

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council  
held on Wednesday 23 October 2019 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,  
Magherafelt**

<b>Members Present</b>	Councillor Wilson, Chair  Councillors Ashton, Burton (7.06 pm), Corry (7.08 pm), Doris (7.07 pm), Elattar, Hughes, Kearney, Kerr (7.01 pm), McNamee, Molloy (7.11 pm)
<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities Mr Clarke, Community Development Manager Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Others in Attendance</b>	<b><u>Agenda Item 4 – Deputations</u></b> <b>Caledon Regeneration Partnership (Wool Store) -</b> William Beattie and Sandra Mortimer <b>Killymoon Golf Club -</b> Anthony McCann <b>Maghera Cross Community Link –</b> Gabhán McFalone, Heather Boyd and Ruth Watterson <b>Mid Ulster Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy -</b> Joe Coney and Colleen Skeffington

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

*Councillor Kerr entered the meeting at 7.01 pm.*

**D182/19      Apologies**

Councillors Black, Cuddy, Milne and Monteith.

**D183/19      Declaration of Interests**

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

**D184/19      Chair's Business**

No issues.

**D185/19      Deputations**

The Chair advised members that there were four deputations presenting tonight and welcomed them all to the committee.

- **Killymoon Golf Club**

The Chair welcomed Mr Anthony McCann from Killymoon Golf Club and invited him to deliver his presentation.

Mr McCann delivered his presentation which provided an overview of Killymoon Golf Club and what their aim for the future. He updated members on the potential detrimental effect the new Cookstown By-pass could have on the Golf Club and the lack of financial backing from some financial institutions.

*Councillor Burton entered the meeting at 7.06 pm.*

*Councillor Doris entered the meeting at 7.07 pm.*

*Councillor Corry entered the meeting at 7.08 pm.*

*Councillor Molloy entered the meeting at 7.11 pm.*

He said that the Club's ambition was to raise Killymoon's profile and make it into a huge success, which has already begun with Michael Gallagher being successful in bringing the Irish Junior Open to Killymoon which proved a very popular event amongst all ages attending. He concluded by saying that a submission would be presented to the Council shortly and that confirmation at the earliest instance on the preferred route would be gladly welcomed, otherwise this initiative would be a waste of time.

The Chair thanked Mr McCann for his presentation and invited Members questions.

Councillor McNamee advised that he had attended a meeting organised by Linda Dillon MLA to meet representatives from DfI and the Director of Business and Communities and said that it was good to hear the direction we were going in as this was good news regarding the extension of the course being constructed before the new deal was implemented.

He stated that he had proposed at Council that Cookstown DEA's meet with DfI to progress the bypass and to look at concerns around the Golf Club, which his party had done on a few occasions, but no meeting had taken place from last year and his intention would be to keep the pressure on DfI for around the same route.

The Chair referred to the City Growth Deal announcement regarding funding towards the three Council's (Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon/Fermanagh & Omagh/Mid Ulster District Council) being allocated a share of the £163m projected for Northern Ireland and said that he hoped that some of the funding would be spent on roads, as he didn't foresee much change on the preferred route and anticipated it being in place sooner rather than later.

Councillor Kearney advised that he had been invited by Michael Gallagher to attend the Junior Golf Day and commended staff on their welcoming manner with large crowds attending the tremendous event.

Councillor McNamee advised that a meeting has been arranged for this Friday with representatives from DfI and MPs and MLAs from his party.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that DfI had been asked by Council to provide a follow up update but felt that the bypass was not going to be lost on the Council as Cookstown town centre was curtailed and this was impacting greatly on retail businesses. He said that he appreciated Killymoon's patience but felt that this was all very achievable and was a priority for this Council to keep any economic plans moving forward.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson thanked the group for their attendance and agreed that the Council keep in contact with the representatives of Killymoon Golf Club on a regular basis to keep them up to date on any developments.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson thanked representatives of Killymoon Golf Club for their attendance and they withdrew from the meeting at 7.21 pm

- **Caledon Regeneration Partnership – Caledon Wool Store**

*Councillor Burton declared an interest in Caledon Regeneration Partnership*

The Chair welcomed Mr William Beattie and Ms Sandra Mortimer from Caledon Regeneration Partnership and invited them to deliver their presentation (appendix 1).

Mr Beattie delivered the presentation which provided an overview of Caledon Wool Store and its ambition to construct it into a Proposed Children's Daycare Facility based at Mill Street Terrace, Caledon. He said that this facility was vastly needed by the Caledon population and its surrounding rural areas.

*Councillor Kerr left the meeting at 7.26 pm and returned at 7.27 pm.*

Mr Beattie took members through potential funding contributions which were secured/waiting reply towards a total cost of £515,000 and sought £50,000 funding from the Council to move the project forward. He brought members attention to the letter of comfort from the Department for Communities advising that the project was on track.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson thanked representatives for their presentation and invited Members questions.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson asked that Officers investigate if there was any eligible funding available through the Discretionary Grant Initiative.

The representatives from Caledon Regeneration withdrew from the meeting at 7.36 pm.

- **Maghera Cross Community Link**

The Chair welcomed Mr Gabhán McFalone, Heather Boyd and Ruth Watterson from Maghera Cross Community Link and invited them to deliver their presentation (appendix 2).

Mr McFalone delivered the presentation which provided an overview of the work carried out by Maghera Cross Community Link. He advised that the group was in existence for five years with a lot of beneficial changes within Maghera town for the better as it tackled a series of problems like anti-social behaviour and drugs etc. He said that the group encouraged skills building accredited and non-accredited courses through Personal Youth Development Programme, Peace IV, Youth Intervention Programme and Pre School Classes, After School Classes and Evening Classes whilst working with other statutory agencies.

He asked that the Council consider Maghera Cross Community Group for future funding.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson said that he wanted to commend Maghera Cross Community Link and the Officers involved with the group and asked for any Members questions.

Councillor Ashton thanked the representatives for their informative presentation and said she would be interested to know what the ratio of the uptake was.

Ms Boyd advised that the Youth Intervention Programme in the summer was very successful with both catholic and protestant youth having equal numbers of attendance. She said that the Dance Class had a high percentage of protestants for the first year and this is shown how things have changed for the better and a good mix.

Councillor Kearney said that he could confirm and commend all the good work the group was doing across the community and stated that the location was very central and a real asset to the Maghera area.

Councillor Corry said that she wanted to commend the group on their excellent work and would encourage this Council to continue to support the organisation in any way they can.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson thanked the representatives for their attendance tonight and advised that the Officers would work with the group to investigate whether funding was available through any grants.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson thanked the representatives from Maghera Cross Community Link, and they withdrew from the meeting at 7.51 pm.

- **Mid Ulster Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy (MACP)**

The Chair welcomed Mr Joe Coney and Colleen Skeffington from Mid Ulster Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy (MACP) and invited them to deliver their presentation (appendix 3).

Mr Coney delivered the presentation and advised members that the group was founded in August 2012 and were a constituted charity which were not-for profit Charitable organisation which provided a counselling service from 15-year olds to over 50-year olds. He said that as the group was ongoing for 7 years, consideration has been given on whether to grow the project or just keep it the way it is, but it is evident that mental health issues are continually on the rise.

He advised that the group doesn't have an appropriate building to move forward with the project and there was a need for change in the near future as a counselling and mental health hub which can be utilised by anyone within the mental health profession. He said that during research carried out, people from the Protestant community indicated that they would be more content if the building was on the outskirts of Coalisland town with a garden which would enhance a calming, relaxing feel to people suffering from mental health issues.

Mr Coney concluded by saying that the success of the organisation speaks for itself as presently run by volunteers with 50% of people using the service presenting suicidal tendencies, with no-one advancing on this which was a huge success.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson commended the work of the volunteers and indicated how important this service was as 50% of people presenting suicide thoughts were helped through this programme successfully.

The Chair enquired about the timeline of the project and asked if a business case had been completed.

Mr Coney advised that the project was in its early stages but just wanted to plant the seed to advance the venture over the next few years.

In response to a member's query, Mr Coney advised that MACP provides a person with a counselling service for however long it takes for them to recover and not fixed to only 4 to 6 sessions like other groups, which is the secret to recovery for mental health issues.

Councillor Kerr commended Ms Skeffington and Mr Coney and said that it was a pleasure to be working with them as they were passionate about mental health issues. He said that the service was a huge asset to the community as mental health issues were not to be discriminated against.

Councillor Elattar also commended the group on their fantastic work and enquired if they have ever been in contact with STEPS in Draperstown.

Mr Coney said that they had been in contact through a consultation event at Ballyronan regarding research which was being carried out with the Trust commissioned by

University of Ulster. He advised that the research carried out was the work already being carried out on the ground.

Councillor Elattar advised that STEPS in Draperstown has now some qualified Counsellors and like MACP there was no time limit on their counselling sessions. She said that it may be beneficial investigating MACP and STEPS working together to share ideas etc.

Councillor Doris commended the group and advised that Councillor McGinley had brought a Notice of Motion to the September Council on Suicide Awareness and it was agreed that the Council sets up a meeting with the Department of Health and our partners in the community and voluntary sector to explore how we can work together to achieve the targets set out by the Chief Medical Officer, Michael McBride. She said that it was an exciting that there was a piece of land available for such a worthwhile project.

Councillor Burton thanked Mr Coney for his presentation and enquired about outreach coverage to the Clogher Valley and Fivemiletown areas and the community links and where the core funding came from.

Mr Coney advised that currently the service wasn't operational in the Clogher Valley and Fivemiletown areas but it was anticipated to enhance this in the future, but there was ongoing work with COSTA.

He referred to the funding aspect of the project and advised that funding was raised by the group themselves through small grants etc which is allocated to the overall running costs as there was not a lot of money required for the development up to this point which was sourced through the Halifax and National Lottery. He said the group was fortunate to have student counsellors to run the project themselves as they need 100 hours built up to gain their qualification and with 25 student counsellors this resulted in 2500 hrs being devoted to the project. He advised that within the last 7 years fantastic work has been carried out by all volunteers and with only 2 placements to each 5 applications this is very demanding but is proud of the fact that this project has been run very efficiently with very little running costs to date and this is why the group survived.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson commended MACP on their magnificent work and enquired if the group had considered Gortgonis as a base for their new premises.

Mr Coney advised that the problem with Gortgonis was that some people may feel uncomfortable attending Coalisland and research has shown that they would be more relaxed at an out of the town base complete with a massive garden to help them feel more comfortable within the surroundings. He advised that Councillor Colvin had indicated that the Unionist Community would feel more at ease if the new premises were on the outskirts of the town and this would certainly attract more people.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson thanked the representatives from Mid Ulster Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy (MACP) and asked that a Business Case be forwarded on to Council so that work can be progressed with the group.

The representatives from Mid Ulster Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy (MACP) withdrew from the meeting at 8.20 pm.

The Chair thanked members for their attendance tonight and said that it was beneficial that these presentations take place as these projects have a major impact on the community.

**D186/19      Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.25 pm.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_