

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 12 March 2020 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present	Councillor Monteith (V Chair) Councillors Ashton, Black, Burton, Clarke, Corry, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Kerr, Hughes, Milne and Molloy
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 Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Agenda Item 4 – Belfast Central Mission (Armagh & Dungannon)

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D045/20 Apologies

Councillor Kearney, McNamee and Wilson

D046/20 Declaration of Interests

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

D047/20 Chair's Business

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith said it would be absurd not to mention Corona virus and the issues effecting both the organisation and the population. He highlighted two issues in relation to development

- (i) The announcement by the Chancellor regarding the 100% business rates reduction for small shops in England that is 100% rates relief an increase in the 50% they had already been granted and stated it was something Council needed to raise with the Department of Finance in relation; and
- (ii) The announcement of the hardship fund to be distributed by Local Government in England and whether if it came to the North would it be issues by Stormont or local Councils.

Councillor Ashton stated she would not be able to vote due to her current position but asked as the aforementioned was a devolved matter would it be more apt to be dealt with by Policy and Resources.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated that the Development Committee continually make representation on behalf of small businesses.

Councillor Cuddy stated that the situation was moving quickly and concurred with the Vice Chair's comments.

Councillor Molloy there is a whole remit of what comes out of this where support will lie we need to know there are conversations to be had for example with regard to childcare.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that:

- (i) Make representation or contact with the Department of Finance with regard to plans for assistance for retailers similar to that granted by the Chancellor in England (100% business rate reduction for small shops).
- (ii) Seek clarity from the Executive Office as to whether there will be a hardship fund similar to that announced for Local Government in England and who will administer same.

Councillor Kerr spoke of funding issues facing local youth clubs for example Ogras, and highlighted the service they provide to young people offering alternative activities and assistance with mental health issues. He requested that Council endeavour to support local youth clubs in relation to funding difficulties.

Councillor Doris said she worked closely with Ogras through Neighbourhood Renewal and advised that the Minister for Department for Communities was reviewing the situation.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated the matter was the same for Dungannon Youth Club who again were experiencing funding difficulties as one branch of funding was ceasing. He highlighted that there was temporary funding to June 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to meet with local youth clubs such as Ogras and Dungannon Youth Club who are being impacted by forthcoming funding cuts.

Councillor Burton stated she had raised the matter of anti social behaviour at White Lough at the Environment Committee and would do so again as it falls within the remit for Parks. She advised that the Department of Fisheries advertise when the loughs are being stocked and unfortunately it was attracting antisocial behaviour including poaching, drinking and the area being used as a public toilet. Councillor Burton

proposed that Council write to the Department and request that they take cognizance of the negative effects of advertising. Councillor Burton advised that the police had been notified as bins had been burnt and animals in a nearby field injured as rubbish was being thrown over the hedge.

In response the Head of Parks stated that White Lough was part of the Fisheries Estate which Council did not have a remit for although he was aware of the ongoing problems. He stated that Council was currently in consultation with DEARA in order to convene a more robust service level agreement and Council had been asked if there would be an interest in having White Lough included. He highlighted that the Lough is advertised as part of Council's fishing experience and it was likely that it would be included in the draft service level agreement which would be presented to committee in line with similar working arrangements currently operational at other locations in the district, such as Brantry Lough.

In response to Councillor Burton's query regarding advertising fish stocking the Head of Parks advised it was DEARA's own internal policy how they do this but advised that the issue could be flagged up to them.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to write to DEARA expressing concern regarding ongoing antisocial behaviour at White Lough Aughnacloy. Letter to also express concern regarding the advertising of fish stocking which is attracting poachers.

Councillor Milne in relation to Corona Virus referred to the shortage of hand sanitizer and asked if Council could supply Members with same given their public role in the community.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to issue Members with hand sanitizer.

Councillor Doris sought an update from Officers regarding the Corona Virus crisis.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that the focus was on staff and customer safety and assured that all guidance issued by the Public Health Agency was being adhered to and that the senior management team were meeting on a daily basis carefully managing communication to ensure it was clear and concise. He stressed the need for consistency and transparency regarding national guidance.

Councillor Kerr expressed disappointment at the lack of cross co-operation between the 26 county government and the 6 county government stressing that Corona virus would not stop at the border and was emphatic that the lack of co-operation was not acceptable.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith spoke of the contradiction in senior medical advice.

Councillor Elattar asked what measures were being put in place for staff if they had to take time off highlighting how people would struggle financially. She also highlighted the panic buying, food shortages and increased reliance on food banks asking what Council could do to support.

The Director of Business and Communities said that Council is continually appraising the situation, understood that staff would be affected due to the virus and was looking at business continuity plans defining essential and non-essential services as well as supporting staff. He also advised that Local Government Officials had been invited to a briefing at Stormont this evening to ensure consistency of approach and there was a further meeting on Friday 13th March. In relation to supporting food banks the Director stated whilst the Community section of Council had an open door they could only work within their limitations.

Councillor Molloy left the meeting at 7.21 pm

Councillor Ashton stated that the situation was fluid, meetings were ongoing, decisions were based on scientific evidence and that there would be a North South Ministerial meeting on Saturday 14 March. She emphasised the need to keep calm heads and focus on the advice from the Chief Medical Officer. She also advised that there had been no prior indication of the actions of the Southern Government.

Councillor Cuddy stated he was disappointed in the different approaches as the virus would not stop at the border and hoped future working would improve. He also asked what was happening with regard to St Patrick's Day festivities highlighting that there was events planned for Dunganon.

Declaration of Interest: Councillor Monteith declared an interest in Dungannon Gaelic Forum.

The Vice chair Councillor Monteith advised that the St Patrick's Day Parade in Dungannon had been cancelled.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that there was a series of events planned across towns, theatres and visitor attractions in the coming days and Council was being consistent with advise from the Chief Medical Officer. He advised that no other Councils had cancelled events and thus it was business as usual until advised otherwise. He further advised that Council was encouraging the use of hand sanitizer.

Councillor Doris left the meeting at 7.27 pm and Councillor Molloy returned

The Vice Chair advised that the GAA was on lock down with all activity prohibited until 28 March 2020.

Councillor Cuddy stated that traders needed to understand what is happening as there would be knock on economic effects.

Councillor Milne expressed disappointment that Councillors and staff were sitting so close which was against current advice giving that people had travelled from all parts of the district. He stated that small things could save lives and people with underlying conditions are being sacrificed, he stressed that people needed to be kept at safe distances.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated there would be implications going forward for meetings as an elected body decisions would need to be made. He stated a conversation was required as decisions would need to be ratified.

Councillor Ashton stated it may be appropriate for the senior management team to meet with party leaders to discuss emergency planning.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that SMT meet with Party Leaders with regard to emergency planning for ongoing coronavirus crisis.

Councillor Milne said that British Members of Parliament were not meeting for more than 15 minutes, conversations were to be no more than five minutes yet here the meeting was sitting tonight for a number of hours. He emphasised that it was emergency times.

Councillor Cuddy stated that Council needed to display leadership and advised a Cobra Committee would be meeting.

Councillor Burton concurred with previous comments of Councillor Elattar and Ashton and stated that many in the community needed support speaking of one 80 year old she knew of who relied on community transport to get to the shops. She recalled the 'big freeze' a number of years ago and stated that the community and Council had supported each other.

The Chair, Councillor Monteith stated that bigger supermarkets should have issued control.

Councillor Molloy spoke of people buying infant milk and baby food but there was many who could not afford to bulk buy and stated it would be prudent to engage with the Department of Health to ascertain how people can access such essentials. He stressed that he was aware Council was taking guidance from the Chief Medical Officer but stated that advice should be followed on medical grounds not economic grounds.

The Vice Chair Councillor Monteith concurred highlighting the current 'chess board' approach taken by cinemas.

Councillor Kerr highlighted cases of 'vulture capitalism' highlighting extortionate prices for face masks shared on social media.

Councillor Corry highlighted the plight of parents with children with acute special needs unable to get hand sanitizer.

In response to the Vice Chair's request that quota measures should be introduced by Stormont the Director of Business and Communities stated that he would raise the matter at the briefing at Stormont.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that Chief Executive requests that Stormont enforce a quota system in shops to prevent bulk buying leading to shortages of essential goods.

D048/20 Deputation – Belfast Central Mission (Armagh & Dungannon)

The Vice Chair Councillor Monteith welcomed Teresa Miles representative of Belfast Central Mission (Armagh & Dungannon) to the meeting.

Ms Miles spoke of the organisations making reference to the undernoted:

- BCM is a charitable organisation that was founded in 1889 as a result of poor living conditions in the city of Belfast. Throughout the years it has grown from strength to strength and expanded their services, BCM has been running as a charity for almost 130 years and been based in Dungannon for almost 15 years.
- The aim remains the same 'to support those who need it most in Northern Ireland', supporting young people for up to 2 years. The organisation is people focused treating people with Respect and integrity.
- BCM enjoys a good working relationship with other community organisations and also makes referrals to the NIHE, Social services, health visitors.
- BCM (A&D) currently offers support to 92 young people aged between 16-25 in the Dungannon and Armagh area and have recently expanded services to the Magherafelt area. Housing support includes help with homelessness, budgeting, access to education & employment, aspects of health including physical & emotional and practical support. Practical support for example decorating, shopping, form filling and cleaning.
- BCM(A&D) offers a floating support service to 120 people aged 55+ and offers similar support to that of the younger people, they cover Dungannon, Armagh, Lurgan, Portadown and now extended to Newry;
- BCM (A&D) offer parent support services funded by the H&SCT and at present referrals can only be received through the HUB, this is currently limited to 20 families at one time. It was highlighted that there was a continuing rise in demand for this service.
- Annual Christmas toy appeal;
- Ongoing issues include lack of suitable accommodation, difficulties with private landlords although the NIHE has recently allocated funding to help meet private landlord deposit.
- Universal Credit waiting times presents difficulties sometimes leads to rough sleeping.
- Service users have complex needs including mental health and drug abuse;

The Vice Chair Councillor Monteith thanked Ms Miles for the presentation.

Councillor Doris commended the work of BCM in the district and concurred with the issues in relation to Universal Credit.

Ms Miles advised that they were constantly supporting people with job support advising that BCM had delivered a presentation to staff in Dungannon Job Centre but as the organisation was Methodist Church based Cookstown Job Centre had refused to permit this. Ms Miles stated BCM (A&D) were now based in Western House, Coalisland an area where they had a lot of service users but people were often reluctant to admit they needed support.

Councillor Molloy commended the work of BCM (A&D) stating that he had been unaware of the history of the organisation. He also said it was shameful the situation society was in.

Ms Miles said they worked with many organisations such as St Vincent de Paul and the Vineyard Church endeavouring to meet people at the point of their need.

In response to Councillor Kerr's question Ms Miles stated that in relation to mental health issues they work with and refer cases onto the Niamh Louise Foundation and PIPS. She further advised that they also offered support with GP appointments as many young people did not have the confidence to attend alone. Ms Miles also spoke of many service users suffering isolation and how BCM offered a holistic approach to people's complex needs.

In response to Councillor Cuddy Ms Miles advised that BCM (A&D) have 18 people engaged across three teams.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated he was aware of the work in the Dungannon area and many families who had been helped. He also spoke of the Council's Anti Poverty Strategy and stated that Council should have a strong link with the group.

Ms Miles left the meeting at 7.50pm

In response to the Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith's query the Head of Community Services stated that the Anti Poverty Strategy was being presented to the Senior Management Team following which it would be presented to committee. She further advised that every six months Council engaged with Dungannon Together.

Matters for Decision

D049/20 Review of Mid Ulster District Council's Tourism Strategy

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to update and inform Council on actions as part of the review of the Tourism Strategy "Our Plan to Develop Tourism in Mid Ulster 2016-2021".

The Head of Tourism stated that the Tourist Board had requested that Council gather data in relation to the impact of corona virus as businesses were being hit hard highlighting that one tour operator had had 60 bookings cancelled. He added that it was important to generate business at home.

Councillor Cuddy stated he sat on the Tourism Forum, that there was a strong team but Council needed to challenge stats and Tourism NI needed to reflect this. He also commented on the difficult times ahead with the impact of corona virus.

Councillor Doris commended staff on their work to date.

Councillor Clarke concurred.

Councillor Corry stated that mapping archaeological sites was an excellent idea.

In response to comments the Head of Tourism stated that competing with Belfast had always been challenging and highlighted that a regional brand would be reflective of Tourism NI 'Embrace a Giant Spirit Brand' which had 23 key themes across the 11 Council areas three of which were in Mid Ulster, the Heaney Centre, Davagh Dark Skies and Sheep Dog Trials with Bake house experience in Bellaghy.

Councillor Milne left the meeting at 8.00 pm

In response to Councillor Monteith's concerns regarding the erection of lights near the Dark Skies Project which may present a significant danger to the concept the Director of Business and Communities emphasised that Council's position had been made abundantly clear in relation to the matter.

Councillor Clarke reiterated Councillor Monteith's comments stating that the area sits on a ridge overlooking an ASSI. He also highlighted that at a recent public enquiry concern had been expressed regarding aviation requests for red lights flashing on turbines every second.

Councillor Kerr highlighted that the lights erected recently had been highlighted as 10% of the impact of what will happen if the mining goes ahead.

Councillor Monteith emphasised that Council's position should be reinstated to Central Planning regarding these matters.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Burton

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the actions and budgets outlined in the Mid Ulster Tourism Review and associated trade and consumer platforms 20-21 plan.

D050/20 Community Development Report

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

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

- **Peace IV Local Action Plan – Re-engagement Successful Grant Projects**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the process to re-engage groups with previous Peace IV funding letters of offer and extend grant funded projects that have successfully completed.

- **PCSP Plan 2020 – 2021**

Members noted PCSP Plan 2020 – 2021.

In response to Councillor Kerr's comments regarding crime rates in towns the Head of Community Development stated that the statistics have to be reported as laid out in PCSP processes as it in and independent body

- **Community Development Update**

Members noted Community Development Update.

The Vice Chair Councillor Monteith proposed that the East Timorese Group should be invited to make a presentation to Council. He highlighted that some were experiencing issues in relation to renewing passports and suggested Council facilitate Embassy Services for the East Timorese Government.

Councillor Cuddy concurred.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council

- (i) invite the East Timorese Group to make a presentation to the committee; and
- (i) extend an invitation to the East Timorese Government to provide Embassy Services in the District.

In response to Councillor Kerr seeking an update in relation to Council's work with mental health groups and suggestion to invite them in the Head of Community Development advised that this work was progressed through Environmental Health.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation reminded Members that the remit for Environmental Health was moving to the Development Committee from April.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated that it would be helpful for the committee to receive a presentation to update members in relation to ongoing work in regard to Mental Health.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that training would be organised to equip Members with decision making processes in relation to Environmental health.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that Development Committee receive a presentation from Environmental Health to update committee on ongoing work in regard to Mental Health.

D051/20 Economic Development Report – For Decision

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

- **Mid Ulster Regeneration Action Plan 2020/21**

Councillor Doris spoke of events in the action plan in relation to Coalisland and stated that funding falls short in comparison to other areas and stated she would like to explore if more funding would be available noting the numbers attracted to Coalisland events. She highlighted that Halloween events in particular combat a lot of anti social behaviour and aside of the main event there is always a series of events and whilst she appreciates Dungannon is a main town Coalisland would have a higher attendance rate across events. Councillor Doris also spoke of the Newell Stores 10k event stating that Council also host events alongside this.

The Head of Economic Development stated that the budgets were finite and that already Coalisland summer event had been increased by £2k rising from £7k to £9k and Coalsiland's three events under this remit receive £26k whilst Maghera's two events receive £22k. Members were also reminded that Dungannon was a key signature large town thus received more due to status.

The Head of Tourism advised that in particular Halloween and Christmas events and location of same would be reviewed in the near future and there would be a meeting with Members to progress.

Councillor Kerr asked if wifi could be supplied in smaller towns/villages.

In response the Head of Economic Development stated that Council simply did not have the budget to supply this and if it was decided to do so the budget would have to be cut elsewhere unless an additional budget was provided.

Councillor Ashton stated that perhaps this could be raised at forthcoming meetings between Council and Stormont Ministers but from a Council funding perspective the rate had been struck and it was tight.

In response to Councillor Ashton's query regarding visitor numbers the Head of Economic Development stated they had not been incorporated into this report but had been presented in January 2020 through Tourism reports.

The Head of Tourism stated that from memory the Coalisland event had been attended by approximately 2000 people which was down on other years but highlighted that it had been particularly inclement weather whilst the Dungannon event had attracted between 3000 – 4000 people.

Councillor Doris welcomed the additional £2k but reiterated that for Halloween in particular there were many events leading up to the main event and welcomed further conversations.

Councillor Ashton requested clarification of numbers in attendance.

Councillor Cuddy stated there was five towns across the district and it was difficult to strike a balance. He stated that Members did not want to get into 'tit for tat' funding issues but instead needed to ensure the £142k is used to the optimum for all towns.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated that there was five major urban areas which takes up the vast majority of funding but said there was an opportunity to review planning and perhaps fill gaps in smaller areas. He stated they could be asked if wifi would bring particular benefits and said it would be a worthwhile exercise to engage with traders and community groups across the villages and advise that although there was no funding at this point planning would be advantageous.

Councillor Ashton said this had been done through village plan process.

The Vice Chair Councillor Monteith stated village plan process had focused on one department remit but this should be a more holistic approach for the betterment of villages.

Councillor Ashton stated that Council perhaps should revisit the plans.

The Vice Chair stated that Council should facilitate a process.

Councillor Burton stated that recently Officers had met with villages for example LAG funding but this would be intended for wider village betterment of towns and villages, she also stated that she had been in contact with the Head of Economic Development regarding villages and highlighted that the Spruce Up Scheme was inundated with requests and there would be an overspend if all progressed.

The Director of Business and Communities said it was oversubscribed at present but generally there would be some 'drop out' which permits reserve projects to come on board.

Councillor Burton stated whilst some businesses were closing others were opening and it would be good to offer assistance and help those who were trying to help themselves.

Councillor Molloy stated that the Village Plans were maybe 3-4 year old thus underlying categories would need reviewed but asked if there was funding that larger villages could tap into.

Councillor Monteith stated there was documents and plans but Council should explore the opportunity to sit down with groups and review the documents. For example highlighting perhaps the cost of wifi and then endeavour to identify methods of funding.

The Director of Business and Communities stated there was a tier below Coalisland and Maghera of settlements of 5k population. He stated that the larger towns had larger budgets reflecting legacy rational of how funding was distributed. He stated there was engagement in areas such as Maghera and Moy and under community plan there may be space to update some others.

The Director reflected that there were 44 other villages for which funding had come from SWARD and LAG reminding Members that £3m had been distributed, with match funding and a good job had been carried out. He stated there was two sets of villages and it would be more prudent to take one tier at a time. He highlighted the difficulty of managing expectation saying that in the previous exercise monies had been available but going forward there was no European money for Rural Development and whilst Council could identify need there was no funding to bring to the table.

The Director concluded that parties are continually bringing the matter forward and urged members to lobby for funding as unless money could be raised aspirations could not be met.

Councillor Molloy stated the 'spade work' could be done.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve those projects and costs (highlighted in red) within the Regeneration Action Plan for 2020/21 on Appendix 1 of report. Projects/costs (highlighted in green) to be noted, having previously received Council approval.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to explore options for reviewing village plans in the district's largest villages (ie, those immediately below the 5 largest towns) that have grown significantly in recent years. Members noted the importance of having officer input from all Departments across Council to consider the wider strategic issues affecting these villages.

- **ATCM Membership Renewal 2020**

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Milne

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the renewal of membership with the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) for the calendar year, 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020 at a cost of £545 (excluding Vat).

- **Consultation Response to the DAERA Innovation Strategy 2020-2025**

Councillor Clarke stated he had read the submission and highlighted that tourism is a very important part of the way forward and infrastructure played a major role as many attractions were in rural areas and this should be reflected in the response.

Councillor Corry concurred emphasising the inclusion of infrastructure.

The Head of Economic Development agreed to reflect these views.

Councillor Doris left the meeting at 8.31 pm

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated that Members comments in relation to infrastructure and tourism be incorporated in response and amendments resubmitted to DAERA.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Molloy

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to retrospectively approve Council's consultation response to the draft DAERA Innovation Strategy 2020-2025 attached at Appendix 4, which had to be submitted by 5 March 2020 before the consultation period ended. That Members comments in relation to infrastructure and tourism be incorporated in response and amendments resubmitted to DAERA.

Councillor Doris returned at 8.33 pm

- **Cookstown TEDx Event – Sponsorship Request**

Councillor Molloy stated the event showcases enterprise in the district.

Councillor Cuddy stated it was an important event.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated he had no difficulty but any recommendation should be in principal subject to clarification of other sponsors involved as per previous Council decision.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy

Resolved That it be recommended to Council in principle, subject to clarification of other sponsors involved as per previous Council decision, to approve "Gold Level" sponsorship of the Cookstown TEDx event in the Burnavon Theatre on 18 June 2020 at a cost of £2,000 (excl. Vat), subject to acknowledgement of Council's sponsorship as outlined in the request.

- **Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2020 – Partnership Proposal**

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated he had no difficulty but any recommendation should be in principal subject to clarification of other sponsors involved as per previous Council decision.

Councillor Burton expressed concern about the category of the awards which was by public vote stating that the Mid Ulster Mail had not a large circulation in some areas of the district thus it was somewhat unfair.

The Head of Economic Development stated that the businesses across Mid Ulster could apply to any category and that the organisers had indicated that if Council were prepared to fund event in some way they would conduct an email campaign in the Clogher Valley area and would also promote at the Clogher Valley Show. She further emphasised that it was an application process which would then be assessed by a judging panel.

Councillor Clarke left the meeting at 8.40pm.

Councillor Ashton clarified that it was the categories that were decided by public vote that Cllr Burton was speaking of.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated that clarification should be sought.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy

Resolved That it be recommended to Council in principle, subject to clarification of other sponsors involved as per previous Council decision,

- (i) To seek clarity in relation to voting regarding the public vote categories and how this may disadvantage “public voting” for businesses in the Clogher Valley area given the newspapers are not in wide circulation in this area;
- (ii) to approve the sponsorship of the Mid Ulster Business Awards in November 2020 at the following level: Category Sponsorship £1,750 + Vat – SME Business of the Year
- (iii) that Council request JPI Media to host the Awards on Thursday 19 November 2020, during Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (instead of 25 November 2019 as per their original proposal).

Councillor Clarke returned to the meeting at 8.42 pm.

D052/20 Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan

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

Councillor Hughes on behalf of Councillor S McAleer raised the issue of Parkanaur Forest whereby community groups were concerned about the state of the pathways and whilst the Forestry Services had indicated they would address the issues nothing was being done and asked if a meeting could be arranged with local community groups.

Councillor Cuddy concurred.

In response the Head of Parks stated that trees had fallen down during storms and some paths had been blocked for maybe three years and whilst Council could flag up the issue it had no responsibility.

In response to Councillor Kerr highlighting proposals detailed at page 94 of the strategic plan in relation to Castlebay the Head of Parks stated the issue was raised regarding Brocagh and stated that there was some community trails and whilst some were listed the list was not complete. He advised there was a proposal for a network of trails in other areas of the Lough and thus picnic facilities could be incorporated as play would come through other strategies.

Councillor Kerr asked if contact had been made with 'Friends of the Canal.' The Head of Parks stated that Council had a maintenance responsibility and issues had been logged with Property Services but to date no direct contact had been made with the group.

Councillor Doris welcomed the report and welcomed the reprioritisation of projects.

Councillor Milne stated that there was ongoing problems with dog fouling and whilst there was signage and legislation it was not a deterrent and stated he would propose Officers have a conversation with Derry and Strabane regarding dog DNA analysis to perhaps find a better way of dealing with the problem.

In response the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated that dog fouling was within the remit of Environmental Health which would report to the development committee moving forward.

Councillor Corry welcomed opportunities to develop Derrynoyd and Drumnaph.

Councillor Burton sought an update regarding Lumford Glen. In response the Head of Parks stated it was with the Forestry Service but Council would lobby and encourage them to prioritise the necessary works to reopen the trail at Lumfords Glen .

In response the Head of Parks stated that trees had fallen down during storms and some paths had been blocked for maybe three years and whilst Council could flag up the issue it had no responsibility.

Councillor Burton stated they promised often but she was seeking delivery.

The Head of Parks acknowledged there was disease in the forest and whilst it was brought to their attention it may be down the list of priorities.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated that a meeting was scheduled with Forestry Service and that officers would flag up ongoing problems at Parkanaur Forest and Lumford Glen.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Milne

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the:

- (i) Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan.
- (ii) Appointment of suitably qualified Integrated Consultancy and Supply teams (ICT and IST) to assist Council with a phased delivery of the programmed action plan.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that officers flag up to Forestry Service ongoing problems at Parkanaur Forest and Lumford Glen.

Matters for Information

D053/20 Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 February 2020

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 February 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that a letter be forwarded to other Councils in Northern Ireland to highlight the work of the Boom Foundation and encourage that an invitation be extended to the group to raise awareness regarding Sarcoma

D054/20 Economic Development Report – For Information

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on matters related to Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 05.11.19, Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2019 Evaluation Report, NI Apprenticeship Week 2020.

D055/20 Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group Minutes of Meeting of 24 February 2020

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group Minutes of Meeting of 24 February 2020.

Councillor Kerr highlighted ongoing vandalism to dual language signs with one being attacked on three occasions. He commended staff for their rapid response. He further advised that some constituents were complaining about townland signs being inaccurate.

D056/20 Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre 20th Anniversary

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on activities and promotion to acknowledge and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre, Cookstown (2000-2020).

D057/20 Corporate Events Programme 2020

Members noted previously circulated report which provided information on the 2020 Corporate Events Programme.

Councillor Molloy emphasised the need to ensure that 'quiet hours' as adopted in a notice of motion to Council are incorporated into events programmes.

The Head of Tourism advised that this was being addressed.

In response to Councillor Kerr's query the Head of Tourism advised that Council had to operate with limited resources but could consider a Sunday event for the Coalisland Christmas Lights switch on.

Councillor Doris stated that the date had been a suggestion of Coalisland Town Centre Forum.

Councillor Kerr highlighted Coalisland Connect highlighting that it had the largest representation of Traders.

Councillor Doris stated it was important to take on board all views.

It was noted that there was Coalisland Town Centre Forum Coalisland Traders Association and Coalisland Connect.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that the Head of Tourism and Dungannon Regeneration Manager meet-with Coalisland Town Centre Forum, Coalisland Traders Association and Coalisland Connect to agree a date for the Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch on event.

Resolved That the Head of Tourism bring a report to the next Development Committee meeting to show the numbers attending Council's corporate events.

Councillor Cuddy stated that unfortunately if it rains these events become a 'damp squib' but stated that there has to be equality for events running on the same evening.

D058/20 Lough Neagh Partnership Core Funding Progress Report

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on Lough Neagh Partnership (LNP) Core Funding activities, marketing, tourism, recreational, environmental and heritage activities on Lough Neagh (LN) and the shoreline on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council.

D059/20 VE Events 2020

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on events which will be delivered directly or in partnership with other groups to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day, 8th May 2020.

D059/20 Update Dungannon Leisure Centre

Members noted previously circulate report providing an update on the reopening of Dungannon Leisure Centre.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

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 item D060/20 to D066/20.

Matters for Decision

- D061/20 Supply, Delivery, Installation and Calibration of Indoor Cycle Bikes at Greenvale Leisure Centre
- D062/20 Tender for the Supply of a Range of Swimming Pool Chemicals and Gases for use across Mid Ulster District Council facilities
- D063/20 Supply, Delivery, Installation and Servicing of Fitness Suite Equipment in Maghera Leisure Centre
- D064/20 Community Events on Council Land – Community Support Programme

Matters for Information

- D065/20 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 February 2020
- D066/20 Tullaghoge Fort Development Update
- D067/20 DAERA Rural Micro Business Small Grant Pilot Scheme

D068/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 9.00 pm

Chair _____

Date _____

