

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Tuesday 14 November 2017 in Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

Members Present

Councillor M Quinn, Chair

Councillors Burton (7.08 pm), Cuthbertson, Gillespie, Glasgow, Kearney, McFlynn, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McNamee, Mulligan, Reid, Totten

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
Miss Thompson, Committee Services Officer

In Attendance

Fergus Cumiskey, CEO Contact

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor McGinley, Deputy Chair Councillor M Quinn took the Chair.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

E271/17 Apologies

Councillors Buchanan, McGinley and O'Neill.

E272/17 Declarations of Interest

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

E273/17 Chair's Business

Councillor Mulligan referred to toilet provision in Aughnacloy and asked for an update on same. The Councillor also referred to grass cutting of bank in Augher and the need for a tidy up for the end of the season.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that future public toilet provision in Augnacloy had been linked to Mcllwaine Hall which is in Council ownership. The Director advised that there was a need for discussion with Business and Communities regarding planned use of Mcllwaine Hall and business need for toilet improvement. The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that a report would be brought back to committee on this matter.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that grass cutting season had now passed but agreed to look at area requiring tidy up in Augher.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure provided update from Department of Infrastructure regarding Parking and Waiting Restriction Orders for Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt. The Department advised that once draft Orders have been finalised they will be subject to the necessary legislative process. The correspondence further advised that approval to make the Orders is usually given by a Minister but given the current political context, will be considered by the Permanent Secretary of the Department.

The Director of Environment and Property provided update in relation to last week's road traffic accident involving Council refuse vehicle and condition of employees involved.

The Chair, Councillor Quinn sent the committee's best wishes to the driver of the refuse vehicle.

Councillor Gillespie congratulated Donaghmore on their recent gold award win at Britain in Bloom Awards.

E274/17 Contact

The Chair, Councillor Quinn advised that as Mr Cumiskey was yet to arrive committee would proceed with meeting business and would return to this item later.

Councillor Burton entered the meeting at 7.08 pm.

Matters for Decision

E275/17 Street Naming and Property Numbering

Members considered previously circulated report regarding the naming of new residential housing development within Mid Ulster as follows –

Site off Killymeal Road, Dungannon

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development off Killymeal Road, Dungannon as Sycamore Drive.

Continuation of E274/17 Contact

The Chair welcomed Mr Cumiskey CEO of Contact to the meeting who provided overview on the work of Lifeline, Contact and briefing on the Northern Ireland Suicide Prevention Bill.

Mr Cumiskey advised that Contact had led the Lifeline service for the past 10 years. He stated that the Lifeline service is fully funded by the Department for Health and provides direct access to a counsellor 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Mr Cumiskey advised that during the past 10 years Lifeline had dealt with 70000 calls, of these calls 52,000 individuals had been given support with 36,000 receiving face to face counselling within a week of their initial call. It was advised that 70% of people who die from suicide have not been in contact with anyone beforehand.

Mr Cumiskey advised of risk factors to suicide and the need for prejudices to be addressed. Mr Cumiskey also referred to the Northern Ireland Suicide Prevention Bill which includes the proposal for 3 clinical duties of Candour, Competence and Cooperation.

The Chair, Councillor M Quinn asked if there were links between addiction and suicide.

Mr Cumiskey advised that isolation is a key factor to suicide along with the fear of relationship loss and homelessness. Mr Cumiskey advised that there was a need for issues to be dealt with in a more comprehensive fashion. Mr Cumiskey also felt that a proportion of tax on alcohol should be put towards alcohol prevention strategies.

Councillor Reid spoke with regard to the number of young people who had taken their lives. He congratulated Lifeline on the challenging work they do and stated he would fully support the Northern Ireland Suicide Prevention Bill and that getting people the help they need, including in the workplace, when they need it is the biggest barrier. Councillor Reid also referred to counselling training and asked if there were differences in the way this was delivered.

Councillor S McGuigan referred to the rising suicide figures and asked how the Prevention Bill would help to change this trend.

Councillor Burton referred to patients who have turned 18 and that parents are not allowed in to consultations due to patient confidentiality and the distress this causes for parents. The Councillor also spoke with regard to those who have lost loved ones and that they don't know where to go for support. Councillor Burton also asked if Contact works with any other group in relation to Post Natal Depression.

Mr Cumiskey referred to work of Dr Owens in Exeter who worked with 35 families who lost loved ones to suicide. Mr Cumiskey advised that Dr Owens found that members of the family had retrospectively saw signs beforehand but were afraid to speak to the person in relation to their issues for fear of putting the idea of suicide into their head.

Mr Cumiskey felt it was vital to make the case that whoever needs to be in the consultation should be in the consultation and that when a patient is on their own with a doctor/counsellor they often behave differently than when a loved one would be present.

Councillor Glasgow referred to point 5 contained within manifesto as previously circulated which referred to mental health championship and support from NI Assembly. The Councillor asked what assistance there had been from the Executive as the Assembly was currently not sitting.

Councillor Kearney thanked Mr Cumiskey for his presentation and stated he had given Members a lot to think about and felt there would be links to Council's Community Plan. Councillor Kearney also referred to the work of the Samaritans.

Mr Cumiskey advised that Contact/Lifeline work with the Samaritans who also provide a helpline service. Mr Cumiskey advised that there was currently no mental health champion and felt greater support was needed from government in relation to mental health.

Mr Cumiskey invited Members to attend Suicide Prevention Conference in Belfast on Thursday.

Mr Cumiskey was thanked for his attendance following which he withdrew from the meeting at 7.50 pm.

E276/17 Dual Language Signage Request

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which advised of requests for Dual Language Signage and sought approval to undertake surveys of all applicable residents on the streets/roads in question.

In response to Councillor McNamee's questions the Head of Building Control advised that requests had been kept up to date and brought to next available committee from when received. It was advised however that there had been a recent influx of requests.

Councillor Glasgow referred to previous damage to signage posts at Beltonanean Road and requested report detailing costings to remove existing signage and erect new signage.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that a report could be brought back to committee.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that if posts were being damaged that this should be raised with the Police.

Councillor Glasgow advised he had raised the matter with Police.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that the cost per sign is £185.75 including installation, it was advised that no signs had been erected to date. Councillor Glasgow referred to the posts which can no longer be used and asked for more detailed costings to date including staffing.

The Director of Environment and Property agreed to provide the requested report.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to proceed with a Street Naming Survey for the streets noted below in accordance with Council policy for Street Naming and Dual Language Signage –
(I) Central Avenue, Cookstown
(II) Beltonanean Road, Cookstown

E277/17 Dual Language Signage Survey

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which advised on the results of surveys undertaken with all applicable residents on the streets/roads in response to Dual Language Signage Nameplate requests.

Councillor McNamee proposed the erection of Dual Language Signage.

Councillor S McGuigan seconded Councillor McNamee's proposal.

Councillor Cuthbertson proposed that Council do not proceed with erection of dual language signage as he did not believe it was value for money. The Councillor also stated that 50% return of surveys had not been achieved.

Councillor Mulligan also referred to percentage of completed surveys returned and asked if this would be made clear in the press. Councillor Mulligan seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal.

Councillor Cuthbertson requested a recorded vote.

Members voted on Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal –

For – 5 (Councillors Burton, Cuthbertson, Glasgow, Mulligan and Reid)
Against – 7 (Councillors Gillespie, Kearney, McFlynn, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McNamee and Totten)

Members voted on Councillor McNamee's proposal –

For – 7 (Councillors Gillespie, Kearney, McFlynn, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McNamee and Totten)
Against – 5 (Councillors Burton, Cuthbertson, Glasgow, Mulligan and Reid)

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the erection of Dual Language Nameplates in Irish in accordance with the Street Naming and Dual Language Signage – Section 6.0: Dual Language Signage Nameplates Policy as adopted for each street as more than 51% of surveys returned in each of the following –
(I) Burnbank, Cookstown
(II) Castlevue Heights, Dungannon
(III) The Milestone, Dungannon

E278/17 Service Level Agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and E.P.B Team

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which advised on the signing of a Service Level Agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and the Energy Performance of Building (EPB) Team for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the signing of the Service Level Agreement with the EPB Team for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

E279/17 Department for Infrastructure Roads Proposals to Mid Ulster District Council

Members considered previously circulated reports which sought agreement in relation to proposals from Department for Infrastructure Roads with regard to proposed provision of a Disabled Persons' Parking Bay at Hillcrest, Aughnacloy and Parkview, Pomeroy.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Mulligan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposals submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed provision of a Disabled Persons' Parking Bay at Hillcrest, Aughnacloy and Parkview, Pomeroy.

E280/17 Sustainable Northern Ireland SLA Funding Request

The Head of Technical Services presented previously circulated report which sought approval to support Sustainable NI from 2017 to 2020 in the form of £5,000 annual membership funding.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the annual subscription of £5,000 with Sustainable NI for the period April 2017 to March 2020. Council to adopt Service Level Agreement with Sustainable NI for the period April 2017 to March 2020 subject to review every 12 months.

E281/17 The Consultation on Regulations to restrict the age of sale for nicotine inhaling products to over eighteens

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which advised on Department of Health consultation regarding Regulations to restrict the age of sale for nicotine inhaling products (NIPs) to over eighteens and sought approval for Council response to same to be forwarded.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to respond to the consultation as set out in appendix to report.

In response to Councillor Reid's question regarding underage persons being served alcohol at premises in Dungannon the Head of Environmental Health advised that this would be a Police matter.

E282/17 Brown Bin Food Waste Scheme Project/Funding Update

The Head of Environmental Services presented previously circulated report which provided update on the relaunch of the brown bin scheme and sought approval for expenditure of funding on a second phase of Food Waste Communications. The following typographical errors were also highlighted throughout the report –

Point 3.3 in report – Food Waste (NI) Regulations should read 2015 instead of 2005. Also incorrect use of word complaint which should read compliant.

Point 3.4 in report – Brown bin tonnage variance should be +255 tonnes instead of +55 tonnes.

Point 4.3 in report – Complaint should read compliant.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the acceptance and expenditure of funding (£5,300) for the second phase of Food Waste Communications as outlined in report.

Councillor Burton highlighted the good work of recycling officers who visit schools, community groups etc and provide advice on what goes in each bin. The Councillor felt that the officer's presentations are engaging and portray the message better than stickers. Councillor Burton felt that Council should work closely with rural community groups in seeking to get the recycling message across.

Councillor B McGuigan stated the report was a good news story which should be highlighted in the press.

The Director of Environment and Property advised he would liaise with communications section regarding press coverage.

Councillor Burton left the meeting at 8.13 pm.

E283/17 Installation of an entrance feature on Council Property at Mill Park, Innishrush

The Head of Property Services presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the installation of an entrance feature at Mill Park, Innishrush by the local regeneration group in conjunction with NIHE.

Councillor B McGuigan felt the proposal would be a positive and welcoming feature to the area.

Councillor Glasgow referred to flagpole currently on site of the proposal and asked who owned the flagpole and what flag was on the pole.

The Head of Property Services advised that Council own the ground where the feature is proposed however he was not aware of who owned the flagpole or what flag was on the pole.

Councillor Glasgow stated there was a need for everyone to be on board with the proposal and this should include whoever owns the flagpole.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to grant permission for installation of the entrance feature on the Council owned land at Mill Park, Innishrush.

Matters for Information

E284/17 Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 10 October 2017

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 10 October 2017.

Referring to item E243/17 – Winter Maintenance – Footpath Snow/Ice Clearance, Councillor Cuthbertson requested that an updated map be brought to next Environment committee meeting.

E285/17 Building Control Workload

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

E286/17 Entertainment Licensing Applications

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

E287/17 Online Property Certificate Applications

Members noted previously circulated report on the introduction of the online property certificate application portal for Mid Ulster District Council.

E288/17 Dual Language Signage Legislative Requirements

Members noted previously circulated report on the legislative requirements on Dual Language Signage requests in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) NI Order 1995 – Article 11.

E289/17 DfI Proposals for Abandonment and Disposal of land, Tamnamore Roundabout, Dungannon

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the Department for Infrastructure's intention to carry out an abandonment and disposal of land at Tamnamore Roundabout, Dungannon.

In response to Councillor S McGuigan's question the Director of Environment and Property advised that in most cases of abandonment land reverts back to the landowner.

E290/17 Recycle Week 2017

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the activities carried out for Recycle Week 2017.

E291/17 Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management (LACMW) Report for April to June 2017

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Council's performance in relation to recycling and landfill diversion targets as outlined in the NIEA Northern Ireland Local Authority Waste Management Statistics Report for the (quarter one) period of April to June 2017.

The Director of Environment and Property highlighted a further good news story in that Council had maintained its position for the ninth consecutive quarter for the highest household waste recycling rate.

E292/17 Removal of horses from Glassmullagh former landfill site

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of actions taken to deal with the removal, impounding and stabling of horse belonging to members of the travelling community from Council owned lands.

Councillor Glasgow referred to recent incident involving goats and thanked the Head of Environmental Health for her assistance on the matter. The Councillor advised

that he had contacted DAERA regarding the issue but that they did not want to intervene. Councillor Glasgow stated that for any future cases Council's jurisdiction and responsibilities needed to be highlighted.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that animal welfare concerns itself with whether animals have food, water and shelter and stated that if animals are on the road it may be an issue for the Police. If animals are located on someone's property then an Abandonment Notice can be served.

In response to Councillor S McGuigan's question the Head of Environmental Health advised that in this case regarding removal of horses the legislative process had been followed and that as not all horses were removed within timeframe Council was able to sell the remaining horses and keep proceeds.

Councillor Glasgow stated that there was no proof whether the goats had been vaccinated and referred to difficulties that can arise with disease control of other farm animals.

Councillor Reid asked if there was a role for RSPCA.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that RSPCA are a charity however if animals are brought to them they will accept in most cases.

E293/17 NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme Consultation

Members noted previously circulated report which provided consultation response to the second Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (2019-2024).

E294/17 Risk Assessment initiative in Childcare Settings

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of a risk assessment initiative delivered to childcare settings across the district for which Council is the health and safety enforcing authority.

E295/17 Specialist advice received for Ageing Well tender process

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the process to obtain external expertise to support the delivery of the Ageing Well Framework tendering process.

E296/17 Draft consultation on 'The Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017'

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the proposed changes to 'The Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015' and outlined the likely effect on Council.

E297/17 Invasive Species Control and Maintenance on Council Property

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Invasive Species control and maintenance on Council property.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked if the Invasive Species Register was getting longer and if any headway was being made in treatment of areas where invasive species are located.

The Head of Property Services advised that the register had increased slightly and that this was down to staff training who were now more aware of invasive species. It was advised that treatment of invasive species this year had been effective and that further staff training would take place next year meaning that the register may lengthen further.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan 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 items E298/17 to E306/17.

Matters for Decision

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| E298/17 | Entertainment Licensing – Tropicana Inns |
| E299/17 | Tender for the supply and delivery of telescopic loader/handler |
| E300/17 | Contract for construction of Drumcoo Waste Transfer Station |
| E301/17 | Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Development of Waste Management Infrastructure for Kerbside Collected Recyclates |
| E302/17 | Tender report for the appointment of a PPE / Work Wear Supplier |
| E303/17 | Ballygawley Villages Scheme – Capital Project |

Matters for Information

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| E304/17 | Confidential Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 10 October 2017 |
| E305/17 | Capital Projects Update |
| E306/17 | Off Street Car Parking; Quarter 2 2017/2018 |

E307/17 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 10.00 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____