

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 11 October 2018 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present	Councillor McNamee, Chair Councillors Clarke, Cuddy, Doris, Forde, McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, Milne, Molloy, Monteith (7.03 pm), G Shiels, Wilson
Officers in Attendance	Ms 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 Mr McKenna, Economic Strategies Manager Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development Mr McShane, Acting Head of Leisure Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Representatives from Lough Neagh Eels All Things Kildress – Mark Conway, Frankie Corey & Marie Quinn Councillor Mulligan

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D189/18 Apologies

Councillors Burton and Elattar.

D190/18 Declaration of Interests

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest and advised any declarations could be taken throughout the meeting.

The Chair asked that members to be mindful of the Community Development Report item 5.1 Community Local Festival Grants, Good Relations Grant and Decade of Anniversaries Grant Award.

The Acting Head of Leisure declared an interest in Item 7, Everybody Active – Rainey Old Boys Rugby Football Club

Councillor McEldowney declared an interest in Lough Neagh Partnership.

Councillor Wilson declared an interest with anything referred to as Enterprise.

Councillor McAleer declared an interest in Costa as part of President Grant's.

Councillor Molloy declared an interest in Costa.

D191/18 Chair's Business

The Chair stated that at the Environment Committee meeting last Tuesday night, Councillor B McGuigan raised the issue of a request being submitted for a Dual Language feature for Christmas and advised that the group, which had submitted this request, had heard nothing back from Council.

Councillor Clarke said that he was aware of the situation regarding a letter being submitted last September and to date no response has been issued and asked that this request be followed up as a matter of urgency. Officers agreed to follow up on this issue

Councillor Monteith entered the meeting at 7.03 pm.

Councillor Cuddy advised that there are both Irish and Ulster Scots in Dungannon, which works very well and felt that consideration should be given to implementing this into other towns.

Councillor McFlynn circulated to members present, a document relating to Ballyronan Village Renewal and stated that this was a great opportunity, and sought Council's permission to close the entrance so works can be carried out to the carpark.

The Director of Business and Communities agreed that this was a good project with several meetings have already taken place with members and the community, but stated that it wasn't listed as an item on the agenda for tonight's meeting and that a decision could not be taken tonight. He suggested that this be an item on the agenda for the next Environment Committee.

D192/18 Deputation – All Things Kildress

Councillor Monteith enquired why a deputation was kept outside the Chamber until invited in and felt that, as this was a public meeting this should not be the case.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that there could be sensitive issues around Chair's business and said that it was up to the members discretion on what way to proceed.

The Chair welcomed to the committee representatives from All Things Kildress and who provided an overhead presentation on "Kildress for the Rest of the 21st Century: Ionad Pobail Chill Dreasa – Kildress Community Hub".

Mr Conway advised that there are 2,400 people young and growing population and before the Great Famine, some 7,000 lived there. One-in-ten households is a single person aged 65+ living alone, one-in-five has a long term health problem or disability, one-in-eleven (9%) provides regular unpaid care. He stated that the community infrastructure also provides Apostolic Work, Cloughfin Pipe Band, Kildress

Community Projects, Kildress Credit Union, Kildress Kare, Mark Heagney ABC, St Joseph's Bowling Club, St Joseph's Youth Club and Karate Club.

He said that the groups context consists of:

- Shops: 13 > 2
- Schools: 8 > 2
- Post Offices: 3 > 0 2
- Holy Trinity College: 25 year+ wait ... and still waiting
- 'Sixth worst' Proximity to Services in NI
- Two outstanding Primary Schools and Chapels
- Community-leading/driving Wolfe Tones GAA Club
- No public provision other than utilities and Primary Education

Proximity to Services

- GPs, Accident and Emergency, Dentists, Opticians, Pharmacy, Post Office, Supermarket/Food Store, Service Centre, Council Leisure Centre, Financial Services, Filling Stations, Health and Beauty, Food/Eating, Social Supports
- 9th Worst in NI in 2001, 8th Worst in 2005, 6th Worst in 2017 ... where in 2021?
- Worst position in the Mid-Ulster Council area

Questions that Group Would Have

- Landfill Tax 'dividend'? £17m raised in Kildress, no sign of any share for the Community
- What about our 'public realm'?
- Is the tourist/visitor the only person worthy of investment?
- What about the £2.8m Village Renewal programme?
- Why is the journey from 'Kildress to A' always seen to be shorter than the journey from 'A to Kildress' ...?
- Where's the Community Plan delivery?
- Is there a wee bit of Matthew 7, 1-5 ...?
- Why is Kildress kept in the back of the bus?

What the Kildress Community Require

- Changing and showering/personal care facilities for men/women, children/adults
- Gym/fitness area
- Boxing facilities, including a proper ring
- Areas for pilates, yoga, dance-classes and physical activities for all ages and abilities
- Culture space to deliver arts/crafts, cultural activities, dance, drama, music and Irish language-related activities
- Spaces for classes, education and social/community activities and for services outreach
- Reception area and basic catering/café provision
- Kitchen and laundry areas

- Meeting and community interaction space
- A fit-for-purpose sports/community hall (which can be extended later if need arises)

What is Needed

- £1.1m
- 10 years' hard work by Kildress Community
- £0.30m+ Draw, £0.25m Cairde Chill Dreasa
- 'Punt ar Phunt': 50% (£0.50m) input from Government
- £110,000 (10%) from Mid-Ulster

The Chair thanked Mr Conway for his impressive presentation and asked for any members comments.

Councillor Clarke stated that it was a really first class project and would be fully supportive, as it was badly needed in the Kildress community. He said that the Council should fully get behind the project and provide any support they can.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke

To pass it over to the Officers within Leisure Department to investigate ways in which the Council can financially contribute to help deliver this project.

Councillor Monteith said that this was very welcome and would concur with everything that Councillor Clarke had said and would happily second what he proposed. He stated that when people within a local community make such declarations to enhance their area then it is up to the Council to be seen supporting such projects as it would cost local government a lot more in the end.

Councillor McAleer also concurred with everything what Councillors Clarke and Monteith said and stated that there was obviously a lot of passion going into this project by the local community and good to see and would wish them well in their venture.

Councillor Wilson also wished the group well but said that he was a bit disappointed as it seemed to be geared for one side of the community and no mention of other churches or other cultures and just was concerned as it came across as a one sided community project.

Mr Conway agreed with Councillor Wilson that it seemed to come across more of a one sided community project but that was the layout of the geography of Kildress. He said that Kildress was mainly a nationalist community, but were slowly making progress trying to integrate other cultures. He said that for the Millennium, a publication was produced on the history of the area which was launched at the Burnavon as it was a neutral venue and very well supported by all religious denominations. The publication incorporated images of the British Legion and Wolfe Tones to bring everyone together.

Councillor Molloy agreed that it was an impressive presentation and advised that he also has been involved in a number of GAA clubs and when good quality and modern facilities are built, people will come to those facilities regardless of colour or creed.

In response to Councillor Molloy regarding plans to enhance accommodation in the area, something similar to Creggan, Mr Conway advised that there were three flagship projects in the 1990's which included An Creagán, and said that locals would indicate that the local pub is keeping it afloat. He said that projects like this should be left to the private sector.

Mr Conway said that the people of Kildress would not benefit much from the Davagh and Dark Skies initiative and more likely to be the hotels in Cookstown.

Councillor G Shiels said that like his community, people from Kildress wanted to relocate to urban areas when there was a lack of utilities like water and electricity and in time wanted to relocate back again to the rural areas. He said that at times he felt there may have been insensitivity shown, resulting in some members feeling uncomfortable when discussions ensued around the Chamber regarding GAA matches, parishes and football teams etc. He wanted to wish the group well in their endeavour as it shows how passionate they are about their community.

Mr Conway said that he agreed with Councillor G Shiels and there was a need to come together as communities and work together for the good of all.

The Director of Business and Communities said that the Officers would take direction from members and operate within the framework of the Council.

The Chair stated that Councillor Mallaghan wanted it known that he was fully supportive of the project 100% and wants the Council to pursue it any way they can.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that the Officers within Leisure Services Department investigate ways in which the Council can financially contribute to help deliver this project.

The Chair thanked the representatives from All Things Kildress at which they left the meeting at 7.46 pm.

Matters for Decision

D193/18 Economic Development Report

The Head of Economic Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide an update on key activities as detailed below:

- **Letter of Offer – Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme**

Councillors Cuddy, Molloy and Wilson declared an interest in Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McEldowney and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to:

- a) Accepting Letter of Offer from Invest NI (dated 7 August 2018) for the Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme offering up to £208,200 (80%) grant towards total programme delivery costs of £261,200.
- b) Officers commencing work with CPD to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to deliver the Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme at a cost of up to £261,200 (including expenses and excluding vat).

- **Coalisland and Maghera Christmas Lights Switch-On Events**

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to:

- a) Craic Theatre Company in Coalisland being awarded £4,200 to deliver activities associated with the Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-on event from the allocated £7,000 budget, subject to Officers being satisfied with the proposals submitted.
- b) Officers working up a programme of activities related to the Christmas Lights Switch on in Maghera at a cost of up to £7,000.
- c) For next year, investigate if there are any opportunities in Coalisland to widen the event to include other organisations.

- **Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund**

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the amendment to proposed Dungannon/Coalisland route.

- **Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group**

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council to approve the Terms of Reference for the Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group.

- **Business Start Performance – Mid Ulster**

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in Business Start Programme – Mid Ulster.

Noted. Write to Council's delivery partners to congratulate them on their excellent performance against targets to March 2018

- **Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Seminar 2018**

Noted.

- **Great British Street Awards**

Noted.

- **Cookstown Town Centre Forum**

Noted.

Councillor Monteith enquired where the City Bids falls under and asked what appropriate committee it would be assigned to.

The Director of Business and Communities said it would most likely be treated as a Corporate initiative, but members would be kept updated on progress.

Councillor Monteith stated there was a need for this Council to get proactive like Belfast City Council.

Councillor Cuddy agreed with Councillor Monteith and said that Belfast City and other Councils have been ahead of us for a long time now and as we are one of the three Councils we are left with very little going for us. He said that Newry was looking a bypass and is in the bid and we will be left with whatever is left over and that this Council had to try their best as we have the capital of Engineering in East Tyrone, but feels that we have missed the boat as to speak.

D194/18 Community Development Report

The Head of Community Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide an update on key activities as detailed below:

- To seek Committee approval for Good Relations and Community Festivals rolling grant award recommendations and Decade of Anniversaries grant awards
- To note the Peace IV Partnership update
- To note the update on Community Development

In response to Councillor Cuddy's query regarding why some groups were receiving not receiving the full percentage allocation of their budget. The Head of Community

Development advised that the grant limit was £1,200 and percentages were allocated according to this.

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval granted to:

- a) Grant award recommendations under the Community Local Festivals grants and Good Relations Grant as per Appendix 1 £2,740 and £4,440.
- b) Decade of Anniversaries grant award recommendations for 9 groups, at a total value of £14,362.50.
- c) Note the Peace IV Partnership update.
- d) Note Community Development update.

Councillor Monteith referred to item 3.3, Community Support and advised that he would be very supportive of the initiative, as it would allow the Council to support groups. He said that he would like to see greater flexibility, as it is difficult to predict the timeframe for capital project delivery and he would not want to see good projects miss out due to the timing of opening the grant; opening for 3 months annually.

He said that it would be important to build flexibility for the grant as some projects do not fit into the Council's timescales and people cannot be expected to work around this. He said that grant funding does become available very quickly, at short notice and if Council cannot respond then this could result in bad publicity.

The Head of Community Development said that one of the things that was being proposed was to put out a quick letter of interest so that an Officer could be on hand very quickly to address any concerns.

The Director of Business and Communities said that the last resort would be to allocate small amount of funding to get the project over the line and make it significant.

Councillor Wilson said at the last meeting Councillor Monteith raised the issue of funding for arts and cultural groups and bands participating outside Northern Ireland. He said that he was disappointed that this was not an item on the agenda at tonight's meeting.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that the matter would be followed up, but when Officers are asked to investigate a new grants scheme, there needs to be a budget to go with it.

Councillor Wilson said that may be the case, but Bardic Theatre were allocated £1,000 and that was not from a grants scheme.

Councillor Monteith said that in his opinion the design of a detailed grant was not the issue here but more of a goodwill gesture from the Council similar to the sports representative grant, and not a lot of money involved which wouldn't make a huge

impact on the budget. He said that this should be investigated as he did not think there would be too many requests within Arts and Culture.

D195/18 Every Body Active Small Grants Round 2

The Acting Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to present to members the proposed grant allocations for the range of Every Body Active Small Sports Grant Round 2.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the:

- 1) Everybody Active Small Sports Grant Allocations
- 2) Advertisement of the Everybody Active Small Sports Grant

D196/18 Ulster-Scots Funding (PHASE 2), U.S. Grant Presidential Homestead

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform committee of funding opportunity to further develop and enhance the existing offering at U.S. Grant Presidential Homestead.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to commence with the collaboration with the Ulster-Scots Agency and proceed to establish a partnership agreement to govern the implementation of the project, subject to the Council's legal department approving the partnership agreement.

D197/18 Tourism Strategy Review

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform members of planned mid-term review of delivery of the Mid Ulster Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to review the delivery of the Tourism Strategy & Action Plan to date and make recommendations with particular emphasis around the issues of measuring performance, digital and action plan delivery.

Councillor Cuddy said that it was important to keep this moving forward as it has great potential to enhance tourism in the area.

The Head of Tourism agreed with Councillor Cuddy that there were real opportunities.

Councillor Wilson said that there was a huge facility at Davagh no communities were benefiting from it.

Councillor Clarke said that it would have to be a private enterprise or local people taking it on as there was local accommodation with an 8 en-suite facility, glamping pods and buildings and if it's in people's minds that there is an opportunity this is can be worked upon as 10% of people worldwide is employed in Tourism.

D198/18 Joint Learning Journey to County Mayo for Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership and LAG Members and Lead Officers

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform of plans to develop a two day Learning Journey to County Mayo on Friday 19 October 2018 with Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership and LAG members (20 people) and lead Tourism and Arts Officers from MUDC and FODC. HLF funding will cover accommodation and coach.

Councillor Clarke referred to the Céide of Fields in Co. Mayo, and said that it was being investigated as a World Heritage site and felt that this should also be the case for Davagh to have it developed upon.

Councillor Monteith stated that it was a huge mistake not to take advantage as tremendous amount of funding is being allocated towards the Wild Atlantic Way and the Hidden Heartlands projects and a shame to not be involved in this. He said that the Council needed to be trying to get involved with Hidden Heartlands to push Mid Ulster all over the world as the Heart of Ancient Ulster means nothing compared to Hidden Heartlands as it's a massive promotional brand.

The Head of Tourism advised that the Heart of Ancient Ulster was only a working title to apply for funding through the Heritage Lottery, but said that consideration could be given to investigating the potential for Hidden Heartlands down the line.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that Phase 1 would be to develop the product, which already is the case with Davagh's success through the HLF, Phase 2 would be to provide the multi-million pound investment to develop its brand.

Councillor Monteith said that we are not fortunate enough to be included in the Hidden Heartlands. He stated at the beginning there were lots of scepticism regarding the Wild Atlantic but with a multi-million pounds marketing campaign it is now a vast enterprise. He said that the next big thing that Bord Fáilte was focusing on was Hidden Heartlands and with an enormous marketing campaign, this Council should be looking at ways to get involved to showcase Mid Ulster.

The Head of Tourism advised that Officers held a meeting with Tourism Ireland on what Mid Ulster had to offer and they had indicated that Mid Ulster had a unique product, but it's in the early stages of development and within 4 to 5 years, we would have a something to be proud off.

Councillor Clarke stated that he was aware of members who were in business and sat on the Tourism group which had positive stories to tell on how they were making very successful links and making things happen. He said that no-one would invest in accommodation until they see the benefits and that the feedback from the Tourism group was that a lot of fantastic things were going to happen in the future.

Councillor Cuddy advised that not a lot of funding was put into the Wild Atlantic Way but their marketing campaign made it mammoth. He felt that Mid Ulster were always at the end of the queue for funding opportunities and also agreed that it was a pity we were not involved as it is opened up against the whole land. He suggested that it would be beneficial if a representation from the Council could meet representatives from Hidden Heartlands to see if we can become involved in their project.

Councillor Wilson said that by listening to Councillor Monteith interesting debate, that it would do no harm for a delegation of elected members to meet the Board of Hidden Heartlands, as it's not fair to leave all to Officers to lobby.

Councillor Monteith agreed with Councillor Wilson that it may be beneficial if a delegation from this Council meet with representatives of Hidden Heartlands.

Councillor Monteith also suggested that any member attached to the Heart of Ancient Ulster should also be willing to embrace the opportunity of being involved with Hidden Heartlands.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the County Mayo Learning Journey proposal. Officers to further investigate the potential of working with other bodies like Hidden Heartlands.

D199/18 Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience (Phase 2)

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform members of Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience Phase 2 application to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve in principle to progress Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience Project based on scoping study costs of £591,780. Match funding request from Council is 25% of project costs of £147,945.

Matters for Information

D200/18 Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 13 September 2018

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 13 September 2018.

In response to Councillor Monteith's query regarding update on Dungannon Dog Track site, the Director of Business and Communities advised that the matter was progressing.

D201/18 Mid Ulster District Tourism Development Group

Members noted previously circulated report on Mid Ulster District Tourism Development Group.

D202/18 Parks Service Update Report

Members noted previously circulated report on Parks Service Update Report.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor Molloy 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 item D203/18.

D204/18 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.25 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____