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UPDATE FROM DG PRIDE

Hello all.

DG Pride was set up as a new charity to address the fact there was no Pride event in Dumfries & Galloway. We did not want it to be exclusive to the GLBT community. We know as locals, that one strength we still have in this region is community. This event has to involve everyone so that we can celebrate with our families, friends, businesses, colleagues, supporters and a proper one too – a token event in a car park or coffee shop with Council project restrictions and control is not what D&G deserves. We wanted Pride to be big, ambitious, independent and visual and to bring people together. But we realise that the reverse has happened.

DG Pride is aware of a certain other organisation who are proprietorial over Pride events and seem to think they and they alone should organise and run it. DG Pride has been presented with evidence that this organisation has planned to take over the event we have been working towards. DG Pride was surprised to receive emails which criticised our introduction and more recently to show that this organisation has also undermined our planning. Our aim was always to work in partnership with many organisations, once we had all the finance we required in place (a target in which we had just about reached). It was essential that DG Pride follow its schedule in order to produce the event planned. Instead of this, we got unnecessary pressure.

When DG Pride heard of these other projects being prepared to run on not only the day we had arranged and were working too but the day before, as well as a larger event on the night itself, DG Pride was obviously disappointed. DG Pride had not been approached or included in these plans or indeed to see if we could partner in them. Had we been, we would have pointed out that the evening event clashed with our already planned 'Staying Proud' after show party hosted by a local business and which would act as an official party for sponsors as well as a fundraiser to begin preparing for the 2019 event.

DG Pride was not set up to compete in the manner we feel is now evident. We are not being supported by these other events and they do not compliment our plans. There is a feeling that if you are not 'approved' by a certain and yet fairly vocal group of people in Dumfries (many involved in this organisation) then nothing can proceed. And when you do approach them, they want to control. Not the way we wanted to proceed or work.

DG Pride is operated by volunteers. And recently it has not been a happy experience. We cannot continue to organise a Pride when we are not feeling proud about it. Therefore the decision has been made to cancel all our activity and plans to organise our event. We are very aware of the other organisation who we know will be delighted at this news and will continue with what they are planning.

Best to all. Peace.

DG PRIDE