

BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL (BIFF)

Site Visits – 16th, 17th & 18th August 2017

Visits took place during the Billingham International Folklore Festival (BIFF) in August 2017, with Members and Officers shown around the accommodation site based at the former Campus School sports block on Marsh House Avenue, Billingham. Information was provided by the Festival Director (Joe Maloney), Artistic Director (Olga Maloney) and Housekeeper (Sonia).

Requirements for BIFF include the need to provide areas for:

- Sleeping
- Eating
- Rehearsals

All three of these elements are critical to the success of the festival in its current format.

Within the sports block, three sports halls (two for females and one for males) provided temporary sleeping facilities, with hired fencing and fire-resistant meshing providing segregation between the various groups – beds are BIFF property and are held in storage during the rest of the year. Cabins were being used outside of the sports block for additional accommodation.

Space (albeit limited) was allocated for rehearsals within the sports block, which also acted as a temporary bar area in the evenings – each group hosts a social night for other groups during the festival. A large marquee was located externally at the rear of the sports block for catering purposes – food was brought in and heated within the marquee if required.

Former Campus School Sports Block



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Former Campus School Sports Block (work ongoing following asset-transfer)



Sports Block Accommodation



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Sports Block Rehearsal Space/Bar Area



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External Accommodation (Rear of Sports Block)



External Accommodation (Rear of Sports Block)



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External Accommodation (Rear of Sports Block)



Catering Facility (Rear of Sports Block)

