

	<p>Dermot McGirr Translink</p> <p>Fiona McKeown Mid Ulster District Council</p> <p>Johnny McNeill Mid Ulster District Council</p> <p>Francie Molloy MP Coalisland Community and Voluntary Representative</p> <p>Avril Sharkey Department for Communities</p> <p>Sgt Kevin Smyth PSNI</p> <p>Patricia Toner Sole Sister</p> <p>PC Peter Waugh PSNI</p>
	<p>Cllr N McLernon, the Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting both in-person and those attending virtually.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting – Monday 9th October 2023</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr M Quinn</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr E Carney and agreed:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th October 2023 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.</p>
3.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – Monday 9th October 2023</p> <p>Cllr N McLernon asked Council Officers for updates on the following matters arising:</p> <p><i>3.1 Air Quality update</i></p> <p>O Donnelly advised the results from the nitrogen dioxide monitors will be released later this year. He explained that the data is collected over the course of a year and analysed before the first annual report will be published.</p> <p>R O'Neill expressed that he believes monitors have not been placed in the correct locations and that one should be in King's Row.</p> <p>Cllr M Quinn informed Members that other Councillors have been given preliminary and asked if this could be shared with Members.</p> <p>B O'Neill asked if Members could be furnished with rationale/criteria for monitors locations if available.</p> <p>Action: O Donnelly to liaise with Environmental Health to get preliminary results for Members and report at next meeting.</p> <p><i>3.2 Update regarding issues raised about Coalisland Public Realm works</i></p>

O Donnelly informed Members that handover to Dfl is imminent and that the final claim is near completion.

R O'Neill showed members an article by Shauna Corr printed in the Daily Mirror on 3rd February 2024 in relation to the one-way system in Main Street. He expressed that the town was very busy at certain times of the day, and this would be disastrous if an emergency incident occurred at those times. He asked if footpaths could be narrowed in order to return Main Street to two-way.

B O'Neill added that the parking is very good in Main Street since the Public Realm works but understands R O'Neill's opinion. He asked if a survey can be carried out with local businesses for feedback on the work.

Action: Council Officers to prepare high level overview for next meeting

3.3 Gritting in town centre

Cllr N McLernon thanked Council staff for their support in getting the town centre footpaths gritted during the icy spell in January. She added that along with Cllr M Quinn, they had raised in Council the length of time before gritting is actioned. The current agreement with Dfl is that gritting is triggered after 3 days of continuous freezing or snowfall which Members believe is too long

Cllr N McLernon asked if local businesses can be provided with grit and whether there is any liability if someone were to fall.

Action: O Donnelly to share Dfl's guidance with regards to gritting at next meeting

Cllr N McLernon added that pavements are slippery even in wet weather due to the sandstone surface. She welcomed that Council staff had been cleaning the town centre but conveyed that there is a requirement for more regular cleaning due to green algae on the paths which is exacerbating the issue.

3.4 Mid Ulster Gift Card / Coalisland Credit Union

B O'Neill informed that discussion had taken place between Coalisland Credit Union and Council Officers. He advised that there are logistical issues that are hindering progress (cards are limited to £500 balance). E Hughes stated that a new account manager for the gift card programme had been appointed for Northern Ireland

Action: Council Officers to arrange meeting with Miconex

	<p><i>3.5 Land Issues DfC / Mid Ulster District Council</i></p> <p>S McGowan provided Members with an update. The current position is that DfC are working on rectifying boundaries of the land in question with the view to selling the land once this has been finalised. She added that this is a long-term task.</p> <p>Cllr N McLernon asked if the land could be used by the community. S McGowan stated that a “meanwhile use” is something that DfC would be happy to explore.</p> <p>Cllr M Quinn queried if there may be an issue with diesel contamination of the land due to the old railway and if so, whether the land is safe to use.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Town Centre Updates</p> <p><i>Coalisland Revitalisation & Coalisland Public Realm</i></p> <p>O Donnelly informed Members that snags have been resolved and that handover to DfI is imminent.</p> <p><i>Mid Ulster Gift Card</i></p> <p>O Donnelly informed Members that Officers are working with Miconex in relation to getting more outlets to stock the Mid Ulster Gift Card. Currently only three Council facilities hold stock – Hill of the O’Neill, The Burnavon, and The Bridewell. He advised that there are approximately 220 businesses participating in the programme.</p> <p>E Hughes added that participating businesses have been provided with a window sticker and graphics for social media. She advised that it would be useful for businesses to promote that they accept the gift card on their own social media platforms.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>O Donnelly informed Members about the Town Centre Spruce Up Scheme. He advised that a letter drop had taken place that day, Wednesday 21st February 2024, to local businesses in the town boundary. R O’Neill queried the competition process.</p> <p>O Donnelly explained that applications are processed by an independent assessor to ensure impartiality. Cllr N McLernon encouraged local businesses to apply.</p>

	<p>Cllr M Quinn queried if there is any possibility of a continental/artisan style market. Cllr N McLernon agreed that a market would be an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of Coalisland. She noted the success of the Coalisland Summer Bash and Fleadh held on the same weekend in May 2023. B O'Neill asked if local businesses could be utilised for a continental/artisan style market in a pop-up shop style. JA Spence suggested that the forum could explore opportunities and speak with other groups that delivery independent market e.g Farmers Market.</p> <p>Action: Forum to explore opportunities</p> <p>R O'Neill asked for an update on the closure Coalisland Recycling Centre. Cllr N McLernon advised that the Recycling Centre is not closing and noted that there had been some misinformation regarding this matter. She reported that there will be a consultation about the provision of the service.</p> <p>R O'Neill asked about parking enforcement in the town centre. O Donnelly advised that once the Public Realm works had been adopted, that it would be a Dfl matter.</p> <p>R O'Neill informed Members of two noisy manholes on the Brackaville Road; one outside the Sinn Fein office and one outside Herron's shop. Cllr N McLernon advised that these can be reported using the portal on NI Direct.</p> <p>R O'Neill raised a query with regards to anti-social behaviour in the town. Cllr E Carney advised that she would raise this matter at the next PCSP meeting as there is no representation from the PSNI at the meeting. E Hughes informed members that there had been a change in personnel in the PSNI Neighbourhood Team but that there had been no update from PSNI directly.</p> <p>Action: Cllr E Carney to raise matter at the next PCSP meeting</p> <p>Action: Council Officers to liaise with PSNI Neighbourhood Team to ask for representation at next meeting</p> <p>B O'Neill informed Members about the forthcoming move of Coalisland Credit Union to the former First Trust Bank/Formme Building on the Dungannon Road.</p>
6.	Date of Next Meeting

	<p>It was agreed that meetings should continue to be held on a quarterly basis with the next meeting to take place in April 2024. Cllr N McLernon added that going forward, meetings will be in-person but that Members can be facilitated virtually if required.</p> <p>Date of next meeting to be confirmed.</p>
	<p>Meeting concluded at 6:55pm</p>

**MINUTES OF MAGHERA TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEETING HELD MONDAY 25
SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 12.50PM IN MAGHERA LEISURE CENTRE**

Present:

Councillor Brian McGuigan
Councillor Cora Corry
Councillor Sean McPeake
Councillor Paddy Kelly
Councillor Anne Forde

Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Mid Ulster District Council
Mid Ulster District Council
Mid Ulster District Council
Mid Ulster District Council (in place
of K Black)

Gary Burns
Una Morgan
Ursula Marshall
Conall McKee
James Armour

Maghera Development Association
The Dugout
Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Department for Infrastructure
Maghera Heritage Association

Raymond Holbeach

RPS Consulting

In attendance:

Colin McKenna
James Donnelly
Dean McBride
Lynn Shiels

Mid Ulster District Council
Mid Ulster District Council
Mid Ulster District Council
Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	WELCOME Cllr McGuigan welcomed each member to the meeting and asked for people to introduce themselves.	
2.	APOLOGIES Apologies were received on behalf of Kyle Black Michael McCrory Colin McKeown Avril Sharkey Fiona McKeown Anne Marie Campbell	Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster District Council Department for Communities Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster District Council
3.	To receive minutes of the Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 29 March 2023 The minutes of the Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 29 March 2023 were proposed by Una Morgan and seconded by Councillor Sean McPeake.	
4.	Matters arising from Minutes No matters were raised relating to the minutes.	
5.	Town Centre Projects Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events, Marketing & Promotion 	

<p>L Shiels give an update on Events, Marketing, and Promotion. The following points were discussed:</p> <p>Cllr McGuigan and G Burns both commented that the Walled Garden was an excellent facility and location available for town centre events. Cllr Forde agreed that the recent event held in the Walled Garden “Roar Roar Dinosaur” on 9 September 2023 was an excellent day.</p> <p>Cllr Forde noted that at the Maghera Christmas Lights Switch On in 2022 the PSNI had some concerns regarding the safety of people attending the Event in regards to Traffic Management and Crowd Control. Cllr McGuigan stated that Council Officers are currently in discussions with PSNI and the Council’s Health and Safety Team regarding a solution to ensure that the event is delivered in a safe and satisfactory manner for the whole community. L Shiels noted that the committee will be updated once the plans are confirmed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maghera Regeneration Project – <p>James Donnelly (Council’s Strategic Project Manager) gave an update on the Levelling Up Fund including the Public Realm Scheme, Maghera Business Park and the Wetland Park.</p> <p>R Holbeach presented a Maghera Public Realm update by way of PowerPoint presentation. R Holbeach gave an overview of the public realm plans and detailed the areas which will be included in the scheme.</p> <p>R Holbeach showed PowerPoint slides with examples of the proposed public realm materials, street furniture, lighting and tree planting considerations.</p> <p>Concluding R Holbeach highlighted some additional items which have been added to the scheme proposals after the previous consultation process was completed (additional items are subject to funding availability):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tannoy Speakers (Location: Pole mounted – Various locations) • Archway entrance feature (Location: Lower Main St & St Lurach’s Road entrances to pedestrian alleyway) • VIS Touchscreen Panel (Location: Hall Street pedestrian area) • Clock tower elevation (Location: Hall Street pedestrian area) <p>The Chair thanked R Holbeach for the presentation and opened the forum for questions.</p> <p>G Burns enquired about the status of the Maghera Business Park. J Donnelly noted that Council had responded to Dfl’s request for additional planning clarifications and Council are currently awaiting the outcome.</p> <p>Cllr McGuigan enquired if a pedestrian gate could be considered from the Youth Centre to Main Street to encourage usage of the</p>	<p>Forum members to be updated regarding the plans for the Christmas Lights Switch On Event</p>
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<p>carpark. J Donnelly noted that any works at the Youth Centre will be carried out separate from and unrelated to the Public Realm Scheme.</p> <p>J Armour enquired how the parking will be enforced within the town centre and Cllr McGuigan noted that it is likely that Council will look at parking enforcement after the Public Realm Scheme is completed.</p> <p>G Burns enquired about footpath widths on upper Main Street. R Holbeach confirmed that all footpath widths will meet DfI requirements.</p> <p>Cllr McGuigan enquired about the arrangement with Translink on St Lurachs Road. R Holbeach noted that Council are currently in discussions with Translink regarding developing dedicated Bus Stop bays on the opposite side of the Cinema to allow buses to move off the carriageway. This would help with traffic congestion in this area.</p> <p>Cllr McGuigan noted that the roundabout at Fair Hill would improve traffic flow. J Armour enquired if there would be a filter lane coming up to this roundabout from the Tobermore Road direction. R Holbeach noted that the width of the carriageway does not allow space for a filter lane.</p> <p>U Marshall requested that the Disability Forum is consulted regarding the specific furniture being selected for the scheme. R Holbeach noted that there are limited seats/benches in the scheme due to lack of appropriate space for them however the Disability Forum will be consulted before the contractor confirms the furniture in the scheme. U Marshall enquired if the Presentation would be available to the Committee. L Shiels agreed to seek clarification from senior management and revert back to the Committee.</p> <p>Cllr McGuigan enquired if the pedestrian crossing is suitable for the Visual Impaired community. U Marshall and G Burns noted that the colour of pavements need to be suitable for Visual Impaired and also complement the medieval and traditional infrastructure in the town. J Armour stated that the colour should match each of the buildings in the town centre. R Holbeach informed the committee that there was a vast range of colours in the current infrastructure. However the grey palette colour scheme of the natural stone recommended was selected by the Design Team as it is consistent with the colour of St Lurach Church building and the surrounding walls and would therefore complement the heritage of the town.</p> <p>Cllr McGuigan noted that the new lighting system would benefit the town.</p> <p>J Armour enquired about the purpose of the Tannoy System and J Donnelly noted that it was for events and to create ambience in the town at core retail times i.e. Christmas. Cllr Corry noted that the Tannoy system installed as part of the Coalisland Public Realm Scheme was very beneficial and successful.</p> <p>J Armour enquired if the Visitor Information Screen could be</p>	<p>L Shiels to plan a meeting with the Disability Forum to consider proposals</p> <p>L Shiels to consult with Senior Management regarding making Public Realm information available.</p>
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	<p>positioned outside the Heritage & Cultural Centre. L Shiels informed the Committee that there were limited locations for the device as consideration of a number of factors was considered including footpath widths, connectivity and footfall. L Shiels agreed to enquire with the Tourism department if there was an option of a similar device which would be located in the Heritage & Cultural Centre.</p> <p>J Armour enquired if the Heritage & Cultural Centre could have keys to St Lurach's Graveyard at the Walled Garden. L Shiels agreed to contact the Property Services team to make the enquiry.</p> <p>J Donnelly informed the committee that the Public Realm groundwork investigations were due to take place beginning – mid October. It was agreed that L Shiels would inform the committee when the date and information for the works was confirmed.</p>	<p>L Shiels to consult with the Tourism Department regarding the VIS Information Panel suitable for the Heritage & Cultural Centre</p> <p>L Shiels to enquire with Property Services regarding J Armour having a key to St Lurach Graveyard at the Walled Garden</p> <p>L Shiels to inform the committee of the confirmed dates for the GI Works</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Any other Business No other business was recorded</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Date & time of next meeting It was agreed that members will be informed of the next meeting which is thought to be early 2024.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 1.50pm.</p>	

MID ULSTER TOURISM DEVELOPMENT GROUP MINUTES
Wednesday 10th January 2024 via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Chair G Gildernew	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr P Kelly	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr S Clarke	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr F Burton	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr E Cahoon	Mid Ulster District Council
R Mulholland	Ballyscullion Park
C O'Neill	Visitor experience
D Friel	Hospitality
N Bell	Visitor experience
D Houlahan	Visitor experience
N Quinn	Education
S Wiggins	Education
M McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council
M Beattie	Mid Ulster District Council
G Booth	Mid Ulster District Council
K Irwin	Mid Ulster District Council
A O'Keefe	Mid Ulster District Council
G Bell	Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS								
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions Cllr Gael Gildernew welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">F McKeown</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr N McLernon</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E Dobbin</td> <td>Tourism NI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Murray</td> <td>Deli on the Green</td> </tr> </table>	F McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr N McLernon	Mid Ulster District Council	E Dobbin	Tourism NI	C Murray	Deli on the Green	
F McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council									
Cllr N McLernon	Mid Ulster District Council									
E Dobbin	Tourism NI									
C Murray	Deli on the Green									
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest N/A</p>									
3.	<p>Minutes of Meeting held on 19th October 2023 Having been circulated in advance were taken as read and correct.</p> <p><i>Proposed: Cllr B McGuigan Seconded: N Bell</i></p>									

<p>4.</p>	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Cllr F Burton requested an update on Lumfords Glen in relation to the Shared Island Sliabh Beagh funding application.</p> <p>M McKeown responded that Shared Island Phase 1 Feasibility Study on Sliabh Beagh Eco Destination is now complete. She added that we are awaiting confirmation on Shared Island Capital funding to be released. M McKeown informed that funding from reserves of £24,500 has been allocated to complete the additional studies required for Lumfords Glen.</p> <p>M McKeown further advised that there could be potential new funding available through the Heritage Lottery Fund.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Skills Focus Programme – Presentation by Nicola Quinn – South West College</p> <p>N Quinn was welcomed to the meeting to provide present to members support available to small businesses through South West College.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovate Us programme focuses on bringing new product or service to market for small SME’s with under 50 employees are eligible. Examples of innovative programmes included Customer Relationship Management systems. • Innovation Voucher Scheme funded through Invest NI provides mentor support from a public sector knowledge provider up to 80 hours and up to the value of £5,000. • The Knowledge Transfer Programme is a 3-way process involving the college, business and graduate to provide entrance support to employment through training and staff development. • SME Productivity Booster Programme provides up to 30 hours mentor support on how to implement lead processes and sustainability. Businesses are offered a health check and road map on how best to implement processes, reducing costs and increasing productivity. • Skills Focus Programme funded by DfE is aimed at businesses who have less than 250 employees. It is 100% funded until the end of March 2024 and then reduced to 75%. 	

	<p>N Quinn informed that the following courses commence January 2024 at no charge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignite your skills - This focuses on the economically inactive, supporting those aged 40 plus back to work. • Recognise - This focuses on upskilling people in the workplace from level 2 to level 4. <p>M McKeown added that the presentation would be circulated to tourism and economic development businesses.</p>	<p>G Booth to circulate to tourism and economic development databases.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Industry Update – Tourism Development Group Members</p> <p>Each TDG member provided an update on their business</p> <p><u>South West College</u> S Wiggins advised that Open days are taking place across the colleges with the first being held on 23rd January in Dungannon from 3pm – 7pm.</p> <p><u>Ballyscullion Park</u> R Mullholland alluded to the cost of living increases that are affecting business in terms of supplier costs.</p> <p>He informed that Ballyscullion Park will hold the first inaugural Literature Festival on 11 and 12 May 2024 which is being organised through the Loughinsholin cluster. 30 authors from across Ireland have been invited to attend. R Mullholland proposed the Loughinsholin cluster develop packages to coincide with the festival, such as, accommodation and activities/attractions etc.</p> <p><u>Friels Bar and Restaurant</u> D Friel updated that Friels Bar and Restaurant had a busy 2023 and Christmas period. Work on the new visitor centre has commenced and is due to open at Easter. The motorhome park is steady with bookings. D Friel stated that there is a lack of accommodation in the Mid Ulster area.</p> <p><u>Killymoon Castle</u> N Bell spoke that Killymoon Castle had a busy Christmas period. He added that there had been an increase in bookings from local history groups, women’s groups and coach tours in 2024. They are planning an event on 31st May, 1st June & 2nd June to mark D Day.</p>	

	<p>N Bell enquired about the opening of Spring Hill and Wellbrook Beetling Mill. M McKeown responded that a meeting has being requested with Springhill management team.</p> <p><u>Croga Tours</u> D Houlahan introduced himself as the new Business Development Manager at Croga Tours responsible for developing business for inbound tours and foster relationships with international tour operators.</p>	
7.	<p>Business Engagement Programme – G Booth G Booth stated that applications have closed for Meet the Buyer.</p> <p>M McKeown informed that two new officers will be joining the tourism team to cover the Business Engagement and Tourism Development posts.</p> <p>A O’Keefe stated that the new Go Succeed provides business support and this is available through the Economic Development team.</p>	
8.	<p>Cluster Reports Cluster reports were circulated in advance of the meeting with the following comments made in addition:</p> <p>Loughinsholin Cluster R Mulholland informed that CIE and Abbey Tours are visiting Ballyscullion Park in January 2024. He added that a Valentines charity ball will take place on 17th February. M McKeown asked that the information is submitted to the Visit Mid Ulster website. D Friel spoke of his upcoming sales mission to east coast Canada in collaboration with Tourism NI to promote Friels and the wider Mid Ulster area.</p> <p>Clogher Valley Cluster – G Bell G Bell reported that information sessions will be held on 6th February in the Valley Hotel, Fivemiletown and 7th Feb in Tailors House, Ballygawley to seek new members to the Cluster.</p> <p>Archaeology, History and Heritage – G Bell As read.</p> <p>Outdoor Activities – A O’Keefe As read.</p>	<p>G Booth to forward tourism presentations on the region to D Friel.</p> <p>G Booth to share details of the Information Sessions on the tourism WhatsApp group and next tourism e-zine.</p>
9.	<p>Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland (DFE) MUDC Response</p>	

	<p>M McKeown reported that Council's Consultation Response to the Draft Tourism Strategy for NI – 10 Year Plan was presented to Development Committee for approval before submission. M McKeown advised that the response has now been submitted.</p>	
10.	<p>Food Heritage Event – Moy Village 2024 – M McKeown M McKeown stated that the Tourism team and Economic Development team are organising a pilot food heritage event to be held in Moy village on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th March. If successful it is anticipated to deliver an annual food heritage event throughout the rural towns and villages across the district. The event will host up to 21 traders, cookery demonstrations by well-known local chefs, and live music and entertainment. A stringent PR and marketing plan will be delivered by Harriott Communications and will include television, radio and social platforms.</p> <p>Consultations have taken place with businesses in the Moy and majority are very agreeable to the event with some committing to increase opening hours and deliver their own entertainment to create a festival weekend.</p>	
11.	<p>Shared Island, Tullaghoge Fort, Sliabh Beagh – M McKeown</p> <p>Sliabh Beagh update was provided at Item 4. The Shared Island Phase 1 Feasibility Study on Tullaghoge Fort Access and Interpretation Study is now complete.</p>	
12.	<p>Any Other Business Cllr B McGuigan thanked M McKeown and the Tourism team for their hard work across Mid Ulster. Cllr G Gildernew reiterated this.</p> <p>M McKeown advised that the Sperrins Partnership had appointed an AONB officer.</p> <p>M McKeown asked members for their approval to ask the Sperrins Partnership Officers to attend the tourism development group meeting going forward so they can provide an update on the Sperrins Partnership. It was agreed.</p> <p><i>Proposed: Cllr G Gildernew Seconded: Cllr B McGuigan</i></p>	<p>G Booth to forward invitation to new Sperrins Partnership Officer.</p>

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 16th April 2024 10:30am

CLUSTER REPORTS

LOUGHINSHOLIN CLUSTER REPORT – L GOODALL

The last cluster meeting took place at Ballyscullion Park on Thursday 30th November 2023 facilitated by Lara Goodall as the cluster continue to work through the Work streams as identified in their Phase 2 Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme.

Governance:

Interest in the group is increasing, the application process for new members will open in January 2024. It is anticipated that no more than 3 new members will join. The recruitment process will aim to identify those tourism businesses that will contribute most to the Loughinsholin brand values.

Marketing and Communications:

A working communications strategy for the cluster has been developed and is shared to cluster members to review and add too. Feedback from ongoing communications with Operators has highlighted that they are keen to work with the cluster, but noted that there is limited awareness of the product offering with their customer base. The cluster is planning to launch an ongoing B2C campaign to complement the business development activities and assist the work of the Operators.

Business Development:

The cluster attended WTM London in November and had a productive three days, with 18 meetings with potential international operators. This has generated a number of opportunities for members which will be pursued in the coming months. The cluster also attended ITOA in November and met with 10 buyers. The cluster has secured a place at the Celtic Connections trade event and Holiday World trade / consumer event in January 2024.

The cluster will also welcome 5 buyers from CIE Tours on 16th and 17th January and 10 buyers from Abbey Tours on 23rd and 24th January. Work on additional FAM trips is also continuing and includes Wilderness Travel and Visit Belfast Conference Team for January / February 2024.

The group were unable to host a networking event in Westminster in November as Tourism Ireland hosted a networking dinner and would have created conflicting events. The group are now investigating the potential to host a business reception with potential Tour Operators, influencer's and stakeholders at Westminster in March 2024 and Dublin in February 2024.

Skills Development

Cluster members will take part in a workshop "AI to assist with Marketing – A How To" in January 2024.

Events:

The literature festival at Ballyscullion Park will be launched in January 2024. The

Ballyscullion Park Book Festival is a celebration of literature, music and art in the heart of Seamus Heaney country. The weekend event on 11th and 12th May 2024 and features 18 writers, performers and artists.

CLOGHER VALLEY CLUSTER – G BELL

Each of the cluster businesses will continue to focus on marketing their own unique product whilst collectively working with other businesses within the cluster to develop new packages and programmes, market their product as an add-on, scope out new markets and market segments while encouraging visitors to spend more time and money in the area.

Julie O'Brien will continue to mentor each business on their individual needs.

Location and dates discussed for community events.

ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY AND HERITAGE CLUSTER – G BELL

Tourism Mentor Programme

The Tourism Mentoring Programme is continuing to take shape with a number of the applicants moving forward to the next stage. The facilitator from Lough Neagh Partnership has compiled a brief survey to identify the skills that need developed and then plans to offer skills mentoring to support the development of the new tourism experiences.

Hidden Heritage 2024

The Tourism team are now planning for the Hidden Heritage Programme 2024 and will be encouraging Mid Ulster's Heritage cluster members to forward suggested itineraries.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has published the first three-year delivery plan for their new 10-year strategy, Heritage 2033. It includes details about budgets and priorities, and forthcoming changes to National Lottery Grants for Heritage.

The following National Lottery Grant for Heritage is now temporarily closed:

- Project enquiry forms and applications for grants from £10,000–£250,000. This will re-open in late January with new forms and guidance available. Exact date to be confirmed.
- Once this programme re-opens there will be a rolling deadline and applications will take around 8 weeks to assess.
- Expressions of Interest form for grants from £250,000-£10m is currently available. An EOI can be submitted at any time and if approved the applicant will be invited to submit an application. The applications forms and guidance in line with Heritage 2033 will be available at the end of January. Exact date to be confirmed. This level of grant has quarterly deadlines with 2024-25 dates to be confirmed.

Once an application has been submitted it will take around 12 weeks for assessment and decision.

The Heritage Fund Engagement team in NI will deliver a series of online and in person workshops in early 2024. The exact dates are still being confirmed and will be circulated via social media and other platforms in January 2024.

OUTDOOR CLUSTER REPORT – A O’KEEFE

The Sperrins Partnership in collaboration and with support from Sport NI and Partner Councils, secured funding through The Outdoor Partnership (TOP) to appoint an Outdoor Activity Development Officer for the Sperrins for a 4-year funded period. The Outdoor Partnership is an organisation based in Wales who work to support people across the UK to take up outdoor activities as a life-long pursuit. Their vision is: “Enhancing people’s lives through outdoor activity”. Gary Donaldson was appointed as The Outdoor Activity Development Officer in February 2023 and his role is to build capacity, identify training and education needs within outdoor sports and recreation in Sperrins Communities. Gary has already made great strides during his short time in post and is building networks within the Sperrins. Gary has carried out a gap analysis audit of the Sperrins AONB and surrounding areas in order to highlight opportunities for development, Sperrins facilities and resources, club and community links and to greater understand local needs and interests.

Gap Analysis activity included:

- Face to face meetings
- Site visits
- Community engagement meetings
- Stakeholder meetings including NGBs & Councils
- Community Survey

The Outdoor Activity Development Officer will look to secure grant funding opportunities to develop activities and capitalise on what has been delivered so far.

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of:	N2 A5 Cross Border Committee
Date and Time:	Thursday, 30 th November 2023 at 4.00pm
Location:	via MS Teams
Chair:	Councillor Brian McKenna
Councillors Present:	<p>Derry City and Strabane District Council: Brian Harte</p> <p>Donegal County Council: Johnny McGuinness; Paul Canning;</p> <p>Fermanagh and Omagh District Council: Allan Rainey MBE; Bernard McGrath</p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council: Mark Robinson; Gael Gildernew; Kevin McElvogue</p> <p>Monaghan County Council: Brian McKenna; David Maxwell; Paudge Connolly</p>
In Attendance:	<p>Monaghan County Council: Ms. Roisin Moore (N2 Project Liaison Officer) Ms. Leanne Lennon (Meeting Secretariat) Robert Burns (Chief Executive)</p> <p>Fermanagh and Omagh District Council: Mr. John News (Director of Environment and Place)</p> <p>Donegal County Council: Mr. Bryan Cannon (A/Director of Service, Roads and Transportation)</p>
Apologies:	Cllr Ruairi McHugh; Mr Gareth McMahan (A/Director of Services, Roads and Transportation)

No	Item	Action By:
1.	Welcome & apologies.	
	Cllr B. McKenna welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from Cllr Ruairi McHugh; Mr Gareth McMahan.	Note
2.	Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2023	
	AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor P. Connolly, seconded by Councillor P. Canning that the minutes of the previous meeting on 23 rd September 2023 are agreed.	Note
3.	Matters Arising	
	The committee heard that the Department for Infrastructure received the final advisory Report on the Public Inquiry proceedings of 2020 and May / June 2023 from the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) on 31 st October 2023, and that further liaison would be undertaken with the Permanent Secretary before a formal decision on whether to proceed is made by a Minister (or Senior Civil Servant). Discussion took place about the potential timeline and impact of delays.	

	On the proposal of Cllr A. Rainey, seconded by Cllr B McGrath, it was agreed that write to the Northern Ireland Permanent Secretary. [Post meeting update: Correspondence issued from MCC to the Permanent Secretary, 17 th January 2024]	MCC
4.	Meeting with Minister Eamon Ryan	
	No response in relation to the meeting request issued by the committee to Minister Eamon Ryan. MCC to write again requesting a meeting. [Post meeting update: Letter issued from MCC on 17 th January 2024]	MCC
	Cllr Brian Mckenna noted that Minister Ryan met with representatives of Monaghan Co Co on the 2 nd Nov 2023, where a range of local road and transport issues were discussed. A priority of Minister Ryan is active travel.	Note
5.	Project overview and update	
	R. Moore, N2 Project Liaison Officer, Monaghan County Council, briefly give an overview/update to the committee of each of the 4 major projects along the northwest corridor. R. Moore said it would be beneficial if project updates became a standing item on the agenda going forward, and that the co-ordinating authority would request updates from each of the 4 projects in advance of each quarterly meeting going forward. This was agreed at the meeting.	Note
6.	Terms of Reference	
	Donegal County Council submitted a proposal to change the committee's name to N2/A5/TEN-T Cross Border Committee. The Committee agreed on the name change to N2/A5/TEN-T Cross Border Committee. [Post meeting update: Fermanagh & Omagh District Council subsequently wrote to MCC on 10 th January 2024 voicing concern about the name change. This correspondence was circulated to all Local Authorities on the 23 rd January 2024, and is to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.]	Note
7.	Correspondence	
	There was no correspondence.	Note
8.	To agree rotation and schedule of meetings of the A5-N2 Cross Border Committee for 2024	
	It was proposed that Donegal County Council or Mid Ulster Council provide secretariat services to the committee over the coming year. The committee agreed that the role should alternate north and south of the border each year. Cllr Gael Gildernew nominated Mid Ulster District Council take over the secretary role for 2024	Mid Ulster District Council
9.	Date of the next meeting	
	That the next meeting of the A5-N2 Cross Border Committee would be scheduled for early March (Mid Ulster District Council to confirm details).	Mid Ulster District Council
	The meeting concluded at 5.00pm	