

Minutes of Meeting of the Special Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 29 September 2015 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor Burton, Chair

Councillors Clarke (7.12 pm), Elattar, Forde, McEldowney, McNamee, Molloy, Monteith, C O'Neill, T Quinn (7.04 pm), J Shiels and Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Ms Campbell, Director of Culture and Leisure
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Mr Browne, Head of Tourism
Mr McCrory, PCSP Programme Manager
Mrs Grogan, Committee Services Officer

Agenda Item 3: Mindwise

Edward Gorringer & Lee Campbell

Agenda Item 5: Ulster GAA

Ryan Feeney

Agenda Item 6: NI Strategic Migration Partnership

Ken Bishop & Mary Kerr

Agenda Item 7: Alzheimer's Society

Mona McGlade & Sharon Crooks

Agenda Item 9: Agewell Partnership

Marie Devlin, Eileen McGuigan, Geraldine Hughes & Ursula Scullion

The meeting commenced at 7.03 pm.

D178/15 Apologies

Councillors Dillon, Reid and G Shiels.
Moortown GAA.

D179/15 Declaration of Interests

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

D180/15 Mindwise

The Chair, Councillor Burton welcomed Mr Edward Gorringe and Ms Lee Campbell to the meeting.

Mr Gorringe gave a brief synopsis of the work carried out by Mindwise and highlighted the fact that 1 in 4 people will experience some kind of mental health problem in the course of a year. He explained the damaging impact stigma and discrimination has on those with mental health issues and encouraged the council help break down this stigma by promoting mental health and wellbeing in their community (appendix 1).

He asked that the Council consider appointing a Mental Health Champion to promote mental health and wellbeing within the council area and ensure that mental health is considered in community planning decisions.

Councillor Clarke entered the meeting at 7.12 pm.

The Chair, Councillor Burton thanked Mr Gorringe for his impressive presentation and asked for members comments.

In response to a query from Councillor Elattar regarding the process of being referred to Mindwise, Mr Gorringe advised that once a person has been diagnosed with mental health issues they will be referred by their GP, Social Worker or Health Trust to the organisation.

Councillor J Shiels stated that there is a stigma attached to mental health and would fully support the request from Mr Gorringe of appointing a Mental Health Champion.

The Chair, Councillor Burton advised that if the organisation were willing to collect old furniture from Tullyvar Landfill site, they would be welcome to use it for their News Style Furniture projects.

The Chair, Councillor Burton thanked Mr Gorringe and Ms Campbell for their attendance and asked that a letter be sent to the Council so that the Party Leaders can make a decision.

The representatives of Mindwise withdrew from the meeting at 7.25 pm.

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 7.26 pm and returned at 7.30 pm.

D181/15 NI Strategic Migration Partnership

The Chair, Councillor Burton welcomed Mr Ken Bishop and Ms Mary Kerr to the meeting.

Mr Bishop gave a brief synopsis of the work carried out by NI Strategic Migration Partnership and advised that it is a multi-agency, cross-party and cross-departmental body working to reflect the regionally specific needs of Northern Ireland in the development and implementation of UK policy.

The NI Strategic Migration Partnership works across spheres of government, private and voluntary sectors in the region to ensure that Northern Ireland is a welcoming place for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and supports the retention and integration of people in a way which meets skills and labour requirements to support future economic growth. The partnership ensures that Northern Ireland's needs and concerns with regards to immigration are recognised within the constraints of a UK-wide strategy. It will play a strategic leadership, advisory and co-ordination role for migration in the region. NI Strategic Migration Partnership is an independent body made up of relevant stakeholders and is hosted by its lead partner NILGA (appendix 2).

The Chair, Councillor Burton thanked the group for their presentation and asked for members comments.

Councillor Molloy advised that there is a large and diverse number of settled migrants and asked how often the research is updated.

Ms Kerr explained statistics are drawn from the Office of National Statistics ie. NISRA but there is a need for new research or agency organisation for a one stop website for up to date information.

Councillor Wilson felt that the statistics outlined on the Mid-Ulster Profile may not show a true reflection for the Mid Ulster area, unless the base figure is known.

The Director of Business and Communities to get a detailed profile from Representatives of NI Strategic Migration Partnership and circulate to members.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that Officers from Community Development, Arts & Culture etc would like to sit down with NILGA and keep up to date.

The Director of Business and Communities advised members that there would be no conflict of interest in any form regarding NILGA.

The representatives of NI Strategic Migration Partnership left the meeting at 7.45 pm.

The Chair, Councillor Burton advised that an apology had been received from Moortown GAA club who were due to make a presentation to the meeting tonight.

D182/15 Ulster GAA

Declaration of Interest

The following Councillors declared an interest in the Ulster GAA.

Councillors Clarke, Elattar, McEldowney, McNamee, Molloy, Monteith and C O'Neill.

The Chair, Councillor Burton welcomed Mr Ryan Feeney to the meeting.

Mr Feeney gave a brief synopsis of the work carried out by the Ulster GAA and advised that the GAA is the world's largest volunteer sporting, cultural and community organisation with over 1.2 million members of 3,000 clubs located in 54 countries across the world. The GAA promotes the indigenous sports of the island of Ireland namely Hurling, Gaelic Football, Camogie, Handball and Rounders in addition to the promotion of Irish Culture, Language and Pastimes. The GAA is an amateur sporting body governed by volunteers. The Ard Chomhairle (Central Council) of the GAA comprises delegates from GAA units across the world and oversees the governance and policy direction of the GAA (appendix 3).

The Chair, Councillor Burton thanked Mr Feeney for this comprehensive presentation and felt it was interesting to see the amount of time allocated to Health and wellbeing at which she asked for members comments.

In response to Councillor Forde's question regarding young people getting involved in Road Safety initiatives, Mr Feeney advised that the Ulster GAA run a very successful campaign called "Live to Play", which is a Road Safety Programme which raises awareness and educates members on how best to stay safe on the roads. The Campaign has enabled Ulster GAA to promote the message in Schools and Clubs and at major Ulster Championship Football and Hurling fixtures. The PSNI, Fire Service and the media are also involved in the campaign.

In response to Councillor McNamee's question regarding update on O'Neill Park, Mr Feeney advised that this has been put on hold due to the situation at Casement Park as it's the priority.

Councillor Monteith stated the primary schools and 4 main clubs in Dungannon are working very hard to integrate the migrant children into the GAA. He felt that there is a need for the GAA outside Dublin to be more proactive in integrating the migrant population into the GAA by providing toolkits for clubs i.e Interpreters etc.

Mr Feeney said that he would take on board Councillor Monteith's sentiments but advised that the GAA have launched their "New Irish" campaign which welcomes many migrants who now live in our communities. A DVD has been translated into 12 different languages which has been a useful tool in helping to introduce the GAA to newcomers which outlines all of the various skills of hurling and gaelic football.

The Chair, Councillor Burton thanked Mr Feeney for his attendance and asked that an update be provided to Councillor Monteith on integration of the migrant population.

Mr Feeney withdrew from the meeting at 8.02 pm.

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 8.03 pm.

D183/15 Alzheimer's Society Partnership

The Chair, Councillor Burton welcomed Mona McGlade and Sharon Crooks to the meeting.

Ms McGlade gave a brief synopsis of the work carried out by the Alzheimer's Society in working with people with dementia.

Dementia is an umbrella term to describe Alzheimer's, Vascular, Lewy Body, Korsakoff's, CJD and Fronto-temporal which affects 19765 people in Northern Ireland, with 1317 people being from Mid Ulster area. It is estimated that one in three people will experience dementia. This costs the government over £26 billion per year with family carers saving the UK over £11 billion per annum.

The service provided in the Mid Ulster area involves one-to-one visits, support groups, dementia information programmes, dementia friendly communities, awareness raising, side-by-side service, activity clubs/friendship groups/social outings, advocacy and the provision of a helpline (appendix 4).

Ms Crooks gave an overview of what it's like on a daily basis to be a Carer for her mother and the invaluable help received from the Alzheimer's Society.

The Chair, Councillor Burton thanked Ms McGlade and Ms Crooks for their presentation and commended them on their invaluable work toward the Alzheimer's Society.

In response to a query from the Chair, Councillor Burton regarding referrals to the Society, Ms McGlade advised that this could take up to 2 or 3 years as it could take time to come to terms with the condition.

Councillor Forde commended the Alzheimer's Society work and all the Carers who devote so much of their time looking after loved ones and enquired how aware is the public of the organisation.

Ms McGlade advised that leaflets are displayed in local libraries, Doctors surgeries and community halls, with advertisements being carried in the Mid Ulster Mail and the Derry Post.

The Chair, Councillor Burton suggested contacting COSTA to advertise in their community newsletter.

The Director of Business and Communities said that officers within Community Development would meet up with the Organisation and see how community awareness can be progressed.

Councillor Elattar suggested that adverts could be displayed on PCSP screens in post Primary Schools and towns to help promote the campaign.

The PCSP Manager advised that the screens are only in the Magherafelt part of the district, but if the information was sent to him that he would put them on.

The representatives from the Alzheimer's Society left the meeting at 8.18 pm.

Councillor C O'Neill left the meeting at 8.19 pm.

D184/15 Agewell Partnership

Declaration of Interest

The Chair, Councillor Burton declared an interest in Agewell Partnership at which she vacated the Chair, but did not leave the room.

Councillor Monteith, Vice Chair took the Chair.

The Chair, Councillor Monteith welcomed to the meeting Marie Devlin, Eileen McGuigan, Geraldine Hughes & Ursula Scullion.

Ms McGuigan gave a brief synopsis of the work carried out by the Agewell Partnership stating that it was a Partnership of statutory and community/voluntary organisation providing a unique service supporting Older and Vulnerable people within the Mid Ulster Community to help them live safely and comfortably in their own homes.(appendix 5)

Ms McGuigan explained that Agewell Partnership's aim was to:

- Improve health and well-being
- Reduce isolation
- Improve security and safety
- Reduce fear of crime
- Make communities more aware of what matters to older people
- Reduce poverty levels, including fuel poverty
- Help organisations to work together better for the benefit of older people

Ms McGuigan outlined 3 options for the future of Agewell Partnership:

- Option 1: End Project
- Option 2: Big Lottery "People and Communities Northern Ireland" Fund
- Option 3: Cocktail of funding from various Stakeholders

The Chair, Councillor Monteith thanked Ms McGuigan for her presentation and asked members for any comments.

Councillor J Shiels commended the work that is being carried out by the organisation and having witnessed their daily work routine, from office staff to workmen doing home maintenance, it's a brilliant service provided and everyone involved in the organisation deserves credit and felt that Option 1 should not even be considered.

Councillor Molloy felt that there needed to be a value put on the service to show the investment i.e. staff and volunteers etc.

Councillor McEldowney stated that the Health Service should know that "prevention was better than cure".

Ms McGuigan agreed and felt that support needs to come from the political arena as demands on the organisation is very high. Hospitals are releasing patients far too

early which is causing a strain on the organisation, which is why there is a tremendous need for support from the Council.

In response to a query from Councillor Elattar regarding lobbying the Trust at Committee, the Director of Business and Communities said that he would take this on board.

Councillor Forde said that she wouldn't like to see the organisation being forced to close and would do all she could to keep the project going.

Councillor Forde advised that there is a need to see where the funding can be sourced and as a Council will try to do all that is possible.

The Director of Business & Communities advised that there is 3 plans of action:

1. The PCSP Manager is developing a Business Plan on Finance Framework & Structure for Post 16.
2. The Chief Executive & himself to meet the Public Health Agency next week and to raise the issue of Agewell Partnership.
3. Council representatives previously met the Northern Trust & Southern Trust regarding the closure of Westland & Roxborough House Care Homes, but felt it would be more proactive if all organisations involved in trying to stop the closure of the facilities came together and work on one agenda.

The Chair, Councillor Monteith thanked the representatives from Agewell Partnership at which they withdrew from the meeting.

D185/15 Duration of Meeting

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

CHAIR _____

DATE _____