

Report on	Parks Service Update Report
Date of Meeting	11 October 2018
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update Members of the progress being made regarding activities and associated to Parks Services and highlight events or consultations that will be occurring in the future
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council recognises the important role that Parks, Countryside recreation and play has in today's society and the ease of accessible, open space can have on basis quality of life issues and the health and wellbeing of the local community. The facilities and programmes provided in Mid Ulster are designed to increase participation from all sections of the community and provide opportunities to maximise quality outdoor experiences for our residents across
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Davagh Mountain Bike Forest Trails Volunteer Day</p> <p>Volunteer Day at Davagh provided help with resurfacing 3 section of trials (Boundary Rock, Xmas tree trail and the bottom half of Big Wig Jig) with 10 ton of dust being spread over these trials with a quad and trailer, wheelbarrows and 11 willing volunteers.</p>



Participants enjoying the great outdoors on Davagh Forest trials volunteers day



Sections of the path works undertaken on the volunteers day at Davagh Forest Mountain Bike Trails



All places were taken on this year's fly-fishing summer school at Bradleys Lake Tobermore. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to learn and develop new skills with practical workshops and fun competitions with plenty of fish caught throughout the three day event. The summer angling school was organised in partnership with Moyola Angling Association and facilitated by our excellent APGAI Ireland's coaches Joe Stitt, Ray McKeeman & Frankie McPhillips.

Local business MPB Decking and DAERA, Inland Fisheries Community Outreach Programme supported the event and Moyola Angling Association members assisted the coaches, volunteering their time and knowledge, adding to the success of the event.

3.3 **Dungannon Park Summer Coarse Angling School**

Twenty children participated in the annual Coarse Angling Summer School hosted at Dungannon Park Lake during the first week of August. The three day event was based on the practical skills associated to coarse fishing and was facilitated by Fish NI accredited coaches Philip Jackson and Jeff Quinn, who both have represented Ireland at an International level.



Tuition and concentration was all part of the event.



Catch of the day for a young angler at this year's summer school.

3.4 “Play Days” in Mid Ulster Parks

Playday is the national day for play in the UK, traditionally held annually on the first Wednesday in August. This year’s Playday took place on Wednesday 1 August 2018. On Playday, thousands of children and their families get out to play at hundreds of community events across the province and mainland UK. From small-scale community events to thousands of children taking part in events organised in parks and open spaces Play days are celebrated by each community in a way that suits them.

As well as a celebration of children’s right to play, Playday is a campaign that highlights the importance of play in children’s lives. Three events were simultaneously hosted this year by Mid Ulster District Council Parks Services helping to mark National Play Day. In the region of five hundred children attended the events, which focused on providing entertainment for children in an outdoor setting across venues in Fivemiletown, Ballyronan and Dungannon.



The Magic show dazzled the children as part of the Play day annual event at Dungannon Park



Clay potting was one of the many activities enjoyed by children as part of the play day events.

3.5 Ballyronan Triathlon 2018

The Lough Neagh Triathlon was held on the 11th August at Ballyronan Marina organised by the Hi-Elbow Triathlon club. The event was a national series race in Triathlon Irelands calendar year and was fully subscribed by competitors. To accompany the event on the Friday evening prior the Triathlon club head a children's aquathon event ranging in the different age categories. Overall the event had an attendance of 250.



Triathlon was again a huge success for the High Elbow Club organisers.

3.6

Ballyronan Lumarina 2018

On Friday the 17th & Saturday the 18th the annual Lumarina event was held in the ground at Ballyronan Marina. The event was a great success with an attendance of 3,726 over the 2 days. The event was a family friendly event offering a range of fun activities and performances including the fireworks display at the end of the first day.



Fire dancers were a particular favourite during the Lumarina festivities Ballyronan



Spectacular fireworks round of the evenings events at Lumarina

Picnic in the Park

Over 3000 people attended the ever-popular family fun day “Picnic in The Park “in Dungannon Park on August Bank Holiday Monday.



All round fun was enjoyed by all ages in Dungannon Park



There was lots of entertainment for all the family including: Trailer trampolines, the nerve testing 25ft tall inflatable infinity tower, crazy karts, climbing tower, go fly your kite workshop, face painting, balloon modelling, picnic dance party, puppet shows, magic shows and much, much more. Luckily, the rain stayed away and all had good fun.

3.8 Signification disruption due to Storm Ali.

Storm Ali swept across the UK and Ireland, bringing wind speeds of more than 100mph. The following Mid-Ulster District Council sites where adversely affected as an result of these high winds –

Roundlake, Pomeroy Forest, Portglenone Angling Facility, Manor Park, Dungannon Park, Caledon Riverside, Inishcarn, Plantation Walk, Derrynoid forest Walk, Davagh, Glenmore, Newferry, Windmill wood, Blessingbourne, Mountain Bike Trail, Augher Riverside Walk Ballyronan Wood.



Trees down and structural damage to Newferry was recorded with remedial works taking a number of days to rectify.



A number of trees were uprooted in Derrynoyd Forest, Draperstown forcing temporary closure.



A number of overhanging branches and fallen trees closed Windmill Wood with works requiring upwards of a week to clear before reopening to the public.



Follow up maintenance works are ongoing by Property Services and contracted tree surgeons to ensure public safety and the prompt return of facilities for public use.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Presented for Member information purposes.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	N/A