

**MINUTES OF COOKSTOWN TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2017 AT 12.30PM IN THE CHAMBER,
MUDC OFFICES, COOKSTOWN**

Present:	Councillor J McNamee	Mid Ulster District Council
	Councillor M Glasgow	Mid Ulster District Council
	Councillor C Mallaghan	Mid Ulster District Council
	Councillor T Quinn	Mid Ulster District Council
	Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities
	Neil Bratton	Department for Infrastructure
	Ursula Marshall	Cookstown Disability Forum
	TP Sheehy	Small Independent Retailer
	Raymond McGarvey	Cookstown Chamber of Commerce
	Seamus Doone	Police Service of Northern Ireland
	Fiona McKeown)
	Andrew Cassells) Mid Ulster District Council
	Mary McCullagh)

In attendance: Colleen Bell) Mid Ulster District Council

The Chairman, Councillor McNamee welcomed all members to the Cookstown Town Centre Forum Meeting.

1) APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Wilson, Mid Ulster District Council; Eugene Teague, ASDA; Tom Jebb, Vinters Association; Inspector Danny Walsh, PSNI; Brain McCallion and John Hynes, Tesco; Bernie Sonners, Tenants Association; Jim Eastwood, Cookstown Enterprise Centre; Elaine Mullin, Adrian McCreesh and Colin McKenna, Mid Ulster District Council.

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was AGREED to ADOPT the minutes of the Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 3 May 2017.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a) Cookstown Public Realm Scheme

M McCullagh informed members that FP McCann has commenced installation of parking restriction poles, required for parking enforcement throughout Cookstown Town Centre. N Bratton reminded members that legislation, approved by NI Assembly will follow.

M McCullagh advised that most areas will be fully enforceable after parking restriction poles and plates are in place. The Chair enquired about the timescale for the said legislation being approved. N Bratton told the Chair that it is difficult to put a timeframe on the Assembly approving the legislation but he will seek an update and liaise with M McCullagh.

b) Rural Regeneration Projects

M McCullagh enquired as to whether Transport NI had given any further consideration to resurfacing Pomeroy village. N Bratton advised that currently Transport NI do not have funds available to complete.

c) Resignation

Following John McConnell's resignation, M McCullagh informed members that four nominations for the position of 'Large Independent Retailer' had been received from forum members, highlighting that those nominated are not yet aware that they are nominated.

It was agreed that the nominee closest to the Town Centre is approached first. M McCullagh is to write to the appropriate nominee and advise of the nomination to Cookstown Town Centre Forum and request acceptance.

Cllr McNamee enquired if the representation of 'Large Independent Retailer' requires to be increased based on discussions at previous Forum meetings. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the forthcoming AGM.

4) Off Street Car Parking – Presentation by A Cassells, Director of Environment and Property, Mid Ulster District Council

The Chair welcomed Andrew Cassells to the meeting. A Cassells introduced himself and explained that the presentation was to inform members about the off street car parking strategy ahead of public consultation.

A Cassells proceeded to give a presentation of the Car Parking Strategy to date. A Cassells advised that the aim of the strategy is to address the overall requirement for car parking in the Mid Ulster District, namely: availability; accessibility; convenience; and to take account of the performance of the District's principle settlements as places

to work, visit and invest. A Cassells emphasised that the key focus would be on alternative options that would provide a consistency of the operation of the car parks across the District.

A Cassells went on to explain the baseline for Cookstown, highlighting the following:

- Union Place –117 spaces –full
- Burn Road –110 spaces –full
- Orritor Street –129 spaces –60% full
- Loy Street –54 spaces –60% full
- 80% of Council spaces occupied overall
- Other car parks around 50% full overall

A Cassells advised that Council car parks were approaching capacity and that the two sites closest to William St have limited parking availability during the day. He said that there was a need to increase space turnover and suggested that short stay parking should be closest and long stay further out.

A Cassells provided an overview of the eight options that were established as a result of the baseline survey and were subsequently presented to the Environment Committee in July 2017. A Cassells explained how Option 4 was accepted by Council as the preferred option, not by everybody, but by the majority.

An overview of what Option 4 could look like was presented by A Cassells by highlighting the following areas:

- Loy Street - No Changes, free parking maintained;
- Union Place - Charging introduced, Pay on Foot system;
- Orritor Street - No Charges, free Parking Maintained;
- Burn Road - Charging introduced, Pay on Foot System.

A Cassells outlined both the benefits and issues of adopting Option 4 and then discussed next steps and timescales, advising that a public consultation is due to take place for a 12 week period. When the consultation period is completed, A Cassells advised that they would report back to Environment Committee, by November/December 2017.

With regards to legislation, A Cassells explained that there is would be a requirement to modify the existing Administrative Order and that full implementation of the parking strategy would not be expected until at least June 2018, again highlighting that there could be some slippage to this timescale.

A Cassells thanked all for their attention and welcomed questions from the members.

C Mallaghan enquired, firstly whether the PowerPoint presentation could be made available. A Cassells confirmed that the presentation can be made available. C Mallaghan queried the accuracy of the statistics, in particular the figures associated with Dungannon, Castle Hill “100 spaces –40-80% full”. A Cassells explained that the figures fluctuate depending on the time of day but generally people are able to go in and get parked at any time.

C Mallaghan enquired regarding Option 4 preference and why the first three options were not preferred, that is, those options that included a period of the free parking. C Mallaghan stated that the Pay on Foot model is a good example of where people could receive up to three hours free parking, adding it would be perfect for use at Burn Road. C Mallaghan concluded that Pay on Foot system could be used anywhere and raised it as a potential option going forward.

A Cassells explained that the option of Pay on Foot would be easier to introduce in some areas but difficult in others, for example, Perry Street would encounter great difficulty with the system. A Cassells suggested a mixed model would be a more feasible option; where Pay on Foot cannot be physically implemented then Pay and Display could be applied.

Cllr Quinn thanked A Cassells for his presentation and stated that the Chamber of Commerce would benefit from a similar presentation. Cllr Quinn went on to query the Council's position with regard to Union Street/Place, in that when the land was acquired, he believed there was a covenant that stipulated parking would always be free.

A Cassells confirmed that any restrictive covenants would be in the Title Deeds of the land and that Council are actively seeking clarification on the matter, however, the process is proving slow due to the land certificates being with the Department of Infrastructure's solicitors. A Cassells assured that the Council solicitor is in contact with the other solicitors and a request to fast track 2 of the 23 Title Deeds held has been made - one being Union Place and the other being Ann Street, Dungannon in relation to the upcoming development project.

TP Sheehy stated that Magherafelt was a smaller town but had more spaces and that Cookstown needed more car parking available. A Cassells agreed that there were fewer Council car parks in Cookstown. TP Sheehy stated that if Council intends to have parity across the three towns then Cookstown should have more spaces to remain consistent. A Cassells said that this is Council's first attempt to get parity.

The Chair enquired whether A Cassells envisaged a sole entrance at Orritor Road and Burn Road site. A Cassells confirmed that a Pay on Foot system could be utilised and that there would be a sole entrance for each. The Chair was concerned that this solution could cause congestion at the main street and the junction. A Cassells stated that such concerns would need further investigation.

TP Sheehy raised the question of how barriers would affect deliveries to businesses and also residents' access in general. A Cassells advised that where technology cannot accommodate such issues, there are other solutions which could be implemented.

TP Sheehy also stated that residents and businesses have never been consulted despite an Option already being chosen by Council. A Cassells assured members that a public consultation process will be launched within the next couple of weeks and

stressed that Option 4 is the preferred Option, a starting point for discussion and for comments to be measured against.

The Chair queried how Council could go to consultation without clarity on the Union Street matter. A Cassells advised that if there is a restrictive covenant in place then the car park will have to remain free. A Cassells assured members that he will clarify the situation ahead of consultation. The Chair also indicated that he believed that the restrictive covenant would have been formed under the Urban Council and it was agreed to check the date of the Title transfer and then cross check written records from that time.

S Doone enquired how often changes to tariffs are reviewed. A Cassells advised that no consultation is required for tariff changes, this is a ministerial decision and that the rate is there to be debated. A Cassells further advised that the last time tariffs were debated was four years ago.

U Marshall raised concerns about the six disabled parking bay in the Burn Road Car Park, stating that they should be safeguarded from charges adding that there is not enough disabled parking, free or otherwise, in Cookstown except for the main street. A Cassells informed that family and disabled parking will be given consideration.

N Bratton queried the effectiveness of mother and toddler spaces as they are essentially unenforceable. A Cassells accepted N Bratton's point.

TP Sheehy enquired who would make the final decision in relation to the parking strategy. The Chair advised that Council would essentially make the final decision but that it would be guided by the responses received through the public consultation. TP Sheehy remarked that, there is people from both the areas of Dungannon and Magherafelt, who would support no introduction of car parking charges in Cookstown as many shoppers come to Cookstown to avail of the free car parking.

A Cassells explained that the public consultation will be advertised via various Council channels, local press, events etc to ensure awareness and engagement.

F McKeown stated Cookstown DEA Members had met with Cookstown Traders the previous day and they had specifically requested that Council organise two consultation events, one for businesses and one for residents to set out the proposed changes to car parking in Cookstown and seek the views of local businesses and residents of Cookstown town. A Cassells agreed and stated that the consultation would pose a series of structured questions to gather views and anyone can respond by letter. F McKeown enquired whether a response by letter was the only form of response. A Cassells confirmed that responses could come in any form, from individuals or from including petitions/collective responses.

The Chair enquired if Council would have sight of the questions prior to consultation, to ensure questions were relevant. Cllr Glasgow agreed that Council should have sight of the questions. A Cassells advised that they hadn't planned to provide questions to Council for review but that they will take the point on board.

Cllr Quinn enquired whether all the carparks that Council are responsible for are fully lit. A Cassells replied no and explained that some sites are still in the process of being transferred to Council. T Quinn requested a list of carparks that were not lit, adding that health and safety is paramount. A Cassells agreed.

A Cassells left the room at 1.40pm

5) MID ULSTER TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN 2017/2018

a) Marketing & Promotion

i) Seasonal Marketing Campaigns across Mid Ulster Towns

M Mc Cullagh advised that marketing/promotion campaigns will continue to be developed for each of the towns for key periods of the year adding that videos created through DfC funding were utilised for marketing & promoting Fathers' Day and Summer Shopping.

An advert was placed in local press to promote Independents Day regional campaign which falls on 4 July.

ii) Shop Local Campaigns

M McCullagh advised that Shop Local Campaigns will continue to be delivered through social media channels. Back to School has been posted this month.

iii) Town Centre Branding

M McCullagh advised that following the completion of the Town Centre Positioning Study and recommendation to refresh the Cookstown brand, McCadden have been appointed to review the Cookstown and Magherafelt brands. It was highlighted that the process will involve desktop research, identification of exemplars, identifying brand refresh concepts, consultation with key stakeholders and launch of refreshed brand by March 2018. The project is currently at desktop research stage and updates will be provided accordingly.

b) Business Support/Attracting Investment

i) Baseline Studies

M McCullagh reminded Members that the Springboard Vacancy Survey is completed on a quarterly basis for Cookstown. Cookstown vacancy rate at the quarter end July 2017 was 10.6%, with the Northern Ireland average is 14.3%.

ii) Provision of free Wi-Fi in town centres

M McCullagh reminded Members that Wi-Fi is available in the five town centres- Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon, Maghera and Magherafelt and that a review is currently taking place of the Wi-Fi access points within Cookstown.

c) Town Centre Events

i) Continental Market

M McCullagh spoke of the success of running the fourth Continental Market over a two period this year, Saturday 20 May & Sunday 21 May 2017. M McCullagh informed that over the two days, approximately 25,000 people attended with 49 international traders participating in the event. M McCullagh also advised that the aerial performance and German Beer Stall were welcome additions to the delivery of the event. A variety of street theatre, childrens entertainment and music was provided, which included the Traditional Schools Project joined by Ulster Scots Juvenile Pipe Band. Feedback from traders and the public was positive. It was agreed that planning commence for delivery of the Continental Market next year as a two day event Saturday 19 May and Sunday 20 May 2018. Copies of the evaluation were distributed to members.

ii) Switching on of Christmas Lights

M McCullagh advised that the switching on of Cookstown Christmas lights is scheduled to take place Thursday 23rd November 2017, however, there has been a request received to switch them on to Friday 24th November. This request will be presented to September Development Committee for discussion. R McGarvey enquired how this would affect Friday business trade. TP Sheehy suggested businesses could remain open for an extra hour to accommodate those who attend the Christmas Lights Switch On. M McCullagh will update members accordingly.

U Marshall enquired as to why the Christmas lights were being switched on in November, suggesting that it was too early. M McCullagh advised that the reasoning for this decision was that in previous years those who have attended the Craft Fayre, which usually runs the last weekend of November, had been disappointed that the Christmas Lights were not on show for the event.

d) Physical Regeneration/Improving Infrastructure

i) Rural Regeneration Projects

M McCullagh advised that Regeneration Managers have a remit encompassing rural villages and are working alongside Technical Services team in the roll out of the Rural Development Programme to a total of 37 villages, of which there are thirteen villages from the former Cookstown area. Meetings have been taking place to finalise projects and move them to the next stage involving the Design Consultancy Team.

ii) Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme

M McCullagh informed Members that the Village Spruce Up Scheme has been launched. The scheme offers discretionary grants of up to 75% eligible costs, capped

at £5,000 per business/commercial property for eligible external and/or internal improvements which do not require planning permission.

The eligible area will be those business/commercial properties located within the development limits of the following village settlements:- Aghaginduff/Cabragh, Annaghmore, Ardboe, Augher, Aughnacloy Ballinderry, Ballygawley, Ballylifford, Ballyronan, Bellaghy, Benburb, Brockagh/Mountjoy, Caledon, Castledawson, Castlecaulfield, Churchtown, Clady, Clogher, Coagh, Desertmartin Donaghmore, Draperstown, Drummullan, Edendork, Eglish, Fivemiletown, Galbally, Granville, Gulladuff, Killyman, Moneymore, Moortown, Moy, Moygashel, Newmills, Orritor, Pomeroy, Sandholes, Stewartstown, Swatragh, Tamnamore, The Bush, The Loup, The Rock, Tobermore and Upperlands.

McCarterHamill Architects LLP have been appointed to oversee the delivery of the scheme with £150,000 available in grant aid.

M McCullagh advised that the closing date for applications is 4pm Friday 15 September 2017 and all applications should be forwarded to McCarter Hamill Architects Office, Circular Road, Dungannon. M McCullagh advised that information can be obtained from the Council website or by contacting herself or Lynn Shiels.

e) Shopmobility

M McCullagh advised that the Co-ordinator continues to raise awareness of the scheme, with over 400 members, many of which are regular members using the service weekly.

6) UTILITY WORK, COOKSTOWN

M McCullagh advised that NI Water upgrade is now entering week three of an eight week programme, however, as NI Water are ahead of schedule anticipate a finish date of 15th September 2017. Private entrances will then be completed, followed by a two week night work programme across the Moneymore Road mini roundabouts.

There has been no further update from SGN in relation to Gas to the West.

7) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

8) DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

M McCullagh advised that the Forum's AGM will occur on Friday 29th September, 12.30pm in The Chamber, Cookstown, followed by a meeting at 12.45pm.

The meeting ended at 1.50pm.

Event Evaluation

Never Felt Better Days

Magherafelt Town Centre 17 June 2017 & 23 September 2017

Background

Magherafelt Town Centre hosted 2 “Never Felt Better” Days over the summer to enhance the atmosphere in the town centre. In the absence of a large event in Magherafelt in the summer of 2017 it was agreed with the Chamber of Commerce that two small events would be held instead.

The first event took place on Saturday 17 June and had an arts based theme, the second event took place on Saturday 23 September 2017 and had a music theme.

Event Overview

A number of activities took place during the events as follows:

Saturday 17 June 2017

- Italian Chalk Art on Civic Space
- Street entertainment including Face Painting & Balloon Modelling Market Street
- Pop Up Art Exhibition of 6 local schools in Bank of Ireland Market Street
- Mr Hullabaloo Show The Bridewell
- Boring Barn Exhibition The Bridewell

Chalk Art Workshop Saturday 17 June 2017



Art Exhibition Bank of Ireland Saturday 17 June 2017



Saturday 23 September 2017

- African Hand Drumming Workshop - Bank of Ireland
- DJ Workshop – The Bridewell
- “Rural Key” Buskers
- Dance Workshop
- Face Painting
- Balloon Modelling
- Glitter Tattoos

Drumming Workshop Bank of Ireland Saturday 23 September 2017



Dance Exhibition Civic Space Saturday 23 September 2017



Attendance

The two events attracted approximately 1,000 people who participated in workshops and activities on offer.

Budget

The total cost of the two events was £6,818.62

This was broken down as follows:

Saturday 17 June 2017 £4,703.12

Saturday 23 September 2017 £2,115.50

Marketing & Promotion

Promotion of the events was carried out on Visit Magherafelt Facebook Page as follows:

On Facebook, between 13 June – 21 June 3 posts were added to the Visit Magherafelt Facebook page (1 pre-event sponsored, 1 on the morning of the event and 1 post-event) which resulted in a *reach of 26,500 and engagement of 3,667.

On Facebook, between 8 September 2017 and 25 September 2017 4 posts were added to the Visit Magherafelt Facebook page (2 pre event, 1 on the morning of the event and 1 post event) which resulted in a reach of 10,160 and engagement of 925.

Previous events have clearly illustrated that the platform that worked best for promoting events was Facebook.

Artwork was also designed for flyers to be distributed to local primary schools who were the key target audience and to local businesses in the town centre.

*reach- Facebook reach is the number of unique people who saw your content.

Feedback

Feedback from participants on both days was positive and businesses in the vicinity commented it created a good atmosphere in the town centre however they did not notice a significant increase in footfall on the day. The Bank of Ireland participated on both days making their premises available for workshops. Other businesses were invited to participate but did not.

Recommendations

The day with the art theme in June had better participation and engagement than the music day and going forward an arts based event may work well in Magherafelt town centre which also links in with the recommendations of the Mid Ulster Town Centre Positioning Study.

Conclusion

This event was received positively by the people who attended and the local businesses in the town. The event met the objectives as set out in the Mid Ulster Regeneration Action Plan of animating public and shared spaces in the town centre, enhancing the overall visitor experience and increasing civic pride.

25 October 2017

Sean Garland
Department for Communities
Social Security Policy and Legislation Division
Level 8
Causeway Exchange
1–7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Dear Mr Garland,

Ref: Department for Communities: Abolition of Class 2 National Insurance Contributions – Equality Impact Assessment

I refer to your letter dated 11 September 2017 which offered an opportunity to respond to the Department's statutory consultation in relation to its Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on the planned abolition of Class 2 National Insurance contributions (NICs) and the reform of Class 4 NICs to introduce a new contributory benefit test for self-employed people.

On review of the associated EQIA, I note that Annex 2 "List of Consultees" neither includes Mid Ulster District Council (Council) nor any of the eleven district councils in Northern Ireland. As a consultee who has been asked to comment, Council is obviously bemused by this fact. More significantly, however, Council would make the following observations in relation to this:

1. As the published list of consultees is obviously defective, Council notes that there can be no assurance that the Department has taken reasonable steps to deliver upon its statutory duty to consult on this occasion; and
2. There would appear to be little, if any evidence, to suggest that the Department's consultation process for EQIA generally is either logical, defensible or effective.

Council is also disappointed to read paragraph 6 of the EQIA which states:

"A consultation was carried out in Great Britain and Northern Ireland between 9 December 2015 and 24 February 2016. In all, forty six responses were received, including one from Northern Ireland - Citizens Advice".

Council suspects that the poor response from society as a whole and the local government sector in particular is due to the fact that the consultation appears to have been solely conducted via www.gov.uk. Although Council accepts that there will always be pressure to rationalise consultation and other communication channels, it would appear that centralisation via www.gov.uk in this instance at least has had the effect of severely curtailing the number of responses to proposals which would directly impact on how central government is funded and individual citizens are taxed. This can hardly be either a desirable outcome or a sound methodology for designing and implementing equitable, transparent and socially responsible government policy. Although this is out with the Department's specific responsibility,

Council would request that its concerns in this regard are formally communicated through the appropriate channels.

As your correspondence merely affords the opportunity to comment in relation to the Department's EQIA in relation to what is in effect, for the reason stated above, a fait accompli, Council is disappointed that its concerns regarding the proposals themselves are unlikely to be considered by the relevant policy makers. However, Council believes that this fact makes its scrutiny of the EQIA all the more significant. Consequently, Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Department's EQIA.

It is clear that the Department has a statutory obligation to consider whether the policy changes will have an adverse impact on any of the nine categories referred to in the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the 1998 Act). The Department has also a duty to rural proof the policy changes – they are effectively no longer proposals.

Unfortunately, it is Council's opinion that the EQIA neither adequately identifies the adverse impacts on each of the nine categories nor rural proofs the policy changes. Consequently, Council would ask the Department to reconsider its EQIA and, in particular, to seek to secure appropriate mitigation measures which will deliver at least some of the equality priorities that the 1998 Act sought to secure.

Although Council accepts that a key objective of the policy changes to the contributory process for the self-employed should be to achieve parity between employed and self-employed taxpayers with similar total incomes, cognisance must also be had to ensure that the change itself must be delivered in a way which is not in conflict with protections afforded by the 1998 Act. Council is of the opinion that the policy changes as drafted and now effectively confirmed will not be delivered in a manner consistent with these protections.

Notwithstanding the specific comments detailed in the Annex to this response, Council wishes to draw the Department's attention to the following points:

1. Council notes that the policy changes reference the zero Class 4 NIC rate applicable to self-employed individuals who earn profits between the Small Profits Limit and the Lower Profits Limit. Although the EQIA, in referencing the outworking of the original consultation in affirming the associated policy change, Council feels that it is more likely than not that this zero rate band will not enjoy permanent protection. Consequently, it is at least possible, that self-employed individuals who will initially qualify for this protection will see this protection being whittled away over time. To the extent that this happens, Council feels that the EQIA will have simply promulgated an arguably disingenuous proposal regardless of the Section 75 and rural proofing implications;
2. Council also notes that mitigation measures generally are completely inadequate. In seeking to, on the face of it, bring self-employed taxpayers on to an equal footing with employee taxpayers, the government has sought to rely on statistics to suggest that the incidence of impacts on the protected categories are negligible. This is simply not the case as the statistics are illogical. In addition, the monetary impacts on individuals within the relevant categories are significant. Consequently, Council would suggest that, as a

minimum, transitional arrangements are introduced for at least five years as opposed to the two stated;

3. Fundamentally, in the Mid Ulster District Council area and Northern Ireland generally, it is clear that self-employed individuals tend to be disproportionately male, white, of higher than average working age, with higher than average dependants and less likely to suffer from a disability than the rest of the working population. Consequently the negative impacts associated with the policy changes directly impact on the protected categories.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Mc Creesh', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Adrian Mc Creesh
Director of Business and Communities
Mid Ulster District Council

Annex 1

Section 75 category	Impact	Mitigation	Council Response
All Categories	The proposed changes have been designed to mitigate the effects of the abolition of Class 2 NICs as far as it is possible to do so. They are intended to ensure that self-employed people continue to build contributory benefit entitlement through the NICs system.		The policy change to effect the replacement of voluntary Class 2 NICs by the standard Class 3 voluntary NIC will cause alarm considering that this will result in a five-fold increase in cost to the affected taxpayers.
Age	<p>Employment and Support Allowance - The changes can be expected to have a greater effect on older age groups.</p> <p>Other benefits - the effects are expected to be minimal or negligible and beneficial in some instances.</p>	<p>Employment and Support Allowance: The majority of people who currently qualify will continue to do so. An estimated 100 to 200 may not. It is proposed that transitional protection will apply for 2 years from abolition to give people time to prepare for the changes and enable them to adjust to the new arrangements. Voluntary Class 3 NICs will be reformed to provide self-employed people with access to Employment and Support Allowance.</p> <p>Maternity Allowance: The proposed changes replicate,</p>	<p>The statistics quoted to show that the incidence of negative impacts is insignificant are illogical.</p> <p>2 years is not enough time to effect transition and should be extended to at least 5 years.</p> <p>Council believes many self-employed taxpayers are unaware that paying Class 4 contributions does not give them an entitlement to relevant state benefits, or that on reaching state retirement age they may only be entitled to a minimal state pension, even if they have paid</p>

		<p>as closely as possible, the current process and cost of accessing Standard rate Maternity Allowance. The process for lower rate Maternity Allowance is unchanged. Participating spouses will have easier access to Maternity Allowance.</p>	<p>national insurance for considerable portions of their working life.</p> <p>The policy changes clearly discriminate against older workers as they might not have sufficient time to build up sufficient benefit entitlements.</p>
Gender	<p>Employment and Support Allowance - The changes can be expected to have a greater effect on self-employed men. This reflects the higher tendency for men to be self-employed.</p> <p>Maternity Allowance – Only women can access Maternity Allowance.</p> <p>Other benefits - the effects are expected to be minimal or negligible.</p>	<p>Bereavement Support Payment: In the course of an individual's working life, only a single qualifying year is to provide entitlement. The proposed changes are not expected to have any measurable impact.</p> <p>New State Pension: A person can have gaps of up to 15 years in a 50-year working life and still be entitled to the full new State Pension. A person would be adversely affected only if their profits were to remain low for a considerable period of time. The impact of the changes is</p>	<p>Council notes that the EQIA states that any proposals must ensure that the self-employed maintain access to the maternity allowance. This should be extended out as a matter of equality to introduce paternity and shared parental leave on a similar basis.</p> <p>Council notes that the EQIA states "The impacts are considered to be negligible". However, the increases are significant. Voluntary contributors to Class 3 NIC will now have access to maternity payments but at a five-fold increase in cost.</p>

		<p>expected to be minimal.</p> <p>Carer's Allowance:</p> <p>The number of people likely to be adversely affected is expected to be very small, and too small to provide robust estimates.</p>	<p>The statistics quoted to show that the incidence of negative impacts is insignificant are illogical.</p>
Marital Status	<p>There is no evidence on how the changes may impact on the ground of marital status. In relation to Maternity Allowance, provision for women participating in their spouse's/civil partner's business (participating spouses) has been safeguarded.</p>		<p>Council has insufficient information to comment.</p>
Religious Belief/Political Opinion	<p>The changes are expected to have a greater impact on the Catholic, Protestant and other Christian groups. This is in line with the population in general.</p>		<p>Council agrees with the impact statement: that the changes are expected to have a greater impact on the Catholic, Protestant and other Christian groups. - a negative impact, which has not been appropriately mitigated.</p>
Racial Group	<p>The changes are expected to have a greater impact on the 'White' ethnic group This is in line with the</p>		<p>Council agrees with the impact statement: that the changes are expected to have a greater impact on</p>

	population in general.		the Catholic, Protestant and other Christian groups. - a negative impact, which has not been appropriately mitigated.
Sexual Orientation	No information is held on the sexual orientation of claimants. The impact of the changes is expected to be neutral.		Council holds insufficient information to comment but suggests that the lack of information is not a rational reason to conclude that the impact is neutral
Persons with a disability and persons without	Employment and Support Allowance – by definition, everyone claiming has an illness or disability. Up to 200 new cases per year are estimated to be affected by the changes.		The statistics quoted to show that the incidence of negative impacts is insignificant are illogical.
Persons with dependants and persons without	Employment and Support Allowance - The changes can be expected to have a greater effect on self-employed people without dependants. Other benefits - the effects are expected to be minimal or negligible and beneficial in some instances.	Jobseeker's Allowance: The Westminster Government take the view that the maintenance of special rates or categories of NICs for particular groups would undermine the objective of simplifying the NICs regime. It is proposed that transitional protection will	Council does not accept that the government's view that eliminating special rates or categories for particular groups should simply disregard the fact that in Northern Ireland many of the categories for particular groups such as share fishermen are composed predominately of

		<p>apply for 2 years from abolition to give people time to prepare for the changes and enable them to adjust to the new arrangements.</p>	<p>persons from within one or more of the Section 75 categories. Adequate mitigation against adverse impacts is required by the 1998 Act.</p>
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APPENDIX 4 – WORLD BUTCHERS CHALLENGE PROPOSAL



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

IFEX 2018 & MID ULSTER COUNCIL

Support Request Proposal

Mid Ulster involvement in World Butchers Challenge 2018.

The World Butchers' Challenge is arriving in Northern Ireland in March, when local Irish butchers will compete against 13 other countries from around the globe. The competitions are to be held in Belfast and WBC International Study Tour will be a cross border visit by international visitors where they will see the very best in what we have to offer. We have organised a full and packed day in the Mid Ulster Council Area.

On Friday March 16th 2018 the International Food Tour delegations will visit the Mid Ulster Council area, home of Auger woman Rhonda Montgomery's award winning business Montgomery Food International, recently awarded NI Agri – Food Business by First Trust Bank Business Eye Awards 2017.

Rhonda Finalist in the All Ireland Agri - Food Business for Overall Supply Chain on the island of Ireland.

Rhonda is being recognised for her commitment to business in Mid Ulster by the Mid Ulster Council at the Civic Awards this month.

The Team Ireland co-ordinator for World Butchers Challenge is also based in Mid Ulster, renowned Ballyronan based Chef Sean Owens, who is liaison for the tour.

Sean is Salon Culinaire Director of IFEX the award winning best event show in UK

(AEO Awards 2016/2017)

Firstly the delegates will visit Kevin Lowe of Stewartstown and the fantastic Mid Ulster Lowe Bros Master Butchers', here they will see local butchery of the highest standard with a shop that has been consistently at the top in the Mid Ulster area and simply said a World Class butcher shop on our doorstep, this will be a fantastic opportunity to show the best butchers in the world just what Mid Ulster has to offer and to tell the story that Mid Ulster is open for business. We then go on to visit Team Ireland Member Collie Donnelly from the 125 year old traditional Irish Butcher Shop of MacMahons of Cookstown a real historical gem that screams best beef, lamb and pork tradition, a true local food provenance venue.

The message here is that Mid Ulster is a traditional Modern area of Ireland that has not only great food heritage but has a modern outlook, with funding support will show the world the great produce and great people who extol the virtues of all things local Mid Ulster Food. We also intend to visit Ballyriff Buffalo Farm in Ballyronan for a tasting session.

Our main event in the Mid Ulster District Area is our visit to CAFRE Loughry Campus, Cookstown, where we will have all sections of the Agri – Food Supply Chain as well as our international visitors at lunch showing the best of Local Artisan Producers from NI in general and Mid Ulster in particular, our message here is one of a look to the future, with internal visits to the Food Innovation Centre, showing the very best in world class NPD and research right here on our doorstep in Mid Ulster.

We will have keynote speakers at this important global event such as representation from MID ULSTER COUNCIL and depending on ministerial appointments and the re convening of NI Executive, this will be addressed by the MID ULSTER COUNCIL minister of failing this the Permanent Secretary Noel Lavery.

There is an opportunity for a number of Mid Ulster Council representative's to attend this important Global Industry event and to network not only with people in the Mid Ulster area but from around the world. There will be an opportunity for a Mid Ulster Council Representative to speak and welcome The Butchers' of the World to Mid Ulster driving home the message Mid Ulster is open for business.

We will have a nose to tail live butchery demonstration of a Mid Ulster Classic, the Pig. Here the great tradition of Pig farming and processing will be an important message coming from Mid Ulster, already a leading recognised area for the breeding, innovative animal husbandry, slaughter and processing of the world's best pork now being exported to all corners of the globe from the famous Karro Pork production plant in Cookstown.

Mid Ulster has a great Food Supply Chain History and Story to tell and is home to some of the top Butchers' in the World. Let's make this visit a real memorable experience for our visitors who will remember Mid Ulster for all the right reasons. Great Local Food, History, Successful Business, Good Local Government, Science and Innovation, Education, Tourism, Skills, Meat and Meat Processing, Farming, Great People and Great Welcome.

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SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

ME@T IFEX - Fresh Montgomery & Butchery Excellence International (Ireland) to provide:

Butchery Excellence International (Ireland) based in the Mid Ulster Council Area in Aghnacloy County Tyrone is a cross border support body for the Butchery and Retail Sector. FRIDAY 16TH March 2018 World Butchers Challenge 2018 – International Study Tour visit to CAFRE Food Innovation Centre, Loughry Campus, Live Butchery & Cookery Demonstrations, FIC & College Tour. Keynote Speaker from Department and Speaker from Mid Ulster Council, Light Lunch attended by Key Meat industry figures across Supply Chain, Farmers, Primary Producers, Butchers, Meat Traders, Artisans Producers, Chefs. Local Mid Ulster Business.

Onsite Items:

2 places for Mid Ulster at the INTERNATIONAL WBC SOIREE EVENING – 15TH MARCH - Welcoming the Butchers of the World to Ireland. With Support Signage at the event.

2 VIP Places World Butchers' Challenge Gala Dinner + 2 Tickets to VIP reception Titanic Belfast

MID ULSTER branding on each Sponsor board at Arena of Nations and on low wall shell scheme across the length of the arena

Other sponsors logos will also be included within the Arena of Nations area.

MID ULSTER COUNCIL can also supply artwork to be printed on a graphics panel within the area.
Specification tbc. Other sponsors logos will also be included within the WBC Arena area.

MID ULSTER COUNCIL logo on all menus and signage at CAFRE - Agri - Food Supply Chain Open Day
Loughry Campus, Cookstown

½ page advert Page in Official Show Guide

Pre-Show Marketing Items:

MID ULSTER COUNCIL to be billed as sponsor of World Butchers' Challenge International Study Tour 2018 wherever mentioned. This will include on all leaflets as well as emails to our visitor database.

Please note that other key sponsors will also be mentioned and the logo will be included if space permits.

MID ULSTER COUNCIL to be listed as sponsor in Social Media feeds accompanied by logo. This will be produced in electronic format only and will be sent to our database of butchers and students who may be interested in visiting **Me@t IFEX 2018**

Full page advert to be included in Deadline for finished artwork for this is 16th November.
Specification for Trim artwork is 297mm (h) x 210mm (w) or for Bleed allow 3mm all round.

MID ULSTER COUNCIL to be billed as sponsor of **World Butchers' Challenge Study Tour 2018** in all pre-show press releases and PR collateral produced by Fresh Montgomery. Please note however that due to editorial freedom, we cannot guarantee that all publications will publish this information.

MID ULSTER COUNCIL logo on Study Tour Visitor Invitations

MID ULSTER COUNCIL logo on Me@t IFEX 2018 Page on www.ifexexhibition.co.uk

MID ULSTER COUNCIL logo on Partners Page on www.ifexexhibition.co.uk

The ability to list as many sharing companies as required on www.ifexexhibition.co.uk. Each sharer to receive their own standard listing on the website.

MID ULSTER COUNCIL to be listed under "Useful Contacts" and in the A-Z under "Local Government"

Dedicated MID ULSTER COUNCIL insert on the IFEX website – this link can be used in your customer communications to tell them about your activities at the show and promote any competitions or offers.

Dedicated code for your customers. You can then contact them prior to the event giving them the latest news and encouraging them to come to the event.

Contact details of all competing countries will be provided to MID ULSTER COUNCIL

Post-Show Items:

MID ULSTER COUNCIL to be billed as sponsor in any post-show press releases

MID ULSTER COUNCIL logo in post-show report

MID ULSTER COUNCIL to provide:

- A high - resolution version of the MID ULSTER COUNCIL logo for inclusion in marketing materials.

MID ULSTER SUPPORT VALUE REQUIRED: £12'500 + VAT

MID ULSTER TOUR WITH DELEGATES FROM WBC : - £4'500

CAFRE LUNCH 50% FUNDED BY MID ULSTER : - £1'600

MID ULSTER FUNDED LOCAL FOOD DEMO WITH MASTER BUTCHER SHOWCASE : - £2'600

MID ULSTER WBC SIGNAGE & BRANDING THROUGHOUT TOUR & WBC : - £3'300

4 SEATS X MID ULSTER @ WBC DINNER 21ST MARCH 2017 : - £500.00

(negotiated to 6 SEATS as per conversation with R Montgomery on 31.10.17)

Thank You for your Time.

Sean Owens

Co-ordinator World Butchers' Challenge 2018

&

Rhonda Montgomery

CEO - Butchery Excellence International (Ireland)