

DRAFT

IN BLOOM WORKING GROUP

12 April, 2010

(c) Light Nights

The Working Group heard from Mr. Tom Moore, City Centre Manager, who advised the Working Group of 'Light Nights' a new initiative which would bring to the attention of residents of Aberdeen the huge number of activities that were available for them to participate in within the city. He explained that the project should give a platform to local charities, voluntary organisations and businesses, and would encourage greater engagement and civic responsibility and pride. The engagement of such organisations and businesses would allow for connections to be made across the community as a whole and help engender civic responsibility and pride. In turn making people feel safer in the community.

He further explained that the project was modeled on initiatives utilized in other European Countries. The essence of the event was to change the dynamics of the town or city centre at night by making them places that all feel welcome and that fundamentally change the community perception of their town centre at night. To date several UK cities had trialed Light Nights during 2008 and Glasgow was due to launch the initiative this winter.

Members discussed the initiative extensively during which they highlighted that it was a positive initiative which could benefit the city centre and agreed that they would wish to further explore the possible introduction of the initiative, its viability and the benefits to the city. At this point the Clerk to the Group reminded members that the Working Groups remit was "to act as an advisory group; and to plan and promote the 'In Bloom' campaigns". As such if the Working Group wished to further explore this initiative it would have to recommend that the Housing and Environment Committee, as its parent Committee, agree to extend the current remit of the Working Group to include the exploration of the "Light Nights" initiative.

The Working Group resolved:-

to recommend that the Housing and Environment Committee, as the parent committee of the In Bloom Working Group expand the Working Group's current remit "to act as an advisory group; and to plan and promote the 'In Bloom' campaigns" to include "to explore the viability and opportunities of the Council in conjunction with local businesses, voluntary sector organisations and other relevant bodies, introducing the 'Night Lights' initiative".