Cases for Event Management and Event Tourism

Questions and answers for analysis

Chapter 14

Q1. How can events be inclusive in a divided community?

This is an open-ended question about sustainable placemaking – about people feeling free, included and at home in their locale – relevant to Belfast but also to other places divided by class, means and ethnicity. Certainly the event should not reinforce division in society, but should it try to appeal to all or to specific sectors in a society?

Q2. To what extent do public events leverage a peace dividend in a post-conflict environment?

There is national and international support for post-conflict events in the community. This is because they are recognised as vehicles to consolidate further peace, reconciliation and cross-community building. An example is social dancing leisure provision bringing people together in the pursuit of a non-sectarian activity. Can you identify other post-conflict settings and what large public events do they have or could they have?

Q3. Is public space political?

Belfast City and many towns and villages in the wider Northern Ireland are segregated as public space is contested and used to mark out territorial space in the wider identity politics of The Troubles. Civic space such as a town square is particularly defended and challenged during public events such as St Patrick's Day (17th March) – the feast day of St Patrick, patron saint of Ireland – and a day celebrating Irish identity particularly in the Irish Diaspora; and Orangemen's Day (12th July) commemorating the Battle of the Boyne in 1690 when William of Orange defeated King James II and secured a Protestant line of succession to the British Crown. Can you think of your own examples of public space being politicised?

Q4. What do you gain from a fieldtrip?

The working suggestion here is that a fieldtrip enriches the student experience and enhances their development and critical abilities through experience-based learning and teaching. There are different types of fieldtrip from destinations and topics focused upon (post-conflict events, pollution levels and sustainable tourism, AI and hospitality for example) as well as the background disciplines (from Geography to Tourism and International Event Management). What could you gain from a fieldtrip in your studies and what disciplinary underpinnings might it have?