<u>Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum Meeting</u> <u>Monday 7th October 2019 at 5.30pm</u> <u>Cornmill Heritage Centre</u> <u>Coalisland</u>

Present

Cllr Niamh Doris	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Cllr Malachy Quinn	Mid Ulster District Council

Patrick Anderson Melanie Campbell Francie Molloy MP Brian O Neill Raymond O'Neill Department for Communities Coalisland & District Development Association Coalisland Residents & Community Forum Coalisland Credit Union Coalisland Traders Association

In Attendance

Oliver Donnelly Colin McKenna Catherine Fox Raymond Lowry Michael McGibbon Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION	
1	Cllr Joe O'Neill Cllr Robert Colvin	Mid Ulster District Council The Venue/The Beer Shed PSNI
		Mid Ulster District Council
3.	Introductions Introductions were car	ried out by all present.
2		Meeting Monday 2 nd September 2019
	It was proposed by P	Anderson

	Seconded by F Molloy and agreed: -
	That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2 nd September 2019 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.
4	Matters Arising from Previous Meeting
	F Molloy asked for an update on the relocating of play equipment from Gortgonis to Apex Housing Development at Gorgonis Rd. C McKenna updated that there is a proposal that the equipment be moved to Innishmore (Golf Course) area. F Molloy stated that as this equipment was funded through the Neighbourhood Renewal programme he would object to this.
	Action: C McKenna is to follow up with N Hill regarding location of play equipment removed from Gortgonis.
	Discussion ensued regarding the planning requirements with respect to new housing developments. M McGibbon stated that there is no requirement for contractors to create green space / play facilities for any housing developments under 25 units.
	C McKenna updated that the review for the Town Boundaries was completed through Planning as part of the Local Development Plan Consultation. S McAvoy in Councils Planning Department has confirmed that any businesses that want to query the boundary can do so by contacting the Planning department and all feedback received will be considered when the consultation opens.
	C McKenna updated that there have been approx 300 applications for the Town and Village Spruce up scheme.
5	Coalisland Project Updates
	Coalisland Public Realm Scheme
	R Lowry updated that Fox Contracts held information sessions on 24 th and 25 th September 2019 in the Cornmill Heritage Centre. They are currently setting up their site office at the area adjacent to Landi's, which was identified as a good location as it gives them a presence in the Town Centre.
	The Programme has been submitted by Fox Contracts which is currently being reviewed by the ICT team.
	MUDC have purchased the derelict building on Main Street (Brannigans). It is currently fenced up with surveys to be carried out and once these are complete the next stage is to demolish the building.
	M Campbell asked what was the progress in relation to MUDC with the purchase of 6 car parking spaces in Cornmill Car Park. Coalisland & District Development Association's Solicitor has requested some further information from the group which M Campbell was providing.

Action: C Fox is to follow up with Council Solicitor and M Campbell	
regarding purchase of lands within the car park.	

R Lowry advised that the One Way System legislation remains with DFI for signing with no further update.

B O'Neill raised that there was a power outage in town a number of weeks ago and to ensure this was not going to happen during the main public realm scheme. C Fox advised that during the SGN works a number of months ago there was a power outage, which was dealt with and back on within 2 hours. The same process would be involved again where there was close contact between officers, Construction team and Design Team to ensure any issues were dealt with as quickly as possible.

Gortgonis Recreation Centre Redevelopment

The redevelopment of Gortgonis is hoped to commence in the New Year with enabling works starting in January 2020. Council is currently in discussions with Education Authority regarding provision of a mobile facility for the playgroup during the construction phase.

There will be new play provision provided as part of the overall project, which will include LEAP (Local Equipped Area for Play) and NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play) standards installed on the grounds that will cater for the local area.

Halloween & Christmas Events

O Donnelly updated that a Halloween Working Group continues to meet on a weekly basis and activities delivered by local communities are being finalized. At the Halloween event on 31st October 2019 at Gortgonis there will be amusements from 6pm and the fireworks show will commence at 8.45pm.

M Campbell updated that there will also be Halloween activities at the Coalisland Museum and Heritage Centre on Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th October.

The Christmas Light switch on will be held on Sunday 1st December 2019 and will be delivered in association with CRAIC Theatre.

6 Town Centre Graffiti

C McKenna updated that MUDC identified areas in the town that would need addressed as part of an enhancement scheme. After consultation with Members, areas identified for works in Coalisland were submitted to Mid Ulster District Council's Development Committee in October 2019 and subsequently full Council for approval. All works, which was mainly graffiti removal in Coalisland, must be completed by end of March 2019.

7	CCTV Cameras
	O Donnelly updated that the contractor will be on site to complete works at the Cornmill on Tuesday 8 th or Wednesday 9 th October 2019 and will be finished by Friday 11 th October 2019.
8.	Department of Finance – Non – Domestic Rates Review Consultation Event – (Monday 14 th October 2019, 7pm, Hill of the O'Neill & Ranfurly House, Dungannon)
	C Fox updated that a consultation event on Non –Domestic Rates will be held on Monday 14 th October 2019 at 7pm on the Hill of the O Neill and encouraged all businesses to attend. This will be an opportunity for local businesses to have an input into the review of Business Rates and those wishing to attend could register by contacting C Fox.
	The closing date for responses is 11 th November 2019.
8	Any Other Business
	B O'Neill enquired as to whether the flowerbed scheme in relation to advertising was successful. He suggested that the paperwork for applying into the scheme outweighs the actual benefits for businesses.
	Action: C McKenna to liaise with Head of Property Services to relay feedback from businesses, determine uptake on the last scheme and if any changes are planned.
9	Date of Next Meeting
	Date of next meeting will be Tuesday 5 November 2019 @ 5.30pm. C Fox raised that Council Committee meetings were scheduled to take place that evening at 7.00pm. Members agreed to go ahead with meeting.
10	Meeting Duration Meeting ended at 6.50pm





MINUTES OF COOKSTOWN TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29 MAY 2019 AT 12.30 PM IN THE CHAMBER, MUDC OFFICES, COOKSTOWN

Present:

Councillor McNamee Councillor Hughes Councillor Mallaghan Councillor Wilson Patrick Anderson Neil Bratton Tom Jebb Ursula Marshall Annette McGahan TP Sheehy Paul Wilson

Mary McCullagh

Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster District Council Department for Communities DFI Roads NI Vintners Association Cookstown Disability Forum Mid Ulster PCSP Small Independent Retailer Large Independent Retailer

Mid Ulster District Council

In attendance: Deborah Ewing Sharon Scott Mark Davidson Adrian Harley Declan Carlin Bernie Mullin Mid Ulster District Council Place Management Solutions SGN Natural Gas Keir Utilities Keir Utilities Grays Communications

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Gavin Bell, Councillor Mark Glasgow, and Councillor Wilbert Buchanan, Mid Ulster District Council; Raymond McGarvey, Chamber of Commerce; Andrew McConnell, Large Independent Retailer; Sean MacMahon, MACM; Peter Beckett, Asda; Jim Eastwood, Cookstown Enterprise; E McCullagh, Planning Department. Adrian McCreesh, Mid Ulster District Council; Fiona McKeown, Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor McNamee advised members that following Council elections Councillor Kerri Hughes, SDLP, has replaced Councillor Tony Quinn. He extended a welcome to the Forum and each member introduced themselves.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by P Anderson and seconded by T Jebb to ADOPT the minutes of the Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 10 April 2019.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There were no matters arising from minutes.

4. TO RECEIVE PRESENTATION ON BIDs FEASIBILITY STUDY

Sharon Scott, Place Management Solutions provided an overview of the Cookstown Bid Feasibility Study to members:

A BID is an arrangement whereby businesses get together, decide what additional improvements they can make, how they are going to manage it, how to deliver it and how much it will cost. A BID can last for a maximum of 5 years and must be able to demonstrate how it has benefited businesses who have funded it. At present there are 8 BIDs in Northern Ireland with over 4,000 businesses currently involved in a variety of projects i.e. car parking access, marketing, events etc.

Feasibility studies were conducted for each of the 5 towns in Mid Ulster. One town will be selected to pilot the BID based on the results from the study. Members will be advised which town will be selected in due course.

TP Sheehy arrived at the meeting at 12.45pm.

The Feasibility Study was conducted based on the town centre boundary (Cookstown Area Plan boundary – top of Loy Hill to top of Oldtown Street with the inclusion of some of Molesworth Street, Union Street and Burn Road). There are 401 properties within the boundary (businesses with a rateable value) which were identified through the LPS data. Baseline figure is established for rateable value (normally £2,500). It was noted that anything under this value would not be feasible. This is applied as a percentage of the Net Asset Value (NAV) which includes charities etc. The levy for vacant properties will be applied to the property owners. The current make up of businesses in Cookstown shows 64% retail and 8% vacant premises with the remaining 28% non-retail.

The potential levy rate is as follows:

Levy Rate	Total Funds Raised
1%	£64,303
1.5%	£96,454.50
2%	£128,606

A number of town centre priority issues were identified through the business surveys, consultations and workshops that took place which included: raising the profile of the town; developing a cohesive marketing strategy; attracting new independent businesses; business crime reduction; infrastructure etc. Only a limited number of businesses engaged in the consultation process although she acknowledged that M McCullagh and the Economic Development Team made a concerted effort to encourage participation.

It was noted that a BID would only be delivered based on viable options; a BID is not the answer to everything in town centre. A BID works in partnership with businesses and is only part of a regeneration jigsaw. It allows businesses to plan and budget and is independent, enabling businesses to evolve and develop.

She stated that the vacancy levels within the town were slightly higher than average, which is understandable in the current climate.

A lot of discussion took place on the possibility of BIDs delivery in Cookstown with topics including the large companies in the town being involved. It was requested that a copy of the Feasibility Study is available to members on their request.

S Scott advised that 1 town will be selected for a pilot BIDs initially in the Mid Ulster area, with the view of the other 2 towns observing before committing. It was noted that developing a BID is a 12 month process. A full time person would be required, with funding for such potentially achieved through DFC and Council. However, Feasibility Study would need to demonstrate the practicality of delivering a bid along with evidence to show commitment from the business community to deliver.

Councillor T Wilson left the meeting at 1.10pm.

A report has been prepared and submitted to Council for review. This includes recommendations from Place Management Solutions on which town should proceed with a pilot BID initially.

Councillor J McNamee thanked S Scott for the overview and will advise members of the outcome once approved at Council. S Scott left the meeting at 1.15pm.

Councillor J McNamee advised T P Sheehy that the forum unanimously agreed for TP Sheehy to remain as Vice Chair of the forum, with him confirming that he would remain in position.

5. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM SGN NATURAL GAS UPON COMPLETION OF WORKS AT THE ORRITOR ROAD JUNCTION AND FUTURE WORKS SCHEDULED FOR COOKSTOWN

The Chair welcomed representatives from SGN Natural Gas, Keir Utilities and Grays Communications to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how the works were conducted at the Orritor Road Junction and to learn from any issues arising from them going forward with the future works proposed through the summer period.

A Harley, Keir Utilities stated that the Orritor Road Junction works were completed ahead of schedule with no issues reported. P Wilson thanked the representatives for working through the week as requested in order to complete the works.

Maps were distributed to members for information showing the completed works and the proposed works planned for Cookstown. Further gas works will commence on Orritor Road – towards Orritor (approximately 500 metres) – after Dfl Roads have completed the installation of the new traffic light system in mid to late June 2019. Residents will be notified in advance.

The works on Cemetery Road, Cookstown are making excellent progress. Members were advised that there is hard rock at the beginning of the road, which has caused some issues.

Works are planned for 1 July 2019 for Drum Road - approximately 80-90 metres to Westland Road (from mini roundabout to cemetery). Proposed traffic management for this area is to put the traffic to one-way with the flow going from Westland Road to Drum Road. After much discussion on this issue it was agreed that changing the flow of traffic to allow for access from Drum Road to Westland Road would alleviate the pressure from Sweep Road and accommodate the traffic coming from Dungannon and Omagh areas. Signage will be displayed showing alternative diversion routes around the town. It was noted that the flow could be changed again if required. McVeighs will be the traffic management company for these works.

Further works are planned for 19 August to early September 2019 at Morgans Hill Road with the anticipation of retaining a 2 way traffic flow.

Works planned for Moneymore Road will commence during the Halloween period with 2 way traffic flow being retained.

Resurfacing schemes are planned to take place across all 3 towns. Members were advised that it is impossible to conduct all of these works during the summer holidays but will try and accommodate where possible.

B Mullin, Grays Communications advised members that monthly updates of proposed works are distributed to MPs, MLAs and councillors. If there are any queries, they can be dealt with directly.

N Bratton advised that works on the mini roundabouts at Moneymore is due to commence with plans for work to occur on consecutive Sundays.

He also stated that works on the realignment of the Orritor Road Junction will take place on 15-17 June 2019. Work will commence at 5pm on the Saturday with work continuing all through Sunday to enable road to be opened on Monday morning at 7am. Residents will be notified in advance with a knock on door approach also being taken.

The representatives left the meeting at 1.30pm

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON COOKSTOWN CONTINENTAL MARKET 2019

M McCullagh provided an update on the Continental Market due to take place this weekend - 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 more children's entertainment throughout the weekend due to positive feedback from previous event. A variety of other entertainment is also scheduled with local acts performing on the stage on Sunday.

M McCullagh thanked the businesses in the town for taking part in the Shoppers Draw and for their ongoing support. TP Sheehy commented that the market is good for Cookstown.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr McNamee raised concerns that the pavement on Orritor Street which was damaged by NI Water has not been rectified. N Bratton advised that this has been raised with NI Water and Northstone will be conducting the works on 21 and 23 June 2019. He advised that NI Water are liable for any accidents that occur until the works are completed to a satisfactory standard and stated that Dfl Roads are in constant contact with NI Water. N Bratton will provide full details to Councillor McNamee on this outstanding issue.

8. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be arranged. Members will be notified accordingly.

The meeting ended at 1.35pm

MINUTES OF MAGHERAFELT TOWN CENTRE FORUM MONDAY 3 JUNE 2019 AT 6:15PM MAGHERAFELT OFFICES, MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Present:

Councillor Clarke Councillor McLean Councillor Brown Mark Stewart Robin Kennedy Claire McOsker Colin McKeown Shauna McCloskey Ursula Marshall

Mid Ulster District Council (Chair) Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster District Council Vintners Representative Magherafelt Chamber of Commerce Professional Sector Representative Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster PCSP Disability Forum

In Attendance:

Davina McCartney Colin McKenna P McMenemy G Glover L Armstrong Cllr R Colvin Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster District Council Moneymore Heritage Trust Moneymore Heritage Trust Moneymore Heritage Trust Moneymore Heritage Trust

Apologies:

Councillor Christine McFlynn Mid Ulster District CouncilCouncillor Darren TottenMid Ulster District CouncilJack KeatleyMagherafelt TrusteesPatrick AndersonDepartment for CommunitiesSinead McAvoyMid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	WELCOME	
	The Chairman, Cllr Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting. As there were new member's introductions were made.	
2.	MATTERS ARISING	
	<u>Seamus Heaney Home Place</u> In response to a query raised by R Kennedy D McCartney stated Seamus Heaney HomePlace is operating within projected budgets and has exceeded visitor numbers since opening.	
	Castledawson Roundabout	

	D McCartney stated Mid Ulster District Council are requesting lighting is installed on Castledawson Roundabout.	
2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	
	Minutes of previous meeting 12 November 2018 were agreed as accurate. Proposed by: M Stewart Seconded by: C McOsker	
3.	MONEYMORE HERITAGE TRUST	
	P McMenemy introduced the members of Moneymore Heritage Trust. R Colvin delivered a presentation on the traffic issues facing Moneymore.	
	Moneymore is a pinch point for traffic. There are currently 16,000 vehicles travelling through it on a daily basis. Moneymore Heritage Trust are seeking advice and support from Magherafelt Town Centre Forum as the group feel Moneymore needs a	
	bypass. Following discussion about the issues facing Moneymore and the need for a solution, it was agreed that Magherafelt Town Centre Forum would support Moneymore Heritage Trust in whatever way they could. U Marshall suggested Moneymore Heritage Trust should deliver this presentation to Cookstown Town Centre Forum.	
4.	TOWN CENTRE EVENTS UPDATE	
	D McCartney provided an update on the Tafelta Festival taking place on 21 and 22 June 2019.	
5.	RURAL REGENERATION PROJECTS UPDATE	
	D McCartney provided an update on the Rural Regeneration projects currently being delivered.	
6.	REGENERATION MANAGER REPORT	
	D McCartney updated on the previously circulated Regeneration Managers Report.	
	Marketing & Promotion A variety of branded promotional materials have been purchased and continue to be distributed as per the implementation plan at town centre events.	
	Business Support / Attracting Investment Seamus Heaney HomeGround Project	

	The 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. A Letter of Offer has been received from the Rural Tourism Fund through the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs.	
	Town Centre EventsTafelta FestivalThe Tafelta Festival will take place on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 June2019. This annual event will celebrate Magherafelt as a place to live,work and visit. The Tafelta Festival will focus on the distinctiveheritage, cultural and literary connections of Magherafelt as highlightedin the Positioning Statement including the Seamus Heaney link.Magherafelt Christmas Market & Christmas Lights Switch On	
	Magherafelt Christmas Market and Christmas Lights Switch On will take place on Saturday 23 November & Sunday 24 November 2019.	
	Physical Regeneration / Improving Infrastructure <u>Public Art Piece – Castledawson Roundabout</u> Officers are continuing to work with Department of Infrastructure (Roads) on the installation of a Public Art Piece on the pedestrian bridge at the Castledawson Roundabout.	
	<u>Magherafelt Revitalisation Project</u> 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.	
	<u>Mid Ulster Shop Front Scheme</u> 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.	
6.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	R Kennedy asked if there was any update on car parking charges across the district. An update is to be provided at the next meeting. Cllr P McLean asked if there was an update on the Public Realm Scheme Phase 2. D McCartney stated it is part of Department for Communities 3 year plan.	

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be circulated.

Meeting ended 7.30pm

MINUTES OF MAGHERA TOWN CENTRE FORUM MONDAY 17 JUNE 2019 AT 6PM WALSH'S HOTEL, MAGHERA

Present:	Cllr Brian McGuigan	Mid L
	Cllr Sean McPeake	Mid L
	Cllr Kyle Black	Mid L
	Patrick Anderson	Depa
	Jonathan Crawford	Craw
	Una Morgan	The [
	Cathy O'Neill	Wals
	Kieran Bradley	Wals
	Conor Molloy	Watty
	Ursula Marshall	Mid U
	Conal McKee	Dfl R
	Michael McCrory	Mid L
	Colin McKeown	Mid U

In Attendance:

Davina McCartney Raymond Holbeach Mid Ulster District Council (Chair) Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster District Council Department for Communities Crawford's The Dugout Bar Walsh's Hotel Walsh's Hotel Watty Graham's GAC Mid Ulster Disability Forum Dfl Roads Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster District Council

Mid Ulster District Council RPS

Apologies:

James Armour Kate Lagan Mark Kelso Maghera Heritage Association Maghera Development Association Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION
1.	WELCOME Cllr McGuigan welcomed everyone to the meeting of Maghera Town Centre Forum.
2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 26 NOVEMBER 2018 Proposed by Clir S McPeake Seconded by P Anderson
3.	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES Cllr S McPeake asked if the possibility of removing buildings at the main junction had been investigated. R Holbeach confirmed this had been considered and did not show significant improvements.
4.	MAGHERA PUBLIC REALM SCHEME R Holbeach delivered a presentation on the Public Realm Scheme following the information session held in March. Members felt the proposals significantly improved traffic flow on Hall Street and Coleraine Road and the input of businesses was very important.

 5. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FEASIBILITY STUDY The BIDS Feasibility Study had looked at the total number of businesses and total rateable value of those businesses. 146 businesses operated in Maghera To centre generating a total rateable value of £1,202,340. Potential levy rates had been looked at of: 1% would raise £18,035.10 2% would raise £18,035.10 2% would raise £18,046.86 The main issues identified in Maghera included: Promoting independent businesses Attracting new businesses Increase no. of car parking spaces Enhanced street cleansing Business crime reduction Better internet & IT connectivity Better business to business trading opportunities The recommendation from the BIDS Feasibility Study was that a BID for Magh Town Centre is not viable, given the financial analysis, which clearly shows that amount generated from the BID levy would not have a significant impact on regeneration of the town centre, when assessed against the costs of operating BID. It was recommended that further intensive work is required to enhance the le of business engagement and alternative avenues to generate additional income investigated. 5. RURAL VILLAGES PROJECT UPDATE D McCartney gave an update on the walkway project from Maghera Walled Gar to Tobermore Road. A launch event is planned for Monday 24 June at 11:30am. Members stated that further walkways could be developed subject to further fundit 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS Members questioned the route the Local Full Fibre Network would take. It was stat the route would be dictated by the company who wins the tender for the project a would be known late summer / early autumn.
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 level of detail had not been finalized yet. Members felt it would be important to ensure a proper bus stop on St Lurach's Row was incorporated as part of the project proposals. The extension of double yellow lines on Hall Street could be taken forward by Roads prior the commencement of the Public Realm Scheme. Members stressed the importance of car parking going forward in the scheme a the issues of all day parking in the town centre need to be addressed.