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From: Jan Brown [JanBrown@care4free.net]
Sent: 23 September 2004 08:53
To: info
Subject: Consultation response[Scanned]

Cultural Commission – Phase 1 consultation

Education

Cultural education should begin in the schools which should have enough funding to enable a wide range of activities to take place.

Delivery of services and access to them.

Grants should be available to Village Halls, Community Centres etc. to enable them both to access consultants who would advise on suitable alterations/equipment etc and also to implement any recommendations.

Marketing & promotion.

Cultural centres should have dedicated staff/volunteers whose job it is to promote all cultural activities. Organisations such as the Promoters Arts Network (PAN) are enormously helpful in rural areas and their development should be encouraged.

The concept of cultural rights for the Scottish citizen and those of its creative community.

Since time immemorial people have expressed/celebrated their culture without any need to have a specified right to do so. For many people and communities, cultural expression is part of their identity and it is arguable that to introduce a 'right', might actually stifle the spontaneity which is an important part of a creative community. Encouragement and financial assistance should be given where required and facilities, which should be accessible to all both physically and financially, should be made available within which creative activities can take place, but a 'cultural right' in a democracy where freedom of expression is encouraged, should not be necessary.

Key issues for our organisation.

The key issue for a small rural community such as ours is funding. Whether it is the community putting on a cultural event itself or inviting visiting artistes, the target audience is always too small for ticket sales to cover costs. While funding can be sought for locally staged cultural events, it is usually beyond the means of the community to host professional performers/craftspeople thus causing the local people to miss out on many enriching cultural experiences.

From:
Jan Brown,
Hon. Secretary Craignish Village Hall Committee.
Otters, Ardfern, Argyll.