

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council  
held on Wednesday 4 December 2019 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,  
Magherafelt**

**Members Present**

Councillor Wilson, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Black, Burton, Clarke, Corry, Cuddy (7.09 pm), Doris, Elattar, Hughes, Kearney (7.31 pm), Kerr (7.07 pm), McNamee, Milne, Molloy, Monteith (7.07 pm)

**Officers in Attendance**

Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation  
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities  
Mr Browne, Head of Tourism  
Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts  
Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development  
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in Attendance**

**Agenda Item 4 – Deputations**  
**Mid Ulster Women's Aid –**  
Ms Martina Watson - Manager  
Ms Maggie Bryson – Chair

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

**D211/19      Apologies**

None.

**D212/19      Declaration of Interests**

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

**D213/19      Chair's Business**

None.

**D214/19      Mid Ulster Women's Aid**

The Chair, Councillor Wilson welcomed representatives from Mid Ulster Women's Aid to the committee and invited them to make their presentation (appendix 1).

Ms Watson advised that domestic violence was an intentional persistent physical or emotional abuse of a woman or a woman and her children in such a way that causes pain, distress or injury.

PSNI statistics for 2018-19 indicate that the total number of domestic related incidents reported to police in Northern Ireland was 31,682 and within Mid Ulster is was 1912

incidents which resulted in an increase overall of 239. The statistics also show that domestic abuse crime increased by 99 = 16% of all police recorded crime, with them responding to a domestic incident every 16 minutes of every day of the year.

Ms Watson said that Women's Aid Offer:

- S – Safety
- E - Emotional Support
- L - Listen & Believe
- F - Family – Women, Children & Young People
  
- H - Housing – Emergency Accommodation
- E - Education
- L - Long Term Support – *can be up to 2 years*
- P - Practical Assistance

*Councillor Monteith entered the meeting at 7.07 pm.*

*Councillor Kerr entered the meeting at 7.07 pm.*

Mid-Ulster Women's Aid:

- Refuge Accommodation – 44 women/31 children
- Unable to Accommodate – 82 women/54 children
- Floating Support Service - 388 Referrals
- Child and Family Support – 69 Children
- Domestic Violence Awareness Raising
- Inter-agency Working with PSNI, NIHE, Health and Social Care Trusts etc

*Councillor Cuddy entered the meeting at 7.09 pm*

Programmes:

- Journey to Freedom
- My Life, My Choices
- You and Me, Mum
- Healthy Relationships and Positive Relationships –
  - Post Primary Schools Programmes (16 schools)

Funded by Mid Ulster District Council and PCSP

- Social Guardian Training – Train Teachers to deliver Helping Hands (protective behaviour programme) – Funded by Department of Education

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation and said that he was aware of the great work that was being done and very lucky to have such a good group of dedicated staff and volunteers. He said that unfortunately domestic violence was a growing industry and statistics indicate that it was on the increase, maybe this was because there were more incidents being reported to the PSNI.

Councillor McNamee comm

ended the work the group does and said that it was shocking to hear that there was an increase in reported cases of domestic abuse and enquired if there was any specific reason why this might be.

Ms Watson said that this was an historic issue but can look at this as something positive because more people were reporting domestic abuse incidents to the PSNI and they are now recognising the fact that this was a serious crime.

Councillor Elattar also commended the work the group does and said that as a midwife she was very aware how beneficial they are. She enquired what happens the women and children which cannot be accommodated at the refuge.

Ms Watson advised that accommodation is sourced regularly outside the area which can be an issue as some women do not wish to unroot their children from schools and the area they reside in and frequently the women return to the abusive relationship. She advised that every effort is put into supporting these women.

Councillor Elattar enquired how the Council could help address the shortage.

Ms Bryson said that she wanted to praise the Council as they have been very generous and had donated some land to the group. She said that the group have been working very closely with Officers to see where funding can be sourced, but more than likely the group may have to go down the route of approaching a Housing Association for assistance and if this was the way of proceeding it would result in freeing up more properties for other vulnerable people like the homeless.

The Chair said that although it was in the early stages, but when completed it would be a terrific project.

Councillor Burton said that it was really shocking the increase in domestic violence incidents and as a PCSP member, they have been advised that the peak time of the year for incidents was around Christmas, but it's dreadful to see it has already risen by 16%. She advised that when people are abused, they usually return to the abusive relationship and commended the work the group are doing working with the women and children.

Councillor Burton enquired about teachers completing the workshop on the Healthy Relationships Programme and asked who monitors this and whether the children are being taught in schools about healthy relationships.

Ms Watson advised that teachers can gain a qualification and an I11 certificate to teach children about healthy relationships, with each child receives a workbook to complete which is monitored and evaluated. She said that there may be an issue with so many teachers going through the system and was important to keep this programme active.

Councillor Kerr also commended the very positive contribution Women's Aid provides to the Mid Ulster area and hoped this would continue as it was an invaluable service.

Councillor Hughes thanked the group for their very impressive presentation and advised that she had taken part in the Domestic Violence Workshop last August which was a very informative and very worthy.

Councillor Doris praised the group on their invaluable work which is being carried out and said that it may be worthwhile organising a workshop for Councillors before a committee meeting some evening.

Councillor McNamee said that it was mentioned earlier about approaching Housing Associations for help and felt that sometimes these organisations seek a high rental fee.

Ms Bryson agreed that a rental arrangement may not be cheap but that detailed negotiations would be taking place before any commitment was made on the way forward.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that demand was exceeding supply at the moment but there was a requirement to provide good quality affordable houses and that there would be a proposition brought to committee in the New Year.

The Chair thanked the representatives from Women's Aid, and they withdrew from the meeting at 7.22 pm.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **D215/19      Community Development Report**

Members considered previously circulated report and provided an update on the following:

*Councillor McNamee declared an interest in Orritor Street Crescent Community Association.*

Councillor Monteith referred to Peace IV projects and advised that some members have raised concerns at DEA meetings regarding the aftermath of the implementation of projects and said that maintenance afterwards needed to be included. He stated that maintenance needs to be built and people needs to be made aware of the happenings and not passed to each different department on concerns regarding street cleaning etc. He said that going forward all capital projects need built in to their remit the item of recurring costs for maintenance afterwards as the Council has a duty of care to ratepayers.

Councillor Burton said that she had been in discussions with people from Aughnacloy regarding Peace IV funding for their playpark facilities. She said that there were cars going onto the site revving their engines and going around in circles and to be fair the Peace officers had liaised with other officers of the Council regarding ongoing concerns relating to antisocial behaviour and drinking which was causing a nuisance to residents. She said that there was a need for the barrier to be closed at night and especially in the winter months and residents have asked if CCTV could be implemented as the security light which comes on shines directly into a resident's

dwelling and she wanted to ensure that people were not left behind. She suggested that when the 3G pitch was relocated, the person which was locking-up could lock the barrier to the playpark also.

The Chair advised that concerns were raised at the Peace meeting and was currently being dealt with.

Councillor Burton referred to electrical items which may have to be dug up and asked that this be also investigated.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

- **Rolling Grant Awards – Good Relations and Local Community Festivals**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the Rolling Grant Awards – Good Relations (£2,480), Decade of Anniversaries (£1,250) and Local Community Festivals (£1,550).

- **Peace IV Local Action Plan 2017 – 2020**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the Peace IV Project and to proceed to ITT for delivery of the 6 village shared space schemes at a value of £600,000 - £700,000 (included OB).

- **Community Development Update**

Members noted Community Development Update.

## **D216/19 DAERA Rural Micro Business Small Grant Pilot Scheme**

The Head of Economic Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide Members with an update on the DAERA Rural Micro Business Small Grant Pilot Scheme.

Councillor Burton enquired about the people who applied for funding to the Town & Villages Business Spruce Up Scheme which were successful and asked if this was something they could apply for also.

The Head of Economic Development stated that as long as the business was rural and a micro enterprise employing less than the equivalent of 10 full time employees, and met the remaining project criteria, then they could apply to the scheme for small capital items at a rate of 50%, with maximum grant any business can attain being £4,999. She added however that timescales are extremely tight due to the funding parameters, and the closing date for applications is 18 December 2019 at 12 noon with the overall completion of funding projects by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

Councillor Ashton referred to the application and the level of detail required and enquired if it was straight forward or do applicants have to go far and beyond.

The Head of Economic Development advised that a standard application form was agreed with the funding body, DAERA, and was being used across the 10 Council areas outside of Belfast. She said that if any applications require help in terms of making an application, then they should contact the Rural Development Programme Manager who would provide guidance.

Proposed by Councillor Burton  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to be given to:

- (i) Note the update on the Rural Micro Business Small Grant Pilot Scheme and pressure on delivery timescales.
- (ii) Once the project applications are assessed, scored and ranked, that authority be granted to the Director of Business & Communities to approve the issue of letters of offer, up to the maximum grant funding available of £50,000, in order to allow the Rural Micro Business Small Grant Pilot Scheme to progress and be delivered within the timeframe available ie, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. A report to be brought to the Development Committee immediately afterwards to update Members on the outcome of assessment and scoring.

#### **D217/19      Review of Facility Opening Hours within Leisure Services**

Members considered previously circulated report and sought approval to change opening hours within Council operated leisure facilities, with an initial evaluation of current practices presented alongside an evaluation of a wide variety of customer-usage and benchmarking information to ascertain to what extent current access reflects customer demand.

Proposed opening hours:

| <b>Site</b>  | <b>Monday - Friday<br/>Opening Hours</b> | <b>Saturday<br/>Opening Hours</b> | <b>Sunday<br/>Opening Hours</b>        |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Greenvale LC<br>Cookstown LC<br>Dungannon LC<br>Maghera LC | 6.30am – 9pm                             | 8am – 4.30pm                      | 9am – 4pm                              |
| Meadowbank<br>MUSA   | 9am – 10 pm                              | 9am – 5pm                         | 10am – 4pm<br>*Seasonal<br>Variations* |

Councillor Kerr referred to item 3.4.3 of the report and enquired if this included individual specialist needs and would they be consulted.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that there was a consultation with some users of leisure facilities, and they wanted the opening hours to move towards mornings. She said that the consultation was with block bookings in the evening that was for other users of football, basketball etc. She said that the Council would be working towards accommodating the bookings in some way.

Councillor McNamee said that he was happy with this and felt that if there were any issues around opening times, that this could be revisited again.

The Chair referred to the extended Sunday opening hours and asked that after three months that a report be brought back on how the new scheme was working.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that the leisure centres are currently open on Sundays anyway for swimming lessons, club bookings etc. The extended Sunday opening would not be a huge issue as staff were there anyway.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the new opening times at Leisure Facilities as detailed above. After three months a report to be brought back on findings relating to Sunday opening hours.

In response to a member's query, the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that there was no definitive date for the reopening of Dungannon Leisure Centre but it was likely to be the end of January.

## **D218/19 Newferry to Toome Blueway Feasibility Study**

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report and sought permission to seek quotes for consultants to carry out a feasibility study for development of a proposed Blueway between Newferry and Toome.

Proposed by Councillor Milne  
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to procure a company to carry out a feasibility study for a Blueway from Newferry to Toome.

## **Matters for Information**

### **D219/19 Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 November 2019**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 November 2019.

Councillor McNamee enquired about the meeting with DfI regarding the Cookstown bypass and stated that it was previously raised at the Environment Committee with members being far from happy with the response. He also enquired if there was any update regarding the situation with Killymoon Golf Club as communication was needed by all parties.

The Director of Business and Communities said that it was anticipated that a meeting would take place in early January and wanted members to know that he understands how important it is.

Councillor Elattar referred to page 3 of minutes and asked that the sentence read –

“Councillor Elattar advised that the DEA meetings had taken place for members where issues had been raised and why had it not been raised then”

Councillor Doris referred to Councillor Milne’s proposal regarding Cappagh Village Regeneration Group and enquired if there was any update and the possibility of looking at a feasibility study.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that they met six members of the group last night and was a very productive meeting. He said that this project would be given priority as the community had been waiting 5 years for something to be done and we need to react accordingly by pulling a plan of sorts together to include consideration of the reservoirs and walkways. He stated that work has commenced at the village and a commitment has been made to work with them over a period of time which was deemed reasonable.

Councillor Cuddy referring to update regarding Cookstown bypass, stated that it was good to keep the pressure on. He said that the Council held a meeting with DfI regarding the plan for the next 15 years and Dungannon bypass was not mentioned at all which was very concerning as it was critical to the survival of our towns. He stated that the Chief Executive was very surprised as he was keen to make sure that Dungannon was being given the consideration it warranted.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that when the meeting was set up for Cookstown, Dungannon would also be investigated as they came as a package.

Councillor Cuddy said that it seems that Dungannon has been overlooked again with no discussion with Dungannon DEA’s or members.

Councillor Cuddy said that other areas like Enniskillen had they bypass moved up from 12<sup>th</sup> position to 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> position and felt that all towns had demands and there was a need to keep the pressure on DfI as Dungannon needed to get on the drawing board.

Councillor Burton advised that there was a high volume of deputations brought to the Development Committee and a lot of the time there was nothing ever heard about them again. She referred to what the outcome was of Caledon Regeneration

Partnership's proposal for the woolstore in Caledon and felt that members should be kept in the loop to update on the support they are receiving.

The Chair suggested that after a deputation presented to a meeting the following month an update should be brought to committee on progress.

Councillor Burton agreed that it would be beneficial for a report to be brought to the next committee meeting after deputation.

The Director of Business and Communications reassured members that follow ups are carried out with deputations and suggested if members were happy that a reporting mechanism could be provided every three months. Referring to Caledon he advised that the funding initiative was progressing, and an application would be forthcoming and stated that an update would be brought to committee.

#### **D220/19      Stone Mountain Highland Show and World Travel Market (WTM) 2019**

Members noted report on Stone Mountain Highland Show and World Travel Market (WTM) 2019.

#### **D221/19      Town Centre Forum Meetings**

Members noted report on Town Centre Forum Meetings.

Councillor Cuddy enquired about minutes from Dungannon Regeneration Partnership and if they could be included.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that DRP was a separate body, but if members wished he could liaise with them to see if minutes could be provided for information purposes.

### **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved**      In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items D222/19 to D227/19.

#### **Matters for Decision**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| D222/19 | Local Economic Development (LED) Measure of the EU Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme (IGJ) 2014-2020 |
| D223/19 | Development of Gymnastics Programme & Implementation of Instructor Development Programme                    |
| D224/19 | Review of Leisure Membership Packages   |

#### **Matters for Information**

- D225/19 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 November 2019
- D226/19 Update on Development for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2019/20
- D227/19 Mid-South West Region Growth Deal Report

**D228/19 Christmas Greetings**

The Chair wished members a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

**D229/19 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8 pm.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_