



Nairn West & Suburban Community Council

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Letter Sent By Email

11/04/2023

Dear Councillors,

The topic of events funding has been raised at prior NWSCC Meetings, where concerns have been expressed at the risk of loss of important local volunteer-run events due to lack of funding.

NWSCC believes that transparency and decision-making in the management and use of Common Good assets and funds would benefit from the implementation of the Common Good Engagement Group and is disappointed that this has been delayed.

Councillors are likely aware of the recent Facebook post (screen grab below) which indicates that the Highland Council proposed to charge a local community group to use the Bandstand for an 'ex-pats' stall at this year's Nairn Games. Subsequent comments critical of the council/councillors and charging of such events illustrates that some official clarity on charging for community use of Common Good land would be welcomed.

Furthermore, according to John Urquhart in a comment to the post, charges for use of the Bandstand were waived for the Christmas Carol Concert. NWSCC believes that there should be a clear and consistent policy and that while it is reasonable to levy charges for the use of Common Good premises or assets by business organisations, fundraising groups or commercial enterprises, in principle the use of such CG assets/facilities by voluntary groups for informal events which are for community recreation and benefit should not be subject to charges, or should have charges waived.

We look forward to your response to this letter and believe that the community would appreciate a public response to the situation through an appropriate channel.

Kind regards,

Alastair Noble (Chair)

