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PROMOTING DORNOCH | SUPPORTING BUSINESS | WORKING TOGETHER

DORNOCH BID NEWSLETTER
Issue date: 30 October 2026

DORNOCH AUTUMN HIGHLAND FESTIVAL



A big **thank you** to all the businesses who have been supporting the Autumn Highland Festival by either organising events, providing special offers, displaying programmes or sharing our social media posts.

The festival is an important part of our work, helping to promote Dornoch and attract more people to the area in the shoulder season. Many of the events have sold out with a mix of locals and visitors enjoying all that's on offer.

A survey will be sent to members next week asking for feedback on what worked well and what else should be done to improve the Spring and Autumn Highland Festivals.

LATE-NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT



Dornoch BID is exploring the idea of a late-night Christmas shopping evening. Please take a minute to complete our short survey and let us know if you would be able to take part and if so, your preferred date(s).

Complete the short survey

HIGHLAND VISITOR LEVY CONSULTATION



If you haven't already done so, remember to have your say before the consultation closes on Monday **30 November**.

Please also share the consultation with staff, colleagues, family and friends and encourage them to submit their own responses. IF THE VISITOR LEVY IS IMPLEMENTED, IT WILL APPLY TO LOCALS TOO

View and complete the consultation

Visitor Levy | Industry Engagement Sessions

Businesses are encouraged to attend these final sessions to share their views on the proposed Visitor Levy and help Councillors understand the potential impact on the wider Highland economy.

Highland Industry Forum, 4 November | 3.30pm – 5.30pm | Fort William
Bringing together businesses, representative organisations and stakeholders from across Highland to consider the evidence and themes emerging from the engagement programme.
Book your place

Visitor Economy, 5 November | 4pm – 6pm | Nairn Community & Arts Centre
A wider session looking beyond accommodation at the implications for attractions, food and drink, retail, activities, transport and other visitor-economy businesses.
Book your place

AUTUMN NETWORKING EVENING



Thank you to all who were able to join us for our networking event and also to the Royal Dornoch Golf Club for being such excellent hosts. **Ray Watt from the Highland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association** gave an informative presentation on the Armed Forces Covenant and Employer Recognition Scheme.

The evening was a valuable opportunity to learn more about how businesses can support the Armed Forces community, as well as hearing the latest BID updates. More details can be seen below.

View the presentations

DORNOCH BID CHRISTMAS PARTY

Dornoch Station | 12 December | 7pm-12am



Join fellow Dornoch businesses for a special Christmas celebration at the wonderful setting of Dornoch Station and enjoy:

- A welcome drink (Prosecco and/or Mulled Wine)
- A delicious two-course meal followed by tea and coffee
- A disco and an evening of festive fun

It's a great opportunity to get together, celebrate the year and enjoy an evening with colleagues and other local businesses.

Take a **look at the delicious looking menu** and reserve your places using our short booking form. Someone will then be in touch to confirm your menu choices and payment details.

Book your places

HELP US PROMOTE DORNOCH



Our website and social media channels help visitors discover Dornoch and the businesses, experiences and events available throughout the year.

Please let us know about your upcoming events, special offers, news and initiatives so that we can help share them with our audience.

You can also support our collective marketing by sharing Dornoch BID posts on your own social media channels and tagging us in your posts. Working together helps us reach more people, encourage people to visit and support local businesses.

NOT ON OUR MEMBERS' WHATSAPP GROUP YET?



Join our members' WhatsApp group to keep up to date with the latest BID news, events, opportunities and initiatives, ask questions and find out how to get involved.

Text **07471 200103** or Email **dornochbid@thisisdornoch.com** to be added to the group.

COMMERCIAL WASTE AND RECYCLING



Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our commercial waste and recycling survey. Your feedback has helped us understand the level of interest in exploring a group-buying arrangement, **with the aim of securing more competitive prices, greater flexibility and potential savings** by working together.

We are awaiting feedback from waste service providers on potential group pricing options. Once we receive these responses, a further update will be given.

MAKING TAX DIGITAL EVENT

Wednesday 18 November | 6:30pm-8:00pm
Dornoch Station



Dornoch BID is arranging a free Making Tax Digital workshop for BID members.

By April 2027, it will be mandatory for sole traders and landlords with **qualifying income over £30,000** to have signed up to Making Tax Digital. Some of you may have already received letters from HMRC informing you of the upcoming changes.

The session will provide an opportunity to find out more about those changes, what they may mean for your business, and next steps.

If you are interested in coming along please book your place by emailing: **marketing@thisisdornoch.com**

TASTE OF THE HIGHLANDS

STALLHOLDER OPPORTUNITY



Visit Inverness Loch Ness BID is inviting Highland food and drink businesses to take part in Taste of the Highlands on 7 March 2027 at Eden Court Theatre, Inverness.

The event offers producers, distilleries, bakeries, restaurants and local makers the opportunity to showcase their products, generate sales, reach new customers and network with other businesses. There will also be opportunities for selected producers to take part in live interviews with broadcaster Sarah Rankin and host cooking demonstrations.

This opportunity helps food and drink businesses to raise their profile and promote the region's local produce. **Taste of the Highlands: Stallholder Interest Survey**

ASSC



The ASSC's final Regional Gathering of 2026 takes place in Fort William on 4 November. The programme will cover key issues including Short-Term Let Licensing, Planning Control Areas, the Visitor Levy, Non-Domestic Rates and the latest market insights.

The event is open to non-ASSC members, and we'd be delighted to offer your members an exclusive **50% discount on the ticket price** using the promo code **FORTWILLIAM50** when booking.

For more details and/or to book: https://www.assc.co.uk/event/assc-regional-gathering-fort-william/

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