

Elected Member Technical Note

Report by: Thomas Glen, Depute Chief Executive – Place, Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets

TN Number 011-21

Date: 20 April 2021

Subject: Kirkintilloch Canal Festival 2021

Responsible Officer: Heather Holland, Executive Officer - Land Planning & Development

Publication

This Technical Note will be published on the Council's website following circulation to Member. Its contents may be disclosed or shared outwith the Council.

Details:

The purpose of this Technical Note is to advise Elected Members the Kirkintilloch Canal Festival ('the festival') will not take place this year due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions.

The festival is an annual event held in the last weekend in August, which celebrates and promotes the town and its assets. It is the largest festival in the East Dunbartonshire events calendar attracting circa 25,000 visitors during the main weekend. The festival offers a diverse range of programmed activity for families and the wider community, and offers a large economic benefit to local businesses.

Although restrictions are currently being eased at this time, given the advanced planning and preparation required to implement the festival, the majority of suppliers are normally engaged by April.

Officers are currently advising suppliers that the festival will not take place in 2021, but it is hoped it can resume next year if safe to do so.

In place of the normal festival Officers are investigating options for any online activity that can run in August. This could include: online performances or entertainment; celebrations and promotion of local assets, heritage, local shops and services; and promotion of 'healthy habits' and active travel – for example walking and cycling opportunities in the town. This may involve working with local partners, local businesses and local community organisations.

Nothing will be progressed to contract performers or implement activity that would attract or encourage crowds.

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