would cost in the region of £5,000 - £7,000 to stage.

3.3.4 The Committee will be aware that the Council is staging an afternoon/early evening Hogmanay event at Balloch in 2008. Consideration may be given to repeating this event in 2009 and also hosting a similar event in Clydebank. Such proposals will be considered following evaluation of the 2008 event at Balloch.

4.0 Personnel Issues

4.1 These events will be planned, staged and managed by staff from the Events & Halls Section, other Council services and external partners and agencies.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 The majority of the events staged by the Council in the 2009 draft programme are budgeted for in the 2009/10 Events & Halls Revenue Budget.

5.2 The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Championship is budgeted for in the 2009/10 Sundry Services Revenue Budget.

5.3 It is proposed that the Clydebank Music Festival event be funded from the 2009/10 revenue budget allocation of £25,000 for small scale events.

- 5.4** As part of the Revenue Estimate exercise for 2009/10, a budget allocation in the Events & Halls 2009/10 Revenue Budget has been requested for the 2009 Country & Western/Americana event however this may not be required, dependent on the previously referred to proposal from the external promoter.

6.0 Risk Analysis

- 6.1** As these are all outdoor events there is a risk that the weather will affect the events, especially those taking place later in the year. The events programme has however experienced bad weather in the past and has still been fulfilled therefore this risk is considered to be minimal.

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1** By necessity, the proposal for major events have been reviewed as outlined earlier. A number of new events are proposed and all events are either funded at the moment or have budget allocations pending. The proposals for major events fulfill the Council's commitment to expand the local cultural landscape, increase social inclusion and consolidate and improve tourism visits to the area.

8.0 Recommendations

- 8.1** It is recommended that Members of the committee :-

- a) consider and endorse the proposed major events for 2009 as shown in 3.2; and
- b) request the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development to continue discussions with music/events promoters as necessary to deliver the proposed events.

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Appendix: Draft 2008 – 2011 Major Event Proposals (as at Nov 2007)

Background Papers: Events: 2008 and beyond – Report to Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee of 07 November 2007

Wards Affected: All