



**Proposal from the Board of Dungannon Regeneration Partnership
to Mid Ulster Council to fund
an initiative to promote Dungannon town and reduce vacancy**

Prepared June 2019

Executive Summary

Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) Ltd. was set up by Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council in 2000 to promote and encourage the revitalisation, regeneration and development of Dungannon town. The DRP membership is drawn from the public, private and community sectors including Mid Ulster Council, Department for Communities (DfC), Dungannon Enterprise Centre, Dungannon Traders Association and representatives from the education, banking and voluntary sectors

DRP are requesting that Mid Ulster Council fund the shortfall funding of £130,000 per year for a 3-year period.

It is proposed to create an initiative to:

1. Actively manage and fill vacant outlets throughout Dungannon town centre reducing vacancy to below 5%.
2. Actively promote retailing initiatives and offers in the town.
3. Undertake promotion work that will enrich the promotion activities of community events that increase shopper and visitor footfall in Dungannon town centre.

A Dungannon Town Centre Manager would be employed by Dungannon Regeneration Partnership for a 3-year period. and would report to the DRP Management Committee and the DRP Board of Directors. Dungannon town precinct would be regarded as an 'asset' and marketed just like a commercial shopping centre, to increase its vibrancy and to give local people and visitors a complete shopping experience.

The initiative should be considered as a three-year pilot with the positive experience replicated in other large retail centres in Mid Ulster.

The proposal could be considered as a precursor to a potential BIDS application in 4 years' time.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Formation

Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) Ltd. was set up by Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council in 2000 to promote and encourage the revitalisation, regeneration and development of Dungannon town. DRP has been highlighted as an example of best practice in 'partnership working' by DfC and has won two awards from ATCM for best practice projects. The economic vibrancy of town centres is dependent on successful town centre management.

1.2 DRP Membership

The DRP membership is drawn from the public, private and community sectors including Mid Ulster Council, Department for Communities (DfC), Dungannon Enterprise Centre, Dungannon Traders Association and representatives from the education, banking and voluntary sectors. DRP acts as a single voice of town centre regeneration and support and has the following characteristics:

- Already in existence for many years and constituted as company limited by guarantee
- A recognised partner of the Council.
- Recognised by DfC.
- Award winning organisation.
- Excellent past record of delivery.
- Accounts presented annually.
- Members comprising Town Councillors, Dungannon Enterprise Centre, Town Traders Assoc, South West College and local businessmen, banking sector, with council staff and DfC staff represented at meetings.
- Newly agreed strategic aims expressly aimed at town centre regeneration with emphases on partnership, people, places and promotion.
- Existing successful working relationship with Council's Regeneration Manager.
- Strong focus on vision and delivery.
- Regular monthly meetings.
- Excellent inter working relationship between members.

1.3 Aspirations

It is an aspiration of DRP to develop its role within the area as follows:

- Dedicated town centre management support
- Enhanced financial and manpower resources
- Full working relationship with Council officers.
- Support of all partners.

- Greater business and public awareness of the functions of DRP
- Ability to provide coordination and or leadership with all town centre events and marketing of same.
- Working relationship with community safety partnership and local Policing Board

In 2018, the Board adopted a strategy with the following aims:

Objective 1: Dereliction - meaningful progress made on 2 identified sites.

Objective 2: Reduced Vacancy Rate of property in the town.

Objective 3: Promote the town centre of Dungannon as a place to visit and shop.

1.4 Council report on town vacancy

In the 2017 Mid Ulster Council report “Innovative Approaches to Reducing Vacancy and Dereliction in Dungannon Town Centre” made a clear statement of intent to, not only proactively reduce vacancy and dereliction, but plan and shape it in such a way that re-positions the town as a competitive destination.

“Council will work with key public and private stakeholders to lobby for pilot status for Dungannon town centre to adopt a more holistic regeneration approach to addressing town centre vacancy and dereliction and access to more innovative funding mechanisms”.

“A strong public/private delivery model will be a critical success factor in driving this project forward. **It is recommended that Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) a public/private regeneration agency/vehicle and a company limited by guarantee become the main delivery vehicle.** Stakeholder involvement in DRP is strong and the organisation does act as a project driver and catalyst for change”.

It was recommended that as part of this development process that Council explore the potential with DRP to initiate a BID Feasibility Study to ascertain the potential role a Business Improvement District could play. This study has been completed and it was found that Dungannon was the most suitable of towns in Mid Ulster for a BID initiative.

2. PROPOSAL

The initiative should be considered as a three-year pilot with the positive experience replicated in other large retail centres in Mid Ulster.

The proposal could be considered as a precursor to a potential BIDS application in 4 years time.

It is proposed to create an initiative to:

4. Actively manage and fill vacant outlets throughout Dungannon town centre, promoting the town centre as a retail, commercial and entertainment centre and improving the performance of the businesses located in the town centre. The main objective of the post would be to reduce the level of vacant retail space in the town and maintain it below 5%.
5. Actively promote retailing initiatives and offers in the town. Initiatives will include:
 - a. the establishment and promotion of a “Dungannon town gift card scheme”,
 - b. the content management of Dungannon town centre a Facebook site set up to promote retailing offers and news in the town,
 - c. the management of a Christmas tv advert campaign
6. Undertake promotion work that will enrich the promotion activities of community events that increase shopper and visitor footfall in Dungannon town centre. Examples of such events are:
 - a. Council run events, such as Christmas Light switch on, Halloween Fireworks etc.
 - b. Events being run on The Hill of the O'Neill and The Square Box.
 - c. Dungannon Traders events such as “Heels on the Hill” and “Digg Deep For Kids” Fun Day
 - d. Community run events, such as, Lap of the Lough, A Santa Dash, National Day events for the Polish, Lithuanian and East Timorese residents.

A Dungannon Town Centre Manager would be employed by Dungannon Regeneration Partnership for a fixed term and would report to the DRP Management Committee and the DRP Board of Directors. This independence from a local and central Government will enable a commercially driven post holder to work with urgency and be an unbiased driver of change who will coordinate with all relevant stakeholders to achieve success for the town.

The Manager would have the financial resources to employ part-time staff and external support, as required, to deliver upon the plan of work.

3. RATIONALE TO THE PROPOSAL

3.1 Active marketing of vacant units

When retail units become vacant it weakens the performance of nearby stores, reduces footfall in the area and increases the likelihood of further store closures – this cycle will continue unless proactive, innovative action is taken to ensure use of available units. No one is responsible for the proactive selling and promotion of vacant units to prospective tenants. Vacant units are usually let via letting agents on a commission basis and, in most cases, a passive marketing strategy is adopted. A clear understanding of consumer and business perceptions is important to work with landlords and letting agents to identify top end retailers/businesses, make them aware of the potential retail location and, when required, work with landlords to bring their vacant properties up to a quality standard to attract such tenants.

The plethora of vacant retail units could be the impetus to strategically re-balance the town centre visitor offering, and a chance for culture and leisure-related outlets and community services to gain more of a foothold in the town centre. Staff will work with key stakeholders to ensure vacant units are repurposed and promoted to ensure the desired innovative approach to reducing vacancy and dereliction.

3.2 Increased rates revenue

Increased occupancy of retail units means increased revenue generated from rates for the Council. It is anticipated that, not only will the increase in revenue generated from more rates cover the cost of the Council investment, but there will also be a surplus.

At present there is vacant retail space is at 14% (Place Management Solutions BIDs Feasibility Study 2019).

There are currently 32 vacant or derelict properties in Dungannon town centre out of a total of 284 properties. It is estimated that there is 40,000 sq. ft. of lettable vacant retail space in the town at present (excluding derelict sites) – a potential rates revenue of £350k per year, if occupied.

3.3 Creating opportunities from nothing

Dungannon town centre is littered with derelict sites which have the potential for development. The initiative would inspire and support the property owner to consider ways to repurpose sites. Bringing together the many stakeholders is needed to breathe new economic and community life into the many derelict areas of Dungannon town centre.

The aim would be to 'sell' the town as an investment opportunity for, not only for retailing, but the many other sectors that make up the vibrant and diverse community that is Dungannon. This could enable our town centre to become a prosperous and exciting space once again. By exploring the potential for a diverse range of services and businesses there is a greater chance of developing an 'evening' economy for the town, providing increased opportunity for employment and social opportunities rooted in the interests and needs of local people.

3.4 Attracting Investment

It is planned that the Town Centre Development Manager would work develop a portfolio of development opportunities to attract public private investment to the town. This work would be done in conjunction with the owners of derelict and vacant properties

3.5 Enhanced marketing of retailing in the town

Mid Ulster Council are currently implementing the "Discover Dungannon" brand with the objective to attract provincial and local awareness of the town. The brand is controlled by the Council and governed under its marketing protocols.

The promotion activities planned under this initiative will complement the "Discover Dungannon" brand and will carry out targeted commercial marketing which, under Council policy cannot be undertaken.

3.6 Enhanced social well being

The impact of the retail sector goes well beyond economic output. Research has shown that a diverse retail offering can also contribute to the social well-being of local communities, and serve as a key driver for tourism by increasing the attractiveness of town centres. In fact, retail has made a significant contribution to urban regeneration and the vitality and viability of town centres in the UK for decades by contributing to their socio-economic health.

3.7 Future proofing

Dungannon is the largest town in Mid Ulster Council and soon to become the second largest town in Tyrone after Omagh. Demographic forecasts indicate that over the next 10 years the area is facing the largest a population boom in the province. The recent Feasibility Study into BIDs found that Dungannon was the best suited town in Mid Ulster for the initiative. However it is the view of the DRP Board that the BIDs model for Dungannon might not gain the support of the traders in the town because of the current high rates demands on shop owners. While the BIDs model has proven itself to be beneficial in many towns, the timing could be premature for Dungannon. A failed BIDs process could land negatively on the image of Dungannon. Commitment from all traders will take time before any additional levy is considered. We believe this proposal is an alternative to BIDs and will secure traders' commitment for the future.

4. Key responsibilities

- Support property owners in the town centre to maximise their rental returns and minimising tenancy 'void' periods.
- Work with property owners to develop initiatives and incentives to attract prospective retail tenants to the area.
- Work collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders to support the development of derelict properties
- Bring empty stores/units into use through collaboration with relevant stakeholders.
- Inspire and collaborate with private developers and public sector agencies to explore initiatives that could contribute towards the strategic development of Dungannon town centre
- Develop retail property initiatives that have the potential of attracting public/private investment
- Actively promote the towns property portfolio to attract "high street name" retailers to Dungannon.
- Work in partnership with the Traders Association and the Council to promote Dungannon as an outstanding place to visit and shop and to provide visitors with a quality of experience that encourages them to keep coming back.
- Work with Dungannon Enterprise Centre to promote retail start-ups, retail incubation and pop-up shop initiatives.
- Implement appropriate findings/recommendations from reports such as the Mid Ulster Town Centre Positioning Study, Dungannon Town Centre Masterplan as well as innovative reports, such as The 2011 Portas Review to rejuvenate town centres.

5. Budget

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Advertising and promotion costs	42,000	42,000	42,000
IT and communication	4,000	1,000	1,000
Travel	5,000	5,000	5,000
Stationery	4,000	4,000	4,000
Office rental	7,000	7,000	7,000
Salary costs	60,000	63,000	63,000
Professional fees	5,000	5,000	5,000
Strategic development initiatives	10,000	10,000	10,000
Administration support costs	10,000	10,000	10,000
Accounting and bookkeeping	3,000	3,000	3,000
TOTAL	£ 150,000	£ 150,000	£ 150,000

Proposed Funding Sources:

DRP are requesting that Mid Ulster Council fund the shortfall funding of £130,000 per year for a 3-year period.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Dungannon Traders Group	£ 10,000	£ 10,000	£ 10,000
Dungannon Enterprise Centre	£5,000 £5,000 in kind	£5,000 £5,000 in kind	£5,000 £5,000 in kind
Mid Ulster Council	£ 130,000	£130,000	£ 130,000
TOTAL	£150,000	£150,000	£150,000

6. Conclusion

It is the responsibility of Dungannon Regeneration Partnership to expand upon the potential of the Dungannon town centre. A decision by Mid Ulster Council to fund a Dungannon Town Centre Development initiative makes commercial sense with regards increased revenue from rates, and a practical approach to reducing dereliction and vacancy in the town. Dungannon is the largest town in Mid Ulster. It is essential to regard the properties in the town precinct as an 'asset', and market the town just like a commercial shopping centre to increase its vibrancy and to give local people and visitors a complete shopping experience.



2019 PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL



Prepared by - Julie Forde, Events, Leaflets & Exhibitions Executive, JPIMedia Events

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The Event

Celebrating excellence in business

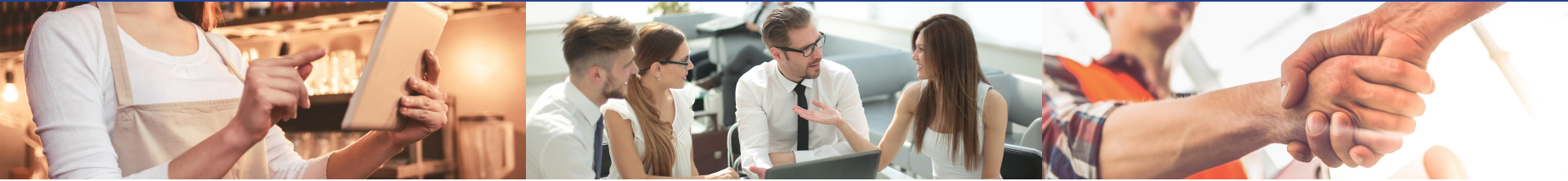
Now in their 9th year, the Mid Ulster Mail & Tyrone Times are proud to launch the 2019 Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards

These prestigious awards recognise the talent and enterprise that exists across the full range of business and commerce that are vital to the economic success and profile of the area

The awards ceremony and gala dinner, which will be attended by over 200 guests from across the industry, will take place late Nov 2019



The Categories



14 award categories recognise a cross section of businesses who excel in their sector

- Best Retailer
- Best Export Business
- Readers' Favourite Eating Establishment
- Best Customer Service
- SME Business of the Year
- Excellence in People Development
- Best Community Impact
- Excellence in Tourism
- Best Manufacturer
- Best Digital & Social Media Initiative
- Best Start-Up Business Award
- Excellence in Innovation
- Business Person of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award

The Media Partner & Promotion

The Mid Ulster Mail & Tyrone Times in print & online are dedicated to delivering the best of local news, sport, features and photography from the region

Both titles together reach over 160,564 monthly unique users and over 41,000 social media followers

The Mid Ulster and Tyrone news teams have been reporting on events in the area for decades and are a trusted source of news for the community

Extensive media support throughout the 5 month campaign will include a minimum of:

- 8 full page adverts
- 8 Page Post Awards Supplement
- Online & social media campaign
- Minimum of 4 editorial stories from launch to event



The Timelines

Campaign
Launch
Nominations
Open



June

Media
Campaign



June-Nov

Nominations
Close



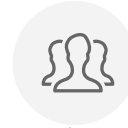
Oct

Reader Voted
for Categories
Nominees
Published



Oct/Nov

Judging
Panel



Nov

Full Page
Advert
Announcing
Finalists



Nov

Awards
ceremony



Nov

Supplement
Announcing
Winners



Dec

Headline Sponsorship



Pre Event

- Company logo in prime position across extensive in paper editorial and advertising campaign for 5 months
- Photograph & Quote of 200 words to appear in the launch article within the Larne Times, Carrick Times & Ballymena Times
- Position on the judging panel
- 50 word company profile and logo on event website with hyperlinks to your website
- Logo branding alongside targeted digital campaign to promote the awards, minimum 50,000 P/I

Awards Ceremony

- 10 complimentary tickets to the awards ceremony
- Extensive branding around the reception and main event room area including stage graphics
- Opportunity to make a welcome speech at the awards
- Co-present each award
- Presentation of the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award
-

Post Event

- Extensive Media coverage, logo branding and photography in Mid Ulster Mail & Tyrone Times following the awards
- Logo branding to appear in the 8 page Awards supplement in both titles
- Front page branding, 200 quote and photography of your organisation guaranteed within supplement
- ½ page advert in the post event winners supplement
-

PACKAGE COST £7,000 + VAT

Bespoke packages to suit all budgets available on request

Associate Sponsorship



Pre Event

- Company logo in prime position across extensive in paper editorial and advertising campaign for 5 months
- Photograph & Quote of 200 words to appear in the launch article within Mid Ulster Mail & Tyrone Times
- 50 word company profile and logo on event website with hyperlinks to your website
- Opportunity to co-judge in your selected category

Awards Ceremony

- 5 complimentary tickets to the awards ceremony
- Branding around the reception and main event room area including stage graphics & event programme
- Opportunity to make a welcome speech at the awards
- Presentation of your selected category awards on stage

Post Event

- Extensive Media coverage, logo branding and photography in the Mid Ulster Mail & Tyrone Times following the awards
- Logo branding across an 8 page Awards supplement in both titles
- 200 word quote and photography of your organisation within supplement
- 1/4 page advert in the post event winners supplement

PACKAGE COST £3,500 + VAT

Bespoke packages to suit all budgets available on request

Category Sponsorship



Pre Event

- Company logo positioned beside your chosen category across extensive in paper editorial and advertising campaign for 5 months
- Photograph to appear in the launch article within Mid Ulster Mail & Tyrone Times
- 50 word company profile and logo on event website with hyperlinks to your website
- Opportunity to co-judge in your selected category

Awards Ceremony

- 2 complimentary tickets to the awards ceremony
- Branding around the reception and main event room area including stage graphics & event programme
- Presentation of your selected category award on stage

Post Event

- Extensive Media coverage, logo branding and photography in Mid Ulster Mail & Tyrone Times following the awards
- Logo branding to appear in the 8 page Awards supplement in both titles
- Photograph of your organisation with winner within supplement
- ¼ page advert in the post event winners supplement

PACKAGE COST £1,750 + VAT

Bespoke packages to suit all budgets available on request

Venue Partner



Pre Event

- Company logo positioned in paper editorial and advertising campaign for 4 months
- Photograph to appear in the launch article within Larne Times, Carrick Times & Ballymena Times
- 50 word company profile and logo on event website with hyperlink to your website
- Logo branding alongside targeted digital campaign to promote the awards

Awards Ceremony

- 2 complimentary tickets to the awards ceremony
- Logo included in graphics and branding around the reception and in main event room area including stage graphics and table menu
- Presentation of your selected category award on stage

Post Event

- Extensive Media coverage, logo branding and photography in Larne Times, Carrick Times & Ballymena Times following the awards
- Logo to appear in the 8 page Awards supplement in all 3 titles
- quote and photography of your organisation within supplement
- advert in the post event winners supplement

PACKAGE COST

£1,500 + VAT

Bespoke packages to suit all budgets available on request

Appendix 3

To Be Presented Prior to the Meeting

**Mid Ulster District Council Draft Consultation
Response on the Review of Northern Ireland Non-
Domestic Rating System**

Mid Ulster: Innovating Our Way To Success



Cookstown Continental Market

At the end of its first term as a new local authority, Mid Ulster District Council has been assessing the impact of its £30M economic development strategy in the region which is not only the most innovative in the UK, but is also the global centre of advanced manufacturing and engineering, manufacturing 40% of the world's mobile crushing and screening products.

Mid Ulster is not only an outstanding investment destination, but also the industrial heartland of Northern Ireland. From start-ups to major multinational companies, the region is already the location of choice for more than 8865 businesses.

Mid Ulster supports 55,000 jobs and produces 7.3% of NI's total economic output (GVA is £2.075 billion). Sustaining this position and supporting continued growth has been the central focus of the Council's ambitious £30M economic development strategy, which aims to create and sustain

3,000 jobs, support 1,500 businesses and provide employment and training opportunities for 4,000 people.

As the period draws to a close, the Council has reflected on some remarkable success which has spanned ground-breaking work to address skills requirements, the delivery of sector-specific and business support programmes and direct investment in town centres and villages as key social and economic hubs.

Leveraging Investment

In its first full year of implementation (2016-2017), four of the strategy's business development programmes alone supported the growth of 74 businesses and social enterprises

resulting in an economic impact of over £4M. This 40:1 investment return was also boosted by a particularly successful tender programme where nine businesses won new work of £2.5m. The following year (2017-2018), economic development investment of more than £3.4M was generated by the Council's activity.

That figure rose to in excess of £6.3million in 2018-2019, when for every £1 invested, an additional £10 of other external monies was leveraged.

Innovating In Manufacturing & Engineering

Acknowledging Mid Ulster's position as the centre of manufacturing and engineering in Northern Ireland,



special attention has been paid to the research, development and innovation needs of these industry sectors.

Over 2 years between 2017-2019, Council funded a specially designed engineering innovation programme which was delivered by South West College's InnoTech Centre, providing support to 18 small engineering businesses to develop new products, processes or services. It achieved all of its ambitious targets including the creation of 15 new jobs with a value of £617,500, while also sustaining 200 jobs and stimulating a combined average increase in turnover of 15%.

The same sector was to the fore as part of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum work to identify skills gaps and, crucially, to create a three-year action plan to address them.

The broad-ranging plan from the industry-led partnership identifies a series of priority actions, from enhancing the image and perceptions of key sectors, increasing the quality and quantity of apprenticeships to improving engagement between education and employers.

Now, a new sectoral network has been created - MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Collaborative Network - which has secured funding of over £200K to deliver a programme to consolidate and build on work to address the skills and employability issues facing the Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing sectors in Mid Ulster.

Creating Vibrant Town Centres

Away from industry, a particular focus of the Council's work in its first term has been to enhance the vitality and vibrancy of local towns.

Investment in town centres has taken multiple forms, from new branding and promotion, support for town centre forums and regeneration partnerships to the exploration of the potential to introduce Business Improvement Districts to towns and the creation and delivery of appealing events which add another reason to visit and to shop local. In 2018-2019 alone, 12 strategic events attracted 84,400 into the area's 5 town centres.

Direct investment via an extensive shop improvement scheme began in 2015, completing in 2017, when more than 100 shops across Mid Ulster were able to enhance their premises inside and out through the £500K programme.

The most substantial investment in the regeneration of town centres came, however, with 3 public realm schemes valued at over £10M.

Three major schemes were completed in Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt when funding from the Department for Communities and the Council transformed the look and feel of each centre with new paving, lighting, street furniture, signage and planting.

Dungannon's Market Square also benefited from an additional

£300K improvement scheme which was coordinated by the Council to address pedestrian safety, traffic flow and parking.

With schemes completed in the 3 main towns, work got underway to progress similar investment in Coalisland and Maghera.

In February 2019, a funding package of £3.4M was confirmed for the Coalisland scheme, while the initial design concepts for Maghera improvements were presented to local people in March 2019.

Development Opportunities

Major development opportunities have also been explored and progressed in the Council's first term.

The release of the 4.12 acre site on Ann Street in Dungannon in March 2017 for development was a milestone in the Council's strategic economic ambitions.

Long considered a 'unique gateway site' because of its links to the premier retail core Market Square and Scotch Street via Irish Street, the land has been vacant for a number of years.

Proposals by the successful bidder, Moorefield Group, for a mixed-use scheme representing a £10 million investment in the area, are now in progress.

Similarly, land at the former Maghera High School was identified as an opportunity site, this time, for development of a business

park, the first to be spearheaded by a local council here.

The proposal, intended to meet a demand for land to allow business growth and expansion, is to create a number of serviced sites, with qualifying businesses constructing their own purpose-built facilities ranging in size from 4,000sqft to 20,000sqft.

And signalling the Council's ambitions for Mid Ulster most strongly was the landmark announcement in October 2018 that, together with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, work was to begin towards a Growth Deal to boost economic growth and deliver a step change to the future prospects of the collective area.

The three councils - which together represent over 25% of Northern Ireland's population - wrote to the Chancellor stating a Growth Deal would address specific economic needs and was a once-in-a-generation opportunity, not just for the region, but for the whole of Northern Ireland.

Eye

For more information on Mid Ulster's Economic Development Strategy please contact Fiona McKeown, Head of Service
fiona.mckeown@midulstercouncil.org
or 03000 132 132

APPENDIX 5

MINUTES OF MAGHERAFELT TOWN CENTRE FORUM
WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL 2019 AT 6PM
MAGHERAFELT OFFICES,
MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Present:

Mark Stewart	Vintners Representative (Chair)
Councillor Clarke	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor McFlynn	Mid Ulster District Council
Robin Kennedy	Magherafelt Chamber of Commerce
Claire McOsker	Professional Sector Representative
Jack Keatley	Magherafelt Trustees
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities
Michael McGibbon	Mid Ulster District Council
Neil Devecchis	PSNI
Johnny Wilson	PSNI

In Attendance:

Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council
Davina McCartney	Mid Ulster District Council
Sharon Scott	NI BIDs
Chris Gray	Gray's Communication for SGN
Mark Davidson	SGN

Apologies:

Gareth Thomas	Meadowlane Shopping Centre
Shauna McCloskey	Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	WELCOME The Chairman, M Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	MATTERS ARISING <u>Flooding Issue</u> D McCartney stated communication from DfI Roads had confirmed repairs had been carried out on Moneymore Road and some upgrades had been carried out. <u>Street Lighting</u> D McCartney stated communication with DfI Street Lighting had confirmed street lighting inspections were no longer carried out and relied on reported faults.	

	<p><u>Castledawson Roundabout</u> D McCartney stated Mid Ulster District Council have requested information from DfI Roads about the lighting on the pedestrian bridge and are awaiting a response.</p> <p><u>Rainey Street Toilets</u> R Kennedy said the feeling of the Chamber of Commerce was that the Rainey Street toilets should not be replaced. D McCartney stated a design team had been employed to design replacement scheme and that the comments of the Chamber of Commerce would be fed back to Council Environmental Services Team.</p>	
2.	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes of previous meeting 12 November 2018 were agreed as accurate. Proposed by: P Anderson Seconded by: R Kennedy</p>	
3.	<p>BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE S Scott delivered a presentation on the findings of the BID Feasibility Study for Magherafelt. The findings of the Feasibility study are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Sector support is strong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regeneration Manager ➤ Town Centre Forum ➤ Public Realm Improvements • Further intensive work is carried out on developing Business Engagement through Forum and Chamber • Marketing Focus – Partnership approach to Brand Rollout / Town centre Marketing • Consider voluntary contribution scheme to co-fund marketing activity • 1 BID Developed in Mid Ulster initially <p>The recommendation is that Magherafelt should not proceed with BID development at present.</p>	
4.	<p>GAS TO THE WEST C Gray and M Davidson provided information on the planned works to install the gas distribution network to Magherafelt. The work will focus on Killyfaddy Road, Meadowbank Road, Ballyronan Road, Moneymore Road, Fairhill, Queens Avenue, Highfield Road, Tobermore Road, Hospital Road and Desertmartin Road. 60% of the work will be carried out during the summer with the majority of work carried out through lane closures rather than road closures. Members were shown the planned works on a map. Following discussion it was agreed the contact number for SGN would be circulated to members of Town Centre Forum.</p>	

	Members from SGN left the meeting at 6:50pm.									
5.	<p>LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE</p> <p>M McGibbon from Council's Planning Team provided an update on the draft Local Development Plan 2030. An 8 week consultation period was launched in February 2019 and closes on 19 April 2019 at 4pm. The Local Development Plan will set the vision for landuse in the Council area until 2030. This is the first stage in the development of the plan. A further 8 week consultation period will commence following the publication of the representations to allow counter representations to be made. The final plan should be adopted by Autumn 2020 and this will allow the second stage of the project to commence.</p>									
6.	<p>REGENERATION MANAGER REPORT</p> <p>D McCartney updated on the previously circulated Regeneration Managers Report.</p> <p>Marketing & Promotion</p> <p>A variety of branded promotional materials have been purchased and will be distributed widely to promote the new brand to a variety of audiences, including businesses, shoppers, young people etc.</p> <p>Business Support / Attracting Investment</p> <p><u>Creative Shops 2</u></p> <p>The Magherafelt Creative Shop Project opened on 22 October 2018 and ran until 15 December 2018.</p> <table><tr><td>Total Direct Participants</td><td>596</td></tr><tr><td>Total Audience</td><td>1900</td></tr><tr><td>Local artists / groups performing/participating</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>Visiting artists / performers commissioned</td><td>8</td></tr></table> <p><u>Magherafelt Wi-Fi Upgrade</u></p> <p>New wi-fi infrastructure has been installed throughout Magherafelt town centre.</p> <p><u>Seamus Heaney HomeGround Project</u></p> <p>The Seamus Heaney HomeGround project aims to enhance the work being developed in Seamus Heaney HomePlace through the development of a series of experiences for visitors to Seamus Heaney HomeGround. An funding application to DAERA's Rural Tourism Fund has been successful.</p>	Total Direct Participants	596	Total Audience	1900	Local artists / groups performing/participating	9	Visiting artists / performers commissioned	8	
Total Direct Participants	596									
Total Audience	1900									
Local artists / groups performing/participating	9									
Visiting artists / performers commissioned	8									

	<p>Town Centre Events</p> <p><u>Tafelta Festival</u></p> <p>The Tafelta Festival will take place on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 June 2019. This annual event will celebrate Magherafelt as a place to live, work and visit. The Tafelta Festival will focus on the distinctive heritage, cultural and literary connections of Magherafelt as highlighted in the Positioning Statement including the Seamus Heaney link.</p> <p><u>Magherafelt Christmas Market & Christmas Lights Switch On</u></p> <p>Magherafelt Christmas Market and Christmas Lights Switch On will take place on Saturday 23 November & Sunday 24 November 2019.</p> <p>Physical Regeneration / Improving Infrastructure</p> <p><u>Rural Regeneration Projects</u></p> <p>Under the Rural Development Programme a total of 37 villages will access funding to develop and deliver projects identified through their respective village plans.</p> <p>In the Magherafelt area projects have been completed in Tobermore, Upperlands, Glenone, Swatragh and Gulladuff. Projects are currently underway in Maghera and Desertmartin.</p> <p><u>Magherafelt Revitalisation Project</u></p> <p>Department for Communities awarded Mid Ulster District Council £160,706 to upgrade the Pedestrian Linkages from Union Road and Central Car Parks to Broad Street, Magherafelt. The project will include upgraded lighting, surfacing and graffiti removal. FP McCann were awarded the contract and project works are currently underway.</p> <p><u>Mid Ulster Shop Front Scheme</u></p> <p>Council has approved the provision of a new Business Spruce Up Scheme for towns and villages across the district, as classified within Mid Ulster's Draft Local Development Plan 2030. A tender process is underway to appoint a Chartered Architect to manage the delivery of the scheme over a 2 – 3 year period. Further details will be provided in due course.</p>	
6.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>R Kennedy highlighted there appears to be an issue with Travellers in the area. N Devecchis stated the PSNI will continue to monitor the situation.</p>	

	<p>R Kennedy asked about the recent press articles about the costs of running Seamus Heaney HomePlace. F McKeown stated further detail would be sought from the appropriate officer and feedback would be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>J Keatley asked as more apartments were being built in the town centre what the requirement for green space was. M McGibbon stated the existing Development Plan and the Draft Local Development Plan 2030 both required a minimum of 10% open space / communal space in developments.</p>	
8.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>To be circulated.</p>	

Meeting ended 7.45pm

APPENDIX 6

Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum
Thursday 11 April 2019 at 5.30pm
The Cornmill, Coalisland

Present

Cllr Niamh Doris	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Cllr Joe O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council
Brian O'Neill	Coalisland Credit Union
Melanie Campbell	Coalisland & District Development Association
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities
Raymond O'Neill	Coalisland Traders Association
JP McCartan	PSNI
Hugh Quinn	PSNI

In Attendance

Raymond Lowry	Mid Ulster District Council
Mark Leavey	Mid Ulster District Council
Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council
Catherine Fox	Mid Ulster District Council
Oliver Donnelly	Mid Ulster District Council
Sharon Scott	Place Management Solutions

	DISCUSSION																						
1.	Welcome Cllr Doris welcomed all to the meeting of Coalisland Town Centre Forum.																						
2.	Apologies <table> <tr> <td>Cllr Robert Colvin</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Mickey Gillespie</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Malachy Quinn</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Francie Molloy MP</td><td>Coalisland Residents & Community Forum</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dermott McGirr</td><td>Translink</td></tr> <tr> <td>Declan Dorrity</td><td>The Venue/The Beer Shed</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mark Kelso</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Adrian McCreesh</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fiona McKeown</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Michael McGibbon</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dermott McGirr</td><td>Translink</td></tr> </table>	Cllr Robert Colvin	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Mickey Gillespie	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Malachy Quinn	Mid Ulster District Council	Francie Molloy MP	Coalisland Residents & Community Forum	Dermott McGirr	Translink	Declan Dorrity	The Venue/The Beer Shed	Mark Kelso	Mid Ulster District Council	Adrian McCreesh	Mid Ulster District Council	Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council	Michael McGibbon	Mid Ulster District Council	Dermott McGirr	Translink
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Dermott McGirr	Translink																						
3.	Minutes of Previous Meeting – 4 March 2019 Proposed by Cllr O'Neill Seconded by P Anderson																						

4.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p>Cllr O Neill raised issue of dilapidated building at corner of Main Street which MUDC purchased saying he is aware of youths getting access.</p> <p>Action: House to be secured RL</p>
5.	<p>Presentations</p> <p>1. BIDS (Business Improvement Districts) - Sharon Scott, Place Management Solutions</p> <p>Currently there are 8 BIDS in Northern Ireland including 3 in Belfast. Strabane is the smallest. This is a process where businesses collectively decide if there any additional improvements they want to make? how they are going to manage and deliver those improvements? and what it will cost them? This all goes into a business plan which is voted on by all those businesses who would have to pay. The BID can exist for a maximum of five years and must be able to demonstrate how it has benefitted businesses who have funded it.</p> <p>There are three phases to the BID Process;</p> <p><i>i. Foundation Phase (months 1-3)</i></p> <p>Location / Partnership Review Develop Database and Information System Feasibility study Resources & Next Steps</p> <p><i>ii. Development Phase (months 3-9)</i></p> <p>Ensure BID Support Market Research/ Consultation Baseline Agreements Operating Agreement Staff & Board Development Organisational Model Voluntary Contribution Financial Projections Business Plan</p> <p><i>iii. Campaign/Implementation Phase (months 9-12)</i></p> <p>Ballot Arrangements Marketing & Communications Campaign Tracking/Polling/Response Establishment/Implementation Support</p> <p>A profile of ratepayers in Coalisland Town Centre was discussed showing potential revenues gained from various percentage levies</p> <p>10% of businesses responded to the survey carried out. The main issues arising out of the responses include marketing of town, promoting independent businesses and attracting more business to the town.</p> <p>Coalisland has quite a low NAV (Net Asset Value). The NAV is used to calculate the potential revenue income stream. When these figures are contrasted against</p>

the cost of running a BID, including staff, overheads, BID Collection and enforcement, the results would suggest that a BID is unviable in Coalisland Town.

2. Coalisland Great Places Project – Keith Beattie, Lough Neagh Partnership

The project is managed by Lough Neagh Partnership Limited (LNPL) and it will celebrate the rich, historic manufacturing legacy of Coalisland and East Tyrone.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund have supplied £312,100 (or 79%) of the total budget of £394,152, with further support from Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC), Queen's University, Belfast, the Craic Theatre, Coalisland and other local businesses and agencies.

The project will highlight:

- The story of past resource extraction and manufacturing;
- How place names, songs, stories and poetry were derived from the natural resources in the landscape;
- How the area became a focus of the industrial revolution in Ireland.

LNPL will join forces with local businesses and arts and cultural heritage bodies to:

- Celebrate the area's great industrial manufacturing heritage through arts and culture;
- Build a new skills capacity;
- Revive lost artisan and manufacturing working skills.

LNPL will work with local training organisations and businesses to help address the issues of disadvantage and inequality.

Only four projects have been awarded Great Place Scheme grants in Northern Ireland and LNLP have been fortunate to be selected as the flagship for our region

LNPL will work in partnership with the following to deliver the proposed scheme as outlined in the application and supporting documents:

- Mid Ulster District Council
- Queen's University, Belfast and the Centre for Archaeological Research (CAF)
- The Craic Theatre
- Coalisland and District Development Association
- Western Buildings Systems Limited
- South Tyrone Empowerment Programme (STEP)
- Island Turf Craft
- Diane McCormick Ceramics and others.

LNPL will recruit staff for the posts of Project Officer (Full-time) and Finance Officer (Part-time) to oversee programme delivery.

LNPL will deliver an events programme to include/produce:

- Culture nights & events, reflecting songs, music, poetry and prose of East Tyrone;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community plays; • The story of manufacturing in East Tyrone; • Community archaeology programme; • Field & place name interpretation; • Place names, poetry, songs and stories; • Project sculpture/legacy art piece; • Exhibitions; • Training programmes for heritage interpretation guides (delivered by local training organisations); • Community heritage education programmes; • Craft skills programmes; • Apprenticeship programme (delivered with local craft & manufacturing organisations); • Legacy planning. <p>An archaeological dig will take place at an area where there is potentially a pottery site. Local schools and community organisations will also be involved in the dig.</p> <p>4 Culture Nights in partnership with CRAIC to be organised and 2 Community Plays once focusing on Industrial Heritage and the other focusing on the rich Natural Resources in the area.</p> <p>Funding has been allocated for refurbishment of the Exhibition currently at the Enterprise Centre</p> <p>Sculpture will also be erected which will be in conjunction with the Coalisland Public Realm scheme, this will be designed in conjunction with the local schools and community organisations.</p> <p>A 10 year legacy plan for the project will also be finalised to ensure sustainability.</p>
6	<p>Events 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer – Council event to be held on 28 June 2019 in conjunction with Newell 10K. • Halloween – Proposed location of the event will be Fianna GFC premises due to the Gortgonis redevelopment. • Christmas 2019
7	<p>Items for Discussion –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gortgonis Recreation Centre <p>Works on the Recreation Centre are ongoing with a paper that is being brought to Council in June 2019. B O'Neill requested that whilst the Centre is unavailable to the public, the other facilities in the Town should be up to scratch to cater for the extra demand on their resources and that equipment from the old playpark could be donated to local parks elsewhere in the Town.</p> <p>Action: Leisure team to be asked if all play park equipment will be donated to local play parks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CF</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalisland Public Realm <p>R Lowry updated that since the last meeting the Design Team on the project had went into administration. Fox Contracts Ltd have been awarded the contract for the project. A programme of works will be issued by the company highlighting timeframe for the works.</p> <p>R O'Neill asked was there any update on the one-way system to which R Lowry replied that it was currently with DfI for determination. DfC confirmed that the project will be funded from within the current year budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graffiti <p>N Doris stated that she had sent an email to Environmental Health department regarding the Graffiti, which falls under the remit of the Clean Neighbourhood team. As the graffiti was on private lands/buildings, Council powers were limited.</p> <p>PSNI stated that the graffiti was sporadic and it was difficult to identify if it was one person. They are working with business owners to deal with issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornmill CCTV Cameras <p>Discussion arose regarding the CCTV cameras which were damaged at the time of works being completed in the Car Park. R Lowry advised that there had been issues with the cabling and that a quotation was being prepared for submission to Contractors to complete the works. M Campbell highlighted that there had been a number of incidences where windows had been broken and manholes lifted and the cameras would have been useful as a deterrent.</p> <p>Action: CCTV Cameras to be kept as item on agenda CF</p>
8	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>B O'Neill asked if the Business database in Coalisland could be sent to Traders. CF updated that under GDPR this would not be possible.</p>
9	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Date to be confirmed after Local Council elections on 2nd May 2019 and subsequent Council AGM. Provisional date of 3rd June 2019 @ 5.30pm, to be confirmed after 20th May 2019.</p>
10	<p>Meeting Duration</p> <p>Meeting ended at 6.50pm</p>

APPENDIX 7



MINUTES OF COOKSTOWN TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL 2019 AT 12.30 PM IN THE CHAMBER, MUDC OFFICES, COOKSTOWN

Present:

Councillor McNamee	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Councillor Mallaghan	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Wilson	Mid Ulster District Council
Annette McGahan	Community Development
Paul Wilson	Cookstown Chamber of Commerce
Hazel McKenzie	Cookstown North Community Association
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities
Neil Bratton	DFI Roads NI
Andrew McConnell	Large Independent Retailer
TP Sheehy	Small Independent Retailer
Tom Jebb	Vintners Association
Adrian McCreesh	Mid Ulster District Council
Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council

In attendance: Deborah Ewing	Mid Ulster District Council
Lynn Shiels	Mid Ulster District Council
Sinead McEvoy	Mid Ulster District Council
Mark Davidson	SGN Natural Gas
Adrian Harley	Keir Utilities
Declan Carlin	Keir Utilities
Chris Gray	Grays Communications

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Mark Glasgow, Mid Ulster District Council, Councillor Wilbert Buchanan, Mid Ulster District Council, Jim Eastwood, Peter Beckett, Asda, Daniel Walsh PSNI, Sean MacMahon, MACM, Ursula Marshall, Cookstown Disability Forum, Peter Lennox, Translink and Mary McCullagh, Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor McNamee expressed his sympathies on behalf of the Town Centre Forum to Mary McCullagh on the loss of her father.

Councillor McNamee advised members that the presentation from BIDS by Sharon Scott has been postponed and will take place at a future meeting.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by T Jebb and seconded by TP Sheehy to ADOPT the minutes of the Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 20 November 2018.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There were no matters arising from minutes.

4. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM SGN NATURAL GAS ON PLANNED WORKS AT THE ORRITOR STREET / WESTLAND ROAD JUNCTION AND OTHER FUTURE WORKS SCHEDULED FOR COOKSTOWN

The Chair welcomed representatives from SGN Natural Gas, Keir Utilities and Grays Communications to the meeting and introductions were made. The purpose of the meeting was to raise and address the issues regarding the forthcoming roadworks planned by SGN Natural Gas at the Orritor Road junction, and to understand the likely impacts these would have on the town centre.

Councillor T Wilson expressed his concern regarding the lack of communication regarding the proposed works on Orritor Street/Westland Road. He advised that previously when works were planned for the town that a meeting was organised with Council which did not occur on this occasion. He stated that he had received a response to an email he had sent to Grays Communications which was generic and did not provide adequate answers.

Maps were distributed to members for information showing the proposed works planned for Cookstown. The proposed works are due to take place over several weekends in April and May 2019. There would be lane closures as opposed to road closures – with a stop and go system put in place and traffic lights being covered. The Orritor Road country bound lanes would be closed during these works but all other routes would be open and operating on the stop and go system.

Signage will be displayed showing alternative diversion routes around the town. Members raised their concerns with regards to the routes that people would be diverted along, with particular emphasis being placed on rerouting traffic to the town centre, especially on a Saturday when the town would already be congested. Discussion took place on the impact that the diversion would cause on the town centre and A McCreesh asked for clarification on whether Beechway route was also being used as an option to

divert traffic away from the works. C Gray stated that they can only propose roads which are like for like and was unaware that this was the case for this particular road. After much discussion on the issue of signage, it was agreed that Grays Communications would forward the proposed signage to be displayed on each of the VMS signs to be located throughout the town. This will then be distributed to Members for their feedback and approval.

Members were advised that works were due to start on Saturday 6th April 2019 but due to a serious traffic incident in the town works were postponed. There were no planned works for Sunday 7th April 2019 due to the truck run, which had been organised to run through the town. There will be no works carried out on Saturday 27th April 2019 which is when the Cookstown 100 will be taking place. Works will also not occur during the Continental Market weekend of Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd June 2019.

Clarification was sought on why weekend work was the only option and whether operating at night would be possible. C Gray advised that night works were explored at length but due to gas being the last utility to be introduced to the town the works are noisy, and therefore impossible to conduct overnight as many residents are located close to the junction. Town centre business representatives emphasised the importance of Saturday to their trade, with it being their busiest day of the week, and how these works will have a significant impact on them.

Discussion took place on the range of alternative solutions which would have the least impact upon the town and its residents and traders. Members were advised that postponing the works for a long period was not an option as logistically it is impossible to organise schedules and operating only 1 day per week would mean that the works would take place over a longer period. It takes a considerable amount of time to organise the set up and dismantling of apparatus which then reflects the time being spent on actual drilling etc. There are also deadlines and a huge network to cover which must be taken into consideration.

A range of potential solutions were discussed with a mutual agreement being made on works being conducted during the following dates:

- Sunday 14th April 2019
- Sunday 28th April 2019 and Monday 29th April 2019
- Sunday 12th May 2019 and running through the week until works are completed by Friday 17th May 2019 at the latest

It was agreed that works would cease during the morning from 8.00am til 9.30am to facilitate school and work runs. C Gray advised that with the lighter evenings works could continue until approximately 8pm.

It was confirmed that local access would always be granted to residents and businesses during the period of works. F McKeown requested clarification on who they are communicating with and how. C Gray advised that residents receive notification letters, MLA's and MP's are updated and one of the Business Manager's liaises directly with affected businesses.

The next set of proposed works is due to take place during the summer months of 2019. Exact dates have to be finalised. A McConnell advised that the last 2/3 weeks of August would be one of their key retail periods of the year, accommodating the back to school market and that consideration should be given to avoid this period.

It was agreed that a further meeting of the Forum would be arranged upon completion of the works on Orritor Road/Westland Road junction where representatives of SGN, Kier Utilities and Grays Communications would be invited back to review the process and to discuss the next stage of works.

C Gray stated that they appreciate Cookstown has been inundated with roadworks but that they are a utility which currently does not exist in the area at present. The installation of gas will help residents and businesses by offering alternative heating solutions.

T Jebb asked how the network is decided upon. C Gray advised that the network is based upon demand – if there is more than 50% of businesses and/or residents on a particular road then it would be investigated further. Networks are chosen carefully with industrial estates and large commercial premises being a major influence on determining their route.

Councillor McNamee thanked the Gas representatives for agreeing to meet today and working with the Members to reach a consensus to progress the works. The representatives left the meeting at 1.05pm

5. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON MID ULSTER LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2030

S McEvoy, Head of Development Plan and Enforcement, provided a verbal overview of the Mid Ulster District Council Draft Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP executive summary was published on 26th February 2019 and is open for an 8-week consultation period – which closes on Friday 19th April 2019 at 4.00pm.

The LDP is accompanied by a series of other documents and evidence papers, which are all available to view on the website.

The town centre section is located on page 123 and includes review of the primary retail cores; consistent primary retail core which protects frontages and changes of use of retail.

Members were encouraged to review the document and feedback their comments. Upon close of consultation period, counter representations will take place for a further 8 weeks. People can review and comment on these representations. After this date, the proposal is submitted to Planning Appeals Commission for approval.

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON COOKSTOWN CONTINENTAL MARKET 2019

L Shiels provided an update on the upcoming Continental Market due to take place on Saturday 1st June and Sunday 2nd June 2019. A road closure will be in place from 6.30pm on Friday 31st May 2019 until approximately 9pm on Sunday 2nd June 2019.

The event hours will be Saturday 1st June 9am – 9pm and Sunday 2nd June 11am – 6pm. There will be a variety of street entertainment throughout the weekend with local acts performing on the stage on Sunday.

The layout will remain the same with stalls located on the central reservation back to back.

A letter was distributed to town centre traders in March 2019 with further correspondence being issued in May 2019. A comprehensive marketing campaign will commence in May to promote the event and shopping in Cookstown.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor McNamee advised that this is the last Forum meeting during this term of Council. He thanked Members for their support and assistance during his term.

8. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place after completion of gas utility works on Orritor Road/Westland Road junction. Members will be notified accordingly.

The meeting ended at 1.35pm