

MEMBER-SPONSORED EVENT: HOMELESS WORLD CUP 2014

Executive summary

1. Parliamentary officials have received a request from the Homeless World Cup 2014 to use the Landscaped Gardens to put on a football match on Wednesday 26 February 2014. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of the 2014 Homeless World Cup 2014 and its work prior to a reception that Christina McKelvie MSP will be sponsoring that evening.
2. All events that make use of the Landscaped Gardens must be approved by the SPCB.

Background

3. The Homeless World Cup is a National Charity based in Edinburgh. It has partner organisations in 70 global countries who all use football to help improve the lives of homeless people. It was founded in 2003 when the first annual Homeless World Cup tournament was held in Graz, Austria with 16 countries taking part. The 11th Homeless World Cup was held in August 2013 in Poznan, Poland with 63 teams taking part.
4. Football is used to help move the homeless person away from the isolation they feel and gradually over time they are introduced into other areas of advice and help including housing, employment, health, sexual abuse, addiction, HIV and education/training. It is the football that keeps them coming back and allows the homeless person to build a renewed sense of community and wellbeing whilst also rebuilding health, self-esteem and confidence.
5. Representatives from Italy, Czech Republic, Northern Ireland, Netherlands and Scotland will take part in a 3-day visit between Tuesday 25 and Thursday 27 February 2014. This will involve learning about the activities of Scottish partner organisation, Street Soccer Scotland, whilst also sharing information on their own respective programmes with each other. It is also an opportunity for the Homeless World Cup to promote the organisation and movement to Edinburgh, Scotland and Europe.

International Challenge Match

6. In addition to staff representatives, the Netherlands will also bring a team of 5 players who have recently experienced homelessness and who have been helped through their situation by the Dutch partner organisation, Dutch Street Cup/Life. They will play as Team

Netherlands in an international challenge match against Team Scotland. This match will mirror the type of match played at their annual Homeless World Cup tournament.

7. The organisers would like to involve the Scottish Parliament during the 3-day visit in three ways:
 - hold the International Challenge match on the Landscaped Gardens outside the Parliament;
 - invite a team of 5 cross-party MSPs to participate in a friendly match against a mixed Netherlands/Scotland team; and
 - hold an awareness raising event in the Scottish Parliament on the Wednesday evening hosted by Christina McKelvie MSP.
8. Matches would be played between 12:15 and 13:15 on Wednesday 26 February. The games are 4-a-side and are played within a football court sized 22m x 12m. Each game will last for 15 minutes including one minute at half time (7 minutes each way). Twenty minutes is allocated per game. Photographs will be taken and National Anthems played.
9. Homeless World Cup will provide all of the equipment required to play the matches. The playing area will be a court with 1.1m high perimeter boards, goals with nets and 3m high netting behind each goal. The court will be secured by ground pegs. A 3m x 3m pop up marquee will be erected and a PA system will be put in place to allow for commentary.
10. The organisers plan to invite media to report on the game and the wider visit. It is proposed that this will include TV, Newspapers, Social Media and Radio.

Issues and options

11. Whilst the football match in the Landscaped Gardens would provide an opportunity for Members to learn about the Homeless World Cup and although Member-sponsored events and exhibitions can highlight work of specific charities the SPCB cannot endorse any charity – other than PoppyScotland – under its Charities and Fundraising Policy. Holding the football match in the Landscaped Gardens in itself could be seen as the SPCB endorsing this charity and their campaign.

Resource Implications

12. If the SPCB were to agree to the proposal staff time to organise it will be factored into existing workloads. All costs associated with this event will be met by the Homeless World Cup.

Governance issues

13. There are Health and Safety and Facilities management issues with this event. If the SPCB decides that the event should go ahead these will be addressed by officials in the planning stages for the event.
14. Consultation has taken place with the Police Unit and Security about this proposal. Neither team foresee any security issues with the event taking place in the Landscaped Gardens.

Publication scheme

15. This Paper should only be published after formal announcement of the event or after a decision is communicated to the charity.

Next Steps

16. If approved by the SPCB as a Member-sponsored event in the Landscaped Gardens, the Events and Exhibitions Team will take forward all necessary actions for the planning and delivery of this event.

Recommendation

17. Although the event in the Landscaped Gardens provides an opportunity to engage and brief Members on the Homeless World Cup 2014 it could also be seen as the Scottish Parliament endorsing this and given the organisers are holding an awareness raising event in the evening for Members we would recommend that the SPCB does not approve the event in the Landscaped Gardens.

Decision

18. The SPCB is asked to consider this Paper and agree that under its Charity and Fundraising Policy that the event proposed by the Homeless World Cup 2014 may not take place in the Parliament's Landscaped Gardens.

EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

January 2014