

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council  
held on Monday 3 July 2017 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt**

**Members Present**

Councillor McGinley, Chair

Councillors Buchanan, Burton, Cuthbertson, Gillespie, Glasgow, Kearney, McFlynn, S McGuigan, McNamee, Mulligan, M Quinn, Reid (7.04 pm), Totten

**Officers in Attendance**

Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property  
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure  
Mr Breslin, Principal Environmental Health Officer  
Mr McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services  
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services  
Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services  
Mr Wilkinson, Head of Building Control  
Miss Thompson, Committee Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

**E173/17 Apologies**

Councillor B McGuigan.

**E174/17 Declarations of Interest**

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

**E175/17 Chair's Business**

The Chair made Members aware of Council initiative taking place from 1-8 July in which a person who recycles an electrical appliance at a Council recycling centre will be entered into a competition to win a new tablet or laptop. The Chair urged Members to encourage residents to take part in the competition.

Councillor Burton advised that judging was taking place in Castlecaulfield today and that the Horticultural Society wanted to place on record its' thanks to the Council and its officers and staff, particularly mentioning Mr Paul Bailie and Mr Terry Scullion, for their efforts as the village was currently looking amazing.

The Chair, on behalf of the Environment Committee wished Castlecaulfield well in the competitions they have entered.

**Matters for Decision**

**E176/17 Off Street Car Parking Strategy**

The Director of Environment and Property presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the implementation of the Off Street Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan. The Timescale for Implementation of the Proposed Revised Arrangements for Off Street Car Parking within the Mid Ulster Council District was also provided. It was highlighted that the number of charged parking spaces at Perry Street car park, Dungannon should read 36.

*Councillor Reid entered the meeting at 7.04 pm during presentation of the above report.*

Councillor Mulligan thanked the Director for the detailed report which he felt covered every aspect one might consider raising. The Councillor stated that he believed that a user should pay for their use of a car park and proposed the recommendation of the officer – To adopt option 4 as the preferred strategy option and proceed with public consultation in respect of this option.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he would be opposed to the proposal to make Perry Street car park all charged spaces. The Councillor felt that Dungannon had a good mix of free/pay car parks however a user has to negotiate a steep hill to get to Market Square from Perry Street car park and it would be wrong to make this car park all charged.

The Director of Environment and Property stated he would take the comments of Members on board and that options will be open to discussion and consultation with the Environment Committee having the ultimate say on the way forward.

Councillor McNamee stated it would be interesting to see what feedback was received as part of the consultation process. As a Cookstown Councillor, he advised that there was a fear amongst businesses of moving people away from the town centre and that Cookstown Town Centre Forum were against the introduction of charges for car parking. Councillor McNamee also advised that some people are already using residential car parking in Cookstown and that this would become a bigger problem if car parking charges were to be introduced. Councillor McNamee referred to Union Place car park in Cookstown and advised that this car park was given to legacy Council on the understanding that there would never be any cost associated to its use.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that there were sufficient car parking spaces in Cookstown and that proposals are aimed at encouraging those who want to park all day to use the free car parks. In relation to Union Place the Director advised that the deeds for this car park were still with TransportNI and that investigation into any covenants could be explored.

Councillor Glasgow stated that whilst he would commend the work that had been done in bringing the report forward he would agree with the comments made by Councillor McNamee and felt that the introduction of car park charging would be a severe detriment to Cookstown and that people would go further afield to shop as a result. Councillor Glasgow stated he would be totally opposed to option 4 as recommended and would not be voting in support of this option and instead proposed option 1 – Do Nothing.

Councillor Buchanan seconded Councillor Glasgow's proposal stating that current car parking arrangements were working well in Cookstown and concurred with the previous comments of fellow Cookstown Councillors.

Councillor McFlynn referred to Central car park in Magherafelt and that this car park is used by a high number of Church goers during the day. Whilst realising that Council are responsible for the maintenance of car parks, Councillor McFlynn felt that charging options for this car park should be reconsidered rather than the proposal to charge for all spaces. Councillor McFlynn felt that an increase to disabled and parent and child spaces would be advantageous and was welcomed.

Councillor Burton asked if Council had investigated what other Councils were doing in relation to car parking.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that comparisons were taken against car parks in Causeway Coast and Glens Council and Fermanagh and Omagh Council. The Director highlighted that there was no proposal to increase charges in car parks which is what some Councils had done.

The Director of Environment and Property stated he did not believe that the introduction of car park charging would be detrimental to Cookstown and would assist with the turnover of spaces. The Director used the example of free car parking in Dungannon over a Christmas period in which people working in the town used all the spaces closest to the town centre and shoppers could not get parked. In relation to Central car park in Magherafelt the Director advised that 62% of users parked there all day and the £1.20 all day charge did not put people off.

In response to Councillor Reid's questions the Director of Environment and Property advised that Council would be undertaking the consultation and that any additional income from car parks comes back to Council.

Councillor Reid realised the need to undertake maintenance of the car parks under Council control and the costs associated with same. The Councillor felt that gritting of car parks should also be considered during winter months. Councillor Reid referred to parking in Coalisland which is not charged and that local employees currently park on the street close to their work premises thereby taking up spaces for potential customers. Councillor Reid advised that he had been approached by some people who stated that it was a "done deal" that car park charging would be introduced.

The Chair advised Councillor Reid that there was no "done deal" and that the preferred option would be open to public consultation.

Councillor Kearney felt that the report put forward was reasonable and would support the earlier comments of Councillor McFlynn.

The Chair urged Members to think about equality across all car parks.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked what the difference was between options 4 and 8.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that option 8 would be a more flexible approach to car park charging than option 4.

The Chair asked for a seconder to Councillor Mulligan's proposal – To adopt option 4 as the preferred strategy option and proceed with public consultation in respect of this option.

Councillor McFlynn seconded Councillor Mulligan's proposal.

Members voted on Councillor Glasgow's proposal – Option 1, Do Nothing

For – 4

Against – 7

Members voted on Councillor Mulligan's proposal – Option 4, To charge in all towns but not all sites.

For – 3

Against – 2

The Chair declared Councillor Mulligan's proposal carried.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to -

- (I) Adopt option 4 as detailed below as the Preferred Strategy Option – “To charge in all towns (Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt), but not all sites.”
- (II) To enter into a twelve week public consultation period in relation to the preferred option and associated actions.

#### **E177/17      The Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 – Special Events on Roads**

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure presented previously circulated report which provided detail on the Statutory Rule entitled The Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) (2010 Act) (Commencement No. 1) Order (Northern Ireland) 2017 which comes into operation on 4 September 2017. From this date Councils will assume responsibility for dealing with requests to hold special events on all public roads apart from special roads (which are mainly motorways).

In response to Councillor Glasgow's question the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that legislation allows for cost recovery and that no additional monies would be coming to Council for the additional responsibilities.

Councillor Cuthbertson expressed some concern in relation to this legislation particularly with regard to enforcement of road closures.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure acknowledged that the legislation as currently drafted will result in increased administration for both Council and event organisers.

Councillor S McGuigan proposed that the issuing of notices under the Act be authorised through the Council Committee system for an initial period of six months before making a decision regarding delegating authority.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that the issuing of notices under the Act be authorised through the Council Committee system for an initial period of six months before reviewing the process.

*Councillors Glasgow and Reid left the meeting at 7.46 pm.*

#### **E178/17 Government Waste Working Group (GWWG)**

The Head of Environmental Services presented previously circulated report which provided an update on the work of the Government Waste Working Group and sought approval for the related Operational Protocol and Procurement Guidance documents.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to support officer's collaborative work with NIEA in the Government Waste Working Group and approve the Operational Protocol and Procurement Guidance as circulated.

#### **E179/17 Service Level Agreement with Northern Ireland Housing Executive for the provision of housing fitness inspections and associated requests**

The Principal Environmental Health Officer presented previously circulated report which sought approval for a Service Level Agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and Northern Ireland Housing Executive for undertaking housing fitness inspections and associated requests on behalf of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

In response to Councillor S McGuigan's question the Principal Environmental Health Officer advised that the service level agreement will assist in standardising the response from Council in providing housing fitness inspections.

Proposed by Councillor Mulligan  
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the Service Level Agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and Northern Ireland Housing Executive for the provision of housing fitness inspections and associated requests, the Agreement to be subject to review after 12 months.

#### **E180/17 Service Level Agreement with Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland for the provision of services by the Environmental Health department**

The Principal Environmental Health Officer presented previously circulated report which sought approval for a Service Level Agreement which formalises a voluntary agreement which has existed between the Drinking Water Inspectorate and District Councils for the collection of private water samples within their respective areas.

Proposed by Councillor Gillespie  
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the Service Level Agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and Drinking Water Inspectorate for the collection of drinking water samples. Agreement will be subject to review after 12 months.

#### **E181/17 Street Naming and Property Numbering**

Members considered previously circulated report regarding the naming of a new residential housing development within Mid Ulster as follows –

Site off Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Proposed by Councillor Totten  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to name development off Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt as Sycamore Drive.

Site off Moneymore Road, Cookstown

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to name development off Moneymore Road, Cookstown as Gallion Glen.

#### **E182/17 Dual Language Request**

Members considered previously circulated report which sought approval to undertake survey of all applicable residents on the street/road to which Dual Language Signage has been requested.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to proceed with a Street Naming Survey for Beaghmore Road in accordance with the Policy for Street Naming and Dual Language Signage.

#### **Matters for Information**

**E183/17      Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 13 June 2017**

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 13 June 2017.

**E184/17      Entertainment Licensing Applications**

*Councillor S McGuigan declared an interest in Killeeshil Community Centre – noted under applications received for the grant/renewal of Entertainment Licence.*

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Entertainment Licensing Applications across the Mid Ulster District.

**E185/17      Building Control Workload**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the workload analysis for Building Control.

Councillor McFlynn noted the good work ongoing within the Building Control department.

**E186/17      Building Control Responsibilities on Fire Safety related Regulations and Legislation**

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which advised of existing procedures in place to ensure compliance with Fire Safety requirements within the Building Regulations (NI) and associated functions.

Members noted the content of the report.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised of correspondence received from Civil Service in relation to carrying out assessment of Council owned properties in respect of cladding. The Director advised that he did not believe Council had cladding on any of its buildings but that checks would be carried out and response returned to Civil Service.

**E187/17      Environmental Health Department Food Service Plan for 2017/18**

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of Environmental Health Department's Food Service Plan for 2017/18.

**E188/17      Smoke Free Northern Ireland, 10 years on**

Members noted previously circulated report which highlighted that the smoke free status for workplaces and work vehicles has been in force for ten years. An update on an ongoing smoking shelter survey of licensed premises was also provided.

**E189/17      Mid Ulster Community Pharmacy Partnership Networking Event, "Making links to lighten the load"**

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the Mid Ulster Community Pharmacy Partnership Networking Event, 'Making links to lighten the load' which was held in March 2017.

#### **E190/17      Flax Project – Sustainability**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the introduction of a small Flax growing Project to the District.

#### **E191/17      Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful – Spring Clean/Benchmark Report**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful Big Spring Clean 2017 and 2016/17 National Benchmark report (Annual Litter Survey) for local environmental quality.

#### **E192/17      Tullyvar Joint Committee Update**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the business of Tullyvar Joint Committee.

#### **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**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 E193/17 to E197/17.

##### **Matters for Decision**

- E193/17      Contracts for the collection and treatment of bio-waste
- E194/17      Tender report for the supply of Fleet Maintenance and Repair Services
- E195/17      Service Level Agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

##### **Matters for Information**

- E196/17      Confidential Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 13 June 2017
- E197/17      Capital Projects Update

#### **E198/17      Duration of Meeting**

The Chair wished everyone a good summer break.



The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.14 pm.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_