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DORNOCH BID NEWSLETTER
August 2026

VISITOR LEVY
CURRENT POSITION AND NEXT STEPS

Highland Council agreed on Tuesday 25th August to proceed with a **12-week statutory consultation** on a proposed Visitor Levy which is expected to begin in September.

The current proposal is a **fixed charge of £5 per room/area per night**, reducing to **£2 for hostels, campsites and caravan parks**, applying for **nine months of the year (excluding December, January and February)**.

No decision has yet been made to introduce the levy. The consultation will gather views and evidence before the proposal returns to Full Council on **10 December 2026**, when councillors will consider whether to adopt the scheme.

Dornoch BID will be working with **Visit Inverness Lochness BID and other industry organisations to gather evidence from businesses throughout the consultation**. We want Dornoch BID members to contribute their experiences and views so that the specific impact on Dornoch is properly reported to the wider Highland consultation.

There are **significant concerns about the current £5/£2 proposal**, and the evidence gathered will help determine whether the BID ultimately supports or opposes the scheme in its current form.

Dornoch BID will seek to engage constructively with Highland Council throughout the consultation. However, based on the current £5 per room/area per night proposal (£2 for campsites and caravan parks) which is higher than most people expected, it seems likely that the BID will ultimately oppose the scheme in its current form. However, the evidence gathered from Dornoch businesses will help inform our position.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

Autumn Networking Event

Our next networking event will take place on **Wednesday 7th October** at the Royal Dornoch Golf Club from 17:30-20:30.

Look out for your invites in your inbox next week! Get in touch if you would like to book a 5-minute presentation slot to update other members about your business.

Dornoch BID Christmas Party

The one you've all been waiting for! This year it will take place on Saturday 12th December at Dornoch Station. More details to follow soon!

JOIN OUR NEXT TOWN TIDY ON 1ST SEPTEMBER

Whether you're a regular volunteer or joining for the first time, everyone's welcome. After the tidy, enjoy well-earned tea and cake at the Social Club.

A huge thank you to everyone involved. **Together, we're making a visible difference, one Town Tidy at a time!**

It's been over a year now since the launch of the **'We Are Dornoch'** crowdfunding campaign which so far has raised £1,000. Funding tools, equipment, additional seasonal planting by the 'Flowers & Fairs' Committee, the money has helped to make a real difference.

READ MORE ABOUT 'WE ARE DORNOCH'

SHOWCASE YOUR BUSINESS ON THE 2026/2027 VISITOR MAPS

The popular **visitor maps** continue to help thousands of visitors discover what there is to 'See and Do' in the area. The maps are available from shops, cafés, reception areas, welcome packs, map dispensing units and online using our 'See and Do' members excellent exposure throughout the year. **Pick up your copies to share** with your guests from HistoryLinks Museum.

ONE advert space (40mm x 40mm) remains on the next edition to be printed for 2027. Priced at just **£300** it's the perfect way to **showcase your business**. Please contact the BID to discuss further/reserve your space.

AUTUMN HIGHLAND FESTIVAL

We're delighted to share the programme for this year's Autumn Highland Festival. There are still a couple of events to be confirmed, but we think you'll agree it's a fantastic programme of activities and event, which really showcases everything Dornoch has to offer.

Please share the programme link with your guests in any pre-arrival communications. Leaflets will soon be available for collection from HistoryLinks Museum to share with your guests and customers.

VIEW THE AUTUMN HIGHLAND FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

DORNOCH GATHERINGS TURNS ONE!

A massive well done to everyone who has been involved with the Dornoch Gatherings over the last year. The diverse nature of the events has been a fantastic showcase of Scottish talent, and we can't wait to see what's planned for the year ahead.

"WHAT'S ON" POSTERS AND EVENT CALENDAR

Cat Bath Day
Dornoch Community Dance Dance
Arthur Whitney Artist
Dornoch Castle Hotel
Dornoch Cathedral presents Mendelssohn, Bach, Vaughan Williams and Ireland
Dornoch Cathedral
Dornoch Gatherings
Dornoch Gatherings
Dornoch Gatherings