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DORNOCH BID NEWSLETTER

REMINDER: NON-DOMESTIC RATES REVALUATION PROPOSAL DEADLINE 31 JULY 2026



In early June, Dornoch BID shared information regarding concerns over the "High Demand" classification applied to Dornoch as part of the 2026 Non-Domestic Rates Revaluation.

The information obtained through a Freedom of Information request suggests there may be grounds to challenge this classification, with a strong case that Dornoch should instead be designated as a "Fair Demand" area. If successful, this could result in reduced Rateable Values for many businesses.

However, it is important to remember that **no review will take place automatically** – if you wish your valuation to be reconsidered, **you must submit a formal Proposal (appeal) by 31 July 2026**.

BID members have previously been provided at the start of June with:

- The FOI information received from the Assessor's Office;
- An example proposal prepared by a BID Director; and
- Links to the online proposal process and guidance.

If you are considering submitting a proposal and have not yet done so, we encourage you to review the information already circulated and take action before the deadline.

Proposals can be submitted online via the Scottish Assessors Association website - [Scottish Assessors Association \(SAA\)](#) Guidance on the process is available through their online proposal guide - [How to Make a Proposal](#).

Thank you again to those BID members who have dedicated significant time and effort sharing information to support the wider business community.

DORNOCH BUSINESS SURVEY INTEREST IN A COLLECTIVE WASTE SOLUTION



Dornoch BID is currently carrying out a short market research exercise to understand whether there is interest in developing a voluntary group purchasing arrangement for waste and recycling services in the Dornoch area. This is not a tender process, and no suppliers have been selected. Participation does not commit any business to changing provider or entering into any agreement. The purpose is simply to assess whether a coordinated approach could offer better value, improved service levels, or greater flexibility for local businesses.

There is a current opportunity developing locally which may be of interest to businesses. The Royal Dornoch Golf Club has confirmed it is moving its waste and recycling services to Northern Recycling, with a once-weekly collection (Tuesday) arrangement. Northern Recycling has indicated that it is keen to expand its presence in the area and has the capacity to introduce an additional Friday uplift, which would align well with the Golf Club's operational requirements.

If there is wider interest from other local businesses, this could help support a more efficient local route structure and potentially unlock more regular collections, improved service consistency, and competitive pricing across the town.

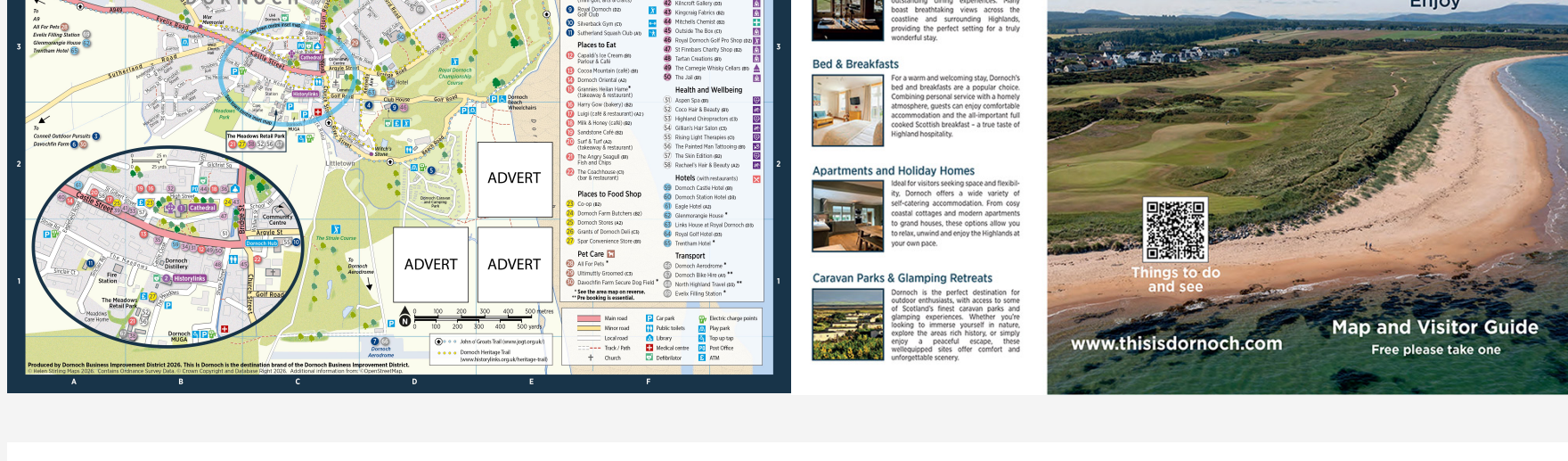
This is a real opportunity to test whether a collective approach could work in practice. Similar schemes have previously been discussed by BID, and this survey is intended to give members a clear and current opportunity to revisit the idea based on today's conditions and providers. If there is sufficient interest, the next step would be to work with providers such as Northern Recycling to explore whether a coordinated arrangement could deliver:

- Reduced costs through group purchasing power
- More reliable and tailored collection schedules
- Improved recycling performance and service flexibility

Please complete the short survey which should take 5–10 minutes in the link below: [DORNOCH BUSINESS WASTE AND RECYCLING SURVEY](#)

Your input will directly determine whether this opportunity is taken forward for further development. A strong response rate is essential at this stage to ensure the findings are representative of local demand. All responses will be treated as confidential and will be summarised in anonymised form only.

PUT YOUR BUSINESS ON THE MAP FINAL ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY REMAINING

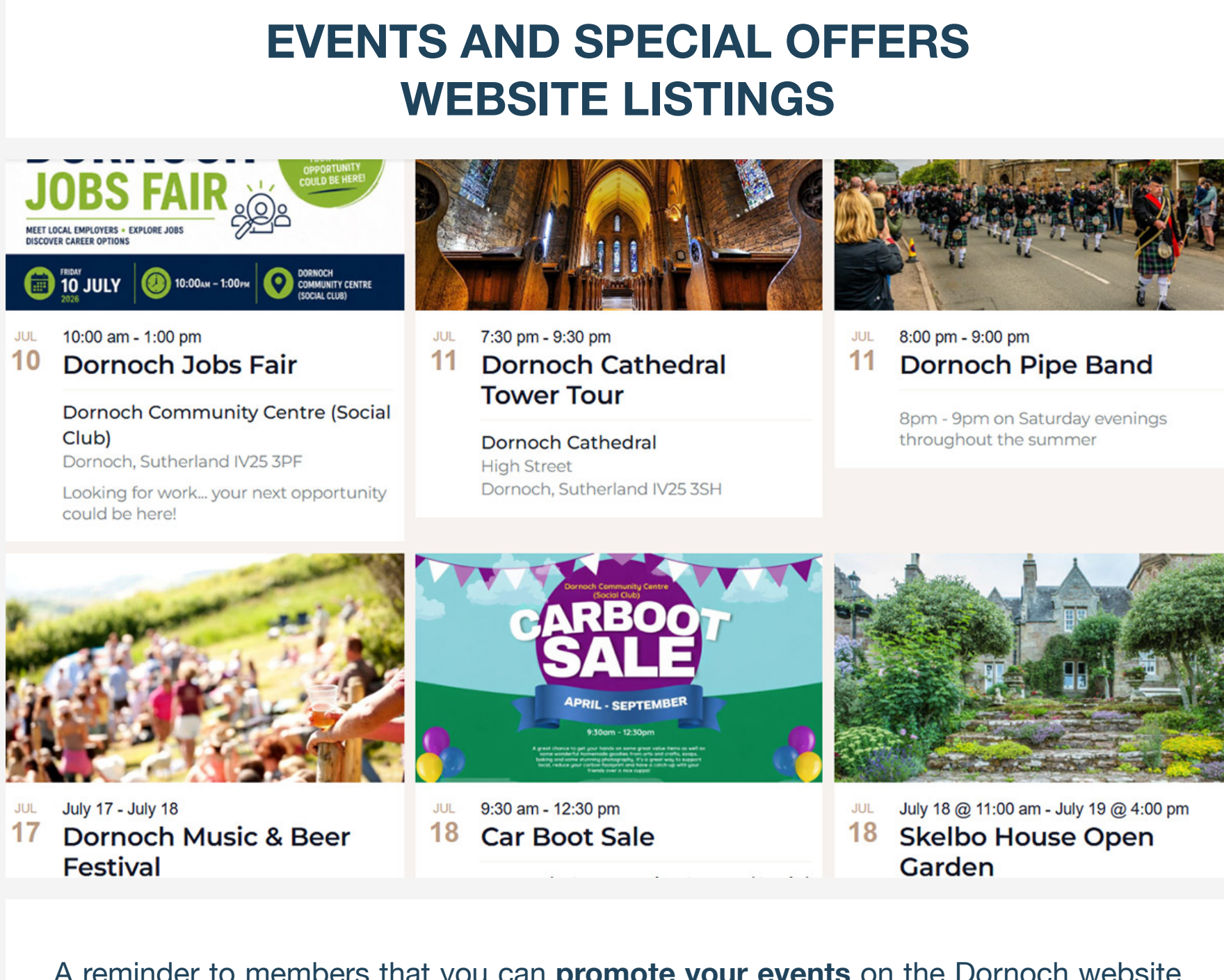


A further 15,000 visitor leaflets are now being printed in preparation for the autumn season. Distributed across the area in cafés, shops, map dispensing units, reception desks, visitor welcome packs and online, these popular maps help thousands of visitors discover what there is to see and do in and around Dornoch.

There is now just ONE advertising space remaining (40mm x 40mm), available on a first-come, first-served basis for £300. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase your business to thousands of visitors as they plan and enjoy their stay in the area. Your advert will also feature on the A3 tear-off downloadable desk pad version.

Don't miss your chance to secure the final space. To reserve it or discuss the opportunity further, please get in touch as soon as possible. Visitor leaflets and desk pads are available for collection to BID members from Historylinks Museum.

EVENTS AND SPECIAL OFFERS WEBSITE LISTINGS



A reminder to members that you can **promote your events** on the Dornoch website events page. This is a great way to increase visibility and attract both visitors and locals throughout the year. Members can also list **special offers**, helping to showcase deals/encourage bookings. To submit your events/offers for inclusion in the links below, please email the BID.

Events: [thisisdornoch.com/events](#)

Special Offers: [thisisdornoch.com/accommodation/summer-special-offers](#)

Things To Do in Dornoch | Special Offers



PLEASE help to promote 'What's On' with your guests/customers. Please download, print and share our 'What's On' poster. It's an effective way to help ensure visitors can discover the many great events taking place during their stay and what else is planned during the year. Copies are available if you contact the BID.

Also, remember to collect **Dornoch Beer and Music Festival** posters/flyers from The Coach House Bar and Restaurant. Click on their poster above for more details.

[DOWNLOAD THE 'WHAT'S ON' POSTER HERE](#)

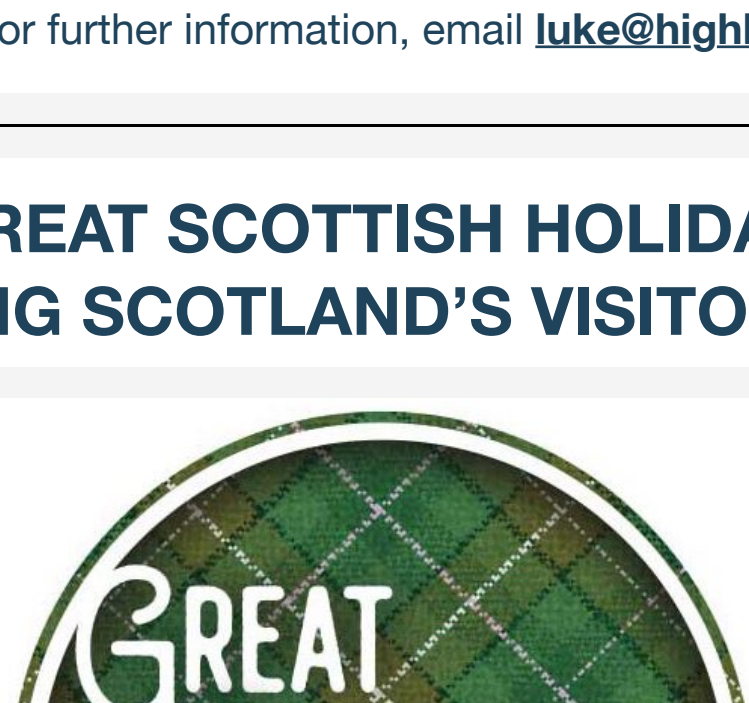
DORNOCH JOBS FAIR - 10TH JULY EMPLOYERS INVITED TO GET INVOLVED



The Dornoch Jobs Fair will take place on **Friday 10 July, from 10am–1pm at Dornoch Community Centre (Social Club)**. Organised by Highland Thrive, Work Life Highland, Highland Centre Employability Service and Dornoch BID, the free drop-in event will bring together 12 employers and six support organisations, offering local job opportunities, training and career advice.

Open to jobseekers, career changers, seasonal workers and school leavers, the event will also provide information for employers on apprenticeships and recruitment support available through the **Highland Employer Recruitment Offer (HERO)**. No booking is required. For further information, email luke@highlandthrive.org.

GREAT SCOTTISH HOLIDAYS SUPPORTING SCOTLAND'S VISITOR ECONOMY



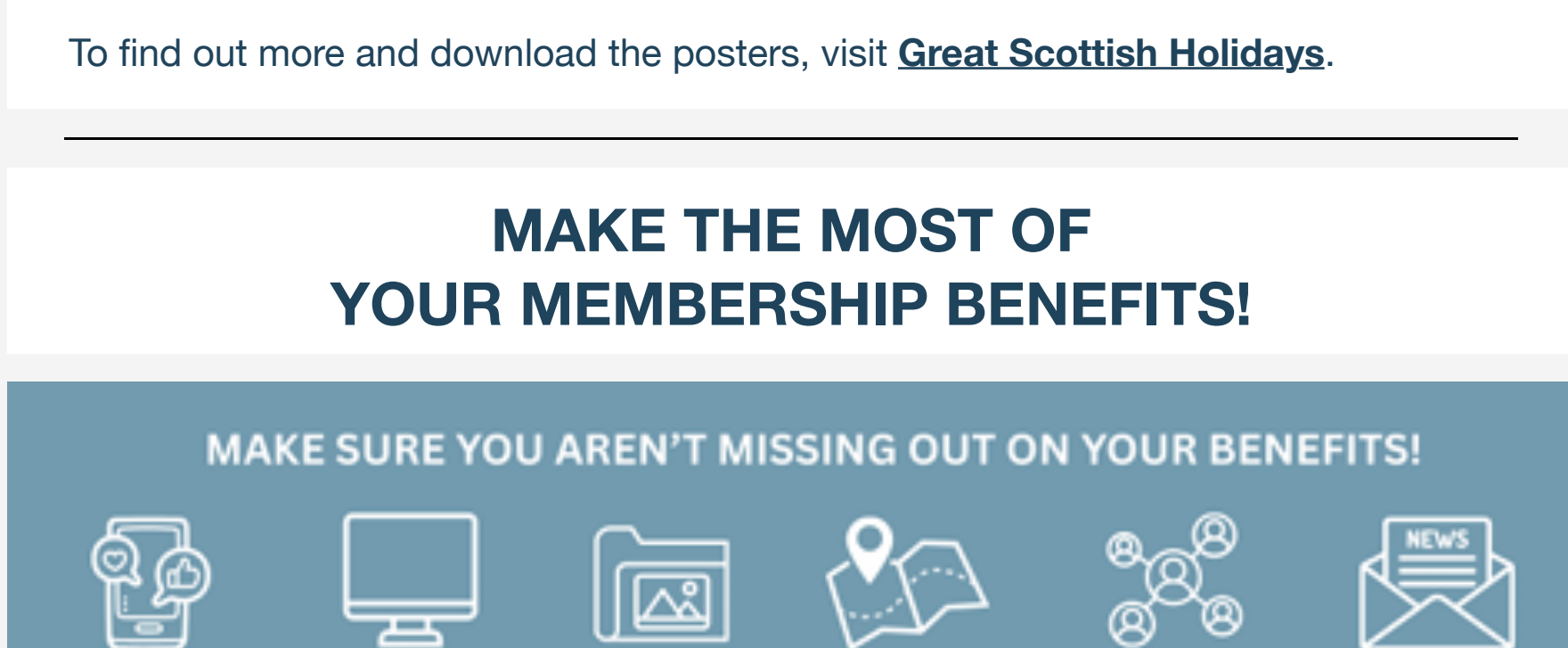
A new initiative, **Great Scottish Holidays**, has been launched by self-catering businesses across Scotland to thank guests for choosing to stay locally and to highlight the important role tourism plays in supporting communities.

Self-catering accommodation, alongside local cafés, restaurants, shops, attractions and activity providers, forms part of an interconnected visitor economy that benefits businesses across Dornoch and beyond. The campaign has produced a series of downloadable **'Thank You' posters** for self-catering operators to display in their properties, with plans to create an online gallery celebrating the people and businesses that make Scotland such a special place to visit.

To find out more and download the posters, visit [Great Scottish Holidays](#).

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS!

MAKE SURE YOU AREN'T MISSING OUT ON YOUR BENEFITS!



BID membership gives you marketing exposure and practical business support but the value comes when you use it. Take five minutes to review your membership and check you are using everything available to you? If not, get in touch. We're here to help you maximise the benefits. The latest list can be viewed [HERE](#).

Quick wins include:

- ✓ Check your website listing is up to date
- ✓ Tag @thisisdornoch on social media to reach 20k+ followers
- ✓ Share your special offers, events or late availability
- ✓ Use our professional images to promote your business

Beyond marketing, don't forget:

- Networking events to build connections
- WhatsApp groups for quick updates and support
- Regular newsletters to keep you informed
- Strong lobbying voice representing your interests

MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Stay up to date - The Minutes of the BID Board meetings are saved at the base of the website homepage.

WhatsApp Groups - There are Retail, Accommodation, Restaurant and Professional Services WhatsApp groups. **A General BID Group has also been added.**Please text 07471 200103 to have your number added to the relevant group(s).

'Dornoch BID' Facebook Page - This is for member communications, business updates, funding opportunities, consultations, a behind-the-scenes look at how we support businesses, plus the latest on local projects and ways to get involved in our community. Please follow @dornochbid on Facebook and tag us to re-share your updates. Give this page a like and/or leave a comment.

'This Is Dornoch' Facebook and Instagram - Follow @thisisdornoch on Facebook and @visitdornoch on Instagram and discover local shops & services, seasonal events, town news, community celebrations, and tourism campaigns bringing visitors to the town. Remember to tag us to re-share your posts and please share our posts.

Get in touch - Email DornochBID@thisisdornoch.com to discuss any membership matter and/or to arrange a call or meeting with Sharon, Dornoch BID Manager.



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