

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 10 May 2018 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present Councillor Wilson, Chair
Councillors Burton, Clarke, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, McAleer (7.05 pm), McEldowney, McFlynn, Milne, Molloy, Monteith (7.09 pm), 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
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
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

Others in Attendance **Agenda Item 4 – Deputation**
Muintir na Mointeach (Washingbay Community Group)
Mr Conor Corr, (Muintir na Mointeach & CSWAN)
Dr William Burke, (Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership)

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

The Chair advised that he had to leave early

D087/18 Apologies

Councillors Forde and McNamee.

D088/18 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.

D089/18 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Wilson passed on the sympathy of the Committee to the Acting Head of Leisure on the recent death of his father.

Councillor McAleer entered the meeting at 7.05 pm.

D090/18 Deputation – Muintir na Mointeach (Washingbay Community Group)

Councillor Monteith entered the meeting at 7.09 pm.

The Chair welcomed representatives from Mr Conor Corr and Dr William Burke from Muintir na Mointeach (Washingbay Community Group) to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Corr advised that the Washing Bay Wetlands Parks was “A centre for recreation, healthy living & Heritage interpretation”.

The representatives provided an overhead presentation on the projects as outlined:

- Project 1 – Walkway with park lighting
- Project 2 – Lough Neagh Access Project
- Legal Issues
- Financial Issues
- Technical Issues
- Partnership

The advised that they would like the Council to give consideration and approve:

- Endorsing the Washingbay Masterplan
- Providing a £25,000 contribution to Project 1
- Relevant permissions for Muintir na Mointeach working in partnership with LNLP and MUDC Officers to progress Project 1 as Lead Partner
- Providing a £1,000 contribution to LNLP who will take Project 2 to Technical Design Stage (RIBA Stage 4) for submission to MURDP Lough Neagh Cooperation programme

The Chair thanked the Mr Corr and Dr Burke for their presentation and stated that it was a good ambitious project and asked for members comments.

In response to Councillor G Shiels query, Mr Corr took members through the map and advised that the new route would be within the Council’s boundary with updated existing walkway, which would be created in a circular route for walking. He said that engagement had taken place with the local football club who owned the pitch and stated that they were content as this was within their objectives. He referred to the perimeter fence and advised that this was leased to the Council by the football club and that the carpark was managed by both the Council and Lough Neagh Partnership.

The Chair thanked Mr Corr and Dr Burke for their attendance at which the left the meeting at 7.19.

The Chair advised that the recommendation of the Council would be to agree to the proposal in principle, pending a full report being brought back to committee by the Head of Parks.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to agree to the proposal in principle pending a further report being submitted by the Head of Parks.

Matters for Decision

D091/18 The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme (THoAULP) – Approval to Tender and Appoint an External Consultant

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to update the Council on the Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme (THoAULP) and request to tender and appoint an External Consultant to assist with the development of the Landscape Character Area Plan.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to tender and appoint an External Consultant to assist with the Landscape Character Area Plan.

The Head of Tourism advised that the proposal was approved by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council last Tuesday night.

D092/18 Tourism Ireland Stand at Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh 21-24 June 2018

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval to promote Seamus Heaney Experience and Mid Ulster Council Tourism product at Royal Highland Show, 2018 on the Tourism Ireland stand.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to continue engagement with Tourism Ireland and participate in Northern Ireland Industry Co-Operative Programme by promoting at Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh from 21–24 June 2018.

D093/18 Tourism Services Improvement Plan 2018-19

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for the Tourism Service Improvement Plan for 2018-19.

Councillor Monteith said although there was nothing he could argue with within the plan, there was a glaring omission regarding the lack of beds within Dungannon and the surrounding area and asked why this wasn't a key objective as there was a need to attract an hotel to the region and why there wasn't ambition to pursue this.

The Head of Tourism agreed that Councillor Monteith raised a valid point but that the ultimate plan would be to build an ultimate product. He said that his team were working with the private sector to try and remedy this and were also working with Lake Torrent to try and get a possible opportunity for beds in the area. He advised that

Officers were continuously working in the background to try and bring beds to the Dungannon area.

Councillor Cuddy referred to item 1.4 – Performance Overview in 2017/18 and enquired how much the Council had travelled in the terms of enhancing visitor numbers and felt that to date there should be more evidence on how we are progressing in terms of Tourism.

The Head of Tourism stated that tourism was progressing well as the Burnavon had been awarded a 4* rating and anticipating for a 5* rating for the Seamus Heaney HomePlace.

Councillor Clarke said that he agreed with Councillor Monteith's sentiments and referred to the Sperrins, which includes the Dark Skies Project, Slieve Gallion and Davagh Forest to name a few and said that whilst talking to tourists they are concerned about the lack of accommodation in the district as they wished to experience of staying overnight to witness the Dark Skies etc. He said that there was a need to have an in-depth look at how this could be developed, as there needs to be a financial return for the area.

Councillor Monteith said that he was fed up listening to promises year on year on the provision of beds and hotels in Dungannon, but said that he would be happy to propose the Officer recommendation presented tonight as long as there was an assurance of beds and hotels being brought to the area.

Councillor G Shiels said that it may be useful if literature and other promotional material was left at hotels or other tourist venues in Belfast to advertise the Dungannon area.

Councillor Burton said that it was her understanding that an hotel would be brought to the Dungannon area through the Ann Street Project.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that this was part and parcel of the developer's proposal.

Councillor Burton referred to Fivemiletown and the other Clogher Valley areas and stated that they were the gateway into Fermanagh and felt that the beauty of the local area needed to be showcased. She said that there were a pile of new B&B's coming on board as part of Tourism Forum and they wished to get involved. She said that she had received complaints regarding the Round Lake, including the pavilion and toilets becoming very dilapidated and in dire need of being revamped, increase in anti-social behaviour and trees overgrown around the route of the lake. She stated that during the term of the legacy Dungannon Council, a boat was sent out every year to clean the lake out and since the new Mid Ulster Council became operational, this was not the case. She said that she hoped that something could be done in the area as tourism needed to be attracted to the area and deterrents set in place to combat anti-social elements entering the area.

She also referred to Aughnacloy as a gateway to the border area and felt that it should be a base going forward.

Councillor Wilson referred to the performance overview and highlighted the issue of absent hotels and B&B's in the Dungannon area and stated that whilst it wasn't our responsibility, there was a need to work in conjunction to help the situation, as 18 years to wait for an hotel in Dungannon area was unacceptable and that there was also the need to take into consideration the rural areas. He said that there were a number of issues needing looked at.

Councillor Monteith reiterated that he had no issue with the plan but would have issues around waiting numerous years for the construction of a hotel in Dungannon.

Councillor Burton referred to the two hotels in the Clogher Valley area and said that sometimes hotels outside our area are favoured over ours and asked that the local hotels be considered in the future for events.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Tourism Services Improvement Plan for 2018-19 and investigations be carried out on how beds can be provided in the Dungannon area.

D094/18 Redevelopment of the former Maghera High School Site, Maghera

The Director of Business and Communities drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members on progress of the redevelopment of the former High School Site, Maghera.

Proposed by Councillor G Shiels
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

In response to Councillor G Shiels' query of whether a walkway could be provided at the site, the Director of Business and Communities advised that the site would be developed as an industrial park but consideration could be given to the request during the design stage. He said that it was a very ambitious project to accommodate local business needs and that the Planning PAN process would allow for this. He stated that findings would be brought back to Council for consideration, with full planning permission submitted by August 2018 and completion of project by June 2019.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the submission of PAN including outline site map/drawing (in Appendix 1) in order to commence the formal planning application process and to note progress.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson advised members that this would be his last meeting as Chair of the Development Committee and thanked them for all their support throughout the year.

The Chair left the meeting at 7.35 pm, and the Deputy Chair, Councillor Doris took the Chair.

Councillors Burton and Cuddy left the meeting at 7.35 pm.

D095/18 Community Development

The Head of Community Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to:

- 1) Seek Committee approval for Good Relations and Community Festivals rolling grant award recommendations
- 2) Agree the Peace IV Partnership recommendations
- 3) Consider a partner initiative with the Southern Health and Social Care Trust and community regarding a new learning disability base in Dungannon
- 4) Consider the request to continue to support the VPRS scheme storage provision (£273 annual contribution) supporting the transfer of Refugees into accommodation and to resettle in Northern Ireland
- 5) Agree GDPR (Government Data Regulation Protection) requirements for community development
- 6) Update on Community Development

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

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved: 1) Grant award recommendations under the Community Local Festivals Grants and Good Relations Grant as per Appendix 1 £8,299 and £6,490.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved: 2) Peace IV Partnership recommendations for the Cross Border Literary Programme procurement to a maximum budget of £20,000 and Phase II Grants to a maximum budget of £148,340.10.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved: 3) Additional statement as detailed within the report to the Community Grants Policy 2018-19.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved: 4) Support to the VPRS storage scheme at a cost of £273 from Good Relations budget to Kiltonga Charity.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molly and

Resolved: 5) The partner delivery and SLA with the Southern Health and Social Care Trust for the provision of a pilot Day Opportunities base in Dungannon
Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn

Resolved: 6) Note the Community Development Update report.

D096/18 Community Development Service Improvement Plan 2018-19

The Head of Community Development drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for the Community Development Service Improvement Plan for 2018-19.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Community Development Service Improvement Plan for 2018-19.

D097/18 Economic Development

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

- **Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme**
 - **Phase 1 – Evaluation Report**
Progress Noted
 - **Phase 2 – Reserve List**

Councillor Molloy said the Village Spruce Up Scheme had been very successful to date and asked that a scoping exercise be carried out before the next financial year to determine interest in a further Village Spruce Up Scheme for 2019/20 as some business owners had missed out.

The Head of Economic Development said that the member's views would be taken on board.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council to note the 44 successful applicants on the reserve list (ie Phase 2) and to approve the additional elements of works for grant aid on applications VSS17/64, to the value of £750 and VSS17/157 to the value of £315.

- **Home Office – EU Settlement Scheme**

Councillor Monteith asked what benefits the Officers saw in this project. He added that Council had built up a good reputation with the local migrant community and

would be fearful of putting that at risk by getting involved in this project with the Home Office.

The Head of Economic Development advised that this pilot project sought to engage with the local migrant community now on settlement issues post Brexit.

Councillor Monteith said that he would be very sceptical regarding the scheme.

The Director of Business and Communities said that he took on board Councillor Monteith's concern and that there would be no reason why Officers couldn't go back to NILGA and seek further clarity and bring back to a future meeting before a decision can be made.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council that Officers seek further clarity from NILGA and bring back to Committee before a decision is made.

- **Cookstown Continental Market – 2–3 June 2018**
Note details of the event
- **Village Renewal Project**
Progress Noted.
- **Coalisland Public Realm**
Progress Noted.
- **Hong Kong Trade Visit**
Progress Noted.
- **GDPR Business Seminar**
Note the event.
- **Mid Ulster Skills Forum**
Note Minutes – 13 December 2017.
- **World Butchers Challenge**
Members noted report on the World Butchers Challenge.
- **Broadband Correspondence from Dept for the Economy**
Members noted correspondence from Dept for the Economy.
- **Economic Development Achievements 2017/18**
Members noted Economic Development achievements in 2017/18.

D098/18 Economic Development Service Improvement Plan 2018-19

The Head of Economic Development drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for the Economic Development Service Improvement Plan for 2018-19.

Councillor Monteith enquired if Planners had ever sought the views from Economic Development regarding their opinions on planning applications related to town centre proposals.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that this does not happen formally.

Councillor Monteith stated that there were many large empty retail units which the Planning Department granted approval to change the use of and felt that this was unacceptable as they should have been liaising with officers within Economic Development. He said he has concerns over decisions that Planners have taken concerning urban applications and is still awaiting the finished Development Plan, which was 6-7 years behind schedule. He said that there was a fundamental weakness within the organisation as planning applications are being made on issues without the input of Economic Development staff.

The Director of Business and Communities said that his officers do not be consulted on these issues but that there was participation on shaping the new Development Plan especially in relation to our towns and villages. He said this is what happens currently, but he would raise the issue with Council's SMT and seek a response for the Member.

Councillor Monteith said if the Council were serious, then retail space needs to be protected and if there was any proposed change of use in existing retail units then views could be sought from Economic Development.

Councillor G Shiels said that it was evident that no planning has been considered within towns for years and it was gradually getting worse. He said that the Community Plan was too aspirational and felt that it gave people in Mid Ulster a false sense of hope citing as an example the Health Service which has no money available for services.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Economic Development Service Improvement Plan for 2018-19

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor G Shiels and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that concerns relating to planning decisions being taken for town centre retail space without input from Council's economic development section be brought to the attention of the SMT to raise members concerns.

Councillor Clarke said that he agreed with previous comments about planning and felt that there should be an opportunity to get infrastructure sorted out when planning permission was approved for a dwelling in urban areas such as footpaths across the

front of properties should be included as part of the criteria for approval as some areas do not have any. He referred to Dunamore and advised that although it was classed as a small settlement and not a village, there was a massive population with schools, churches, shops and a nursing home and this was a good example of a concentrated village and this needed to be addressed.

D099/18 Business Programmes – Updated Proposals to EU Growth & Jobs Programmes

The Head of Economic Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below:

- Gearing for Growth Programme
- Digital First Programme
- Tender Ready Programme
- Transform Programme

In response to the Chair's query, the Head of Economic Development said that for every £1,000 of funding received from the EU Growth & Jobs Measure, one fulltime job or equivalent had to be created.

Councillor Molloy felt that the Council should be an enabler and that an outside body like the Enterprise Centre should be the provider, with the Council providing assistance in the background. He enquired what the penalties were if jobs were not provided.

The Head of Economic Development advised that Councils had been advised initially that we needed to ensure 'best endeavours' to achieve the £1,000 a job target, but this has since been revised to achieving 'reasonable endeavours' however, there is still lack of clarity on what this actually means. She further indicated that this particular source of funding is a local government measure and cannot be transferred to third parties, but third parties could bid for the delivery of such programmes from Council.

Councillor Molloy said that he would be dubious over the initiative.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the submission of 4 applications for Business Support Programmes (Gearing for Growth Programme, Digital First Programme, Tender Ready Programme and Transform Programme) requiring a contribution from Council's Economic Development budget of up to £240,440 over a four year period.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that the Council would recruit in the region of 660 local businesses to these programmes which were totally compliant and aligned to Council's Economic Development Strategy. He said that officers had spent a great deal of time in preparing these applications reassured members that it was a good opportunity to support local businesses.

Councillor Molloy agreed said that he wasn't questioning officers' abilities, rather the programmes.

D100/18 Culture and Arts Service Improvement Plan 2018-19

The Head of Culture & Arts drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for the Culture and Arts Service Improvement Plan for 2018-19.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Culture and Arts Service Improvement Plan for 2018-19.

D101/18 Angling Summer Schools Programme 2018

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval to accept funding from Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) under their Outreach Programme and private sector contributions from local businesses.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to accept funding from Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) under their Outreach Programme and private sector contributions from local businesses.

D102/18 Traffic Management System for Davagh Forest

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval for the installation of a Traffic Management System at Davagh Forest with the capacity to generate revenue income.

Councillor Clarke said that he wasn't aware of this proposal, as it was the first he had heard of it. He said initially this issue was raised but didn't think anything more about it and it might be more advisable to have discussions with the community before proceeding with this.

The Head of Parks said that this was part of a budget setting process with targets across the range of services and that the figure was challenging.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised members that a paper was previously presented to include the rate setting process.

Councillor Clarke said that it would be usual to have a more detailed discussion around this matter.

The Head of Parks said that there was a target to be met this financial year with the added provision of a rolling programme of incremental increases over the next two years that would achieve alignment with Blessingbourne mountain bike trials. He said that a target had been set which has to include the delivery and meeting of objectives.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation said that Officers could meet the community within Davagh and explain their plans and defer this proposal for a month or so until agreement was reached.

The Head of Parks referred to the wider user groups at Davagh and advised that mountain bikers etc pay for services elsewhere and the biggest knock on effect would be the local communities and said that carparking tariffs would be kept as low as possible and that any revenue gained should be reinvested in the facility.

He said that the mountain biking product needed investment as there was a slight fall in bike users coming to Davagh and that there was a need to implement trails to keep it as an attractive product.

Councillor Molloy referred to Kilbroney Forest Park and advised that there was no charge to use their mountain bike trails and asked if there was any liaison for their track.

The Head of Parks said that there was no direct liaison with Kilbroney and that their country park had other income generated schemes i.e caravan provision, camping etc. He said that officers would be looking at other streams to see what else could be identified as an income generator.

Councillor Molloy said that when he compared the cost of town centre parking with Davagh, and said that it was very expensive as it costs 40p to park in a town centre for an hour and it is anticipated to cost £5 per hour at Davagh. He said that this wasn't very family friendly as the playpark at Davagh could be the only one around within a 10 mile radius and expensive for local families to visit.

The Head of Parks said that some user groups may have issues and that officers would look at the logistics at putting a system together in which would be more manageable. He said that work was ongoing to see how to differentiate between user groups but that the principle would be to try and generate revenue.

Councillor Elattar enquired about the 50:50 split in generated income for Blessingbourne Estate and enquired if this would be the same for Davagh.

The Head of Parks advised that the lease agreement from Forest Service allowed the Council to keep any generated income without splitting it.

Councillor McFlynn agreed that the admission charge of £5 was very expensive for families to visit the playpark, but there was a requirement to pay at other forest parks like Drum Manor and Lissan House also, but still thought that a £5 admission fee was very steep.

Councillor Monteith advised the committee that the local people were already paying for the facilities at Davagh through their rates.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to defer the issue of traffic management at Davagh until officers have an opportunity to have a further consultation with the local community, with a report being brought back to committee on outcome.

D103/1/8 Parks Service Improvement Plan 2018-19

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for the Parks Service Improvement Plan for 2018-19.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor McEldowney

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Parks Service Improvement Plan for 2018-19.

D104/18 Sports Facility Strategy

The Acting Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval for the Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) Sports Facility Strategy.

Councillor Monteith enquired what the status of this document entailed with clubs applying for funding as there was a need not to hinder any possible opportunities. He said that the strategy was unreflective of the provision of pitches, whether GAA, Rugby, Soccer or 4G pitches and to say there was not a need for grass pitches in the Dungannon area was ludicrous. The ladies GAA team in Dungannon had to travel 25 miles to use a grass pitch and said there was a need to enhance what we have.

The Acting Head of Leisure referred to recommendation no. 3 Playing Pitch Strategy on artificial and grass pitches and infrastructure.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that the difficulty arose when the three legacy councils came together, it was realised that there was no evident data research information on what pitches were in our ownership as Officers couldn't locate any relevant information. She said that funding was available from SportsNI at the moment and if clubs were thinking about applying for funding that this would be the route to go down.

Councillor Monteith said that the clubs were advised that funding was for a new pitch and our Mid Ulster Strategy was for the enhancement of existing pitches only.

The Acting Head of Leisure advised that there was new playing pitch funding available.

Councillor Monteith said that the funding application was closing this Friday and clubs wouldn't be ready. He said that he found it amazing that after three years of this

Council, there was still no database of club pitches within the area. He suggested contacting all the local recognised Sporting organisations requesting information on ownership of their pitches in the area.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that individual clubs were asking for letters of support.

Councillor Molloy said that there was a need for a scoping exercise for demand on the pitches to include usage etc.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Mid Ulster District Council Sports Facility Strategy and the recommended framework included within.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that an assessment of grass pitches in the area be carried out immediately and that a draft report be brought to the September meeting.

D105/18 Leisure Services – Service Improvement Plan 2018-19

The Acting Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval for the Leisure Services – Service Improvement Plan for 2018-19.

Councillor Monteith referred to the closing of roads and said that it was agreed at last month's committee meeting that people would be contacted with information but that he was unaware of this happening. He said that two months down the line, all we are hearing are horror stories about the Belfast Marathon being under threat and there was a need for clarification and who were taking the lead on this.

The Head of Tourism said that responsibility sits with the Environmental Health Licensing section. He said that discussions have taken place with organisers of the Fleadh and the Clogher Valley Show to try and work out issues. He advised that all relevant information had been put on the website and that Letters of Offer being sent out have informed the local communities of the situation and since the last meeting an advert has been placed on the newsletter going out.

Councillor McFlynn said that four events had been identified through the Environment Committee last Tuesday night and advised that a fee of £415 was sought for a licence and a further fee for street management plan. She said that people would have to be inventive and seek other ways to hold events rather than closing the roads.

The Head of Tourism advised that the advice from the DfI was that enforcement just didn't relate to road closures, but to traffic disturbances and they are saying that only four management companies were eligible to carry this out, but that this was only a recommendation and doesn't have to be one of them if another could be identified.

He stated that this was hard on communities raising funds for charities with no clear guidance from the department.

Councillor Elattar advised that within her area that there was a Cycle Against Suicide and were lucky enough as it included the PSNI who were happy to provide traffic management themselves as they were involved in the cycle.

Councillor Clarke suggested whatever decision was made that it would be inclusive and said that he didn't know why any department was taking this initiative forward when the characters involved were not even in the equation and should be put back.

Councillor Monteith asked if events had a limited number throughout the calendar year, as this would be a hindrance. He suggested that the Council write to the Permanent Secretary of the DfI expressing this Council's concerns.

The Head of Tourism advised that he wasn't aware of the limited number of events proposed.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Leisure Services – Service Improvement Plan for 2018-19.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that a letter be written to the Permanent Secretary of the DfI expressing this Council's concerns relating to issues around road closures for events.

Matters for Information

D106/18 Minutes of Development Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 11 April 2018

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on Wednesday 11 April 2018.

D107/18 External Investment Leverage 2017-18

Members noted previously circulated report on External Investment Leverage 2017-18.

Cllr McAleer left the meeting at 8.40 pm.

D108/18 Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 16 April 2018

Members noted Minutes of Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group held on Monday 16 April 2018.

D109/18 Events – May–July 2018

Members noted previously circulated report on Events – May-July 2018.

D110/18 Pilgrimage Trail between Ardboe Cross and Battery Harbour

Members noted previously circulated report on Pilgrimage between Ardboe Cross and Battery Harbour.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn 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 D111/18 to D113/18.

Matters for Decision

D111/18 Path from Newell Road to Railway Park
D112/18 Tender to Supply Willow to Cookstown Leisure Centre

Matters for Information

D113/18 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on Wednesday 11 April 2018

D114/18 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 9.05 pm

CHAIR _____

DATE _____