

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 15 November 2018 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present	Councillor McNamee, Chair Councillors Burton, Clarke, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Forde, McEldowney, McFlynn, Milne, Molloy, Monteith, G Shiels,
Officers in Attendance	Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities Mr Browne, Head of Tourism Mr Hill, Head of Parks Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Agenda 4 - Representatives from Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club Mr Thomas Colton and Mr Ryan Winters

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D205/18 Apologies

Councillors McAleer, Wilson, J Shiels

D206/18 Declaration of Interests

The Chair drew members attention to Agenda Item 6 - Community Development Report, particularly Community Festival and Good Relations Grants.

Councillor Monteith declared an interest in Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club.

D207/18 Chair's Business

The Chair, reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest and advised any declarations could be taken throughout the meeting.

The Chair offered his condolences of the Committee to Ms Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development on the recent death of her mother.

Councillor Doris advised that she had been approached by charity groups seeking approval to become involved with an allotment scheme at Railway View, Coalisland and asked that a meeting be arranged with Officers to investigate a way forward.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that this would be brought to the attention of the relevant Officers.

D208/18 Deputation – Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Proposal

The Chair welcomed to the meeting representatives from Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club and invited them to address the committee.

Mr Colton advised members that they were here tonight to seek funding for Changing and Community Rooms at Eoghan Ruadh Club.

He referred to the community aspect and said that the site was on old school grounds which had lain derelict for several years and also provided evidence of drug and alcohol usage within the grounds. He said that the Development Plan was in place and plans passed and that the focus was on the Community as well as the club with one delivering the other in the area, which are both needed.

He said that:

- Phase 1 was the skills wall, floodlit and open to the public 7 days a week.
- Phase 2, 3 & 4 were field, walkway and car park.

He stated that the walkway opened in November 2015, which is one only off-road floodlit walkway in the borough, which is open 365 days per year. The targeted usage is 60 per week and estimate usage of 700 per week, 35,000 per year. This figure does not include club teams or schools, as the school alone adds over 700 during term time, weather permitting.

The walkway is interlinked with the Earls walk from the start, with road crossing and lower pedestrian gate added to project, with gates open and track in use from dawn to 10.30 pm 365 days a year. Floodlights are on photocell and switch off at 10.30 pm. The walkway is fully maintained by the club and volunteers and dogs on a lead are welcomed and will continue to be the case.

Local nursing homes and schools use the walkway free of charge, with a community defibrillator available at a cost of £600 to the club and adaption of walkway and flowerbeds etc cost club approx. £25,000. Public toilets were added to the changing rooms at an extra cost to the club and walkway lights cost approx. £1,200 per year, excluding maintenance. He stated that the car park needed completed at approx. £30,000 to the club.

The Chair thanked Mr Colton for his impressive presentation and asked for member comments

Councillor Molloy agreed that this was a tremendous facility in the Dungannon area and was even more beneficial as it opened up the link to the Earls Path, which is a good position to be in for the club. He said that great efforts were made as in the past it was a disused area and now there was the provision of toilets and the public coming to exercise and walk which benefits the residents of this community and further afield regarding the improvement of health.

Councillor Cuddy said that he was not involved with the club but would see how they were progressing very well in the local newspapers and asked if the public path continues around the pitch and was the public toilets part of the club.

Mr Colton advised that the path starts at the Donaghmore Road and continues right around, with the largest stretch of pitch continuing 665 metres. He said that the club removed the fourth changing room to construct public toilets and that this has stretched the budget immensely for the club regarding maintenance costs etc.

Councillor Cuddy referred to the Irish Medium School on site and enquired if this was going to be permanently sited there.

Mr Colton said that it was hoped that the school wouldn't be there for much longer as they had the adequate funding in place but just couldn't secure a suitable site. He advised that when the school relocates, it is anticipated that the site would be turned into a soccer pitch or a training pitch.

He continued to say that the club had approximately 30 cars was in their carpark from people from all over the borough, with walkers and running clubs using the facility at night due to it being the only floodlit area in the district.

Councillor Monteith said that his family and extended family have been members of the Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club for years and cannot explain the tremendous work that this Club does through the work of volunteers. He said that the Club is now showing up the inadequate facilities we have in the town and it's a credit to them.

Councillor McFlynn said that it was a brilliant achievement as the Club took on an old derelict site and made the necessary improvements to make it a fantastic facility and wished the Club well in the future.

The Chair thanked Mr Colton for his impressive presentation and wished the Club well in the future and advised that a discussion would ensue through the Council on what possibly can be achieved.

The representatives left the meeting at 7.17 pm.

Matters for Decision

D209/18 Economic Development Report

The Director of Business and Communities drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide members with an update on key activities below:

- 1) Invest NI Letter of Offer: Digital First Programme
- 2) NI Women's Enterprise Challenge Proposal 2018-21
- 3) Coalisland Town Centre Forum
- 4) Creative Shops Project Magherafelt
- 5) Launch of 'Mid Ulster Skills Report and Action Plan 2018-21'
- 6) Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund
- 7) Business Improvement District Feasibility Study

Councillor Monteith said that he was disappointed that there was no mention of Town Centre Rates and said that it was previously agreed that a follow up meeting was to be arranged to keep members updated on proceedings. He said that there were interventions by government agencies in other areas like Belfast due to the Primark fire where rates were urgently reviewed and similar interventions in England, Scotland and Wales to try encourage businesses to remain in town centres. He advised that our three main town centres are becoming more unsustainable for retail as more shops are closing and that retail was the second highest importance after Engineering in the Mid Ulster area.

He asked that Officers liaise with the relevant government agencies to see what mechanisms were used for the reduction of rates in town centres and asked that Town Centre Rates be a continuous item on the Development Agenda so members are kept updated.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that Officers investigate the efforts made by and activities undertaken by Belfast City Council regarding Business Rates interventions and support.

Councillor Molloy said that he was happy to second Councillor Monteith's proposal, as it may be beneficial for Officers to lobby the relevant government departments to see if a package can be brought on a way forward.

Councillor Cuddy said that a letter was received from the Department for Infrastructure regarding on street car parking restrictions in Dungannon town. He said that at the Environment Committee meeting last Tuesday night there was concern raised by some members regarding having the waiting time increased from one hour to two hours in towns as it was indicated that there was no desire amongst traders to increase the permitted on street car parking time. The Director of Environment and Property had stated it was his understanding from the Minutes of the September meeting that the request to increase on street car parking time be put forward but that if it was not the case Council could respond to the consultation stating it was happy with the content. The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that if changes were proposed to the Order at this stage the legislative process would take much longer.

Councillor Cuddy suggested that a meeting be arranged with Ms Tracy Bratten, Network Development Engineer to see if anything can be done as the last thing Dungannon needs and that there was a need to refresh the town as whatever was done a few years ago is now outdated.

The Chair agreed that the issue was raised where it was indicated that traders were not happy with the option of increasing on street waiting times from one to two hours.

Councillor Cuddy said a rigorous debate needed to be made as it takes a long time to bring these issues to fruition and that there was an onus on this Council to try and help turn this around as Christmas is near and we need to be seen to be proactive.

The Chair advised that there was no legislation in place yet in Cookstown for on street car parking and that a resolution needed to be sorted as traders were struggling.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved: That Officers liaise with representatives from the Department for Infrastructure to arrange a meeting with Traders in Dungannon to discuss concerns around time restrictions and the possible increase from one hour to two hours.

Councillor Monteith said that he was concerned about the resolution agreed at the Environment Committee and certainly wasn't happy with this as one size doesn't fit all. He advised that Thomas Street has a one hour waiting restriction and was mainly empty and the idea that parking in all streets are the same is silly. Other traders are saying that its working and that any restriction would chase shoppers away from the area and that there was a need to speak to representatives from government agencies and convince them that one size does not fill all and that one hour is not workable.

Councillor Cuddy advised that there are new premises in Thomas Street, which is an eatery, and the idea of a one-hour waiting restriction was very off putting and an extra hour would be beneficial to the proprietor of the business, otherwise there could be repercussions for him.

The Chair agreed that a meeting would may be beneficial going forward.

The Director of Business and Communities said that this committee has no authority to intervene in the Environment Committee but will try to get representatives from the Department for Infrastructure around the table with Dungannon DEA's and traders to see if a favourable outcome can be achieved.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve that:

1) Invest NI Letter of Offer: Digital First Programme

- a) Members accept Letter of Offer from Invest NI (dated 8 October 2018) for the Digital First Programme offering up to £214,800 (80%) grant towards total programme costs of £268,500.
- b) Officers work with CPD to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to deliver the Digital First Programme at a cost of up to £268,500 (including expenses and excluding Vat)

2) NI Women's Enterprise Challenge Proposal 2018-21

Further to the commitment of funding for up to one year initially towards the initiative, to proceed with the signing of the Collaborative Agreement with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Women in Business. Provision for future years to be reviewed on receipt of reports from Women in Business, detailing the performance, outputs and value for money of the initiative in the Mid Ulster District Council area.

3) Coalisland Town Centre Forum

To note progress.

4) Creative Shops Project Magherafelt

To note progress.

5) Launch of Mid Ulster Skills Report and Action Plan 2018-21

To note the official launch of Mid Ulster's new 'Skills Report and Action Plan 2018-21' on Monday 15 October 2018 at Emerson, Cookstown

6) Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund

To note progress.

7) Business Improvement District Feasibility Study

To note progress.

8) Town Centre Rates

That Officers investigate the efforts made by and activities undertaken by Belfast City Council regarding Business Rates interventions and support.

9) On Street Car Parking

That Officers liaise with representatives from the Department for Infrastructure to arrange a meeting with Traders in Dungannon and DEA members to discuss concerns around waiting time restrictions and the possible increase from one hour to two hours.

D210/18 Community Development Report

The Head of Culture and Arts drew attention to the previously circulated report to:

- 1) Seek approval for Good Relations and Community Festivals rolling grant a ward recommendations
- 2) Note the Peace IV Partnership
- 3) Note the update on Community Development

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that the Letter of Offer has now been received from the Department for Communities for the Dungannon United Youth project.

Councillor Monteith said that he was concerned regarding the issue of community groups seeking assistance as Dungannon United Youth was well and beyond compared to other groups. He felt that other groups were not getting the expertise they deserve and wanted an explanation why. He said that there should be fair play for all and it should be made clear to the organisation at the onset that the Council help all groups the same.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that Dungannon United Youth were in a unique position as they leased Council lands and using our property and now that a funding package has come on board the Council has agreed to support this initiative moving forward.

Councillor Doris left the meeting at 7.35 pm.

Councillor Monteith felt that there should be equality for all.

Councillor Molloy welcomed the approval of the funding initiative and felt that this now was an opportunity to progress the other major project in Dungannon and provide all the necessary assistance required.

Councillor Monteith felt that this was a major equality issue, which will leave this organisation answerable.

Councillor McNamee said that going forward there was a need to investigate to see what can be achieved to harmonise the issue.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to:

- 1) Grant award recommendations under the Community Local Festivals grants and Good Relations Grant as per Appendix 1 £5,600 and £585.
- 2) Note the Peace IV Partnership
- 3) Note the Community Development update report

D211/18 The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme (HoAULP)

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to update the Council on the Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme (HoAULP) and request support in principle for the project going forward.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to issue a letter of support and partnership agreement agreeing financially to support the Delivery Phase of HoAULP in principle as per outlined in the report.

D212/18 Aughnacloy Changing Room Reallocation

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation drew attention to the previously circulated report update members on proposals to uplift the existing Changing Block at Aughnacloy Grass Pitch to Aughnacloy College's 3G soccer pitch.

Councillor Burton said she welcomed this outcome and felt that this will benefit the area, as the old site was unusable.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to:

- 1) Uplift the existing Changing Block at Aughnacloy Grass Pitch to Aughnacloy College's 3G soccer pitch at the cost of circa £45,000.
- 2) Officers' actively pursuing suitable funding opportunities to provide match funding.
- 3) Recommend to Policy and Resources Committee that Council agrees to fund the complete works at a cost of circa £45,000.

In response to a query, the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that the existing grass pitch site was part of another funded Programme and it was anticipated to make the site more accessible going forward.

Councillor Burton stated that it was a well used area, but raised concern about a recycling bin being situated at the playpark area of the Eco Park, which was blocking public access.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised they she would investigate the issue as it's on Council owned property.

D213/18 Schools Sports Facilities Grant

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval for the Schools Sports Facilities Grant 2018/19.

In response to a query, the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that this would be relative to school sports synthetic pitch facilities at educational sites, which are floodlit.

Proposed by Councillor McEldowney
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for the roll out of the School Sports grant programme as in previous years with funding from an underspend in the current grant programmes.

D214/18 Macmillan Cancer Move More Mid Ulster Programme

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval to deliver the Macmillan Cancer Move More Mid Ulster Programme.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for the delivery of the More Move More Mid Ulster Programme and allow Officers to complete the required documentation.

Councillor Monteith said that that was an excellent initiative and felt that this should be progressed. He stated that this was a difficult time for a person suffering and any help that can be given to them should be encouraged.

In response to a query, the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that this was the model that we currently have with the GP Referral Scheme with the person in the programme paying a small fee to get value for what they are getting. She said that once the person would be at the end of the Move More programme they would receive a 50% fee reduction. The charity will provide funding for the post but does get any other income directly to them.

Councillor Monteith said that a report should be prepared on the GP Referral Scheme and how any income from these programmes could be rolled out again for regeneration for groups as this should be the type of initiative that the Council be involved in.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved: To investigate the possibility of funding received from GP Referrals being rolled out again for regeneration for groups like this.

Councillor Burton stated that back in the legacy Dungannon Council there were GP Referrals for people with strokes and felt that this should be considered for the next stage so they can be rehabilitated through swimming programmes.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that the GP Referrals were very high in demand but there were different funding models between the Northern and Southern health areas.

The Chair felt that it would be maybe useful bringing back a report on findings.

D215/18 Sports NI Multi Facility Fund Application

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform members of the outcome of the Sports NI Multi Facility Fund Application.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to note the success of Stage 1 application and agree to proceed to Stage 2 of the process, in addition that MUDC write to CAFRE Director to formally, request the transfer of land known as First Beech to Mid Ulster District Council.

The Chair stated that it was good to see this happening and especially for the Cookstown area where there are a lot of running clubs.

Matters for Information

D216/18 Minutes of Development Committee held on 11 October 2018

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 11 October 2018.

D217/18 Lough Neagh Partnership – Core Funding 18-19

Members noted previously circulated report on Lough Neagh Partnership – Core Funding 18-19.

Councillor McEldowney declared an interest in Lough Neagh Partnership.

D217/18 Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group Minutes of Meeting of 18 October 2018

Members noted Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group Minutes of Meeting of 18 Thursday October 2018.

D218/18 Leisure – Summer 2018 Programme Review

Members noted previously circulated report on Leisure – Summer 2018 Programme Review.

D219/18 Leisure Services Q2 Update

Members noted previously circulated report on Leisure Services Q2 Update.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy 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 D220/18 to D224/18.

Matters for Decision

- D220/18 Invitation from The Ireland Funds, America to meet potential financial donors for Seamus Heaney HomePlace in Dallas, Texas
- D221/18 Proposal to deliver a pilot Ulster Scots Language Project and Ulster Scots Cultural Activity Programme
- D222/18 Catering provision at Hill of the O'Neill & Ranfurly House
- D223/18 Reservoirs Safety Management

Matters for Information

- D224/18 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 11 October 2018

D225/18 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.15 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____