

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 10 January 2019 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present	Councillor McNamee, Chair Councillors Burton (7.03 pm), Clarke, Cuddy, Doris, Forde, McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, Milne, Molloy, Monteith (7.06 pm), Mulligan, G Shiels
Officers in Attendance	Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities Mr Browne, Head of Tourism Mr Hill, Head of Parks Ms Linney, Head of Community Development Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development Mr McShane, Acting Head of Leisure Miss Thompson, Committee Services Officer
Others in Attendance	<u>Agenda Item 4 – Caledon Regeneration Partnership</u> Mr Beattie and Ms Mortimor

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed Councillor Mulligan to the Development Committee.

D001/19 Apologies

Councillor Elattar.

D002/19 Declaration of Interests

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

Councillor McEldowney declared an interest in Lough Neagh Partnership.

Councillor McAleer declared an interest in Caledon Regeneration Partnership.

D003/19 Chair's Business

None.

D004/19 Deputation - Caledon Regeneration Partnership - Caledon Wool Store

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed representatives from Caledon Regeneration Partnership and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Beattie thanked the Committee for the opportunity to make a presentation tonight and went on to demonstrate the work done to date in Caledon. Mr Beattie highlighted the need for childcare facilities within Caledon and set out a proposal for the future use of Wool Store and the two adjoining houses on Mill Street as follows -

- The proposed project for the Wool Store will provide a day care facility on the ground floor and part of the first floor of the building with the second floor being converted into a two bedroom apartment.
- The two houses at 1 and 2 Mill Street are in a state of substantial dilapidation and it is proposed to involve a housing association with a view to restoring the properties.

Mr Beattie advised that Caledon Regeneration Partnership have letters of intent from the owners of both properties to transfer them to the Partnership on a 25 year lease, prior to the commencement of any contract for their restoration.

Mr Beattie requested, based on the case outlined, that Council provide funding of £5000 to the project. £3000 of this will complement the Project Viability Grant from the Architectural Heritage Fund and the remainder will go towards the provision of professional support to carry out a survey of Nos. 1 and 2 Mill Street, and the preliminary estimates for their complete restoration.

Ms Mortimor provided information in relation to the population of Caledon along with deprivation statistics for the area. Ms Mortimor also provided detail on Northern Ireland economic activity for July to September 2018. Ms Mortimor stated that the data provided highlighted the urgent need for the provision of a day care facility in Caledon.

Councillor Burton entered the meeting at 7.03 pm and Councillor Monteith entered the meeting at 7.06 pm during above presentation.

Councillor McAleer declared an interest in this proposal as she was a Council representative on Caledon Regeneration Partnership, the Councillor stated that having adequate childcare facilities in place were essential to attract people to an area and that Caledon was an area which was community orientated. Councillor McAleer stated she would like to think Council would support the project.

Councillor Mulligan declared an interest in this item as a Council representative on Caledon Regeneration Partnership.

Councillor Burton declared an interest in this item as a Council representative on Caledon Regeneration Partnership. Councillor Burton stated she lived in the area and as a mother of four children knew the importance of having childcare in place,

the Councillor also stated that there is a lot of new housing within the Caledon area which has brought families to the area and similarly would like to think Council could support the project. Councillor Burton stated that the building as it stands is almost derelict and that a contribution from Council towards the project would have a good impact on renovating the building and breathing new life into Caledon.

In response to question from Councillor Milne, Mr Beattie advised that the two dwellings were privately owned and the Wool Store was owned by Caledon Estate. Mr Beattie advised that letters of intent had been received from both the owners to transfer the properties to Caledon Regeneration Partnership on a 25 year lease.

Councillor McFlynn stated that the proposed project will be positive for Caledon and that families need the support of childcare facilities. The Councillor stated she welcomed the proposal being put forward.

Representatives of Caledon Regeneration Partnership were thanked for their presentation following which they withdrew from the meeting at 7.25 pm.

Councillor Mulligan stated that he had earlier declared an interest in this item and asked if this now impeded him from indicating his support of the proposal.

Councillor Monteith stated that the item being discussed was being taken in open business and that the representatives were entitled to stay in the meeting for Member discussion.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that Members may wish to discuss the matter without the representatives in the room.

Councillor Monteith stated that in that instance the item should have been listed under confidential business, the Councillor stated that as this was a public meeting the representatives were entitled to stay for Member discussion.

Councillor Burton stated that she was a Council representative on Caledon Regeneration Partnership.

Councillor Cuddy stated that at the Policy and Resources meeting the previous evening both himself and Councillor Molloy, who are representatives on Dungannon Enterprise Centre, left the room while Members decided upon a matter relating to same.

Councillor McEldowney stated she had earlier declared an interest in Lough Neagh Partnership and if an item came up on the agenda related to this she would abstain from any voting.

Councillor Molloy felt the issue of whether Members should stay or leave during a discussion is something which needed to be tidied up and that a report should be brought back to Policy and Resources Committee on the matter. The Councillor confirmed that he had left the meeting the night before during discussion of item relating to Dungannon Enterprise Centre but that he did not agree that he should

have to have done so. Councillor Molloy stated he was a Council representative on the Enterprise Centre Board but would not vote on matters relating to same.

Councillor McAleer felt there should be something in Standing Orders as she did not think it was right that representatives had to leave a meeting after making their presentation and prior to Member discussion.

Councillor Clarke referred to the leasing of the properties and asked at what point the lease would start and what guarantee there was that the lease would be renewed.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that whilst he was not aware of the specifics related to the leasing of the properties he could confirm that this was a pilot scheme which was for social projects only and not for private gain.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee suggested that going forward no representatives making a presentation should have to leave the room prior to Member discussion taking place.

Councillor Monteith proposed that Council fund the Caledon Wool Store project to the value of £5,000, provided officers could source the funding from within Council's existing community economic development budget.

Councillor Cuddy seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal.

Councillor Burton stated that the project needed Council buy in in order to make it achievable.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that the benefits of the project were obvious and that officers would revisit their existing budgets this year with a view to funding the project.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to financially support Caledon Regeneration Partnership for their Wool Store Project to the value of £5,000 from Council's community economic development budget in 2018/19.

Matters for Decision

D005/19 Community Development Report

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the following –

- **Community Local Festivals Grant and Good Relations Grant**

Proposed by Councillor Doris

Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the grant award recommendations listed on appendix 1 of the report – Community Local Festivals (£550) and Good Relations Grant (£4045).

- **Peace IV**

Proposed by Councillor Doris

Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to proceed to tender for Phase II of the Peace IV Arts Engagement Programme at a budget of £50,000.

- **Community Grants Policy**

The Head of Community Development stated that within report it was proposed to amend guidance to include ‘Group recipients should not have a membership charge for any person accessing its community provision greater than £100.’ The officer stated that this should read £250.

Councillor Monteith asked if the community venue grant could be opened up to sports groups and if so if this would then allow community groups to be applicable to apply to the sports capital fund.

The Head of Community Development advised there was a minor error in the appendix to the report in relation to community venue grant and that the criteria should read community only. The officer advised that consideration was given to include sports groups but as the Member had stated this would then allow community to apply to the sports capital and if both were opened up, with the same budget remaining, the funding would be lessened for both which would negate any impact. It was further advised that the sports capital funding which is used to support the sports small development fund has been opened up for greater activity over the last year which has increased demand and sports groups are valuing this fund up to £1,500.

Councillor Monteith referred to groups receiving funding and that only a small advance is received prior to an event with the rest of the funding being received upon receipts submitted after the event. The Councillor stated that a lot of events will not take place because of this as some groups do not have the adequate cash flow in place.

The Head of Community Development stated that there was potential to look at a phased payment approach going forward.

Councillor Monteith stated that the phased approach to funding would be a good support to groups.

Councillor Cuddy stated that Council have been providing grants for three years and that the number of grants being provided are increasing year on year. Councillor Cuddy stated it was important that grants were reaching all sections of the community and asked if any equality impact had been done in this regard.

The Head of Community Development stated that along with the two main community groupings Council does also work with other minority groupings. The officer stated that no equality monitoring currently takes place but that this can be done if desired.

Councillor Cuddy stated that it was important to filter monies out as widely as possible.

Councillor Molloy felt there was a broad spectrum of groups coming forward seeking grant aid, he stated that not all migrant groups were well constituted at present but those that were had been able to avail of funding for events.

Councillor Monteith stated it was worth looking at indicators and would support a greater push out into communities.

Councillor Burton stated that Council provides a lot of financial support to the community and referred to the presentation of cheques which used to take place which was a good way of getting the message out. The Councillor asked if this cheque presentation still takes place.

The Head of Community Development stated that groups receiving funding used to receive an actual cheque which was a good way of getting the groups to attend a presentation. The officer stated that groups now received their funding through BACS and that by holding a presentation the groups still receive the monies whether they turn up or not.

Councillor Burton felt that those receiving funding should be acknowledging what they are getting from Council.

The Director of Business and Communities stated he agreed with Councillor Burton's comments and that officers will look at and bring back ideas as to how Council can be acknowledged for the funding it provides.

Councillor G Shiels stated it was a mistake to think of funding as being a cost to the ratepayer as there were economic spin offs to providing funding.

Councillor Forde expressed her thanks to the Head of Community Development and officers within the department for their guidance and support through the funding application process.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Community Grants Policy for 2019-2020 and associated grant budget allocations as set out in appendix 3 of report.

- **Mid Ulster General Advice**

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to sign the letter of offer of funding of £9,546.74 from Department for Communities for the provision of additional advice services in Mid Ulster, and to allocate the funding directly for CAMU and monitor provision accordingly.

- **Mid Ulster Housing Working Group**

Councillor Milne proposed that meetings should also be held with MP for the area.

Councillor Doris proposed that the group should be extended to ten Members.

Councillor Milne seconded Councillor Doris' proposal.

Councillor Monteith stated that the proposed working group did not appear to have a time limit or scope of work. The Councillor stated that Council needed to get its own house in order in relation to open space as housing developments in the District were still being passed without the inclusion of open space. Councillor Monteith stated that this was an area in which Council did have some authority but was not acting on it. The Councillor further commented that the group needed to look at legislative rent control. Councillor Monteith stated that representation on the group did not include Department for Communities and felt this should be the case, he further stated that the group will only meet once before upcoming elections.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that, if agreed, the group will be in place and can continue its work into the new Council term. Councillor McNamee suggested that a sub group may be better than a working group.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to establish a ten Member Mid Ulster Housing Sub Group under Council as per the Terms of Reference set out at appendix 4 of report to include meeting with MP for the area.

- **Community Development Update**

Members noted Community Development update.

Councillor Monteith expressed his thanks to officers for their help in pushing the Southern Trust to undertake an exploratory dig at South Tyrone Hospital which he stated took place this week. The Councillor stated that it was within living memory what had happened at the site of the former workhouse and that recognising the site was of vital importance to the people of Dungannon. Councillor Monteith proposed that Council write to the Southern Trust stating that the site should be preserved and

that proposals for any development on the site cease immediately and provide assurances to the public that no further development will take place.

Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to write to Southern Trust stating that the site at South Tyrone Hospital be preserved and that current plans cease for any further development at this location.

Councillor Cuddy felt that it is important to take account of the size of the site and that possibly only part of it needed to be considered.

Councillor G Shiels referred to a paupers graveyard in Magherafelt which is commemorated.

The Director of Business of Communities stated that there was a similar site in Cookstown which is acknowledged by memorial plaque.

D006/19 Lough Neagh Partnership Heritage Lottery Landscape Programme Year 3

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which sought approval to issue a Letter of Offer to Lough Neagh Heritage Lottery Landscape Partnership Programme for Year 3 match funding contribution of £36,125. The report also advised of a change in delivery of the access element of the Landscape Conservation Action Plan from Ardboe Walk to Newferry.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to issue Letter of Offer to Lough Neagh Heritage Lottery Landscape Partnership Programme for Year 3 match funding contribution of £36,125

D007/19 Sperrins Sculpture Trail: Technical Study Contribution

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which provided update on the Sperrins Sculpture Trail project and sought approval for uplift in funding for a technical study from £5,556 each to £8,867 (in addition to previously approved £2,500 contribution for a green book economic analysis).

Proposed by Councillor McEldowney
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve an increased contribution of £8,867 for the procurement of a technical study for the Sperrins Sculpture Trail project subject to partner contributions as described in report being confirmed.

D008/19 Seachtain na Gaelige (Irish Language Week) 2019

The Head of Culture of Arts presented previously circulated report which sought approval to issue a call for Expressions of Interest from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaelige 2019.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the call for Expressions of Interest from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaelige 2019.

D009/19 Economic Development Report

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report which provided an update on the following –

- **Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme – Mid Ulster Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Sector**

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve a match funding request of £37,500 to be paid as follows; 2019/20 - £15,000, 2020/21 - £15,000 and 2021/22 - £7,500.

- **Irish Central Border Area Network**

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve release of 2nd (and final) 50% payment of £6,250 for 2018/19 to ICBAN.

- **Broadband - £150m Confidence and Supply Funding**

Councillor Clarke asked if it had been confirmed that Fermanagh and Omagh along with Mid Ulster Council would be the first areas to receive funding to improve internet connectivity and broadband speeds.

The Head of Economic Development advised that Council has strongly lobbied the Department for the Economy to prioritise Mid Ulster for broadband funding under the Confidence and Supply deal, as Ofcom has highlighted the area has the second worst broadband provision in Northern Ireland, just behind that of Fermanagh and Omagh. The officer stated that officers will continue to lobby the Department on the issue of prioritisation and have requested NILGA to do likewise.

In response to Councillor Monteith's question the Director of Business and Communities stated that 30mb is the speed Council has been working towards since September 2018.

- **Mid Ulster Digital Seminars**

Members noted report on Mid Ulster Digital Seminars 2018.

- **Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) Report 2018**

Members noted GEM Report 2018.

- **Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme – Reserve List**

Members noted Evaluation Report on Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme – Reserve List.

- **Cookstown Town Centre Forum**

Minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum noted.

- **Magherafelt Town Centre Forum**

Minutes of Magherafelt Town Centre Forum noted.

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Minutes of Maghera Town Centre Forum noted.

- **Village Renewal Project**

Members noted progress.

Councillor Clarke stated that the figures in relation to the number of residents of Dunamore were incorrect.

The Director stated that the figures for the village renewal project were based on the NISRA settlement figures but indicated that the matter would be investigated and the Member updated accordingly.

- **Coalisland Public Realm**

Members noted progress.

- **Retail NI**

Councillor Molloy proposed the report recommendation. The Councillor stated that Council do a lot of work with the engineering sector in the District but felt that further work could also be undertaken within the hospitality sector and suggested looking at groupings not covered under Flavour of Tyrone such as craft/artisan producers.

Councillor Monteith seconded Councillor Molloy's recommendation and further supported Councillor Molloy's suggestion in relation to hospitality sector as he stated this sector along with the retail sector had been badly neglected. Councillor Monteith stated that Council has a responsibility to lobby central authorities on their behalf as businesses cannot compete with edge of town centres and enterprise centres.

Councillor Burton stated that Members also needed to consider villages and the businesses therein in any future proposals, and highlighted the positive impact the Village Spruce Up Scheme had made in many rural villages across the district.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that given the nature of what will be discussed at the meeting with Retail NI he suggested that a meeting be arranged which is open to all Councillors.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree to the request from Retail NI to meet Members to present their proposals for Town Centres. Meeting to be arranged which is open to all Councillors.

▪ **Caledon Regeneration Partnership**

Members noted earlier presentation and decision regarding Caledon Regeneration Partnership.

D010/19 Café/Catering Services at Cookstown Leisure Centre and Dungannon Park Pavilion

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the appointment of concession-holders for the Café at Cookstown Leisure Centre and Dungannon Park Pavilion based on a Public Tender exercise.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to initiate procurement for the specified café and catering services at Cookstown Leisure Centre and Dungannon Park Pavilion from 1 April 2019 for a contract period of three years to 31 March 2022 with extension for a further 2x1 year periods at the sole discretion of the Council.

D011/19 Northern Ireland Forest Schools Awards Scheme

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report which sought approval to register and engage with Northern Ireland Forest Schools Association (NIFSA) to develop a schools programme in Mid Ulster District Council area for a third year 2019-20.

In response to question from Councillor Doris the Head of Parks stated that the scheme is open to all schools to register.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To register Mid Ulster District Council with Northern Ireland Forest Schools Association and continue with a three year programme to engage local schools and youth groups to embrace local parks and greenspace where feasible across the District.
 - To provide a contribution of £6,000 towards programme support costs (subject to available resources) in 2019/20 budget setting process.

D012/19 Cyclical Replacement of Fitness Equipment Proposals

The Acting Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the outline proposal related to the cyclical replacement of fitness equipment as agreed by Council on 25 October 2018.

In response to question from Councillor Milne the Acting Head of Leisure advised it has not been decided what will happen the old equipment coming out of leisure centres.

Councillor Milne stated there were numerous community groups in the area which could utilise the equipment and that discussion was needed as to what will happen to the old equipment.

The Acting Head of Leisure stated that consideration will be given to the future use of equipment being taken out of leisure centres.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the programme of implementation as follows –
- Year 1 and 2 – Replace spin bikes at Cookstown LC, Dungannon LC and Maghera LC. Install dedicated spin studio at Cookstown LC and Greenvale LC. Purchase new equipment for studio classes and refurbish fitness suites at Dungannon and Cookstown LC.
 - Year 3, 4 and 5 – Refurbish fitness suites at Maghera LC and Greenvale LC. Replace spin bikes at Greenvale LC.
 - Year 6 and 7 – Refurbish fitness suites at Mid Ulster Sports Arena and Meadowbank Sports Arena.

Matters for Information

D013/19 Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 5 December 2018

Members noted minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 5 December 2018.

D014/19 Christmas Corporate Events

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on Christmas events which took place within the District.

D015/19 The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme (HoAULP) - Progress Report

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Councillor Clarke asked if there was any update in relation to Future Search.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that work had been ongoing in relation to getting all Councils on board in order to be in a position to recruit officer to drive forward the Future Search project. The Director advised that Causeway Coast and Glens Council was the last of the four Councils to come on board and that a letter of intent was still awaited. Once this letter is received, recruitment of officer can proceed.

D016/19 Tourism Business Engagement Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on progress, work and results the Seamus Heaney Cluster have achieved over the last year.

D017/19 Mid Ulster District Tourism Development Group

Members noted previously circulated report which provided minutes of Tourism Development Group meeting held on 11 September 2018 and ratified at Tourism Development meeting on 20 November 2018.

D018/19 PARP's (Physical Activity Referral Programme)

Members noted previously circulated report which provided information on the Physical Activity Referral Programme, formerly known as the GP Referral Programme which is funded by the Public Health Agency (PHA).

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor Burton 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 D019/19 and D021/19.

Matters for Decision

D019/19 Purchasing books for resale at Seamus Heaney HomePlace
D020/19 City and Growth Deal

Matters for Information

D021/19 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 5 December 2018

D022/19 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.51 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____