

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

3 MARCH 2015

CAMERA OBSCURA BARRIE PAVILION

BACKGROUND

A Minute of agreement between Kirriemuir Cricket Club, the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) and Angus Council was drawn up in 1999. The minute of Agreement set out conditions and arrangements under which NTS would operate the Camera Obscura in the Barrie Pavilion on Kirriemuir Hill, on behalf of Angus Council.

In accordance with that Minute, annual meetings were held with NTS at the end of each summer season until 2010 for Angus Council Neighbourhood Services Staff to receive a report from NTS and agree the level of deficit funding support Angus Council would provide. Latterly this amount was pegged at £10,000 per annum for each annual period of let.

In December 2012, a meeting was held at which NTS were informed that deficit funding from the Council budgets would cease at the end of the 2012/13 financial year, but that NTS would be eligible to submit an application to the Angus Council Survive and Thrive Cultural Heritage Tourism Award Scheme for the years 2013/14 and 2014/15. This they did, and an award of £10,000 was approved for each of those financial years.

However, as of the end of the financial year 2014/15, no monies or potential sources of funding will be available from the Services to Communities budget of Communities and no alternative external source of funding has been identified to support the NTS operation of the Camera Obscura in 2015-16.

A meeting involving managers from Services to Communities and NTS (Angus) was held on 8th January 2015 to discuss the options available for the future operation of the service. It was intimated at this meeting that NTS is not in a position to support the operation of the Camera Obscura financially to allow continued seasonal opening. However, it was agreed that there may be potential for NTS to organise pre booked group visits to the Camera Obscura.

Given current budgetary constraints for both parties, and in the absence of any alternative sources of funding, the Camera Obscura will not be open to the public during the forthcoming 2015 season. The option of guided tours to provide a service to groups of visitors, may be possible and further discussions will take place with NTS and/or others to agree how it can be managed and operated.

Contact for further information:

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