

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 16 May 2024 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

<b>Members Present</b>	Councillor McNamee, Chair  Councillors Bell, W Buchanan, Clarke, Corry (7.13 pm), Gildernew, McLernon, McQuade, Molloy, Monteith, Quinn, Wilson
<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) Ms McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer
<b>Others in Attendance</b>	Deputation – Human Library Ms McCreanor

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

*The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor McNamee in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee by referring to Annex A to this minute.*

**D078/24 Notice of Recording**

This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's YouTube site.

**D079/24 Apologies**

Councillors Black, F Burton and Milne.

**D080/24 Declaration of Interests**

The Chair, Councillor McNamee reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in Go Succeed as Chair of Cookstown Enterprise Centre.

## **D081/24      Chair's Business**

Councillor Gildernew referred to the ongoing issues in the Killeeshil and Cabragh area arising from odours which are continuing to emanate from the Northway Mushroom Compost Plant. The Councillor stated that everyone is now aware of the issue and the detrimental impact this is having on the community and residents in the area on an ongoing basis. Councillor Gildernew referred to the social media, public meetings and campaigns the community have organised to try to get their voices heard and to achieve a resolution to this issue but that to date there has been no resolution. The Councillor stated that the community feel they are being ignored and failed by a range of statutory agencies. Councillor Gildernew stated that NIEA are the statutory body responsible for regulation of the plant and that they continue to deem the plant as compliant with what seems to residents to display little regard for their lives. The Councillor stated that NIEA is operated by DAERA and proposed that Council write to the DAERA Minister and invite him to Killeeshil to meet with residents and the community group to hear their concerns at first hand and to get a better understanding of this issue.

Councillor Bell seconded Councillor Gildernew's proposal.

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to write to the DAERA Minister and invite him to Killeeshil to meet with residents and the community group in relation to ongoing issues with odours emanating from Northway Mushroom Compost Plant.

## **D082/24      Deputation – Human Library**

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed Ms McCreanor to the meeting and invited her to make her presentation on the Human Library.

Ms McCreanor stated she is a Freelance Education Consultant and has been working with First Steps Womens Centre in Dungannon for the last two years to deliver a weekly cultural awareness and integration class. Ms McCreanor advised that from this class she has also started running Human Library Events which help to integrate newcomers into the community and that her presentation tonight is to raise the profile of what a Human Library is (appendix 1).

Councillor Molloy stated he had visited a Human Library event and that it was fantastic to learn from each other about ethnic backgrounds and cultural diversity. The Councillor stated that the more we hear from others on their stories and experiences the more misconceptions can be broken down. Councillor Molloy stated he hoped to hear more about these events in the future.

Councillor Gildernew stated this was her first time hearing about the Human Library and that it sounded like a fabulous event that works at breaking down barriers. The Councillor asked that the next time a Human Library Event is being organised that Councillors are invited to attend.

Ms McCreanor advised that she is hoping to run an event in September which she would invite Councillors to.

Councillor Quinn stated he had also never heard of the Human Library and that it is vital that everyone learns from each other. The Councillor stated that he worked for Terex which is a global company with a lot of different nationalities working together and that asking questions can open up possibilities and brings people closer together. Councillor Quinn stated that the Human Library events sound excellent and that he would like to take part in the future.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated he had also never heard of the Human Library before but would look forward to attending a future event. Councillor McNamee thanked Ms McCreanor for coming to the meeting tonight to raise awareness of the Human Library following which Ms McCreanor left the meeting at 7.11 pm.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **D083/24 Mid Ulster Loneliness Network 24/25**

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report which provided update on the ongoing work regarding Age Friendly Communities and associated Networks across the Mid Ulster District Council Area and sought approval for a request for funding towards Mid Ulster Loneliness Network.

Councillor McLernon proposed the recommendation and that it is good to see the good work continue with the Loneliness Network and Council's Age Friendly agenda.

Councillor Gildernew seconded Councillor McLernon's proposal.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the request for a contribution of £3,000 per annum for the period April 2024 – March 2026 towards the Loneliness Network in order to further promote and develop the network as supported by the other key partners of the Mid Ulster Loneliness Network including NHSCT and SHSCT.

*Councillor Corry entered the meeting at 7.13 pm.*

### **D084/24 Extension of the Service Level Agreement with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council**

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the renewal of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (ABC) for the provision of Tobacco Control work for the period April 2024 – March 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the signing of the renewal of Service Level Agreements with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council for the provision of Tobacco Control work for the period April 2024 – March 2025.

#### **D085/24 Development Report**

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the following –

- Regional Minority Languages Bursary Funding 2024-2025
- John Hewitt, and Tyrone Guthrie Bursary Support
- Railway Park Final Design
- PeacePlus Partner Request
- EU Linkages with Community Led Partnership Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid
- DFC Welfare Reform Support Project Funding
- Development Department Update

*Councillor Monteith declared an interest in Mid Ulster Advice Services and Regional Minority Languages Bursary Funding 2024-2025.*

Councillor Monteith referred to the Charlie Donnelly portrait which was previously displayed in the Council Offices in Dungannon and was later moved to Ranfurly House but then seemed to disappear. The Councillor stated that the portrait was presented to the legacy Dungannon Council and asked officers to ascertain the whereabouts of this portrait.

Councillor Gildernew proposed the report recommendations. The Councillor referred to Social Inclusion referred to within the report and welcomed the collaboration Test and Learn process with the Civil Service and government agencies and that she was delighted that Aughnacloy was chosen as one of the projects to be reviewed by all the agencies. Councillor Gildernew stated she hoped valuable lessons can be learned through the Test and Learn projects and that new ways for agencies to work together better can be established. The Councillor expressed her disappointment at the lack of participation into the process by DfI who at the highest level said they would participate but then failed to send anyone to the meeting held in Aughnacloy in January. Councillor Gildernew also expressed her disappointment at the exclusion of elected representatives to the rest of the process after the public meeting in January; by not being invited to a follow up meeting and then when addressed the meeting is held tonight clashing with this meeting and that as a Councillor for the DEA she was disappointed that she has been excluded from the meeting.

Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Gildernew's proposal.

Councillor Wilson referred to the bursary to attend the John Hewitt Society Summer School and asked if Council has any say in relation to who attends. The Councillor stated that he is supportive of the request but that he had concerns that Council has no say in who attends the Summer School or what the criteria is to attend and that further to this there is no feedback received from the person attending.

The AD: Dev stated that Council should have received a report back last year from the person attending and apologised for officers not following up on this at the time. The AD: Dev stated that officers can get the criteria used for selecting who attends and stay more involved in the process and that the person attending the Summer School could be invited to a future committee meeting to share their experiences.

Councillor Wilson stated he was supportive of the request in relation to the Summer School but that he just had some concerns with the governance but that this could be tidied up with improved reporting back.

Councillor Quinn referred to work ongoing in relation to Coalisland Canal and that engagement is continuing on designs and asked if there was an update on this.

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) advised that there is a lot of work ongoing in the background in respect of Coalisland Canal including looking at what alternative options can be presented to the community following the engagement session held in March. The SD: C&P advised that it is hoped to have an update session with DEA Members by mid June followed by a community engagement session with final designs being signed off by early July in order to move forward with whatever project is agreed at that stage.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to –

- Approve the Regional Minority Language Bursary Awards.
- Approve the allocation of funding to support an Arts Bursary Award through the John Hewitt Summer School and Tyrone Guthrie Centre.
- Approve ‘in principle’ the overall concept design and phased approach for Railway Park Regeneration and agree Phase 1 as final designs for implementation (subject to the capital planning process).
- Approve Council participation in the Peace Plus project led by Ulster University in partnership with Foras Na Gaeilge.
- Approve Council participation in EU Linkages Community led Partnership with Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid.
- Approve the transfer of DFC Welfare Reform Support Project Funding to Mid Ulster Advice Service (STEP).

#### **D086/24 Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Report - OBFD**

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) presented previously circulated report which provided update on key activities as detailed below –

- Hidden Heritage Tours 2024
- Digital Signage Service Level Agreement (2024-2025)
- Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024
- A29 Cookstown Bypass – DfI Consultation
- Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme – Renewal
- Town Business Spruce Up Scheme
- Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Projects Action Plan 2024/25

Councillor Bell proposed the report recommendations and commended officers for their hard work in bringing forward the additional proposals in relation to Hidden Heritage.

Councillor Corry seconded Councillor Bell's proposal and also commended officers for the additional Hidden Heritage proposals which she felt is a great opportunity to showcase the work at the new visitor centre at Friel's Bar and Restaurant in Swatragh. Councillor Corry also raised the following points –

- **Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme** – Some businesses not aware of scheme and are interested and asked that scheme be promoted again.
- Town Business Spruce Up Scheme – Lobby DAERA in relation to potential schemes for smaller towns and villages.
- Vacancy and Dereliction – Planning can sometimes cause difficulties in relation to improving derelict buildings and with no funding can become costly.
- Halloween – Previous discussion in relation to inclusion of laser lights and asked if there was update/costings.

*Councillor Wilson declared an interest in the Town Business Spruce Up Scheme as Cookstown Enterprise Centre had received funding.*

Councillor Wilson also thanked AD: EDT&SP and the whole team for the work which went into the Continental Market held last weekend. The Councillor stated the event was superb and attracted a lot of visitors.

*Councillor Molloy declared an interest in Enterprise Week under Dungannon Enterprise Centre.*

Councillor Molloy agreed that the Continental Market was a great event and echoed Councillor Wilson's comments. The Councillor also agreed with Councillor Corry's comments in relation to working with DAERA regarding a spruce up scheme for rural areas.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee asked if businesses can still continue to register to the giftcard scheme and in relation to Enterprise Week he asked if the multisectoral tendering programme is still being continued.

The AD: EDT&SP responded to Members comments –

**Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme** – Officers continue to promote the scheme and are currently working up another wave of promotion. The AD: EDT&SP stated that if a particular business is interested in the scheme to advise her and she would get officers to meet with that business.

Town Business Spruce Up Scheme – The AD: EDT&SP stated the report enclosed in Members' papers this evening (item 14) outlines the various types of funding available for rural/urban areas. She highlighted that Council has convened a

Dereliction Meeting on Monday 20 May 2024 which Members are encouraged to attend and noted that officers from DAERA and DfC will be in attendance. This is a key meeting to ask questions and try to progress things as Council does not have the regeneration powers or funding to tackle dereliction but is keen to work in partnership with Government Departments, which hold the powers and budgets, to co-design schemes to regenerate Mid Ulster's towns and rural areas.

**Continental Market** – Thanking the Member for his comments, the AD: EDT&SP stated the Continental Market was delivered jointly by her team and the Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing and his team.

**Multisectoral Tendering Programme** – There is no longer a Multi-Sectoral Tendering Programme, however, there are a range of supports available to businesses through the Go Succeed and other programmes, providing support for business start-up and growth. AD: EDT&SP advised of event being held on Friday 17 May 2024 in the Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown, which Members have been invited to attend. This event will showcase the results of the previous round of business support programmes, whilst also officially launching the new programmes that are now available to support local businesses.

**Laser Lights** – AD: EDT&SP stated she could not recall a previous discussion in relation to laser lights but would discuss this with the Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing.

Councillor Monteith referred to the 5,000 population limit used to define urban/rural and that this has not been a useful tool on the ground as there is a massive difference in need and has led to a lot of avoidance from Departments in relation to their responsibilities and that Council should do something to challenge this as it is not serving this Council area well. Councillor Monteith proposed that officers carry out research in relation to the 5,000 population limits which Government Departments use to define urban/rural and bring back a report to a future meeting providing an analysis of the difficulties this creates and assess alternative ways forward.

The AD: EDT&SP agreed with the Councillor's sentiments and stated that the debate can commence on Monday 20th May 2024 at the Dereliction Meeting, when officials from the Department for Communities (DfC) and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) will be in attendance. The AD: EDT&SP stated that whilst Council can make recommendations, unless the Departments are willing to adopt such recommendations across Northern Ireland, they are unlikely to agree to specific arrangements for Mid Ulster. The AD: EDT&SP stated a similar situation exists in relation to DfC and their determination that DfC funding can only be attributed to support schemes within 'town centre boundaries'. This therefore excludes the many businesses located between the town centre boundaries and the 30mph limits which cannot avail of any funding.

Councillor Molloy felt there is no reason why Departments cannot work together and have a pool of funding at the same time. Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated he felt Council is better placed to know where businesses are and where boundaries should lie.

Councillor Wilson stated there are three businesses from the bottom of Oldtown to Moneymore Road corner and that all are excluded under the Business Spruce Up scheme and there is a similar situation on the Fairhill in Cookstown.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –

- **Hidden Heritage Tours 2024**
  - To provide an additional Hidden Heritage Tour on 2 October 2024, entitled '*Famine and Folklore*' at Friel's Bar and Restaurant, Swatragh and;
  - Enhance the visitor experience by providing living history and storytelling at The Bridewell (Magherafelt), US Grants Ancestral Homestead (Ballygawley) and the Emigrants Walk (Swatragh) during European Heritage Open Days on 15 & 16 September 2024.
- **Digital Signage Service Level Agreement (2024-2025)**
  - To approve Digital Signage Service Level Agreement between Council and Etolan Ltd, trading as Legato Solutions, for financial year commencing 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, at a cost of £2,200+Vat for provision of ongoing digital signage support at four sites across Mid Ulster, located in Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt and Coalisland.
- **Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024**
  - To approve a budget of circ. £28,000 for the delivery of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024 from Council's Economic Development budget 2024/2025.
  - To approve Officers proceed to seek competitive quotes to appoint a professional Management Partner to co-ordinate, manage, deliver and promote Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024 from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The costs of a Management Partner will be subsumed within the budget detailed at 5.3.1 of report.
  - To approve Council's Chief Executive be granted authority to appoint the successful Management Partner, following the procurement exercise to allow work to progress over the summer months.
- **A29 Cookstown Bypass – DFI Consultation**
  - To approve Council's draft Consultation Response to the A29 Cookstown Bypass Scheme and by the powers granted by Full Council to the Development Committee, submit response to Department for Infrastructure (DfI), prior to the closing date of Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 5pm.
- **Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme - Renewal**
  - Approval to enter negotiations with Miconex to extend the Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme for a further 2 years commencing in September 2024.



- Approval of projected budget of £14,000 per year (for 2 years) from Council's Economic Development Budget, as part of the original contract. A management fee will be implemented, if Council decides to terminate the contract as previously agreed under the original contract to honour gift cards purchased up to September 2024.
- **Town Business Spruce Up Scheme**
  - To note that following assessment of applications by the Independent Chartered Architect, applications ranked Nos. 1 - 67 were issued with Letters of Offer (by 31 March 2024), as previously agreed, up to the value of funding received from Department for Communities (DFC), totalling £200,000.
  - To note the number of scheme applicants exceeded the funding available from DFC. Therefore, whilst applicants ranked Nos. 68-117 were successful, scoring 40 or above, with combined funding sought totalling £173,722.45, these applicants were informed in writing they had been placed on a Reserve List until such times as Council may be able to attain additional funding from DFC, and therefore, in the interim period, they must not commence any works.
  - To approve that Council make a further funding bid to DFC to seek financial assistance of up to £200,000 to fund the successful applicants ranked Nos. 68 – 117, which are currently held on a Reserve List. The application would also request that any residual funding from DFC be directed towards offsetting the Independent Chartered Architect's costs.
  - In the event Council's funding bid to DFC is successful and the additional funding is provided to Council to deliver Phase 2 schemes, then approval is requested for Council's Chief Executive to be granted authority to;
    - (a) Sign and return the Letter of Offer to DFC;
    - (b) Issue Letters of Offer to applicants ranked Nos. 68 – 117, on the Reserve List.
    - (c) Procure the services of an Independent Chartered Architect to undertake site visits, verify works, etc, for Phase 2 (Reserve List) Schemes.
- **Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Projects Action Plan 2024/2025**
  - To approve the projects and associated budgets as detailed in the Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Projects Action Plan 2024/2025.
- **Dereliction**
  - In addition to the upcoming Dereliction workshop on 20 May 2024, that officers carry out research in relation to the 5,000 population limits which Government Departments use to define urban/rural and bring back a report to a future meeting providing an analysis of the difficulties this creates and assess alternative ways forward.

## **Matters for Information**

### **D087/24 Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 April 2024**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 April 2024.

Councillor Quinn asked if there was an update in relation to Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council organising a joint meeting with the Minister in relation to the Blackwater and if there is no update he would suggest that this Council organises its own meeting with the Minister. The Councillor also referred to complaint received in relation to the Ferry Bridge which he understood is under ABC Council control but that there had been a problem with quads in this area going back and forth across the bridge. Councillor Quinn stated that PSNI have also received similar complaints and he asked that this issue be raised with ABC Council with a view to potentially putting bollards at either side of the bridge whilst still allowing for pedestrian and pram access. The Councillor advised that this recent activity has caused damage at both sides of the bridge and something needs to be done.

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) advised that he didn't have an update in relation to a meeting with the Minister but that he would check on this. The SD: C&P stated that in relation to the quads issue that officers would look at this and also raise through the PCSP. The SD: C&P stated that bollards may be one solution but that accessibility also needs to be considered.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee referred to the bridge at Lough Fea being closed and that this is having a big impact on users. Councillor McNamee asked how long the work will take to complete and asked that a report be brought to the Council meeting in May.

Councillor Wilson stated that a number of people had also contacted him in relation to the issue and that he had met fishermen who use the Lough. The Councillor asked if there was a possibility of getting a metal bridge in place as a temporary measure whilst work is ongoing.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee asked why the bridge has been shut.

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) also expressed frustration that the bridge is currently closed. The AD: HL&W advised that officers were in receipt of a structural engineers report and also NI Water had expressed concern in relation to the bridge and when high water levels and swell causes waves to crash against the bridge it is causing some displacement. The AD: HL&W stated that the structural engineers report cannot be ignored however officers are moving at pace and a design has been finalised and costs are being secured and that it is hoped that the bridge can be reopened as soon as possible. The AD: HL&W advised that an update report would be brought to Council on the situation to date and to put timescales on works.

Councillor Gildernew referred to previous discussion in relation to bridge in Caledon being closed and asked for an update on this as well.

Councillor Quinn referred to event Craic Theatre had in Stormont last week and that it was good to see local talent from the Mid Ulster area putting their point across on the importance of Arts funding.

#### **D088/24      Environmental Health Service Update**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the work of the Environmental Health Service during the period 1st February 2024 and 31st March 2024.

Councillor Monteith referred to housing fitness and proposed that a workshop be held in relation to housing standards. The Councillor stated that one of the first grants to disappear following the financial crash in 2008 was the home Improvement Grant and there was now 16 years of investment lost in keeping houses up to standard. Councillor Monteith stated there are major issues with the Housing Executive stock in the Mid Ulster area and that tenants are still being told that black mould is being caused by condensation and that these tenants are not ventilating their properties properly. Councillor Monteith referred to housing fitness inspections carried out by Environmental Health officers and that several people had been in contact with him who had these inspections carried out but were told by officers they could not get a copy of the report and that they would have to go to the Housing Executive who also would not provide the report. The Councillor felt that the tenant should be entitled to see a report which is carried out on their behalf.

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) advised that a Members workshop could be organised in relation to housing standards. The AD: HL&W advised that in relation to inspection reports he was aware that a report does go to the homeowner which in many cases is the Landlord but was unsure as to the forward sharing and disclosure to the tenant but would check and come back to Councillor Monteith. The AD: HL&W stated that tenants rights could also be included as part of the workshop as there have been some recent changes to legislation.

Councillor Corry seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal. The Councillor also referred to the Affordable Warmth Scheme and that people are not getting the help needed to complete the forms and apply for the grants when Members had been assured that applicants would be supported.

Councillor Molloy referred to the Space Shaping report prepared by Council and to be agreed by Housing Executive but has been stalled by Housing Executive. The Councillor asked that this also be looked at again to see what stage it is at.

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to hold workshop for Members in relation to housing standards.

#### **D089/24      Forest Schools Programme for 2024/2025**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the Forest Schools programme for 2024 - 2025 within the Mid Ulster District Council area.

## **D090/24      Open Spaces and Outdoor Recreation Update**

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined visitor throughput at the primary outdoor recreational sites throughout the Council area.

Councillor Monteith stated the Members have been contacted by Riverdale Football Club who are located in Benburb and are the primary user of facilities belonging to Council. Due to weather issues the Councillor advised that the club have only been able to use the facilities fifteen times in the last season which is not adequate for a football club. Councillor Monteith proposed that Riverdale Football Club be invited to a future meeting to discuss their ongoing issues as he felt that if weather conditions are not going to change then a lot of the grass pitches will become redundant and not fit for purpose meaning a major investment in new surfaces and drainage. The Councillor felt that in more rural areas where there only is one facility that these facilities should be looked at first. Councillor Monteith asked for an update in relation to Ballysaggart Lough and proposed that DEA meetings be held.

Councillor Wilson stated that it was remiss of him not to mention earlier the Strategic Director of Communities and Place and the Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing and their teams for their hard work in relation to the Continental Market. The Councillor stated that the visitor numbers to facilities were impressive and that he hadn't realised there were so many facilities. Councillor Wilson asked how visitor numbers to the Burnavon and Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House are recorded.

Councillor Molloy stated it was good to see the visitor numbers at facilities but noted that there had been a decrease in numbers at some facilities and asked if there was a reason for this. The Councillor stated it is incumbent on Council to ensure that facilities are maintained regularly and are safe to use and that any anti social behaviour is dealt with. Councillor Molloy felt that Service Level Agreements with local community groups also help to take pride in facilities in their areas. Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal in relation to inviting Riverdale Football Club to a future meeting and stated that Dúiche Neill Hurling Club in Benburb are also struggling for facilities and if Councillor Monteith was agreeable he would suggest that this club also be invited to present to Committee either separately or in partnership with Riverdale.

Councillor Monteith agreed to include Dúiche Neill Hurling Club in his proposal.

Councillor Gildernew referred to visitor numbers at Brantry Lodge which have went down significantly but that there had recently been a colour run event held in Brantry with 4-500 people attending. The Councillor stated that a lot of people at the event did not previously know the facility is in their area and that hopefully visitor numbers at this location will rise again in the near future.

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) advised that officers have met with Riverdale Football Club and that the club is experiencing significant growth. The AD: HL&W stated that the need is recognised and referenced in the pitches strategy and that concept designs are being worked to convert the pitch at Benburb from grass to 3G and that this will allow officers and the club to look at funding opportunities. The AD: HL&W advised that in relation to Ballysaggart

Lough there are ongoing officer meetings and discussions with landowners but that a DEA meeting will be arranged to provide update. The AD: HL&W stated that the visitor number figures provided are probably conservative and that sensors are sited at locations where most people enter the facility but that some facilities have a number of entry points that are not being monitored. In relation to reduced number of visitors at some facilities the AD: HL&W stated this could relate to weather closures, maintenance or non monitored entry points being used.

Councillor Monteith stated that the potential at Ballysaggart is unbelievable and that a walkway around the Lough has to be the goal. The Councillor stated that he was happy to hear that conversations with landowners are ongoing but that Members have been hearing this for a long time and that there needs to be plans put in place. Councillor Monteith stated he is contacted on a daily basis in relation to the poor condition and upkeep of the site and that it is an Area of Special Scientific Interest in relation to birds but that there is no interpretative panel to indicate this. The Councillor stated that Council has plenty of good facilities but this is not one of them and that there needs to be a clear statement to the community that something is going to happen.

The Assistant Director of Development stated that in relation to visitor numbers at arts facilities there are ways of calculating these numbers such as ticket sales, income and officers are seeking to provide figures which are more robust than just the sensor figures.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To invite Riverdale Football Club and Dúiche Neill Hurling Club to present to a future Development Committee meeting.
  - To hold DEA update meeting in relation to Ballysaggart Lough (Dungannon and Clogher Valley Councillors to be invited).

**D091/24 Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Report - OBF1**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the following key activities -

- International Women's Day Events – March 2024
- Rural Regeneration and Business Support Funding
- Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 21.2.24
- Maghera Town Centre Forum Minutes – 25.9.23
- Tourism Development Group Minutes – 10.1.24
- N2/A5 Cross Border Committee Minutes – 30.11.23

**D092/24 Service Improvement Plan for Chief Executive's Directorate 2024-2025 - Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes Department**

Members noted previously circulated report which set out the Departmental Service Improvement Plan for the Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Service for the 2024-2025 year.

*The live broadcast ended at 8.08 pm.*

## **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

**Resolved** In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 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 D093/24 to D100/24.

### **Matters for Decision**

D093/24 Pavement Café Licensing – Proposed Fee Structure  
D094/24 Tender for Catering Provision  
D095/24 Tender for Fireworks  
D096/24 Community Grants 2024/2025  
D097/24 Catering Provision Contract for Burnavon Arts Centre  
Cookstown and Ranfurly House & Hill of O’Neill  
Dungannon  
D098/24 Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic  
Programmes Report – Cbfd

### **Matters for Information**

D099/24 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on  
10 April 2024  
D100/24 Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership 2024-2025 Interim  
Funding Position

### **D101/24 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 8.48 pm

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson**

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Cookstown/Dungannon/Magherafelt].

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast as aforesaid, will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I will let you know before this happens.

I would remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted.

Thank you and we will now move to the agenda.