

Murdo Fraser MSP
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



24 April 2013

Dear Murdo

Following your recent exchange with the Deputy First Minister during infrastructure themed questions in the Scottish Parliament on 27 March 2013, I am writing to set out the detail of the arrangements in place to ensure the effective management of visitors to the Stirling area during the 700th anniversary of Bannockburn celebrations.

As you will already be aware, the centrepiece of the programme of events to mark the Bannockburn anniversary will be the Battle of Bannockburn Re-enactment. This event, being delivered by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), is one of the signature events in the Homecoming Scotland 2014 programme. It will take place from 28-30 June and aims to attract up to 45000 visitors over the three days, marking it the largest ever event hosted at the memorial battlefield, with significant economic benefits for the area. The event will also feature costumed characters throughout the site, weaponry displays, a medieval village and traditional food and drink, as well as a tented Clan and Family village/area.

A working group has been established that includes representatives from NTS, Stirling Council, EventScotland, Historic Scotland and Unique Events to oversee delivery of all aspects of staging this fantastic event, including the movement of visitors arriving by public transport and the management of vehicles travelling directly to the Bannockburn site.

Central to this activity is ensuring the economic benefits to the area, and in particular city centre businesses, are maximised. I can also confirm that NTS are actively engaged in an on-going series of community engagement activities associated with the project including public meetings with local residents and regular attendance at Community Council meetings. They are hoping to recruit event volunteers from the immediate community as well as involving local school children in specific activities as part of the event and are not aware of any concerns being raised on any aspect of the event management arrangements.

Kind regards

KEITH BROWN