

Councillor Kim Ashton
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council
Dungannon Office
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT



3rd November 2017

RE: BRITAIN IN BLOOM 2018

Dear Councillor Ashton

On behalf of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association, may I congratulate you on your council's continued success in the Translink Ulster in Bloom competition. Your council is a credit to Northern Ireland.

In an effort to take the Council's success further, we are planning with your councils support, to nominate Castlecaulfield to represent Northern Ireland in the 'Village' category of the 2018 Royal Horticultural Society, Britain in Bloom Competition (please note - all nominations are subject to RHS approval).

We believe the Ulster in Bloom Competition has made a major contribution to the environmental improvement of Northern Ireland and in association with Britain in Bloom, it has generated valuable positive coverage for everyone involved.

I would encourage you to put this letter within the agenda of the Council or the most appropriate Standing Committee in order to ensure that your council members and officers are informed and are in support of this nomination.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Derek McCallan'.

Derek McCallan

Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Local Government Association

CC. Mr Anthony Tohill, Chief Executive, Mr Andrew Cassells, Director of Environment & Property Services, Mr Nat Woodside, Grounds and Cemeteries Manager and Mr Terry Scullion, Head of Property Services - Mid Ulster District Council.



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2 October 2017

Mr Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Council Offices
50 Ballyronan Road
MAGHERAFELT
BT45 6EN



Dear Mr Tohill

You may be aware that Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is planning to build a new crematorium on Council owned land on the Doagh Road, Newtownabbey referred to as the Ballyearl site. Given the location of this site we intend to provide a modern, high quality and accessible cremation service to customers from the wider North East region.

We initially considered two options to develop a new crematorium namely a public private partnership or a council operated facility (individual or joint council arrangement). Following detailed consideration we intend to progress on the basis of a Council operated facility and have approached the Department for Communities to put in place the necessary Regulations to facilitate this.

The capital construction cost of this facility is estimated to be £3.5 to £4.2 million.

Our proposal includes the following:

- (a) the crematorium will be developed on council owned land on the Doagh Road for which the Council has secured outline planning permission
- (b) a Reserved Matters application will be submitted by February 2018.
- (c) the Council appointed the required consultants in September 2017.
- (d) a facility will seat a minimum of 150 people with space for a further 50 standing. The space for each person is to be 0.5 square metres.
- (e) one cremator is initially planned with sufficient space for further additions with a view to making the process of increasing capacity as easy as possible.

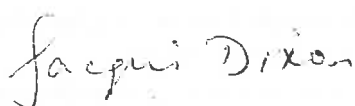
We are in the process of producing a Financial and Operational modelling report as part of the feasibility exercise for a new crematorium. One aspect that we will specifically include in this is a 'Council Partner/s' option which could reflect a capital and/or revenue contribution to the scheme from other Councils in return for a preferential rate for your residents and/or a share of the income. This should assist any Councils interested in a collaborative approach with their decision making.

Given the timeline which we are working towards, we would be happy to share with you more details about the specification for our proposal and any other details that may be useful.

At this stage it would be helpful if you could ask your Council "in principle" whether it would want to be part of this collaborative approach to service delivery. This would allow your Council to invest in a shared facility and make the benefits of this available to your residents and ratepayers. If this is the case, we could explore a number of options in terms of mutually beneficial collaborative arrangements.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqui Dixon". The script is cursive and fluid.

Jacqui Dixon, BSc MBA
Chief Executive