

Cllr Richard Lewis

Convener of Culture & Sport, Festival & Events Champion

Colinton Community Council – January 2016

Remit

Culture & Sport Committee

The Culture & Sport Committee took place at the end of November 2015 and we had a report on Edinburgh's new Culture Plan and updates on the summer festivals, Edinburgh's museums and galleries and the capital's physical activity and sport strategy.

I was also interviewed by the Scotsman, Herald and BBC Radio Scotland on the new Culture Plan for Edinburgh.

Edinburgh's Winter Festival

Edinburgh again led the way with its Christmas and Hogmanay celebrations. This year we had a new free event on the Royal Mile, the Street of Light, with over 200,000 people enjoying the light show that involved 60,000 lights in time to choral music.

Despite the impact of the Forth Road Bridge closure, the attractions in Princes Street Gardens remained as popular as ever and the crowds flocked to the annual street party in the city centre as well as the Concert in the Gardens and the Old Town Ceilidh. For those brave enough, the loony dook offered the opportunity to celebrate the start of 2016 by dipping a toe into the Firth of Forth.

World Creative Economy Summit – Shanghai 2015

I had an exhilarating and intriguing few days in Shanghai at the beginning of December attending the World Creative Economy Summit. I delivered a keynote speech on the morning of the conference and had a number of meetings with senior officials from the Chinese Government and Donghua University.

Shanghai and China will be investing significant amounts of money into their cultural infrastructure over the next five years and I have asked officials to closely monitor developments.

Festival Forum

I recently attended my first Festival Forum meeting as Festival and Events Champion. We had updates from each of the festivals directors on the performance of their events over the last year as well as looking at the implementation of the Thundering Hooves 2.0 report and membership of new sub-groups that have been created on the back of the review.

National Performance Centre for Sport

I visited Riccarton Campus recently with Cllrs Burns, Howat and Rankin and we toured the site to view the construction of the new £30M National Performance Centre.

The new venue has made significant progress since construction began on site back in April. The superstructure is now in place and the internal fit out has now begun. The building is on schedule to be completed and open to use in 2016.

Meggetland Sports Complex – water based hockey pitch

The construction of the Council's first ever water based hockey pitch is underway at Meggetland. The £300k pitch is making steady progress and will be ready to use early in the New Year.

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7th January 2016