

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 6 December 2017 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present

Councillor Wilson, Chair

Councillors Clarke, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, McAleer, McEldowney, McNamee, Molloy, Monteith and G Shiels,

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
Ms Forde, Member Support Officer

Others in Attendance

Agenda Item 4 – Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd/Coalisland Great Places Heritage

Meeting commenced at 7 pm.

D247/17 Apologies

Councillors Burton, McFlynn and Milne

D248/17 Declaration of Interests

Councillor McAleer declared an interest in item D250/17 Eskra Community Association Ltd – Knockmany Forest.

D249/17 Chair's business

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated he had been inundated with issues in relation to Christmas lighting and tree provision in villages. The Chair invited the Head of Community Development to report on the issue.

The Head of Community Development advised that there had been some issues with the transfer from direct provision of festive lighting to community led provision financed by Council grants. The main issues being community groups were reluctant to take on the responsibility in organising the festive lighting through grant support as they felt Council organised the urban areas and should do the same in the villages; there were difficulties in installation of the actual trees; the level of funding versus expenditure; insurance cover and statutory permissions etc; and issues between villages re the content and level of lighting as some had just trees whilst other areas had trees and lights. The Officer advised that Council had assisted where possible in ordering and delivering trees and lights and ensuring power was available at sites.

There was only one instance where Council had to intervene due to a village making an arrangement with a contractor (Council contractor) to put up their tree and lights and were let down at the last minute, and Council provided support in the understanding that the same deduction of funding would be taken from their grant as agreed with the contractor. The Officer did state that there were some issues between communities and areas with regard to perceived support; however Council had sought to give as much support as possible over the period from both community and technical teams in providing assistance.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson thanked the Head of Community Development for the update and commended all officers for work in relation to Christmas lighting. He stressed that where Council had provided assistance costs would be deducted from the grant and stated that there would be a review meeting and report which would highlight this fact and way forward.

Councillor Monteith entered the meeting at 7.07pm

The Chair, Councillor Wilson advised that he had read in the national press that Q Radio had been fined for not fulfilling licences that their Ballymena office had been closed and all reporting was from either Belfast or Coleraine thus the Mid Ulster region was bereft of news cover. The Chair proposed that Council should write to Q Radio asking (i) what steps they were taking to cover the void; and (ii) why they had not informed anyone of the current situation.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to write to Q Radio asking (i) what steps they were taking to cover the void; and (ii) why they had not informed anyone of the office closure.

In response to Councillor McNamee's question in relation to Moneymore the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated it was her understanding that the paperwork was currently being prepared and the advertisement seeking expressions of interest would be progressed in the near future.

In response to Councillor McNamee's question regarding the Saturday market in Cookstown the Director of Business and Communities advised that the Regeneration Manager was endeavouring to secure a date for a meeting and Town Centre Forum members would be informed.

D250/17 Deputation – Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd/Coalisland Great Places Heritage

The Chair welcomed Mr G Darby representative of Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd/Coalisland Great Places Heritage to the meeting.

Mr Darby delivered the presentation detailed at appendix one outlining the proposed project, its benefits to Council by assisting in social and economic projects, the cost of the project and the request for Council support.

Councillor Molloy entered the meeting at 7.13pm

Councillor G Shiels commented on resources at the time of Mountjoy during the Plantation of Ulster and highlighted that he had been aware of Coalisland's specific relationship to the coal industry but that he had been unaware of its specific relationship to the iron industry. In response Mr Darby advised that it would have been medieval metal work and in relation to comments about Mountjoy and the plantation the resources would have been sand, clay and wood which had had a major impact on the history of today and work would be undertaken as part of a landscape project.

The Chair Councillor Wilson thanked Mr Darby for the presentation. Mr Darby withdrew from the meeting at 7.22pm

Councillor Elattar made reference to the Lough Neagh Partnership application highlighted in the presentation and advised that it was through to stage two.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that Council was endeavouring to use its budget to attract more money into the area and that officers would now look at the request and bring a report back to Council but that in the interim the group required a letter from Council stating that it supported the project in principle.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to issue a letter advising that Council supported the Coalisland Great Places Heritage project in principle.

In response to Councillor Cuddy's question seeking clarity on the area covered the Director of Business and Communities stated that the report would detail the geographical area covered.

Matters for Decision

D251/17 Eskra Community Association Ltd – Knockmany Forest

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report with regard to a proposal from Eskra Community Association Limited in relation to Knockmany Forest development and advised that the capital contribution should read £25,000.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

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

- (i) Accept the proposal to project manage the programme of works and that the Sports NI grant is assigned to Council at value of £25k;
- (ii) Grant permission to proceed with the procurement and completion of a tender exercise subject to the confirmation of funding from Sport NI;

- (iii) Request be processed through Policy & Resources committee for the release of the funds to undertake aforementioned works.

D252/17 Motorsport Task Force

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to consider a request for a financial contribution towards commissioning of a Motorsport economic research impact report for Northern Ireland. Members were reminded that Council had deferred the decision back to the committee for further consideration. Councillor McNamee advised he had no further information to report and proposed that the recommendation now be not to contribute to the research.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that a contribution of £1000 not be made on behalf of MUDC towards the Motorsport Task Force report as requested by the Motorsport Task Force.

D253/17 Economic Development

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

- Department for Communities Funding
- Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme
- Village Renewal Project
- Coalisland Public Realm
- InterTrade Ireland Brexit Conference
- New Dungannon Brand

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council that approval be given to:

1) Department for Communities Funding

The Head of Economic Development advised that Council had now received notification that its funding application to Department for Communities had been successful.

The Head of Economic Development advised that Council had now received notification that its funding application to Department for Communities had been successful,

Resolved (i) As a result of Council's successful application to Department for Communities for £70,000 funding to purchase a street cleansing machine, approval be granted for Council to provide a minimum

of 20% match funding (£17,500) towards this project from Council's existing budgets.

- (ii) Approval be granted to use a select framework to procure the vehicle

which is estimated to cost in the region of £87,500 (DFC funding of £70,000 and a minimum contribution from Council of £17,500).

The Chair, Councillor Wilson congratulated those who had been involved in the Public Realm Scheme in Dungannon.

Councillor Monteith in relation to Car parking in Dungannon spoke of the Off Street Car parking Consultation which Council had hosted the previous evening. He expressed concern that traders had highlighted at the event they had only found out about the event on the day, he also highlighted how embarrassing it was for Members present. The Councillor acknowledged that sometimes one or two people may have missed an information flyer or invitation but it was unlikely that they all would miss it. He also stated that although Car parks was handled by Environment and Property Department that the Economic Development section should be involved and expressed concern in how charges were being attributed and stated that in his opinion if town centres were to survive they needed to be treated like shopping centres. Councillor Monteith made reference to the former Dungannon Masterplan and stated if this document was used in relation to car parking he would have grave concerns. He stated he was flabbergasted were Council was at with the issue.

Councillor McNamee highlighted that Members had expressed concern that the consultation event was scheduled for the same night as the Planning Committee.

Councillor G Shiels stated that he felt the entire parking regime should be less stringent across the district.

Councillor Cuddy stated he had attended the consultation event and stated that when it had been enquired off officers why traders had not been notified the officer present stated that it had been up to the town centre manager to notify them. He stated that it had been a shambles, one carpark had been picked to increase charges in and it was only used 25% of the time. He advised he had not made comparison with other towns.

Councillor Monteith concurred that blame had been apportioned to the Economic Development section.

The Director of Business and Communities thanked Members for raising the issue and advised that car parking does indeed rest with Council's Environment & Property Services. He added that he would investigate where the communication channels had broken down, and advised that if a further consultation event in Dungannon was needed, this could be accommodated and communicated widely to key town centre stakeholders.

2) Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme

Councillor Molloy made reference to the extensive reserve list in relation to the Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up scheme and advised that there were more willing to avail if the opportunity afforded.

Resolved Approval is granted to an additional element of works for grant aid regarding application VSS17/30, to the value of £1,650 and place on the ranked reserve list for funding as appropriate.

3) Village Renewal Project

Resolved Members noted progress on Village Renewal Project

4) Coalisland Public Realm

Resolved Members noted progress on Coalisland Public Realm

5) InterTrade Ireland Brexit Conference

Resolved Members noted conference details

6) New Dungannon Brand

Resolved Members noted new Dungannon Brand and the range of promotional activities in the pipeline to promote it.

D254/17 Community Development

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

- Approve Community Grants Rolling Programme Applications;
- Peace IV Local Action Plan 2017- 2020;
- Community Development Update.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Molloy

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council that approval be given to:

1) Community Grants Rolling Programme Applications

Resolved Approve the grant award recommendations under the Community Local Festivals and Good Relations grants ie Local Festival £2235 and Good Relations Grants £600.

2) Peace 1V Local Action Plan 2017-2020

Resolved Approve the grant award recommendations under the Peace IV Children and Young People theme outlined in the report totalling £199,955.72, taking account of eligible costs of all projects and

following this allocating the funding based on a tiered approach of pro rata contribution.

Matters for Information

D255/17 Minutes of Development Committee Thursday 16 November 2017

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 16 November 2017.

In relation to D237/17 Railway Park and Ballysaggart Lough Project Councillor Monteith proposed that a meeting be convened with members of the Dungannon DEA to discuss the project.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that a meeting be convened with members of the Dungannon DEA to discuss the Railway Park and Ballysaggart Lough project.

Councillor Monteith declared an interest in St Patrick's Primary School Dungannon where he sat on the Board of Governors and also the Gael Scóil Dungannon of which he was a former Governor

D256/17 Invest NI (INI) Collaborative Growth Programme – Seamus Heaney Cluster

Members noted previously circulated report to update Members on the staff support to the Invest NI (INI) Collaborative Growth Programme via the Seamus Heaney Cluster.

D257/17 Tourism Development Group

Members noted previously circulated report to update Members on the work of the Tourism Development Group.

D258/17 Tourism Summer Programme

Members noted previously circulated report to inform of tourism activities over the summer months in accordance with Mid Ulster Tourism strategy.

D259/17 Northern Ireland Forest schools scheme at Hill of the O'Neill, Dungannon

Members noted previously circulated report to provide Members with an update on the Northern Ireland Forest Schools Project at Hill of the O'Neill, Dungannon.

Local Government (NI) 2014 – Confidential Business

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 D240/17 to D245/17

Matters for Decision

D260/17 Portglenone to Newferry Blueway
D261/17 Tender Reprot for the Mid Ulster Peace IV Post Primary School Programme
D262/17 Mid Ulster District Council Culture & Arts Strategy

Matters for Information

D262/17 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 12 October 2017

D264/17 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 7.42pm.

The Chair Councillor Wilson wished everyone a happy Christmas and peaceful new year.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____