

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Thursday 14 June 2018 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt**

Members Present

Councillor McNamee, Chair

Councillors Burton, Clarke, Cuddy (7.07 pm), Doris, Elattar, Forde, McEldowney, McFlynn, Milne, Monteith (7.13 pm), J 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
Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development
Mr McShane, Acting Head of Leisure
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in
Attendance**

**Agenda Item 4 – Deputation
Early Years**

Siobhan Fitzpatrick – Chief Executive
Pauline Walmsley - Director of Knowledge Exchange

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee said that he would like to thank the previous Chair and Deputy Chair on their good work carried out last year and would only hope that Councillor Forde and himself could do as good a job. He asked members that in future that any issues that they wished to be raised under Chair's Business be forwarded to him the previous day before the meeting due to possible sensitive issues around some matters.

D115/18 Apologies

Councillors McAleer, Molloy, G Shiels.

D116/18 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.

D117/18 Chair's Business

The Chair advised that a late item for confidential business had been received and would be taken after item 21.

The Chair, said that he would like to commend all those who were involved in the Continental Market in Cookstown last weekend. He stated that the facilities in place for children were exceptional and that the music was very central to the event as it allowed people to walk about at their leisure in the sunshine.

He said that he would be interested to know if there were any issues regarding the management of road closures as this was the first tester.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that he was briefed by the Regeneration Manager and she advised that there was in the region of £20,000 and £25,000 people which attended the event. She said that the market worked very well with a lot of positive feedback being received from Cookstown traders and from the market traders from across the water as they are always sure of making a good return at the annual event.

Councillor Wilson said that he would concur with everything that has been said as he was at the event himself and that there was a buzz of activities ongoing throughout the day. He made particular reference to the music and said that he wanted to commend the organisers as it allowed people to walk about at their own leisure.

Councillor J Shiels stated that he attended the event on the Saturday and was delighted to see that it was packed out and whilst passing through on the Sunday he said that the traffic was very well managed and wanted to congratulate everyone involved and was glad to see it growing every year.

Councillor Forde agreed with the sentiments of the committee and said it was good to see the children running about and enjoying themselves and that she also wanted to congratulate all involved in the successful running of the event.

Councillor McFlynn said that she wanted to wish Councillor McNamee well in his new role of Chair of the committee and also wanted to congratulate all staff involved in the organising and success of the Continental Market.

Councillor Cuddy entered the meeting at 7.07 PM.

Councillor Wilson raised the negative issue of what happened last Monday night outside Time Bar in Cookstown, where a serious situation arose regarding a lot of gang fighting and anti-social behaviour. He said that the residents in the area cannot live in peace and that the Police were blaming everyone else and felt that they should take responsibility for the situation. He felt that this should be brought to the PCSP Committee and Environment Committee as this has been going on for years but not to the extent of what happened last Monday night. He stated that the mess and debris that Council staff had to clear up on Tuesday was terrible and said that this should be raised and addressed by adopting a multi-agency approach to tackle the issue.

Councillor Burton advised that the issue was raised at the last Environment Committee and was also discussed at the PCSP meeting held last night. She said that there was a social media call to invite anyone interested to come to Cookstown to fight and this should be totally opposed by the Committee. She stated that the Police were caught off guard as they were unprepared for the situation, but would be of the opinion that the Police are now more aware and were keeping a careful eye on social media and

treating the situation as a matter of seriousness. She said that Councillor Gildernew raised the issue at the PCSP meeting and he felt that the situation needed to be handled sensitively as the proprietor of Time Bar has been very co-operative in the past and that there was a need to have this treated with common sense.

Councillor McNamee said that the issue was discussed at the Environment Committee and the PCSP and that he attended a meeting with Inspector Walsh today on how to deal with some of the issues. He said that there was allegedly gang fights taking place after a call on social media was issued to young people to come to Cookstown. He advised that the gangs came as far away as Fermanagh and that this was not the fault of Time Bar and felt that it would be beneficial if a DEA meeting was arranged with local Councillors and PSNI Officers as soon as possible.

Councillor Wilson said that he would be very supportive of this suggestion and raised concern about the lack of enforcement by the Police as they allow buses to park on double yellow lines and footpaths and if any member of the public did the same they would be issued with a penalty. He said that the PSNI responded very quickly to the 999 call but that the situation was handled terribly.

The Director of Business and Communities suggested that a meeting be arranged as a matter of urgency before next Monday night's event at Time Bar with DEA Councillors, Council Officers, PSNI and the relevant agencies.

Councillor Monteith entered the meeting at 7.13 pm.

D118/18 Deputation – Early Years

The Chair welcomed to the Committee Ms Siobhan Fitzpatrick and Ms Pauline Walmsley, representatives from Early Years and invited them to make their presentation.

Ms Fitzpatrick gave a brief background and advised that they were funded by the Atlantic Philanthropy Investment 2006-2020 and said that this included the: Focus on Evidence, innovation and outcomes; Demonstration models of excellence and innovation; Newry Early Years Centre; Clogher Valley – a Rural Centre of Regional, National and International significance.

Ms Fitzpatrick outlined the reason why Clogher Valley was selected was because of its Location; Consultation, Engagement and Ownership; Assessment of Need; Political Commitment – all party support; Project Design Team; Engagement of local and international Architects; Funding Plan and Legal Agreements.

Ms Walmsley Advised that the current reality would be for the Outline Schedule of Accommodations to include:

- 7 practice rooms for a total of 124 children
 - Early Years Childcare Facility
 - Funded Pre-School
 - SureStart Service

- Spaces for Art, Science, Sensory Play and Gross Motor Activities
- Administrative space for Sure Start and Early Years
- Training Facilities
- Indoor and Outdoor Community Spaces including a Café and Remida
- Outdoor Spaces for Nature Play, Growing Fruits and Vegetables, Building, Sensory and Dramatic Play

The Chair thanked Ms Fitzpatrick and Ms Walmsley for their impressive presentation and said that it was a very ambitious project and asked for any members comments.

Councillor Burton advised that she attended the launch of the event in The Junction which was a very positive day and if any members were aware of the scenery of the Clogher Valley it's an ideal place for the project. She said that she had represented the Clogher Valley area as a Councillor for numerous years and was very passionate about the area as it was the gateway to Fermanagh and wished the group well in their venture. She enquired if the group had any discussion with the Environment & Heritage as it was difficult to get a modern building from a listed building.

Ms Fitzpatrick advised that there had been very close engagement with the Environment & Heritage Agency, who were very supportive of the initiative and were providing a tremendous assistance. She said that the exterior of the building was listed but that the interior had been modernised as recently as the 1950's and that wasn't an issue.

Councillor Burton said that this would be a tremendous facility for the Clogher Valley area and a vision for playgroup for the future. She said that she was amazed at the ambitious project and also anticipated the benefits of working with senior citizens in the area, but asked that the group take into consideration childcare minders as they also wished to get involved and also requested that there be a link with the local schools.

Ms Fitzpatrick advised that the Principals of the local schools have been very supportive and that the facilities would be a benefit for the children who currently don't have adequate facilities.

Councillor Cuddy wished the group every success and advised that this was a major project and enquired how much the overall finance was and if they had the adequate funding in place.

Ms Fitzpatrick advised that costings would be in the region of £5M, which the group haven't completely received yet, but would be confident that this would be in place before the first sod was cut.

Councillor Monteith said that this was a very welcome project and that it was great to see investment in the Clogher Valley area as it was good to see the dark history of the site not being hidden. He said that it was important to not forget the terrible conditions the workhouses contained during the famine and would be useful if the Council worked with the group to mark the graves of the dead from the workhouse, as there was a real history to the building.

Ms Fitzpatrick said that there was 136 similar workhouse buildings in Ireland which contained men, women and children and agreed that the history of the site was very important. She said that the building had now the potential to be an open democratic centre and outward looking there would be possible links with people across Europe through their Irish heritage.

Councillor McFlynn said that she could concur with all the positive comments and although she wasn't au fait with the Clogher Valley area, it was a great initiative to cater for 120 children.

The Chair thanked the representatives and wished them well in the future.

The representatives left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

Matters for Decision

D119/18 Proposal to rename “The Annex” at Seamus Heaney HomePlace

The Head of Culture and Arts drew attention to the previously circulated report to propose to Members a change from the initial project working name of the building to the rear of Seamus Heaney HomePlace, ‘The Annex’ and to propose a change to ‘Moyola Hall’.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to agree a change from the working name of the building to the rear of Seamus Heaney HomePlace, currently ‘The Annex’ to be renamed ‘Moyola Hall’.

In response to the Chair's query regarding Tullyhogue Fort, the Head of Culture and Arts advised that a meeting was held in An Grianan Hotel, Donegal where a joint presentation on the Fort was made between MUDC and Historic Environment Division and was very well received by the representatives from Donegal. He said that he would bring back a report at a later meeting to update members on progress being made with regard to the linked projects between Mid Ulster and Donegal.

D120/18 Community Development Report

The Head of Community Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to:

- 1) Seek Committee approval for Good Relations and Community Festivals rolling grant award recommendations
- 2) Approve the Peace IV Partnership recommendations and Tender Award (pending tender completion process)
- 3) Consider the Festive Lights review and recommendations

- 4) Update on the Good Relations Decade of Anniversaries Programme
- 5) Approve an additional contribution from DFC to CAMU for additional advice support
- 6) Update on Community Development

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

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved: Grant award recommendations under the Good Relations and Community Festivals rolling grant as per Appendix 1 £13,668 and £3,628.

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved: Peace IV Partnership recommendations. Tender award to be dealt with under confidential business.

Councillor Wilson declared in the above item.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Councillor Forde raised concern regarding funding for festive lighting in Castledawson, Moneymore and Coagh last year and said that when the lights were put up and everything done, funding didn't go very far with additional monies of £15k having to be sourced by the community and that was without the expenses of purchasing new lights.

The Head of Community Development said that in terms of budget, there has been no increase for this year with most groups coming back stating that they are finding it hard to install the lights within the grant allocation and are relying heavily on community volunteers. She said that the proposed allocation for purchase of lights was £500.

Councillor Elattar said that she agreed with what Councillor Forde was saying and stressed how hard it was for communities to try and get lighting up as the cost of hiring a contractor was very expensive. She suggested that it may be worth considering the Council employing a contractor to carry out the work to get economies of scale and then villages paying the contractor for their allocated time. She asked what had been the previous costs of putting the trees up by Council.

The Head of Community Development said that she would liaise with the Technical Team to see if anything can be done re a central contractor. She said that going back 3 or 4 years, a cost analysis had been completed. It was greater than the current budget however it took account of use of Council own technical resources that would not now be able to provide across all areas. Also villages had a larger allocation of provision in terms of trees etc. She stated that was aware from groups that the cost of

hiring the contractor was very expensive along with insurance. She said that she would further investigate the matter and bring back costings to a future meeting.

Councillor Elattar felt that there was further to go with this and that there should be a Further provision within the budget to be able to provide adequate support.

Councillor Doris agreed with Councillors Forde and Elattar and said she was experiencing the same thing in Stewartstown and would agree with the Councillor's suggestion of looking into a Council appointed Contractor for villages to access directly.

Councillor Monteith enquired if a community was still getting funding for lights, how much would be required for them to provide for their areas, as it was quite clear that the current concept was not working. This needs to be looked at and a system put in place where scales of funding be increased on an annual basis to allow for the community to provide.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith

That Officers come back to the next meeting with more funding solutions for festive lighting provision and for Officers to pitch for funding year on year as this would be more encouraging for communities to support them to provide festive lighting.

Councillor Wilson advised that he was involved with three communities Stewartstown, Coagh and Moneymore and with a lesser input for Castledawson and said that the main issue was public liability insurance. He said that it was brought to his attention that allegedly that the Council were helping some villages out and not others with putting up of festive lighting and said that this should be the same across the board with every single village within Mid Ulster Council being treated the same.

Councillor Wilson said that he agreed with Councillor Monteith that the concept was right but it needed fine-tuned as every single village wanted the same.

The Director of Business and Communities said that the Head of Community Development was very aware of the views of community groups and that the Council could only operate within limits as there was only £73,000 allocated which included an extra £12,000 from Economic Development which was the limit could provide in current budget. He suggested arranging a workshop to take on board members collective views to move the issue forward and bring back update to committee.

Resolved: Take on board members concerns and arrange a workshop for members so that collective views can be given before moving forward and bring back findings to committee

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: Note the Good Relations Decade of Anniversaries Programme

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved: DFC funding contribution – it is proposed to allocate the two allocations of funding directly to CAMU as directed by DFC with the relevant Department targets and outcomes to be monitored; £15,274.78 for additional support and £86,319.84 for welfare reform.

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved: Note the Community Development Update report.

D121/18 Scoping Studies: Davagh Forest Project and Seamus Heaney HomeGround Project

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to update date Council on the requirement to commission Scoping Studies to be undertaken for:

- 1) Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience and
- 2) Seamus Heaney HomeGround Experience Scoping Study

Proposed by Councillor J Shiels
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the signing of Letters of Offer for commissioning of Scoping Studies for:

- a) Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience and
- b) Seamus Heaney HomeGround Experience

To approve 25% match funding requirement for scoping Studies, to be met from within existing Tourism and Culture & Arts Service resources.

D122/18 Economic Development Report

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

Councillor Cuddy and Monteith declared an interest in Dungannon Regeneration Partnership.

- Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal
- Sponsorship Request from DIGG
- Cookstown & Magherafelt Promotional Materials
- Creative Shops Network
- Mid Ulster Business Awards
- Magherafelt Town Centre Forum
- Coalisland Public Realm
- Establishment of Coalisland Town Centre Forum
- Cookstown Town Centre Forum

- NILGA/Ofcom Digital Growth Event
- ICBAN (Irish Central Border Area Network) – Brexit Focus Group Sessions
- Mid Ulster Engineering Event – ‘Facing the Future’
- EU Settlement Scheme
- Meet the Buyer Event – NI Fire & Rescue Service

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

1) Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: Council contributing £30,000 per annum towards this project for a period of 2 years, providing partner funding is forthcoming from Department for Communities (minimum of £30,000 per annum), Dungannon Enterprise Centre (£10,000 per annum), and Dungannon Traders Association (£10,000 per annum)

Councillor Cuddy said that the biggest Tourism initiative to come to Mid Ulster was Lake Torrent and that it would be good to keep a close working relationship with the Developer and signpost him in the right direction if need be.

2) Sponsorship Request from DIGG

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved: Providing sponsorship of £2,000 towards the event, the same as last year.

Councillor Burton said that comments from last year were positive and asked if DIGG had taken on board the suggestions made by the Council regarding clothes recycling opportunities and felt that this should be encouraged.

The Head of Economic Development said that DIGG had been very supportive of all the suggestions that Council had made to them.

3) Cookstown & Magherafelt Promotional Materials

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy

Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved: Procurement via tender for a range of branded merchandise to promote Cookstown and Magherafelt revised town brands.

Councillor McFlynn enquired if the jute bags were in the local shops as a lot of people had asked where they could get one.

The Head of Economic Development advised the first tranche of Cookstown's branded bags were delivered to all shops in Cookstown town centre just prior to the Continental

Market to distribute to shoppers during the event. She advised the Magherafelt branded bags are also due to be delivered shortly and the first batch will be distributed to the town centre traders early summer with a quantity held back for distribution later in the year again.

4) Creative Shops Network

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor McEldowney and

Resolved: Investigate the potential to develop Creative Shops Project in Magherafelt and if it proves a viable proposition, to fund the project up to £4,000.

5) Mid Ulster Business Awards

Councillor Wilson said that he attended the Mid Ulster Business Awards on numerous occasions and that it would be drastic to cut the sponsorship totally and

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

To sponsor a category at £1750 + Vat, with the Council choosing the most appropriate business award category to support.

Councillor Burton said one of the main issues, raised by the community in the Clogher Valley area was that the Mid Ulster Mail and Tyrone Times newspapers were not widely available to read in this area and therefore the local community were not aware of the awards. She also added that some of the awards were voted for by readers, and again this poses major issues, when the newspapers are not in wide circulation throughout the Clogher Valley area. She enquired if Council funded an award category, would this impact on the delivery of other Council business events and requested details of these events to be made available at a future meeting.

The Head of Economic Development said if Council desired to be a Category Sponsor for the Mid Ulster Business Awards, she would make every effort to accommodate the request. She also agreed to bring forward a list of business events for 2018/19.

Councillor Monteith said that the public were disgusted last year when an award was issued to Dalradian Gold Mine, with the Council's name attached to it. He said that it was vital that the Council have a say over it.

Councillor Wilson agreed with both Councillors Burton and Monteith and felt that Council needs control over the issue but this could be overcome by carefully selecting an appropriate award category, if the other issues could be satisfactorily resolved.

The Director of Business and Communities said that members concerns would be taken on board and the Economic Development section would revisit the issue and bring an update to a future meeting.

Councillor Monteith said that it must be made easy for the public to nominate.

Resolved: That Economic Development section take on board members concerns and revisit the issue and bring an update to a future meeting.

6) Magherafelt Town Centre Forum

Resolved: Note minutes of Magherafelt Town Centre Forum on 19 February 2018.

7) Coalisland Public Realm

Resolved: Note progress.

8) Establishment of Coalisland Town Centre Forum

The Head of Economic Development advised that on page 115, appendix 5 should read that membership of “Coalisland Community and Voluntary Representatives” should read “consist of 2 nominees instead of 1”.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved: The establishment of Coalisland Town Centre Forum as per Terms of Reference taking on board the amendment for two community representatives to serve as representatives for “Coalisland Community and Voluntary Sector”.

9) Cookstown Town Centre Forum

Resolved: Note minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum on 20 February 2018.

10) NILGA/Ofcom Digital Growth Event
Note event.

11) ICBAN (Irish Central Border Area Network) – Brexit Focus Group Sessions

Councillor Doris said that previously there was a deputation to the Committee and they were to come back and hold a meeting with the Council and asked if there was any update on the issue.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that Council had decided to establish a Broadband Working Group and the matter would be taken on board by them.

Resolved: Note event.

12) Mid Ulster Engineering Event – ‘Facing the Future’

Resolved: Note event.

13) EU Settlement Scheme

Councillor Monteith said that he didn't see anything beneficial in this for migrant workers and if it was felt necessary, Council could engage with the migrant communities. He said that he wouldn't be supporting the recommendation as it would totally affect the reputation of this Council.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor McEldowney and

Resolved: Not to participate in the EU Settlement Scheme.

14) Meet the Buyer Event – NI Fire & Rescue Service

Resolved: Not event.

Councillor Monteith referred to the significant changes occurring in our town centres and said one of the main issues that needs to be urgently addressed is the rates. He went on to say that rates levied on small town centre retail units are for too expensive and prohibits the ability of small businesses being able to afford them and indeed threatened the very livelihood of many existing town centre traders.

He said that the public were blaming the Council for high rates and that it was sending people to trade in other areas or lease retail units in enterprise parks, as the rent isn't the issue but the high rates is, with it being 23% higher than Scotland and 16% higher than Wales. He said that LPS is currently carrying out revaluations of businesses premises and that any small relief traders may have had is likely be above the threshold for this. He stated that small businesses were taxed extortionately and we as a Council should be addressing the issue. He said if the Council were serious about regenerating our town centres, then these issues need to be taken on board and that we should be seeking a meeting with LPS and senior Departmental Officials to address these concerns and not just for new retailers, but for existing retailers too.

Councillor Burton said that she agreed with Councillor Monteith. She enquired about whether it was possible for Council to provide funding for another Spruce Up scheme for villages as some villages have become very dilapidated.

The Director of Business and Communities said that villages were currently receiving support through the Village Renewal Measure of the Rural Development Programme overseen by the LAG. He further added that in 2017/18 Council supported 70 businesses in rural villages through the Spruce Up Scheme and will be providing further support for another 44 schemes this year that were held on a waiting list until funding became available. He said that there is a tremendous amount of work ongoing in the villages across Mid Ulster and the Economic Development Staff are at full capacity in trying to manage all the schemes, without any additional staff resources.

The Director of Business and Communities said that with regard to the rates issue, that if Members desire to meet with LPS and Departmental Officials to get an understanding of rates and the revaluation process, a meeting could be convened.

The Director of Business and Communities suggested that it may be more productive to arrange a workshop rather than having a meeting with LPS etc. He said that he

would convene a workshop to address the rates issues in towns and villages which all 40 Members would be invited.

Resolved: That a workshop be arranged for Members to meet with LPS and Departmental Officials to address the rates issues in town and villages.

D123/18 EBA 2020 Small Grants Programme 2018/19

The Acting Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek permission to proceed with the Everybody Active (EBA) 2020 Small Grants Programme 2018/19.

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for the roll out of the Everybody Active 2020 Small Grants 2018/19.

D124/18 Dungannon Park Parkrun

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members on the proposal to establish and host Parkrun Events in Dungannon Park.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to engage with Parkrun and register Dungannon Park as an official venue. Contribution of £2,400 to be made to Parkrun for the required set-up and operational costs associated to hosting the events, which would be a one off contribution.

D125/18 Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for the Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan.

Councillor Wilson stated that this was a very detailed document and that he was sure that every other Councillor had their own views on the areas they represent. He said that when looking through the report he was disappointed on the timescales for some projects in his area e.g. Monrush was in year 3 and that the state of play equipment was shocking. He referred to Princess Avenue, Monrush and Milburn areas and said that there was no safe road crossing and unlike the one in Coagh Street where there was a safe crossing. One of the issues that stood out was Drum Manor Forest Park improvements were in year 1 and people had to pay to use the facility by the Forestry Service. He said that he would be pushing for his own areas to be prioritised and not for a park where people have to pay.

Councillor J Shiels said that he was happy as the playpark at Swatragh had been updated and as there was an issue with the original site at Upperlands, this has now been addressed with a new playpark being implemented in the centre of the village, which is a real asset to the community and would like to congratulate officers involved.

Councillor Monteith said that he could understand the strategic bit of the proposals but said that the strategy needed to include reference to the Area Plan and land being zoned within it for open space and play development..

The Head of Parks said that his department had taken this on board and referred to research that had been undertaken by the planners already on the matter.

Councillor Monteith said that there was a perception that there is a fear of the Planners and that we should be aiming for the sky with the issue being addressed that planners put a condition on planning applications that developers be required to include a certain amount of open space in housing development for outdoor recreation and play provision. He said that he had no issue with development of sites but that open space for play provision needed to be addressed as a matter of importance.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation said that the strategy had been discussed at SMT at which the Planning Manager was present.

Councillor Wilson referred to the “The Dales” in Cookstown and advised that when planning was granted that a site for open space was to be left along with a space for another house. This had not been developed and was now causing tremendous problems. He would be of the opinion that playpark provision should be written into the criteria for planning approval for Developers.

Councillor Elattar referred to Moykeeran land and pitches at Cahore Road being recommended surplus to requirements which isn't far from where she lives in the Cahore area. She asked how the decision was reached. The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation confirmed that this did not refer to the pitches at Cahore Road

Councillor Elattar said that the Glenelly Villas within the village had a big green open space with the Council.

The Head of Parks advised that the Strategy took into account areas which has been identified or has been changed for use and what was required like a development with a larger play area. He said that this Strategy was to get the best strategic view as there was a significant number of sites which may not necessarily be the most suitable of sites.

Councillor Elattar referred to the playpark in Moykeeran and said that over the years the children have all grown up and left the area and now was an area for older people, but that the green area was still beneficial for the children from Glenelly Villas.

The Head of Parks agreed that the site at Moykeeran was a very large area.

Councillor Doris left the meeting 8.43 pm and returned at 8.46 pm.

Councillor Cuddy advised that the document was very comprehensive and a very good start, but stated that Dungannon had a high number of large developments and felt that it would be worthwhile to revisiting this again as the Area Plan was out of date and there was a need to look at the bigger picture and think outside the box. He said

that the Health Hub could have a positive impact and was disappointed that this wasn't moving forward.

The Head of Parks said that the document was trying to address play facilities, but that there were developments emerging like mushrooms and that the Council were trying to address the provision and the standard of play. He stated that recommendations for good play provision and consideration for futuristic initiatives were been investigated.

Councillor Clarke left the meeting at 8.45 pm.

Councillor McFlynn referred to the allocation of £250,000 funding towards Ballyronan Marina and stated that there were about five pieces of play and out of that only four swings were operational and asked that this be reinvestigated again. She said that Magherafelt had only one playpark and needed to be looked at as Cookstown had around six playparks which were getting between £25,000 to £50,000. She said that that in some areas some play areas were going to be considered for change of use, Ballyronan had a small amount of play area and a community garden, Moneymore were getting an upgrade of £20,000. She felt that Lough Fea should be revisited as it was very popular with families and also enquired if the playparks were going to be more disabled friendly i.e. for autistic children and other physical disabilities.

Councillor Burton said that the report was well put together, but referred to page 334 where it mentioned Bespoke Woodland Play at Brantry Lough and advised that this was well used and didn't see any play facilities for children. She said that other areas have it and this should be revisited again as it could be on our wish list instead of to do. She referred to Aughnacloy Eco-Park and said that the Council should look at removing the changing rooms as the playing fields wouldn't be used much due to the implementation of the new 3G pitch and the old pitch was always waterlogged.

Councillor Monteith said that it may be worthwhile considering arranging a workshop for members and having Planning Officers in attendance to give them all the relevant information on zoning around towns etc before looking at a new Area Plan.

Councillor J Shiels left the meeting at 8.50pm.

Councillor Monteith advised that when the public enters a development, the first thing that they should see is green open space and that the Parks Department should be forwarded information on a new Development during the planning stage to make them aware.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that a workshop be arranged of the Parks and Play strategy and also on planning issues relating to open green space in new developments.

Matters for Information

D126/18 Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 10 May 2018

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 10 May 2018.

D127/18 Upskilling Tourism & Hospitality

Members noted previously circulated report on Upskilling Tourism & Hospitality.

D128/18 Mid Ulster District Council Tourism Development Group

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

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 8.55 pm.

D129/18 Seamus Heaney Cluster/Invest NI Update

Members noted previously circulated report on Seamus Heaney Cluster/Invest NI Update.

D130/18 US Consulate Visit to US Grant Homestead Visit

Members noted previously circulated report on US Consulate Visit to US Grant Homestead Visit.

**D131/18 The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme
(HoAulp) – Update on Community Consultation**

Members noted previously circulated report on The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership.

D132/18 Leisure Services Summer Activity Programme 2018/19

Members noted previously circulated report on Leisure Services Summer Activity Programme 2018/19.

Number of people attending Leisure Centre to be forwarded to members.

D133/18 Mid Ulster Bird Ringing Project

Members noted previously circulated report on Mid Ulster Bird Ringing Project.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Doris 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 D134/18 to D135/18.

Matters for Decision

D134/18 JC Decaux Advertising Licence Agreement at Railway Park
D135/18 Tender Report for the Mid Ulster PEACE IV Arts
Programme

Matters for Information

D136/18 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on
Thursday 10 May 2018

D137/18 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 9 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____