

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Monday 2 December 2019 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt**

Members Present

Councillor Buchanan, Chair

Councillors Brown, Burton, Cuthbertson, Glasgow,
Graham, McAleer (7.08 pm), McFlynn (7.13 pm),
McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McNamee, Milne,
Totten, Wilson

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services
Mr McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
Mrs McClements, Head of Environmental Health
Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services
Mr Wilkinson, Head of Building Control
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in
Attendance**

Agenda Item 4 – Northern Ireland Ambulance Service
Ms Stephanie Leckey – Community Resuscitation Lead

The meeting commenced at 7.01 pm

E292/19 Deputation – Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

The Chair, Councillor Buchanan welcomed Ms Leckey from the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service to the committee and invited her to present her overhead presentation entitled “Building a Community of Lifesavers in Mid Ulster Council Area (Appendix).

Ms Leckey thanked the committee for allowing her to present to the meeting tonight and referred to stats the team attended in 2017. She said that there were 9 fatalities from fire incidents and 63 road deaths and within Mid Ulster cardiac arrest were 28 female, 42 male and 1 not stated. The number of OHCA (*Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest*) were on average 4 per day (38% women and 62% men). It has been recognised that the national trend identifies a greater risk of cardiac arrest for patients greater than 65 years, with 65 years being the mean age. A small number of children and infants are also recorded as an infrequent occurrence and the cause of arrest varies and is usually due to a trauma or another issue.

Councillor McAleer entered the meeting at 7.08 pm.

Ms Leckey highlighted the chance of survival from Cardiac Arrest ranging from 1 minute 90% to 9 minutes 10%. She said that there is continuous education taking

place with schools and other groups to make them aware of how to deal with a situation regarding choking and trauma situations.

She said that people could sign up to the GoodSAM app which is an "Instant-On-Scene" which enables emergency services to open any caller's mobile phone camera (without the need for Apps such as Skype / FaceTime) and instantly locate and visualise the scene/patient. This enables better resource deployment and earlier care.

Councillor McFlynn entered the meeting at 7.13 pm.

The Chair thanked Ms Leckey for her impressive presentation and asked for any members comments.

Councillor McGinley said that it was a great presentation and knows first-hand the good work being carried out by Northern Ireland Ambulance Service as his father was one of the statistics which went into cardiac arrest but unfortunately it wasn't a good outcome for him but wanted to say that he was impressed by the quick response.

He referred to the GoodSam app and enquired if there was any particular regulation for signing up like completing a first aid course or can any member of the public get involved for media purposes.

Ms Leckey said that it was quite a rigorous process to register with GoodSam as there is a request to provide photographic ID and the latest certificate for CPR and basic life support which training being done within a 2-year timeframe.

Councillor McAleer said that it was a very valuable service to the area and enquired about how areas are monitored especially community groups within rural areas and how far apart the radius was.

Ms Leckey said that in the rural areas the radius has been opened up to one mile if a defibrillator is within that range and within urban areas it was a 500m radius as there could be a number of defibrillators available. She said they do not monitor the defibrillators as when people advertise their information on the website, this is taken as confirmation that all information is correct. She advised that a National Defibrillator Network event is anticipated to be held in February or March of next year and the purpose of this is to combine a national network across the UK as a way of integration as a way of progressing.

Ms Leckey referring to the maintenance of the defibrillators advised that every 90 days there is a message issued alerting people to check their batteries to keep the kit emergency ready.

Councillor Milne agreed that it was an informative presentation and enquired about the lifespan of the defibrillators.

Ms Leckey stated that when defibrillators are purchased some come with an 8-year warranty and no need for maintenance depending on what brand it is. She said that

some batteries and pads has an expiry date of 2 years, but others provided by Spar Group lasts 4 years and Zoll can last up to 5 years. She said that a Lithium battery is beneficial as there was no need for charging and only when the apparatus bleeps a new battery is needed.

Councillor Milne enquired about becoming a first responder and signing up for GoodSam.

Ms Leckey advised that responders are trained and referred to a co-ordinator after a 2-day process. She said that there was a process to go through including an AccessNI check before anyone can become involved. She advised that no scheme would be taken on until after June 2021 as best practice needed to be adhered too and all current training done before that but if people wished for public meetings that this could be completed through a co-ordinator appointed initiative.

Councillor McGinley said that it would be important for the Council to have this marked in their calendar when it goes live and once reopened, he asked that the Council give consideration to this initiative. He also referred to his comment earlier regarding the media and said he may have been a bit harsh but felt that only negative things arose through people calling wishing to sell things during his father's passing.

E293/19 Apologies

Councillor O' Neill.

E295/19 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Burton declared an interest in to Extension of the Agewell Contract.

E295/19 Chair's Business

Director of Public Health and Infrastructure referred to item raised at October meeting regarding Streamlining Road Closure Process and advised that the committee agreed that the fee should be waived for community/not for profit groups and that such groups to agree template for advertisement and place the advert at their own cost.

He said that after liaising with the legal team regarding the recommendation, they have come back to advise robustly that the Council must have responsibility for placing the ads and not the community.

Councillor S McGuigan advised that although that this was an unfortunate situation we have to adhere to legal opinion.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee

Seconded by Councillor McGinley and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the situation be reviewed after one year.

Councillor Glasgow referred to report presented last month on Refuse Collection Route Optimisation and said that he has received numerous complaints from residents in the Cookstown area but wanted to put it on record that he wished to thank the staff for their hard work but also wanted to raise concerns tonight regarding refuse collection.

He said that it was advised that information regarding bin collections/presented would be distributed to residents which has never been done, with his home included, no communication has been issued to residents on how bins are to be presented for collection. He said that the vehicle was down to one operator, resulting that the driver having to jump in and out of the lorry numerous times and that he had requested that information be issued to the driver and residents to make things easier which never was done.

Councillor Glasgow said that this was tested in October and has been operational for the last three weeks and there are still ongoing problems relating to it and was clear to see that there were huge differences between rural and urban areas. He said that a senior citizen lady contacted him complaining that her bin lid was left open resulting it being filled with rain water and unable to empty the contents herself she had to get her grandson to try and empty it and as it was a recycling bin all the contents had stuck to the bottom and had to be turned upside down for 3 days before she could use it again . He said that he felt that the quality of service was not up to scratch and this was causing a knock-on effect as bins are left on their sides, lids hanging off and some bins are left on the outside of the white line of the road.

Councillor Glasgow stated that rural needs are not being catered for and over the weeks more and more complaints are being raised by residents regarding the lack of information and communication. He said that when communication was issued by facebook and twitter, it was distributed at 7.30 pm the night before bin collection which was totally unacceptable as he was aware of a lady being away to work and the bin was sitting out for over a week and stressed the need for adequate communication to be delivered to residents on bin collection service.

The Director of Environment & Property said that Councillor Glasgow's points were well made and would take everything on board and didn't take any exceptions made by the Councillor.

Matters for Decision

E296/19 Dfl Roads Proposals to Mid Ulster District Council – Proposed Load Bay – Main Street, Castledawson

The Director of Environment & Property presented previously circulated report which sought approval in relation to proposal from Department for Infrastructure with regard

to introduction of loading bay, Monday to Saturday, 8.30 am to 6.30 pm on Main Street, Castledawson.

Councillor Milne advised that there was a lot of problems in Castledawson for local parking and stated that there were continuous issues relating to blocking and asked that the Council through their correspondence investigate parking restrictions on both sides of the street.

The Director of Environment & Property advised that correspondence can be sent to DfI Roads seeking a review of parking restrictions at Castledawson.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to:

- (i) Endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to the introduction of loading bay, Monday to Saturday, 8.30 am to 6.30 pm on Main Street, Castledawson.
- (ii) Write to DfI Roads seeking a review of parking restrictions at Castledawson.

E297/19 DfI Roads Proposals to Mid Ulster District Council – Proposed Amendments to Limited Waiting – Oldtown Street, Cookstown

The Director of Environment & Property presented previously circulated report which sought approval in relation to proposal from Department for Infrastructure with regard to proposed amendments to Limited Waiting – Oldtown Street, Cookstown.

Councillor Wilson advised that the map attached related to Lisnagleer and not Oldtown Street, Cookstown and said that there was a huge difference between the two and enquired if this was a mistake on behalf of DfI.

The Director of Environment & Property apologised and advised that he only became aware of the matter once the papers had been issued to members and asked if committee would be happy to defer this item until the January meeting when the new maps would be circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to defer the matter of Proposed Amendments to Limited Waiting – Oldtown Street, Cookstown until the correct map was circulated to members and to point out to DfI that there is a huge difference between Lisnagleer and Oldtown, Cookstown.

E298/19 Response to the DAERA Consultation on the Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland

The Director of Environment & Property presented previously circulated report to advise Members on the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) consultation on the Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland and to provide a Mid Ulster District Council response to the consultation.

The Chair advised that Mid Ulster was a rural area and we must support our rural communities.

Councillor McGinley said that it was an extremely detailed report and would agree to the contents within it. He referred to page 10, question 4 response on “*Behavioural Change for ‘business’ is crucial; DAERA should review current mechanisms for engaging with business, including Prosperity Agreements*” and said that this was a good point to bring out a bit more and promoting the issue of refunds for bottles and the use of water dispensing and very useful to draw it out.

He referred to page 14/15, question 9 any other comments and said that he wanted to comment to say that anything that helps wildlife and reduces environmental crime should be welcomed and liked the fact that there were measurable ideas which were timebound and would be happy to see the outcome.

Resolved That the next part of the discussion by taken in Confidential Business.

The Chair advised that the remainder of the discussion return to Open Business.

Resolved That the remainder of the discussion return to Open Business.

Councillor Wilson agreed that it was a very detailed report and referred to page 6/7 – other comments for Mid Ulster District Council and felt that the comments should be mandatory and not optional and raised in the main body of the response as it is an important issue. He felt that there should be an all-Ireland treatment as one and needs to be coming from more departmental, local authorities and community levels.

The Director of Environment & Property said that he appreciated members comments and in terms of the “Proximity Principle” would mean dealing with the source of waste as close as possible. He said that the Council was exporting a resource which could be used locally, and this could be incorporated into the response within the main body.

Councillor B McGuigan said that its fitting that we are responding on a piece of work and the fact we need to be strategic for the environment we have listed to pressure groups over the years on natural resources and the impact on the environment relating to mining etc. He said that he has been involved with the work carried out by NIEA and his view would be that they weren’t at the races at all and as they neither had the resources or manpower on the ground but stated that it was good that the pressure is on to protect the environment.

The Director of Environment & Property stated that he wanted to record his appreciation to Sustainable Northern Ireland for their assistance in the preparation of the response to the Consultation.

Councillor Cuthbertson left the meeting at 8 pm.

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the Members comments and approve the Draft Response (as set out in Appendix 2) of the report to the DAERA Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland.

E299/19 Review of Waste Collection Service Policy

The Head of Environment Services presented previously circulated report to update Members on a Review of Waste Collection Policy and sought approval to carry out a consultation exercise on a revised policy.

Councillor Milne enquired if the consultation was going to be issued just to members or was it was it going out to the general public.

The Director of Environment & Property advised that it would be issued to the public.

Councillor Milne asked if there was an opportunity for DEA's to have a meeting beforehand and referred to issues relating to Thorntown Lane as there were approximately 20 houses on the laneway which could be an issue taking the bins out.

The Director of Environment & Property stated if the road was not adopted but was built to a standard which was deemed accessible, considerations could be sought to do so. He said that he would be happy to organise seven DEA meetings with officers to progress the matter.

Councillor Glasgow referred to item 7.5.4 and the overfilling of bins and enquired if there was a weight restriction for one arm bin lifting apparatus.

He also referred to 7.8.1 and said that he supported this approach as this would not be a strain on GPs to sign clarification forms. He said that within the Rural Needs Impact Report, Section 4, bins collections/presentation should be referred within the report as 300 houses in the Cookstown rural area are requested to take their bins to the other side of the road and to keep ourselves covered, this should be recorded and properly examined.

The Head of Environment Services advised that it was a very small number of people which would be asked to bring their bins to the other side of the road.

Councillor Glasgow said that this may be the case, but it only takes one complaint and feels that there should a safeguard to protect the Council.

Councillor Wilson referred to item 7.3.2 and said more should be done to encourage people to use brown bin recycling.

He also referred to item 8.4 regarding requests for collection of bulky household waste and felt that it the option of telephone requests and online payment should be investigated as some people especially the elderly struggle with online methods and writing.

Councillor Wilson referred to item 7.6 – Contaminated Wheelie Bins an felt that there is not enough emphasis being put into combating this especially with the brown bins.

He also raised the issue of opening hours of Recycling Centres during summer months and felt that the opening times should be regulated to set hours for all as this was causing some confusion

Councillor McGinley said that it was an interesting consultation and would look forward to seeing the responses. He said that the size of the response would not interest the ordinary Joe Bloggs and wanted to know how this was going to be achieved. He said that he would be looking forward to seeing how this was going to be done effectively and efficiently and felt there could be an issue relating to schools and their reducing budgets. He said that last month he asked for revised opening times but said that he would be happy to see it being incorporated in the consultation.

The Chair said it may be worthwhile considering deferring the issue until the DEAs were consulted.

The Director of Environment & Property said that there could be implications if this was deferred and stated that all he was doing was making members aware of the situation as there were only a few minor changes to the current Policy..

Councillor Brown said that after taking up what the Director of Environment & Property said, he suggested that an extension to the consultation should be made to get the ball rolling and wouldn't be wise to rail-track this, but to incorporate into a twelve-week consultation period on the revised policy commencing January 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor McGinley

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to:

- (i) Note the contents of the Waste Collection Policy and to approve a twelve-week consultation period on the revised policy commencing in January 2020.
- (ii) DEA meetings to be arranged to discuss concerns raised.

Councillor Burton enquired if schools were going to be notified and if there would be engagement with the community as the people of Clogher feels that they didn't have an opportunity to regarding the recycling closure episode.

The Director of Environment & Property advised that this would be relative to commercial customers as schools were now within the remit of the Civil Service. He said that notifications would be issued with invoices to commercial customers in February.

E300/19 Funding Request for the Live Here Love Here Programme to be Supported by Mid Ulster Council for 2020/21

The Head of Environment presented previously circulated report to updated Members on a request received for Mid Ulster Council to continue to support the Live Here Love Here (LHLH) programme which works in conjunction with Keep NI Beautiful, Coca Cola, McDonalds, NIHE and other participating Councils.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to support the Live Here Love Here programme for 2020/21 at a cost to Council of £21,000 with £10,500 coming back into the community through the small grants programme.

Councillor Glasgow left the meeting at 8.23 pm

E301/19 Air Quality Meeting October 2019

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report to provide a further update on the ongoing work in relation to Air Quality across the Mid Ulster District Council area and outlines proposed actions within the current Council Action Plan as a result of a recent meeting with elected Members and representatives from other relevant departments and organisations.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the additional points from the meeting outlined within the report and in Appendix 2 and incorporate into the Council Air Quality Action Plan.

E302/19 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report to ask for consideration regarding the naming of streets within proposed residential development as follows:

- Site off Sixtowns Road, Straw, Draperstown

The proposed following options have been submitted for consideration:

- 1) Stranahinch
- 2) St Columba's Park
- 3) Whitewater Park

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

To go with Option 1 – Stranahinch

Proposed by Councillor Brown

To proceed with option 3 – Whitewater Park as it fitted in better with the area.

Councillor B McGuigan said that the developer would be keen to proceed with Option 1.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to proceed with Option 1 – Stranahinch.

Matters for Information

E303/19 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 12 November 2019

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 12 November 2019.

The Director of Public Health & Infrastructure referred to item E264/19 – Bus Shelters which was raised last month and said that Policy Officers had confirmed that this item did not need rural proofing.

Councillor McGinley said that he accepted the response if relating to technical but was not convinced. He said that there was a different approach for urban and rural areas and as a rural Councillor he found it unacceptable. He said that the technical designs should be looked again and brought back to committee.

The Director of Public Health & Infrastructure said that a summary update report could be brought back so members can have the opportunity to have it reviewed .

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the Bus Shelter technical design be brought back to committee to give members an opportunity to reconsider the report.

E304/19 Environmental Services – Christmas Working Arrangements

Members noted preciously circulated report which provided update on working arrangements in respect of refuse/recycling collection and operation of Recycling Centres during the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

E305/19 European Week for Waste Reduction 2019

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on European Week for Waste Reduction 2019 activities.

E306/19 Noise Complaint Statistics for Northern Ireland 2017/2018

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Noise Complaint Statistics for Northern Ireland 2017/2018.

E307/19 Building Control Workload

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the workload analysis for Building Control.

E308/19 Entertainment Licensing Applications

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Entertainment Licensing Applications across the Mid Ulster District.

E309/19 Dual Language Signage Requests

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of requests for Dual Language Signage from residents on streets/roads in the District.

Councillor McNamee advised that a number of signs had been damaged again and asked if these had been reported.

The Director of Environment & Property advised that a number had been reported today.

E310/19 Dual Language Signage Surveys

Members noted previously circulated report which advised on the results of surveys undertaken on all applicable residents on the streets/roads in response to Dual Language Signage nameplate requests.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor Burton 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 item E311/19 to E322/19.

Matters for Decision

- E311/19 Response to the DAERA Consultation on the Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland
- E312/19 Entertainment Licensing – Greenvale Hotel
- E313/19 Application for the Renewal of a Mobile Street Trading Licence
- E314/19 Extension of the Agewell Contract
- E315/19 Installation of a Memorial Bench on Council Property
- E316/19 Grounds Maintenance Towns and Villages Awards Feedback
- E317/19 Off Street Car Park Pay on Foot Pilot Scheme Procurement
- E318/19 Tender Report for Purchase of Seasonal Planting
- E319/19 Tender for Collection, Processing and Recycling of Hard Plastics

Matters for Information

- E320/19 Confidential Minutes of Environment Committee held on 12 November 2019
- E321/19 Capital Works Update – Tullyvar Landfill Phase 4 Capping
- E322/19 Cemeteries Administration Costs and the Scale of Charges
- E323/19 Capital Update

E324/19 Christmas Greetings

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

E325/19 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 8.50 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____