

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 10 October 2019 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present	Councillor Wilson, Chair Councillors Ashton, Black, Burton, Clarke, Corry, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Hughes, Kearney, Kerr, McNamee, Milne, Molloy, Monteith
Officers in Attendance	Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities Mr Browne, Head of Tourism Mr Hill, Head of Parks Ms Linney, Head of Community Development Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Agenda Item 4 – Parenting NI Mr Eisenstadt, Policy and Research Officer, Parenting NI

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D159/19 Apologies

None.

D160/19 Declaration of Interests

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

D161/19 Chair's Business

DAERA Micro Business Capital Grants Scheme

The Head of Economic Development advised that DAERA have been engaging with Council on the delivery of a pilot micro business capital grant scheme within the District which will focus on supporting rural micro enterprises. It was advised this scheme will be piloted across all rural Councils in Northern Ireland simultaneously.

Funding for the scheme will be provided through the TRPSI programme (Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme) and is only open to micro businesses with under 10 employees. The maximum grant available will be up to £4,999.

The Head of Economic Development advised that Council are in receipt of a formal contract from DAERA which will provide administration funding of up to 15% of grant spend incurred for associated delivery costs. The overall budget for the ten Council

areas involved is in the region of £500,000 in total which will equate to approximately £50,000 for Mid Ulster to target ten projects.

Members were advised that Council staff would be responsible for the assessment of applications, issuing letters of offer, processing claims for grant aid from successful promoters and monitoring of project delivery. Council would not be responsible for making payments to grant recipients as this will be performed by DAERA direct to project promoters.

The indicative timescale for delivery of this pilot scheme is set out below –

- Calls for applications by 25 November 2019
- Close for applications on 20 December 2019
- Assessment of applications and issue of letters of offer by 14 February 2020
- All spend by successful promoters incurred by 31 March 2020

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to participate in the DAERA Micro Business Capital Grants Scheme and to accept the funding contract from DAERA, dated 7 October 2019 to the value of £7,874 to administer the scheme, subject to satisfactory legal review by Council's Solicitor.

D162/19 Deputation – Parenting NI

The Chair, Councillor Wilson welcomed Mr Eisenstadt, Policy and Research Officer with Parenting NI, to the meeting and invited him to present to Members.

Mr Eisenstadt stated that the purpose of his presentation (Appendix 1) was to seek support from Council to engage with and empower parents in local council areas, for Council to take the initiative in dealing with parenting challenges and to sign up to the four promises and commitments as detailed below –

Promises

- Promise to invest in parent employees wellbeing in the workplace.
- Promise to put in place community based, evidence informed programmes to build parenting confidence and skills.
- Promise to train Council staff in the importance of working in partnership with parents and how to engage parents.
- Promise to seek the opinion of parents explicitly when consulting on services for children or young people.

Commitments

- Committing to specifically name parents (or those in a parenting role) whenever a policy, strategy or initiative mentions children.
- Committing to explore strategies to support parents specifically and practically, including inclusion in community plans.
- Committing to working with other Councils, departments and the third sector to make Northern Ireland as parent friendly as possible.

- Nominating an elected member on every Council to serve as a “Parent Champion”.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson thanked Mr Eisenstadt for his presentation following which he withdrew from the meeting.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated that there were a number of organisations who have requested to present to the Development Committee and that a Special Development Committee meeting had been arranged for 23 October 2019 to deal solely with presentations.

In relation to the presentation made tonight the Chair advised that the presentation would be forwarded to the Community Planning Officer with a view to seeing where it fits in with Council’s Community Plan.

Matters for Decision

D163/19 Community Development Report

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report and provided an update on the following:

- **Rolling Grants Awards – Good Relations and Local Community Festivals**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Rolling Grant Awards – Good Relations and Local Community Festivals as per grant recommendations at Appendix 1 of report.

Councillor Black asked if officers had any concerns in relation to the level of funding available and what had changed between last month and this month.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that he may have misunderstood the question last month as he thought the query was in relation to budgets instead of grants. The Director advised that grants are always under pressure and that there was a review of grant streams ongoing at the moment, the Director continued that if Members felt that grants could be adjusted it was a decision for them to make and officers will deliver accordingly. The Director highlighted that budgets for grants had not increased over the last four years.

Councillor Ashton stated that the local community festivals grant was one of the more popular grants and that it was too quick to cut this grant as it would hit grass roots organisations. Councillor Ashton requested that a report come back to Committee on whether there was scope to move money around in order to keep the local community festivals grant open.

Councillor Milne declared an interest in Bellaghy Village Regeneration.

Councillor Black asked if the applications already submitted for this grant but had not been scored would now be null and void.

The Head of Community Development stated that applications submitted since last scoring would have to be honoured.

Councillor Monteith requested that between now and the October Council meeting officers explore the possibility of moving monies in order to keep the local community festivals open, the Councillor felt it was too soon to close this grant and it was a bad message to send out to the public. Councillor Monteith stated that year on year this grant is oversubscribed and there was a responsibility on everyone to ensure that enough monies are made available for this grant.

In response to question from Councillor Molloy the Head of Community Development advised that approximately £15,000 would be required to keep the local community local festivals grant open until the end of the year.

- **Peace IV**

Councillor Burton referred to project in Aughnacloy and stated that neighbouring residents are concerned about the development and its proximity to their home as there is ongoing anti social behaviour. Councillor Burton stated she appreciated that the current play facilities need to be upgraded but asked officers to be mindful of the concerns of residents.

The Head of Community Development advised that the provision of the new bitmac paths will be to access the second play area. The officer advised that the facility will be designed without lighting and any seating overlooked at the roadside so as not to encourage any anti social behaviour. She confirmed once the final design is in place they will liaise again with the resident.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council -
(I) To approve the shared space concept designs for the six villages as set out at appendix 2 of report.
(II) To request SEUPB to transfer surplus Shared Space Grant funding to Shared Space Capital Projects.

- **Community Planning**

Members noted update on Community Planning poverty strategic actions.

Councillor Monteith stated that Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) had been in attendance at the last Council meeting and had agreed to meet with Council in relation to the housing crisis in Dungannon. Councillor Monteith proposed that Council should act immediately and seek a meeting with NIHE at the earliest opportunity.

Councillor Kerr seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal.

Councillor Elattar proposed that the local MP should also be provided with the information to assist in addressing the issues relating to social and affordable housing in Mid Ulster.

Councillor Ashton seconded Councillor Elattar's proposal on the basis that the MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone also be included.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- (I) To seek meeting with Northern Ireland Housing Executive at the earliest opportunity to discuss housing crisis in Dungannon.
 - (II) To provide Mid Ulster MLAs and MPs with information to assist in addressing the issues relating to social and affordable housing in Mid Ulster.

- **Community Development Update**

Members noted Community Development Update.

D164/19 Economic Development Report

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report which provided an update on key activities as detailed below -

- **Caledon Regeneration Partnership**

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to invite Caledon Regeneration Partnership to make a presentation at the next available Development Committee Meeting where representatives from the group can provide more details on their funding proposal to develop the Wool Store as outlined at Appendix 1 of report.

- **Donaghmore Traders Meeting Update**

Members noted progress.

- **Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal**

Councillors Cuddy, Molloy and Monteith declared interest an interest in this item.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the Revised Proposal from Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (as per Appendix 2 of report) to reduce vacancy levels in Dungannon town centre, making provision of Council funding of £125,000 broken down as follows, subject to Department for Communities match funding of providing £120,000.
- 2019/20 - £5,000
 - 2020/21 - £40,000

- 2021/22 - £40,000
- 2022/23 - £40,000

- **Dungannon Town : Branded Merchandise and Jute Shopping Bags**

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council -

- (I) To approve up to £20,000 (excluding Vat) from the Economic Development budget for officers to tender and purchase new town centre merchandise for Dungannon.
- (II) To approve up to £20,000 (excluding Vat) from the Economic Development budget for officers to tender and purchase new jute shopping bags for Dungannon.

- **Interreg VA Faster Project**

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that Mid Ulster District Council act as an Associate Partner within the East Border Region's Interreg VA Faster Project and supply a letter of support as requested and as set out at Appendix 3 of report.

- **Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 1.7.19**

Members noted minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum held on 1 July 2019.

- **Mid Ulster Skills Forum Minutes - 8.3.19**

Members noted minutes of Mid Ulster Skills Forum meeting held on 8 March 2019.

- **Mid Ulster Brexit Working Group Minutes – 27.2.19**

Members noted minutes of Mid Ulster Brexit Working Group meeting held on 27 February 2019.

In response to Councillor Monteith's question the Director of Business and Communities advised that due to policy and financial implications the consultation in relation to the Department of Finance Business Rates Review was being taken through the Policy and Resources Committee.

Councillor Molloy advised that the matter had been discussed at last week's Policy and Resources meeting and it was agreed to delegate authority to the Policy and Resources Committee to make a formal response to the consultation at its November meeting.

Councillor Corry referred to the announcement of the Brexit Support Fund and asked if any monies would be coming towards Mid Ulster District Council.

The Head of Economic Development advised that Council was not eligible to bid for monies but that officers did inform business organisations that the fund existed. The officer stated she was aware that Manufacturing Northern Ireland and Enterprise Northern Ireland had applied for funding and that Manufacturing Northern Ireland had been successful but as yet had received no formal update from Enterprise Northern Ireland regarding their bid.

Councillor Corry asked if community/voluntary groups are able to apply for the funding.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that the Brexit Support Fund was focused on supporting businesses, but that the Department for Communities was developing a multi-agency response on the impact of the EU Exit on Vulnerable Communities and to date, a Vulnerable People Working Group had been established and when more information becomes available, it would be shared.

Councillor McNamee asked if Killymoon Golf Club was included on the list of presentations to be made at Special Development Committee. The Councillor stated that, at the July Development Committee, he had requested a meeting with DfI Roads in relation to Cookstown Bypass but this had not progressed.

The Head of Economic Development stated that a request to present to Development Committee had been received from Killymoon Golf Club and was passed to Democratic Services Section.

Councillor McNamee felt that Council should keep pressure on DfI Roads in relation to Cookstown Bypass.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that a meeting would be requested for Cookstown DEA Members to meet with DfI Roads in relation to Cookstown Bypass.

D165/19 Town Centre Information Digital Points

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the locations for Town Centre Information Digital Points.

Councillor Cuddy referred to digital screen that was erected as part of the public realm works in Market Square, Dungannon and had never worked.

The Head of Tourism advised that it is proposed to erect the information point for Dungannon outside Ranfurly House Arts and Visitor Centre.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve three visitor information kiosks to be located as follows (subject to planning and DfI approval) –

- (I) Cookstown – Outside Burnavon Arts Centre, Cookstown
- (II) Dungannon – Outside Ranfurly House Arts and Visitor Centre, Market Square, Dungannon
- (III) Magherafelt – Outside Specsavers, Meeting Street, Magherafelt

D166/19 Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson advised he had received several requests to speak in relation to the content of the plan and suggested that DEA meetings be held in order for Members to discuss issues with a view to bringing this item back for decision next month.

Councillor McNamee stated that there was plenty of good work being done however there were some problems to be resolved. Councillor McNamee proposed that this item be brought back to the November meeting of Development Committee and that DEA meetings take place in the interim for Members to discuss issues relating to the plan.

Councillor Milne seconded Councillor McNamee's proposal.

Councillor Cuddy stated that this plan had been in the pipeline for nearly two years and that it was a five year programme. The Councillor felt that sometimes Members just needed to make a call and move on.

Councillor Ashton stated that DEA meetings had already taken place. Councillor Ashton referred to page 83 of the plan and referenced disabled parking and toilets and that there appeared to be room to accommodate same and that this should be prioritised.

Councillor Monteith felt that what was within the plan was not reflective of discussion at the Dungannon DEA meeting, that the DEA meeting had taken place in February and it was now October and that he did not feel there was anything in the plan overall that Council officers could not have done themselves. The Councillor felt that the plan was uninspiring and was not what Councillors would have foreseen being brought forward and requested a report outlining the cost in preparing the plan.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation agreed to provide this.

Councillor Burton stated that there had been some good work done in relation to Fivemiletown. Councillor Burton also felt that Council should have a play park at the President Grant Homestead, the Councillor stated that Council are seeking to bring more tours to the Homestead and that families visiting the facility could make use of a play park at this location.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson reminded Members that there was no budget for developing play parks and that Members needed to consider and approve a plan so that budgets are approved for next year.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- (I) To arrange DEA meetings for Members to discuss issues relating to the Parks and Play Plan and that report and plan be brought back to November Committee meeting.
 - (II) To provide details of costs in developing the Parks and Play Strategy.

D167/19 Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan.

Councillor McNamee proposed that DEA meetings also be held in relation to this plan to discuss issues.

Councillor Milne seconded Councillor McNamee's proposal.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated there was not as much urgency with this plan and that DEA meetings could wait until the New Year.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- (I) To arrange DEA meetings in the New Year for Members to discuss issues relating to the Outdoor Recreation Plan and that report and plan be brought back to a future Committee meeting.

D168/19 Solar Walk, Davagh – Landowner Lease Agreements

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report which sought to formalise a lease agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and two individual landowners in respect of the Solar Walk at Davagh Forest.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to establish two individual Lease Agreements with the relevant landowners in respect of lands crossed by the Solar Walk as part of the Davagh Forest Dark Skies development project.

D169/19 Sandford Awards Ceremony 2019

The Head of Culture and Arts presented previously circulated report which advised that the Education Programme at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre had been awarded a Sandford Award 2019 and sought approval for two representatives from Council (one officer and Chair or Deputy Chair) to attend the Sandford Awards Ceremony in London on Monday 18 November 2019.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that two representatives (one officer and Chair or Deputy Chair) attend the Sandford Awards Ceremony taking place at the Victoria and Albert Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, Bethnal Green, London E2 9PA on 18 November 2019, in line with Council's established practice and protocol regarding representation of elected members at events.

D170/19 Enhanced Accessibility and Proposed Tree Works at Tullaghoge Fort

The Head of Culture and Arts presented previously circulated report which advised of essential tree works at Tullaghoge Fort to be undertaken by Historic Environment Division of Department for Communities and sought approval to progress a tree planting scheme and a tree sculpture project at Tullaghoge Fort to be led by Culture and Arts Services and funded by Historic Environment Division.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the essential tree works required at Tullaghoge Fort which will be undertaken by Historic Environment Division of Department for Communities and to progress a tree planting scheme and a tree sculpture project at Tullaghoge Fort to be led by Culture and Arts Services and funded by Historic Environment Division of Department for Communities.

Councillor McNamee referred to manhole covers stolen at Tullaghoge and asked if there was an update.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that he had been informed that manhole covers had been stolen from the car park at Tullaghoge Fort on the Thursday night, the Director advised that Council staff replaced the covers on the Friday however these were again stolen on the Saturday night. At this point, the Director stated that the gates at Tullaghoge Fort had to be closed and remained closed until the Monday when the manhole covers had again been replaced.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that these incidents did not solely affect Tullaghoge Fort as manhole covers were also stolen in Stewartstown and Coalisland around the same time however officers and police were monitoring the situation as the Fort is a widely used Council facility.

Matters for Information

D171/19 Minutes of Development Committee held on 12 September 2019

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 12 September 2019.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson referred to previous discussions in relation to VE Day Commemorations and that a report was to be brought before Members on the matter but that this was still outstanding.

The Head of Tourism advised that discussions are ongoing between officers and Killeeshil Historical Society and that a report will be brought before Members at the November Development Committee.

Councillor Cuddy stated it was important to note that Killeeshil and Clonaneese Historical Groups had come together and that both names should be included when they are being addressed.

D172/19 Dungannon Halloween Event 2019

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the change of format for the Halloween Event scheduled to be held at Ranfurly House and Hill of The O'Neill on Wednesday 30 October 2019.

D173/19 Heritage Outputs 2019

Members noted previously circulated report which set out the Heritage Outputs for 2019.

D174/19 Dungannon Park Parkrun

Members noted previously circulated report which set out the success of Dungannon Park Parkrun, on the first anniversary since its launch in 2018.

D175/19 Leisure Services Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the progress being made regarding activities in Leisure Services and highlighted a number of key events/activities.

Councillor Monteith stated it would also be useful to include detail of any issues relating to facilities within the leisure services update and referred to Drumcoo Playing Fields in which Council removed play equipment and he felt had left the area a disgrace. Councillor Monteith referred to ongoing problems and that members of the community wanted a wall to be knocked down at the playing fields, the Councillor stated that the community could not wait on the play park strategy being adopted and that action needed to be taken now. Councillor Monteith proposed that Dungannon DEA Councillors along with officers and the community meet in relation to the issues at Drumcoo Playing Fields as soon as possible.

Councillor Kerr seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal.

Councillor Molloy agreed with Councillor Monteith's comments and stated that there had been an incident at the playing fields last week. The Councillor stated that Members had previously been advised that a meeting would be arranged however he was not aware if this had been progressed.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to arrange meeting in relation to ongoing issues at Drumcoo Playing Fields. Dungannon DEA Councillors, officers and community to be in attendance.

Councillor Kerr referred to one to one swimming lessons for autistic children and stated that he had been contacted by a parent of an autistic child who had previously availed of one to one lessons. The Councillor stated that the parent had advised him that there were no longer any one to one lessons for their child and that they could only be accommodated in group sessions which was not suitable. Councillor Kerr proposed that this matter be reviewed with a view to reinstating one to one lessons for autistic children.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated that it was her understanding that this child had been attending one to one lessons in Dungannon but that during refurbishment works in Dungannon, arrangements had been put in place to facilitate lessons in Cookstown. The Director agreed to investigate what arrangements are in place for the child in question.

Councillor Kerr stated that staff had advised this was an ongoing problem and asked that it be looked at in the long term.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated that officers were proactively looking at ways to improve the delivery of the Council's swimming lesson programme and that staff were doing their best to facilitate needs in the interim.

Councillor Doris stated she had been approached by the same parent and asked that the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation get back to the parent on the matter.

Councillor Monteith stated it was his belief that there had been agreement in the past that there would be a review of provision of facilities/lessons etc for children with special circumstances. The Councillor also referred to request made by Sperrinview to use facilities at Dunganon Leisure Centre and that it was not the first time a request had been received from them. Councillor Monteith proposed that a report be brought forward on what services are provided for children with disabilities.

Councillor Kerr stated that he had received comments from parents with autistic children that their needs are not accommodated at Council run family events.

Councillor Corry enquired as to what activities there are for older people in leisure centres.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated that there were various activities including 50+ groups and agreed to conduct an audit to include in report for next month's Committee.

Councillor Doris seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –
(I) To provide update in relation to provision of leisure facilities/lessons for children with special needs.

- (II) To provide report outlining provision of activities for older people at Leisure Centres.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items D176/19 to D180/19.

Matters for Decision

- D176/19 Pilot Arts, Health and Wellbeing Project
- D177/19 Tender report for the appointment of Café concessions for Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Cookstown Leisure Centre and Dungannon Park Pavillion
- D178/19 Wi-Fi Tender Report
- D179/19 Town Centre Enhancement Scheme Report

Matters for Information

- D180/19 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 12 September 2019

D181/19 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.13 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____