

Minute of Meeting of the Scottish Showmen's Guild Cross Party Working Group held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013, in the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh. Commencing 1pm.

Attending MSPs:-

Richard Lyle MSP (Convenor Cross Party Group)  
David Torrance MSP  
John Mason MSP  
Clare Adamson MSP  
Philip Brown (Parliamentary Assistant to Richard Lyle MSP)

Attending from Showmen's Guild:-

Alex James Colquhoun (Chairman Scottish Section)  
Charles Horne (Vice Chairman Scottish Section)  
Christine Stirling (Committee member and Education Liaison Officer)  
Jane Rodgers (Secretary Scottish Section and Cross Party Group)

### **Agenda**

- 1) Minutes of last meeting - 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013
- 2) Update on educational issues
- 3) Update on licensing
- 4) Fencing around fairgrounds
- 5) NHS Scotland
- 6) AOCB

#### **1) Minutes - 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013**

Minutes of the previous meeting were noted and adopted.

## **2) Update on Educational Issues**

Christine Stirling confirmed:-

- \* Mike Russell MSP has been given the information required. Hopefully, the SEEMUS form will now be amended
- \* Another meeting has been arranged with Mike Russell on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013.

## **3) Update on licensing**

- \* Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013 with Julie Whitelaw, Chief Solicitor, West Lothian District Council was attended by Richard Lyle MSP and Alex James Colquhoun. Julie Whitelaw is adamant that that she is correct as far as the law is concerned.

As of next year the Council is insisting on Security Guards and fencing around all fairgrounds putting the smaller fairs in the area in jeopardy.

## **4) Fencing around fairgrounds**

Richard Lyle MSP and Alex James Colquhoun also attended meetings on:-

- \* 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013 with Chief Superintendent, Nelson Telfer from Police Scotland, following an objection by the local police to a proposed fair in Easterhouse. Not only were they insisting on fencing but objected because of trouble in the area which had nothing to do with the fair. The outcome of the meeting is that there should be a common policy regarding fairs. Nelson Telfer will put this together and take it forward.
- \* 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013 with Joe Brown, Head of the Better Regulation Team, who has undertaken to look at sub legislation on a fairground Bill for example, the difference in licence fees, which are non refundable, and the varying conditions being imposed by Councils appertaining to licences.

- \* 14<sup>th</sup> June 2013 with Gavin Whitefield, Chief Executive, North Lanarkshire Council, and Eric Hislop, Head of Regeneration and Infrastructure. The outcome of which the Council is amending its views and will have designated Council sites for fairgrounds. As yet no confirmation has been received in this regard.

**Action: Write to Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism regarding some form of sub legislation or amendments to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982**

- \* Alex James Colquhoun advised that he had been invited to and attended the European Showmen's Union (ESU) International Meeting in Brussels on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013. Following which the Scottish Section of the Showmen's Guild has applied to join the ESU, in its own right. There is to be a Central Council meeting of all Sections of the Showmen's Guild of Gt Britain in January 2014, when the rest of the Sections, may or may not decide, to join the ESU.
- \* Richard Lyle MSP advised that he and Alex James Colquhoun will be attending a meeting this afternoon with Alyn Smith MEP to ask him to ascertain if European Law is being contravened.

## **5) NHS Scotland**

- \* Richard Lyle MSP advised he had tabled a written question to Alex Neil MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Well Being, regarding the inclusion of showpeople and hoped to receive a response by the end of the month.
- \* Alex James Colquhoun reported on the events which took place regarding the fair at Kirkcaldy in April. The Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) insisted that the ambulance cover at the fair was not sufficient. This resulted in the Showmen's Guild having to employ extra cover at a cost of almost £4000 or the fair would have been closed. Previously SAS were employed but in past years a Private Ambulance company has been employed to provide cover. There is nothing within UK law which says you need to provide first aid or ambulance cover at fairs.

\* SAS were invited to attend the de brief meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013, but declined sending an e mail the day before the meeting asking that it be postponed and re-arranged for a months time. The meeting went ahead with the relevant departments from Fife Council, Police, Fire, Private Ambulance and David Torrance MSP all attending. SAS did not attend neither did NHS Fife.

***Action: SAS to be invited to attend a future meeting of the Cross Party Working Group.***

## **6) AOCB**

As there was no other competent business the Chairman closed the meeting at 1.55pm.