

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 13 September 2018 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present	Councillor McNamee, Chair Councillors Burton, Clarke, Cuddy, Doris, Forde, McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, Milne, Molloy, Monteith (7.05 pm), G Shiels, Wilson
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 Mr McKenna, Economic Strategies Manager Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development Mr McShane, Acting Head of Leisure Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Representatives from Lough Neagh Eels Cathy Chauhan – Lough Neagh Fisherman’s Co-op Pat Close – CEO for Lough Neagh Fisherman’s Co-op

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D162/18 Apologies

Councillors Elattar and J Shiels.

D163/18 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.

The Chair declared an interest in Cookstown Fr Rocks GFC.

D164/18 Chair’s Business

The Chair said that at the June committee meeting he had requested that members who wished to raise items under Chair’s Business should do so a day in advance of the meeting and reiterated the importance of this due to sensitive issues around some matters and stated that he had three requests to be raised tonight.

Councillor Clarke advised that there was a meeting held during the week with Department of the Economy – GSNI and that residents within his DEA were concerned about the lack of knowledge of what was taking place regarding the surveying of their area.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to invite all the statutory agencies involved with GSNI to organise a consultation day in the Burnavon so that the public could come in and see for themselves what was happening.

Councillor McFlynn agreed that this would be very welcome as there was some information emerging in some areas but very little within the Sperrins.

Councillor Monteith entered the meeting at 7.05 pm.

Councillor Molloy referred to an incident at Dungannon dog track site and said that it had been raised numerous times about it being a haven for anti-social behaviour and

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that Officers investigate who owns the site so it can be cleared, secured or developed.

Councillor Monteith said that he would be happy to second Councillor Molloy's proposal, as the site in question was a prime location as urban centres were crying out for developments. He said that it was up to the Council to take the lead on what was going to happen to the site.

Councillor Cuddy agreed with members' sentiments and said that it was a prime site for anti-social behaviour and that it was becoming a serious issue.

The Director of Business and Communities said that this would be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Burton referred to the changing facilities at 3G Pitch at Aughnacloy and asked that they be relocated as a matter of urgency to the new site due to the old site being constantly waterlogged.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that a meeting be convened as soon as possible to seek the best way forward on having the re-location of changing rooms carried out and whether there was an option to have it carried out in-house or not.

Councillor Cuddy agreed that the changing facilities at 3G Pitch at Aughnacloy needed urgent attention due to the old site being prone to severe waterlogging and advised that the new proposed site was only a short distance away.

Councillor Wilson apologised for not giving prior notice to the Chair but wanted to raise a concern regarding the date and time of the Peace IV heritage banquet taking place at The Hill of the O'Neill. He noted that he was disappointed that the event was the same time as the Development Committee which left members could not attend and as Mid Ulster District Council was leading on it, they should decide the date and time that suits their Councillors and not Donegal.

The Chair said that it was disappointing and that moving forward that lessons would need to be learnt.

Councillor Wilson said that this was being done time and time again and these issues were never addressed.

D165/18 Deputation – Lough Neagh Eels

The Chair welcomed to the committee Ms Cathy Chauhan and Mr Pat Close, representatives from Lough Neagh Eels who provided an overhead presentation on "River to Lough Festival 2019 – A Celebration of Lough Neagh Pollan PDO"

Ms Chauhan advised that Lough Neagh was the largest wild eel fishery in Europe, producing approx 400 tonnes of eels per annum. She stated that in 1965 LNFCS owned 20% of the shares and in 1972 purchased remainder of the shares.

The purpose of the festival was to celebrate every element of the accolade of PDO for Lough Neagh Pollan including:

- The Heritage and traditions of fishing for Pollan on Lough Neagh
- The current sustainable management of the fishery including the unique distinguishing features and the life cycle of Pollan in Lough Neagh, the environment in which it spends its entire life, and why this habitat is so important to the commercial production of this unique species of fin fish
- Demonstration of the capture and processing of Lough Neagh Pollan an revel in this authentic food culture which is highly sought after throughout Europe

In turn, the outcome and benefits of the event will:

- Encourage 8,000 to attend and participate in a series of activities related to the Pollan fishing industry on the Lough
- Bring in excess of 5000 beneficiaries from the Mid Ulster Council area, especially Magherafelt and the Western and Northern Shore of Lough Neagh. The remaining estimated audience will come from Toome, Cranfield, Antrim and further afield
- Recognise further the Mid Ulster region as an area of high quality food production

Ms Chauhan advised that they have come here tonight to seek Council funding of £4,165.20 which was a shortfall from the total cost of the event and to endorse the River to Lough Festival 2019.

The Chair thanked the representatives and asked for any members comments.

Councillor G Shiels said that Pollan emerged into our waters around the ice-age from the Arctic and was unique to Ireland. He said that there was a time that salesmen went door to door selling pollan and asked was there thought given to having this reinstated again.

Mr Close advised that this was not practice for approximately the last 15 years probably down to food safety and health and safety issues.

Councillor Cuddy said that it was a very interesting project and enquired if there was any funding sought from the private sector.

Ms Chauhan stated that the organisation didn't look too closely at approaching the private sector as it was more difficult to meet timeframes and when the budget was in place, a large proportion is taken for sponsorship and more difficult to control.

Mr Close said that it was more about the importance of the recognition of the accreditation, quality of water and heritage surrounding Lough Neagh, with around 60% of fishermen residing in the Mid Ulster area. He said that there was an onus on them to be ever mindful of sponsorship as the organisation was a co-operative and that this venture was relatively new to them, with their first day doing so being in 2014, which generated a huge interest and the eels being very well received.

In response to a query, Ms Chauhan advised that the event was proposed to take place on 30th March 2019 subject to appropriate funding.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that there were a range of Council grants to avail of and if members were minded, that Officers would work with the Co-op with the view of progressing the project and also take into consideration working as a unison on the venture of the Heaney Trails.

Councillor Burton said that this was a very good product and that she attended the launch of the eels and felt that there was an opportunity to break into other areas and that the group should consider showcasing their product at the Clogher Valley Show.

Ms Chauhan agreed with Councillor Burton and advised that they showcased their product at the Clogher Valley Show in 2015, but that they also tried to attend other different events also.

Councillor McEldowney said that this was a great idea as it would also bring in the history of the Fishermen. She said that she came from a fishing family background and that it was nice to see that history wasn't dying out as Fishermen's lives were not easy by any means and the Lough provided for families.

Councillor McFlynn declared an interest in Lough Neagh.

Councillor McFlynn advised that Lough Neagh should be showcased the same way as other areas are supported and that she wished the group well and hope that they gain great success.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation, congratulated them on their accreditation and wished them every success on their Festival.

The representatives from Lough Neagh Eels left the meeting at 7.23 pm.

Matters for Decision

D166/18 Public Art Rural Proposal

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to secure Council approval to proceed in principle to work in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council to scope a major public art project with significant tourism potential under the current Rural Tourism Scheme opened by the Northern Ireland Rural Development Scheme.

Councillor Monteith said that during the Earls Project it was expressed that there would be a public art trail and asked that this be investigated again. He stated that it was suggested around 30 – 40 years ago that a major art-piece be placed at the hospital roundabout and felt that it would be beneficial to investigate potential urban public art trails.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve in principle to proceed with scoping of this project and to submit an expression of interest to the current Rural Tourism Scheme. Investigate potential urban public art trails.

D167/18 Economic Development

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

- **SMART Construct Event Request**

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given for the Council to act as an associate sponsor at the SMART Construct Event on 25 October 2018 in the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown at a cost of £3,000 + Vat.

- **Mid Ulster Business Awards 2018**

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve that the two complimentary tickets be allocated to the Council Chair and an Officer to attend the Mid Ulster Business Awards on 28 November 2018 at Corick House Hotel and Spa, Clogher. If additional Members wish to attend, tickets can be purchased at a fee of £65 per person, charged to individual Members Annual Allowance budget. Any additional Members interested in attending should express their interest to the Head of Economic Development by 28 September 2018.

- **Mid Ulster Digital Seminars 2018**

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for the three forthcoming Digital Seminars at a cost of £7,750 + Vat. If interested in attending, Members can register via Eventbrite, or by contacting an officer in the Economic Development team.

- **Business of Leadership – Round 2 Conference**

Councillor Molloy declared an interest in Economic Development - Business of Leadership – Round 2 Conference - as a member of Dungannon Enterprise Centre.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Doris

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve funding for Council to act as a co-sponsor at the Business of Leadership Round 2 Conference at the Junction, Dungannon at a cost of £1,500.

- **Mid Ulster Skills Forum**

- a) **Mid Ulster Skills Report and Action Plan (2018-2021)**

- Noted

- b) **Research Study into the Engineering Sector in Mid Ulster**

- Noted

- c) **Brexit Sub-Group**

- Noted

- **Village Renewal Project**

- Noted

- **Coalisland Public Realm Scheme**

- Noted

- **Cookstown Continental Market 2018 – Evaluation Report**

- Noted

- **Rating in Town Centres & REVEAL 2020**

Noted – Meeting with LPS and Departmental Officials to be held on Tuesday 25 September 2018 at 5.30 pm in the Chamber, MUDC Dungannon.

Councillor Monteith raised concern about rating in towns and said that there was an onus on the Council to liaise with the people who make the decisions on rating and felt that there would be no difference until the value of properties goes down. He said that there was a need to seek a way forward to see how this can be addressed as town centres were dying and that there was a need to explore new ideas to breathe new life into our town centres. He said that people were getting disheartened and struggling to keep their businesses afloat and that there was a need for this Council to write to the Department of Finance and LPS on rating issues. He advised that it was up to members of this Council to see how we can implement our new powers like England, Scotland and Wales where some properties were de-rated.

The Chair said that it was worth investigating this suggestion.

The Director of Business and Communities said that this action emanated from a previous meeting and that everyone was frustrated with the lack of ability to proceed on important issues relating to High Streets due to restrictions regarding the current government situation. He said that correspondence had been sent to LPS and Department of Finance requesting that their most Senior Officers attend a meeting to address concerns raised.

Councillor G Shiels said that there may not be a lot that can be done about the reduction of rates, but this doesn't say that there couldn't be other incentives offered.

Councillor Cuddy suggested that a few case studies be provided on the three towns to highlight the issues and make them aware of the seriousness of the situation.

Councillor Wilson said there were opportunities to challenge LPS, as they were sympathetic to businesses around the Primark tragedy in Belfast.

- **Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges – Dungannon & Magherafelt**

Proposed by Councillor G Shiels
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council to approve the temporary reduced tariff for the first 3 hours of 10 pence in all Off Street Pay & Display Car Parks in Dungannon and Magherafelt from Saturday 24th November 2018 to Saturday 5th January 2019 (6 week period) at a cost of £23,400.

Councillor Burton left the meeting at 7.48 pm

- **Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund**

Councillor Monteith enquired why the Dungannon route wasn't running through the town centre.

The Head of Economic Development said that the Department for Culture, Media & Sport wanted projects where significant industry could avail of it and that was why the proposed route as it was believed to be the strongest option to include in the funding bid.

Councillor Cuddy suggested running the route from the Hill of the O'Neill through to the Council Offices to Gortgonis.

The Head of Economic Development advised that she would investigate the matter and report back.

The Director of Business and Communities agreed that the matter be investigated and members updated accordingly.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council to agree the proposed routes for Cookstown and Maghera. The Dungannon/Coalisland route was also agreed subject to investigating the potential to commence the Dungannon route at the Hill of the O'Neill, through the town to the Council Offices and onwards to Coalisland. Members to be updated accordingly at a future meeting.

- **Broadband Working Group**
Noted
- **Brexit Working Group**

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that 10 Members be nominated to serve on the Brexit Working Group, based on the D'hondt system, after which the first meeting can be arranged. Nominations to be made to the Head of Economic Development by the end of September 2018.

The Head of Economic Development left the meeting at 8 pm.

D168/18 Audit of Natural Grass Playing Pitches in Mid Ulster

The Acting Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members on an audit of existing natural grass pitches across Mid Ulster with an assessment of usage based on the number of teams currently using these facilities.

Councillor Monteith declared an interest in Eoghan Ruadh.

Councillor Monteith enquired about the audit and the fact that Eoghan Ruadh was down as having one pitch but the details of teams etc was missing. Also that Dungannon Clarke's hadn't been listed who have two pitches.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the results of this audit of natural grass pitches, and to allow MUDC Officers to engage with relevant sporting clubs to further develop a policy regarding the future demand, need and maintenance of natural grass playing pitches.

In response to a query regarding extension to MUSA, the Acting Head of Leisure advised that the Council were in a position to proceed pending formalisation.

D169/18 Sports Representative Grants

The Acting Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to present to members the proposed community grant allocations for the range of Sports Representative Grants – Team and Individuals.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the recommendation for Sports Grant allocations as per Appendix 1 and to request transfer of £12,000 from an underspend in Sports Capital Grants.

D170/18 Leisure Family Fun Days

The Acting Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to outline a proposal to deliver a range of Family Fun days at key Leisure Centres during October/November 2018.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to proceed with the delivery of Family Fun days at key Leisure facilities to commence in October 2018.

D171/18 Park and Play Five Year Strategic Plan

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval for the Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan.

The Chair advised that he had been approached by a number of Councillors who couldn't attend the meetings and asked that this item be deferred until some issues were properly addressed.

In response to Councillor Wilson's query about how many Councillors attended, the Head of Parks advised that a total of 7 Councillors attended on both dates.

Councillor Wilson said that he had no issue with the DEA meetings and sometimes some meetings and engagements overlap.

Councillor Monteith said that he had no problem with the strategy and was aware that it needed to be completed ASAP but that he would have an issue with no reference being made to Adopting Planning Policy, where we see housing developments being constructed with no recreation facilities included. He said that he wouldn't be agreeing to the strategy until this issue was addressed as there were housing estates with young people kicking a ball in the street. He stated that the Council had the authority over Planning and make it a rule that no more housing developments were approved until it fits into the policy. He said that it doesn't matter if it was a new application or an old application; the Council have the authority to advise Planners to change regulations and cannot blame anyone else any longer and would be fully supportive of housing developments, but only if there were green recreational areas attached. He suggested that DEA's liaise with the Planners on a favourable way forward.

Councillor Molloy agreed with Councillor Monteith's views and advised that the meetings held with Councillors had been very worthwhile and encouraged all Councillors to attend if possible.

Councillor Wilson said that there was a failing in a Cookstown development where a space had to be left where the last house was built to provide green recreational space. He said that this space was still there and causing problems. He would suggest that in the future that any recreational space be constructed at an early stage. He agreed that it would be beneficial for DEA's to sit down with Planners and discuss a way forward.

Councillor Monteith suggested that a workshop be organised on issues, which needed addressed like housing estates.

The Head of Parks said that it was vital to get as much information on the strategy as possible so it can be done right like concerns relating to housing developments etc.

Councillor Wilson advised that he had raised the issue of upgrading Drum Manor Forest Park with the Head of Parks previously and said that he would have concerns regarding a tariff being charged to the public when we are providing the funding and the Forestry Service reaping the benefits.

The Head of Parks said that some general complaints were brought to the attention of the Forestry Service on how it was unfair for the public being expected to pay a fee for admission. He said that the Council were working towards inclusive play facilities for all as there was a lack of provision for disabled users at Drum Manor. He would go back to Forestry Service to see if anything can be achieved regarding charging.

Councillor Forde said that she welcomed the possibility of disabled play facilities as it was necessary and that parents and crèches were crying out for it as it was greatly needed in the Cookstown area.

Councillor McFlynn advised that Magherafelt had the highest population but had the lowest play areas. She said that there was £100k being spent on Meadowbank and it was only play park in Magherafelt while other areas had a lot more.

Councillor Monteith asked what the update was on Railway Park as we were 3 months down the line and nothing has happened yet.

Councillor McAleer raised concern about the slow progress in Knockmany Forest Park. She said that she had first raised the issue in 2014 and now four years down the line and still the facility had yet to be built. She said it was frustrating to see groups raising funding to try and better the area to be without adequate facilities.

The Head of Parks said that nearly everything was in place and that the only thing outstanding was the legalities and correspondence between the Council and the Forestry Service. He said that presently the Council Solicitor was liaising with the Forestry Service and has advised them that this should be a sleek transaction and that Council were working to deadlines.

Councillor McAleer advised that the group worked as volunteers and had developed an action plan on health and wellbeing issues whilst working at their own professions and it was very frustrating to see slow progress.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that the Head of Parks would follow up concerns raised regarding Knockmany.

Councillor Cuddy said that it was important to provide Knockmany with the highest priority and asked that the Council Solicitor be invited to a future meeting to address issues raised regarding Knockmany.

Councillor Milne left the meeting at 8.15 pm.

Councillor Monteith said that he was very disappointed to see that the ICT Consultant has yet to be appointed for Railway Park and suggested that an urgent meeting be called to address concerns.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that a proposal was put forward in June to appoint an ICT team, that Officer teams were presently dealing with a lot of projects and were under severe pressure with delivering capital projects.

Councillor Monteith advised that it would be useful to keep members updated on situations regarding the progression of projects and if it's a resourcing issue then Councillors are aware of what's happening and can make appropriate decisions..

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that a meeting would be organised to seek clarity on issues raised.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that there were multiple projects within Council's Capital Programmes team, the volume of which is significant and is growing continuously. He stated that the Council were trying to prioritise the projects

at SMT, internal projects and those externally funded, considering how best to deliver them within the deadlines set out and striving to secure best value for money.

Councillor Monteith said that he wouldn't be convinced that a meeting would be beneficial and that he had little faith in this organisation. He said that we had 15 projects and that priority was given to externally funded projects with our own being put on the backburner.

The Chair said that he felt that this conversation was for a larger stage and that blame should not be put on Officers as they were working to the best of their ability to deliver projects.

Councillor Monteith said that if resourcing was an issue then it was up to Officers to let members know of the situation and then if members were aware then there was nothing that can be done about it.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that a meeting be organised to seek clarity on issues raised regarding Railway Park.

A decision on the five year Parks and Play Strategic Plan be deferred and that all Councillors be emailed regarding Strategic Plan and that Officers meet any Councillor who requests one to discuss the proposals in detail.

D172/18 The Woodland Trust Application to Landfill Communities Fund for Cabin Wood

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to support The Woodland Trust's application to Landfill Communities Fund for Discover Cabin Wood project.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to support the application, subject to ENTRUST approval and monies becoming available.

D173/18 Brantry Forest Development Proposal

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval for development proposal at Brantry Forest, Caledon in partnership with DEARA and Forest Service NI.

In response to Councillor Molloy's query, the Head of Parks advised that it was a good facility but it wasn't being used as much as it should be.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

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

- 1) Establish a Licence Agreement/Lease with FSNI
- 2) Engage with DEARA to seek and draw down funding package
- 3) Seek through Policy and Resources Committee match capital funding contribution, 20% of total project costs (estimated £50k).
- 4) Proceed with development of the proposal and undertake procurement and completion of a tender exercise for the project subject to the confirmation of funding from DEARA
- 5) Engage with the community and seek to develop community partnership proposals and agreement for sustainable management solutions

Matters for Information

D174/18 Minutes of Development Committee held on Wednesday 4 July 2018

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on Wednesday 4 July 2018.

D175/18 Tourism Ireland Indian Tour Operator Fam Trip and Strategic Events Update

Members noted previously circulated report on Tourism Ireland Indian Tour Operator Fam Trip and Strategic Events Update.

D176/18 Minutes of Shopmobility Mid Ulster Annual General Meeting

Members noted Minutes of Shopmobility Mid Ulster Annual General Meeting.

D177/18 Request for Allotments in Glenburn Area, Magherafelt

Members noted previously circulated report on Request for Allotments in Glenburn Area, Magherafelt.

Councillor McFlynn declared an interest in Glenburn Area, Magherafelt.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Doris 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 D178/18 to D187/16.

Matters for Decision

- D178/18 Cookstown Town Twinning, Sperrin Choir visit to Plerin-Sur-Mer, 3rd – 6th May 2019
- D179/18 Coalisland and East Tyrone Great Place Partnership Group Partnership Agreement
- D180/18 Invitation to Bardic Theatre to perform at Liverpool Irish Festival 2018
- D181/18 Community Development Report
- D182/18 Connecting Pomeroy – Peace IV Project
- D183/18 Tender Report for CCTV in Park N Rides
- D184/18 Tender Report for the Mid Ulster PEACE IV Sports Engagement Programme
- D185/18 Outline Proposals for Gortgonis Leisure Facility
- D186/18 Davagh Dark Skies Project

Matters for Information

- D187/18 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on Wednesday 4 July 2018

D188/18 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 9.20 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____