

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Tuesday 14 February 2023 in Council Offices, Circular Road,
Dungannon and by virtual means**

Members Present

Councillor S McGuigan, Chair

Councillors Brown, Buchanan, Cuthbertson, Glasgow*,
Kearney, N McAleer, S McAleer, B McGuigan,
McNamee*, Milne*, Totten*, Wilson

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD:
Env)
Mr McAdoo, Assistant Director of Environmental Services
(AD: ES)**
Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD:
PS)**
Ms Donnelly, Council Solicitor
Mrs Grogan, Committee & Members Services Officer

**Others in
Attendance**

Deputation: A5 Enough is Enough

Mr Niall McKenna (Chairman)

Mr Damian Harvey

Mr Brendan Hurl

Councillor D Kerr

Ms Nora Largey - Belfast City Council (Solicitor)

* Denotes members and members of the public present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

E028/23 Notice of Recording

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

E029/23 Apologies

Councillors Burton and Graham.

E030/23 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

E031/23 Chair's Business

The Chair advised he had two items were to be raised tonight which would be taken in order of commentary.

Councillor B McGuigan thanked the Chair for allowing him to raise this item. He referred to issue which came out of paper regarding the 2023/24 Rate Estimates the cost cutting which has to take place as a result of that. One of the papers out of that Special Meeting was the rationalisation of waste recycling centres and the planned closures of 5 sites: Draperstown, Castledawson, Fivemiletown, Moneymore and Coalisland. He said that since that he has had a number of calls, especially regarding the Draperstown one as it was within his area and real concerns regarding the closure of that centre. There were some calls in relation to Maghera but it was not listed on those planned closures which alleviated some of the worry. He said that the worry here was the hike in the rates and planned reduction of waste recycling services and the concerns around fly-tipping and up until now things had been fairly good and no complaints, but this could be a real concern as some people may not wish to travel to the main recycling centres of Magherafelt, Cookstown or Dungannon and then the fly-tipping issue starts and the other concern of who's land it ends up in and the responsibility it lies with. He felt that more discussion was needed on the planned closure of these centres on how well they are used, the general condition of the centres i.e. health & safety within the centres and whether they are fit for purpose.

Councillor B McGuigan proposed that a Working Group be set up to try and work through a way work forward in relation to this as it was concerning that this could be a real issue. He said that people may not travel to the main centres of Magherafelt, Cookstown or Dungannon and then the fly-tipping carry-on starts and who's land the waste ends up in and who's responsibility it would be to sort it out. There needs to be more discussion regarding these centres on how well they are used and their general condition including health & safety within the centres and whether they are fit for purpose. He said that he was aware that quite a bit of money had been spent especially on the Magherafelt site, although he was unsure about Cookstown and Dungannon. He referred to the distance from these sites especially Draperstown and the surrounding areas to the nearest centre in Magherafelt which was quite a distance away and also Fivemiletown which was a substantial distance to the nearest centre of Dungannon. He said that he was unaware of any figures being presented in relation to any cost savings although there was some detail on the paper regarding other cutbacks.

Councillor Milne seconded Councillor B McGuigan's proposal.

Councillor Cuthbertson said that he wished to raise the same issue. He said that it seemed that committee were here before in circumstances like this and at the rate setting in 2022/23 we had parties agree to close public conveniences but when we came back to the first or second meeting, there was a change of heart. He said that SDLP and Sinn Fein were warned at the rate setting meeting what they were signing up to with the DUP and UUP opposing it particularly the recycling centres, especially the ones he was closest too, Coalisland and Fivemiletown. He said that whilst he welcomed some change of heart, he felt it was hypocritical last Monday that the two parties sat here and agreed to close the recycling centres and likewise put forward a decision to stop cutting grass within the 30-mph speed limit.

Councillor McNamee agreed with proposal to establish a working group and felt that a bit more work needed to be done on a number of the centres i.e. health & safety risks, potential for waste to be lifted and where it ended up. He referred to the Cookstown site and said that that there needed a lot of work to bring it up to the centre it was envisaged to become and felt that this would take a number of years to do so.

Councillor Wilson said that when we sat down it was plain to see that these sites were going to be closed and if there was no feed back to the political party, then there was something wrong with that. He said that he fully understood the kickback as he was getting a kickback in relation to carparking charges in Cookstown and had to accept that Sinn Fein and SDLP had voted them through. He advised that it was stated at the rates meeting that there was no other money available and these had to be cut which came out of the Strategic Director of Environment's budget. The SD: ES had to look at suggestions as Council were down to the bare bones and if money is found now when the rates has been increased, what message does that send out to the ratepayer. If we are looking at skip sites, then we may as well look at carparking issues in Cookstown and grass cutting also. He stated if Councillor B McGuigan was happy to add this as an amendment to his proposal he would support it.

Councillor Kerr advised that he had originally joined the meeting tonight to listen to the A5 presentation and because the recycling centres were on the agenda. He felt that he needed to speak out regarding the public outrage relating to the proposed closures and had been contacted many times and witnessed the publics' reaction on social media. He said that if he had any voting powers, he would be proposing that the recycling centres outside of Magherafelt, Cookstown and Dungannon remain open. In referring to the planned closure of Coalisland and other smaller sites advised that when people recalled the closure of these sites during lockdown there was fly-tipping all over the Torrent area which was notorious, widespread and rampant. His fear would be that if the planned closure goes ahead in Coalisland and this decision is not reversed, that fly-tipping levels will go through the roof. He once again wished to oppose the decision to the closing of Coalisland Recycling Centre and believed that the public were right to be outraged when this decision was agreed when there was no consultation with them or elected representatives.

Councillor Kearney said that he was fortunate enough to be at the earlier discussions at the Party Leaders group and did seek the retention for Maghera which he made a

case for. After listening to concerns tonight felt that further discussions would be helpful in this situation.

Councillor N McAleer said that he also supported Councillor B McGuigan's proposal as there wasn't actually a full paper on the proposals for the closures and there was a need to see all that first and a working group would be the best option to proceed forward.

Councillor S McAleer referred to Fivemiletown and advised that the public there would have to travel 30 miles to avail of their nearest recycling centre in Dungannon. She said that it was her understanding that further discussions were going to take place at future committee meetings on these planned closures as members did not say they were happy with these decisions including the closure of the public toilets. She said that she had always maintained that the public toilets in Augher should not be closed because they were highly used.

Councillor Glasgow seconded Councillor Wilson's proposal and said that he had wondered where this working group was going and if this was to be set up, it needed to look at the whole thing. He wished to put on record that the Officers to their credit has been very open from the beginning when it came to the rates process on what tonnage and costs associated with these individual sites which were all fed through. He said that he could only speak on behalf of his own party and that information was all fed through each of the political groups. He felt that it was quite concerning that some members were saying that they weren't privy to those details and once again wished to put on record that Officers were very open and transparent throughout and should be acknowledged for that. He referred to the expression of "being careful for what you vote for" as these big projects come at a cost and unfortunately this relates to a cut in recycling centres, grass cutting, public toilets and the introduction of carparking charges in Cookstown and if the working group is going to discuss all these concerns which has been voted through by the two parties, then we should go back to this conversation and take it all as a whole.

Councillor McNamee in referring to the carparking charges in Cookstown advised that it was agreed at a previous meeting that a pilot scheme be rolled out in Magherafelt and the outcome of that would decide if it would be viable or not going forward and until this was completed then nothing could be done regarding the viability of that. He said that it was suggested that this be rolled out across all our carparks where the first two hours were free and charges after that but until the outcome of the pilot scheme comes back our hands are tied in relation to carparking charges.

Councillor Brown said that it was not surprising that the chickens had come home to roost at this meeting tonight. He referred to Councillor B McGuigan's point of not being aware of the figures and as other Councillors alluded to, the report came out to each lead of the party and disseminated down to each party member and everybody knew last Monday night when it came to the rate setting what we were actually voting for. He advised that the Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) had to go away and investigate cost savings which were relayed out to members and early meetings which had taken place with the Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance relayed out what it was going to entail which was told to members last Monday night

but when the vote went through it was decided we are going to raise the rates by 7.43%. This vote was to close recycling centres, introduce carparking charges in Cookstown and restrict grass cutting, so at the end of the day if flack has come from constituents on the ground on why they are allowing the centre to close in Draperstown, Moneymore or Fivemiletown, he said that he had three simple words: suck it up, you voted for it, you proposed it, suck it up as you live with the consequences on what you decided.

Councillor B McGuigan advised that he had put his proposal on the table in terms of implementing a working group to deal with recycling centres, not carparking as it was a separate issue. If members had supported the proposal made by the DUP and others on the night, then committee would have been looking at a lot more cuts. He said that his proposal still stands that we move forward on that basis that we work through the issues to try and see what we can and cannot do.

The Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) advised that the rates were agreed last Monday night and agreed on the basis of a number of savings within her department that she was going to have to somehow implement over a period of time. She said that she would welcome the opportunity to work with members to try and roll the programme out the best we can and ensure that we were minimising the impact as much as possible. The opportunity is not on the table necessarily to totally review as decisions have been made and now, we must look at implementing this the best we can moving forward.

Councillor Wilson said it was his understanding that if our rates had gone through last month, there wouldn't have been more cut to services. He sought clarification on the decision which has already been taken to close these facilities, but Officers would work through to elevate the potential problems.

The Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) advised that the decision has already been made last week on what the savings were within her department, basically there was no magic pot as there was no additional budget, but there was now an onus on us to look at the process of rollout and would welcome the opportunity to work with members to try and make sure this happens the best we can.

Councillor Brown said that he appreciated what the Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) had said but taking on the point that Councillor Wilson alluded to, felt that members cannot turn around and be selective and just concentrating on the issue of recycling. As Councillor Wilson proposed and seconded by Councillor Glasgow, we need to see where savings can be made in regard to recycling centres, then carparking charges in Cookstown and grass cutting needs to be included within that mix and needs to be the case of all three or none as we cannot be selective regarding this. He said that he was aware of the public's dismay over the closures of recycling centres but equally Councillors in Cookstown were taking on the same amount of flack in relation to carparking charges and it has to be the case of all three in the mix or none as the decision has already been taken at Council.

Councillor B McGuigan said that his proposal was solely for recycling centres as plan was already in place for carparking and waiting on planned data to come back from

one carpark in Magherafelt and once that comes through it can be worked through. Carparking was always a separate issue on our papers to anything else. His proposal was to establish a working group to work through waste recycling centres outside the three main ones which was Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt.

Councillor S McAleer said that she was aware that her comment was not going to go down well with the Cookstown Councillors, but our Chief Executive did say that the reason that Cookstown carparking charges could be implemented was to make all towns equal and said that she did feel a bit annoyed that Dungannon and other towns are paying charges and now may be the time to have equality across the district.

The Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) concurred with the member that there was a pilot meant to be happening and said that the Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) could update members around the timescales. She advised that nothing would be happening in Cookstown until that pilot comes back.

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) advised that the timeframe around implementation based on discussions with the supplier at this stage is hopefully after the Easter period to avail of the remaining equipment to get it installed. He said that there would be a number of weeks to get the carparks operational which was the intention at this stage and agreement was previously made at committee to bring back a report on the impact on the pay on foot arrangements. It is anticipated to bring the report back after the summer and earlier autumn period once it has been operational for a number of months.

The Chair advised that there were two proposals on the table.

Councillor B McGuigan's proposal was put to the vote:

For	8
Against	5

Councillor Wilson's proposal was put to the vote:

For	5
Against	8

Councillor B McGuigan's proposal was carried.

Resolved That it recommended to Council that a Working Group be established to work through implementation of the Council decision on a way forward regarding waste recycling centres outside the three main ones which was Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt.

E032/23 Deputation – A5 Enough is Enough

The Chair welcomed Deputation from A5 Enough is Enough campaign and invited them to address the committee.

Mr McKenna thanked the committee for allowing the deputation to make their presentation here tonight (appendix 1).

He advised members that this campaign group came about after the latest death on the A5 road, John Rafferty a young GAA player from his club in Killyclogher. John was a young and upcoming GAA star from his club and represented the county at minor and U20 level. He was a university student which came home on a Thursday evening and was involved in a collision on the A5 road between Ballygawley and Omagh involving a tractor and died instantly. He stated that John's death wrecked the club, community and resulted in total devastation but was obviously worse for his family and when his remains came home on the Saturday and buried on Monday, it was a rough weekend for everyone. His club Killyclogher received a massive amount of support from the other GAA Clubs within Tyrone and a regular monthly meeting held on the Tuesday, the night after John's funeral and he had wished to thank all the clubs which provided great support and when he was thanking the clubs at the meeting, straight in front of him were other families which had suffered the same devastation through losing members of their families and the comment was made on that night that "Enough was Enough" which people related to. He said the name was very simplistic and messages which the group were trying to get across to people was also very simplistic. There was a personal motivation from Tyrone GAA as their members were basically dying on that road and the other reason is that the home of Tyrone GAA is literally on the A5 road and whether they were potentially taking people to their deaths i.e. young lads coming and going home from training, people attending meetings and it was inevitable that someone is going to die coming or going from our centre. It was felt that Tyrone GAA were a fairly large organisation and would be beneficial to use their influence. He said that this was the genesis of the organisation and had been working from that date in October which resulted in a public launch on Monday 23 January 2023 at the Garvaghey Centre which some members here tonight may have attended and if not would urge the committee to go onto the Tyrone GAA YouTube page and watch it. He stated that it was a tough night, harrowing and primarily the families of road victims which spoke which was emotional and devastating to listen to, but they feel that this has now given them a collective voice in which they did not have before. He advised that these families were very supportive of this campaign's aim to have a dual carriageway from Aghnacloy to New Buildings as previously agreed in 17th July 2007 by the assembly. The A5 Western Transport Corridor is one of five key transport corridors identified in the Regional Transportation Strategy for Northern Ireland. Its improvement represented a significant link in plans to improve strategic links between the urban centres of Derry, Strabane, Omagh and Aghnacloy and also improve connections to the North-West. There has been 44 deaths on this stretch of road since that date an average of 3 a year and these people cannot understand why there is continuous delays to the project. On the night at Garvaghey, GAA All-Star Kevin Hughes who lost 2 members of his family on the A4 stated that the effect of the new road give the local road back to the local people. Evidence is there that the new dual carriageway is needed and needed soon.

The Chair, advised that he attended the launch of the A5 Enough is Enough Campaign at the end of January and had also attended the enquiry up in Omagh discussing the timetable on where it currently was at that stage which also included a lot of technical stuff around that presentation. He advised that he sits on the N2/A5

working group and at one stage it looked as if it had been moving forward but it seemed to be dragging its heels once again. He said that the message was broad and clear, it was more than sport, it was about families and individuals who use this road. He said that he was aware of this road as he lives on it and would've have known quite a number of the people who lost their lives and felt the impact at a personal level and also at a community level and would fully support and endorse the campaign.

Mr Harvey said that took members through the four aims of the campaign as follows:

- To support the actions required to bring about an end to a process that is now 15½ years long (5691 days and counting).
- To positively promote the need to begin work on the new A5 as soon as possible.
- In the meantime, to seek immediate mitigating road improvements that might start saving lives now.
- To share road safety messaging and educate people on the danger of driving on the road.

Councillor S McAleer thanked the members for their presentation and said that she also attended the launch night Garvaghey. She said there was a deafening silence when parents or family members were talking about their loved ones which was haunting and what she remembered most was when the families describe the high vis vest coming to their doors when the police were coming to give them the tragic news, which was very painful to listen to when you hear it first-hand. She advised that one of the speakers on the night was a friend of hers which lost her son which was very painful to listen to. She wished to add that this was one of the best things that has ever come about "Enough is Enough" which is raising all the issues, as we were trying for a long, long time. She advised the committee that back in the day she worked as a staff nurse in A&E at the Tyrone County Hospital in Omagh and pre 2007 there was just as many deaths, so many that you lost count. This has been going on for a long, long time and a lot of families have encountered tragedies and lives destroyed as a result of it. She welcomed everything that the group was doing and would provide as much support as possible as she lived in Ballygawley. She advised that there is a primary school on the side of the A5 road with a speeding lane beside it and were constantly looking at ways of trying to keep children safe and did lose a 6-year-old pupil in the past and also a dinner lady and other people getting off buses and when we know these things are happening, its time something needs to be done.

Councillor Kerr said that he wished to express his full support to the working group and like Councillors S McGuigan and S McAleer he had also attended the launch night up in Garvaghey which was very emotional listening to the different family members who had lost loved ones including John Rafferty who was a cousin of his wife. For any young person who has their whole life ahead of them to lose their life in these circumstances which might of being prevented if there was better road safety, may be difficult for a family to accept when it comes to special occasions i.e. birthdays, Christmas, family gatherings etc as there is always an empty seat at a table. He said that he fully supported the initiative and wished to express his deepest sympathies to all families involved in losing a loved one and hoped that one day that

the group is fulfilled and that all the hard work which is being done is rewarded for what it is.

Councillor Kearney commended the group on their presentation and whilst he may live at the other end of the River Bann, he was well aware of the stance which is being taken by the group and wished to commend it. He said that he had an opportunity with Councillor Burton who was a Clogher Valley Councillor to meet with the four Divisional Heads of Transport NI four weeks ago in Craigavon where they outlined clearly the need for the new A5. Although A6 to Derry and the M1 creating some difficulty but there was a great deal of time outlining the need for work to be carried out. There were 55 road deaths last year and over half of them were West of the Bann which speaks for itself regarding the structure of that area. He congratulated the group and wished them well in their future endeavours.

Mr Hurl in summing up wished to thank members on behalf of the A5 Group and advised as a newly formed group that they think of themselves as a cross community group which needed the support of everyone which spoke on behalf of a vast majority of people who wish to have the new road built. He advised that immediately after the launch of the group that the Irish Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar reaffirmed the Irish Government's commitment to get the road built and there was an onus on our politicians to do likewise. He advised members as local political representatives for this Council area, there was a duty of care to the community and that they were a small group with no political agenda which expected leadership and direction and pleaded with members to provide full support to take a lead on this campaign. A strong message needs to be sent to DfI that a dual carriageway needs to be built. He thanked the committee for allowing them to attend tonight and was thankful of the Council's support in getting behind the campaign and simply said that "Enough was truly Enough".

Councillor Milne thanked the deputation for attending the meeting tonight and wished to offer his full support to the campaign.

He proposed that this Council issues a paper to the relevant authorities to move this project forward asap and that we all contribute as suggested to the public enquiry as part of the route is within Mid Ulster District Council area.

Councillor Cuthbertson said that in previous times this Council has been supportive of the new road during any submissions or consultations that come to the Council and was discussed at last month's Council meeting and the view is to support it again. He didn't believe that there was any political party holding it back, although he wasn't here to speak on behalf of MLA's or Northern Ireland Assembly. He said that there were other circumstances which were holding it back. He referred to the Republic of Ireland Government and said it was his understanding that they had removed their funding which was committed in 2007 and enquired if this was something that the group would be going down to lobby on in relation to funding.

Mr Hurl advised that two days after the launch the new Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar not only did he pledge his support to the project but also confirmed the funding towards it and said that he looked forward to getting the A5 started as soon as possible. He said that as far as he was concerned that this funding was there and still is there.

Councillor Cuthbertson said that it was his understanding that the funding from 2007 was drastically cut and wouldn't go far in today's figures.

Councillor S McAleer in reference to the public enquiry advised that she did raise it at the Council meeting after the launch in Garvaghey and response from Officers was that representation would be sent to the public enquiry from Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor Brown enquired if any discussions had taken place with local landowners on the proposed A5 route as it was all well and good having a new road which everyone would welcome to protect lives but farmers would be giving up their land. He asked if discussions had taken place to see what was being proposed by the Department with regards to the value of the strips as he was aware when the A4 was talked about there was a nice big sum of money for every acre of ground taken off them, when it now comes to the A5 figure, it is nowhere near where the A4 figure was and at the end of the day we need the farmers to be buying into it also, otherwise it will be a lost cause.

Mr Hurl advised that this wouldn't be the remit of their campaign group and they certainly wouldn't be putting a value on land. He said that the one thing that he would say is that the value of life is priceless and pales in significance when talking about the acres of land with respect.

The Chair said what he picked up from that meeting in November regarding the enquiry was where it came from and where it was going, that was part of a schedule that was put in place with all these types of things being included with a lot of technical details. A lot of stuff was included in the process which also included matters relating to landowners etc.

Mr Hurl advised that the first estimate costs for this project was in excess of £500m and the latest estimate is now £1.6b.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor S McAleer and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to issue a paper to the relevant authorities to move this project forward asap and that we all contribute as suggested to the public enquiry as part of the route is within Mid Ulster District Council area.

Councillor Cuthbertson enquired if the group were still lobbying for the new route to be from New Buildings to Ballygawley or was it Aughnacloy as there was a fair bit of objection whether Aughnacloy was needed because of the improvements which had been done in some parts of that section. He said that it was his understanding that this bit was dropped off the schedule and anticipated that the route would be from Ballygawley to New Buildings.

Mr McKenna agreed that this was mentioned in the enquiry and the terminology which was used for area between Aughnacloy and Ballygawley was being overprovision which sounds to him as a very good idea, but you really don't deserve it, but the group's aim is a full dual carriageway from Aughnacloy to New Buildings.

The Chair thanked the group for attending the meeting tonight to wished them well in their future endeavours with their campaign.

The deputation from A5 Enough in Enough Campaign left the meeting at 8 pm.

Matters for Decision

E033/23 Environmental Services Proposed Scale of Charges for 2023/24

The Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES) presented previously circulated report and sought approval for a proposed scale of charges in relation to Environmental Services for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Councillor Cuthbertson said that he would have difficulty with the increase as we are putting household rates up by 7.3% and then proposing putting a further 8% on anyone who wants a second brown bin collected. We had a lot of toing and froing in relation to brown bin charges over the last 12 to 24 months, we were settled on £50 and now going up 8% to £54. In relation to 8% increase on commercial waste, feel that this Council is going to price themselves out of being competitive as there is private operators working around Dungannon, schools and other areas. Whilst there is an increase of 8%, already domestic rates going up 5.8% last Monday night, this is going to be another hit and will result in businesses turning to a third-party operator and reduce this Council's income as more and more commercial premises will try and go with the most competitive. He felt that this increase could cause a negative effect on Council and there was a need to look at the whole situation of whether it is acceptable putting it up 8% after we are increasing our rates by 7.3% and seemed to be a double hit on the ratepayers.

Councillor Wilson enquired if this was based on all the recycling centres or just the ones that we were proposing to keep open.

The AD: ES advised that commercial waste is only accepted at the three main recycling centres where there were weighbridges.

Councillor Glasgow referred to the increase in burial costs and enquired what was the impact of costs going up and sought clarity on whether it was the cost of machinery to dig out the graves and the maintenance. He said that if fees go up people would be expecting a much better service particularly in relation to dog fouling and stated that he had been in a graveyard on Sunday and had come out of graveyard with more on his shoe than what he went in with. He said that if fees goes up then it would be important that the service goes up with it also particularly the issues around dog fouling.

The AD: ES advised that with all the charges, there is a combination of things including increases in fuel, staff, amongst other things and with cemetery charges in particular it was previously agreed a number of years ago that fees would have to increase by 10% to reach the Northern Ireland average.

Councillor McNamee would agree that the charges are inflationary, as everything is increasing and enquired about the possibility of people going to outside contractors

as he agreed with member's comment previously made with regard to pricing ourselves out of work.

The AD: ES advised that Council does not make a profit from providing those commercial services and only obliged to recover the costs of the service and this would be a matter for individual businesses to make their own minds up. He was aware that those charges proposed were in and around the average costs proposed by others.

Councillor B McGuigan said that he would be happy to propose the recommendation, otherwise the deficit was going to have to be taken up by Council and felt that there was no other choice in the matter.

Councillor Cuthbertson in relation to the brown bins for the domestic properties, said that he envisaged an increase in people looking brown bins particularly the areas where recycling centres are closed.

Councillor Cuthbertson proposed that there is not an 8% increase on brown bins and that the price remains at £50 the same as last year.

Councillor McNamee seconded Councillor B McGuigan's proposal to accept the recommendation.

Councillor Brown seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal not to apply 8% increase on second brown bins.

Councillor Wilson said as a point of order if Councillor B McGuigan would accept Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal into the recommendation, that there would be agreement.

Councillor B McGuigan enquired what would Officers be talking about in terms of costings in relation to last year's brown bins.

The AD: ES advised that the cost impact would be minimal as there was only a small number of people who take up this annual service.

Councillor B McGuigan said that he would accept including the member's proposal into the recommendation if it could be absorbed.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the proposed scale of changes for 2023/24 as outlined within the report minus the increased cost of 8% for second brown bins.

E034/23 Eco-Schools Programme Support 2023/24

The Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES) presented previously circulated report and sought approval to continue providing financial support to the Eco-Schools Programme.

Councillor Cuthbertson enquired what percentage of schools do we collect rubbish from as he was aware that Mid Ulster District Council had a good success at recycling but was concerned about third parties collecting waste and asked if they operate under the same rules in relation of disposal of waste and recycling as we as a Council would be.

The AD: ES advised as a waste collector you would be obliged to collect segregated waste. He was aware that this Council collects from a majority of the schools but not the school kitchens which are outsourced by the Education Boards to the private sector.

Councillor Kearney felt for £5,000 it is the best value this Council will get at 10p a head and this Council through Education Officers led the way in promotion in this and it was evident to see how many of our young people end up in litter picks and felt that the £5,000 was worth every penny. He wished to commend our Officers on the way forward.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted to continue providing financial support to KNIB for delivery of the Eco Schools Programme including an annual Awards Ceremony in 2023/24 at a total cost of £4,975.

E035/23 Dfl Roads Proposed Reduction of Speed Limit to 40mph – Hillhead Road, Toome

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report and sought agreement in relation to a proposal from Dfl Roads to reduce an existing stretch of 50mph to 40mph on Hillhead Road, Toome.

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed reduction of speed limit to 40mph at Hillhead Road, Toome.

E036/23 Dfl Roads Proposed 18 Tonne Weight Restriction – Lisnawery Road, Augher (Mullaghmore Bridge)

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report and sought agreement in relation to a proposal from Dfl Roads to introduce an 18-tonne weight restriction on Lisnawery Road, Augher to protect Mullaghmore Bridge.

Councillor Cuthbertson said that he was happy enough to support the recommendation but enquired if this is just to such times the bridge was replaced or was this a permanent fixture to save investment on the bridge.

The Chair advised that it was his interpretation that this was a permanent fixture and discussions with haulage companies around that area have indicated that already a lot of hauliers do not use the bridge.

Councillor Cuthbertson said that he would be concerned that this was a way of stopping investment in bridges and a means of saving money.

Proposed by Councillor S McAleer
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed 18 tonne weight restriction on Lisnawery Road, Augher to protect Mullaghmore Bridge.

E037/23 DfI Roads proposed Traffic Calming Measures, Bracken Ridge Newmills

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report and sought agreement in relation to a proposal from DfI Roads to introduce traffic calming measures at Bracken Ridge, Newmills.

Proposed by Councillor N McAleer
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed traffic calming measures at Bracken Ridge, Newmills.

E038/23 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report which considered the naming of new streets within residential housing development within Mid Ulster.

- Site off River Road, Draperstown

Options submitted for consideration:

1. Glenowenban
2. Clonowenban
3. Clondaowen

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name residential development at site off River Road, Draperstown as Glenowenban.

Matters for Information

E039/23 Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 10 January 2023

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 10 January 2023.

E040/23 Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management (LACMW) Annual Report for 2021/22

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Council's performance in relation to recycling and landfill diversion targets as outlined in the NIEA Northern Ireland Local Authority Waste Management Statistics Report for Q2 of 2022/23 from July to September 2022.

E041/23 Bus Shelters Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on current bus shelter status.

Councillor N McAleer sought clarification on bus shelters at St Colman's Park, Moortown and asked if there was any update.

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) advised that this was currently with Legal Services but would follow up.

E042/23 Building Control Workload

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the workload analysis for Building Control.

E043/23 Dual Language Signage Surveys

Members noted circulated report which advised of the result of surveys undertaken on all applicable residents on the streets/roads in response to Dual Language Signage Nameplate requests.

Councillor Buchanan referred to item 6.2 and enquired where Drumcommon Road, Dungannon was located.

The Chair advised that this be referred to the relevant Officer responsible who would provide clarity to members.

E044/23 Dual Language Signage Requests

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of requests for Dual Language Signage from residents on the streets/roads in question.

E045/23 Entertainment Licensing Applications

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Entertainment Licensing Applications across the Mid Ulster District.

E046/23 Renaming and Renumbering Existing Streets

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of survey outcome of all applicable residents for the Renaming and Renumbering of an existing street/road.

Live broadcast ended at 8.17 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan 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 E047/23 to E055/23.

Matters for Decision

- E047/23 Tenders for Provision of Grass Cutting Maintenance/ Services
- E048/23 Entertainment Licensing Preliminary Report – Gribben’s Bar
- E049/23 Magherafelt Office Drainage Segregation Works
- E050/23 Tender Report for the Appointment of Vehicle Suppliers

Matters for Information

- E051/23 Confidential Minutes of Environment Committee held on 10 January 2023
- E052/23 Off Street Car Parking: Quarter 3 2022/2023
- E053/23 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
- E054/23 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
- E055/23 Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update

E056/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.55 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

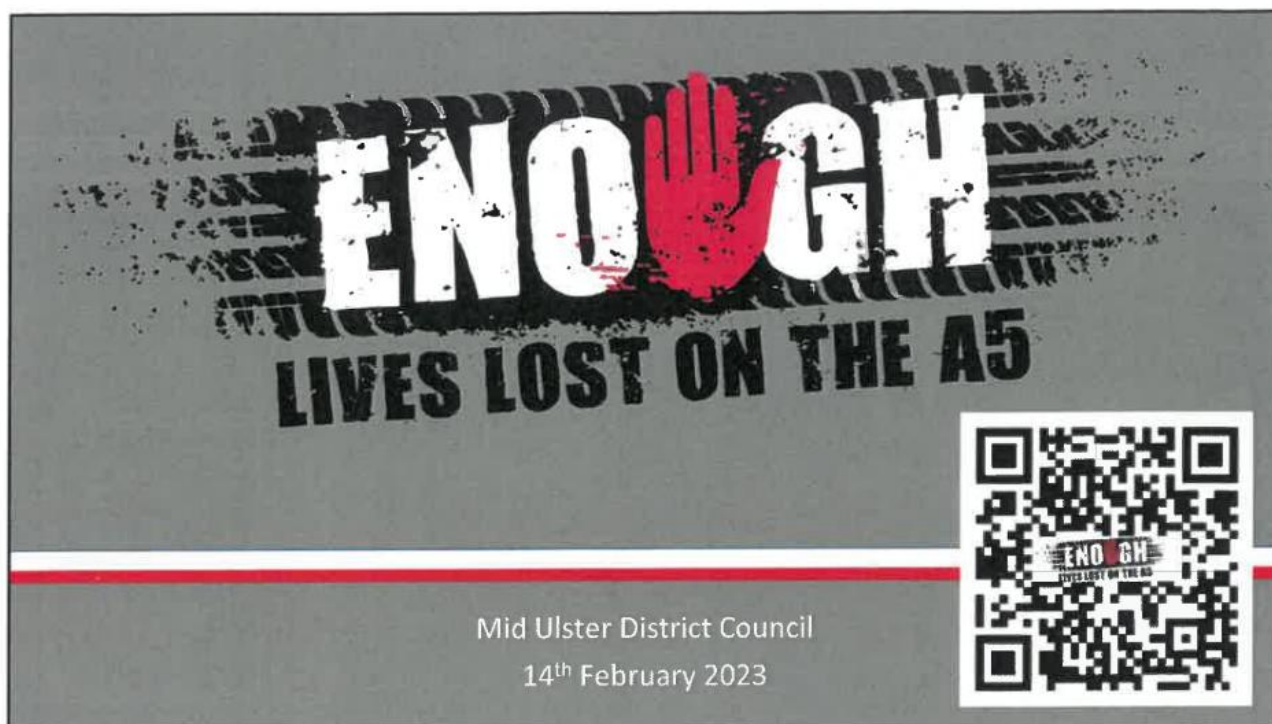
Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

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

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-


- If you have joined the meeting remotely please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- Should we need to take a vote this evening I will ask each member to confirm whether they are for or against the proposal or abstaining
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda

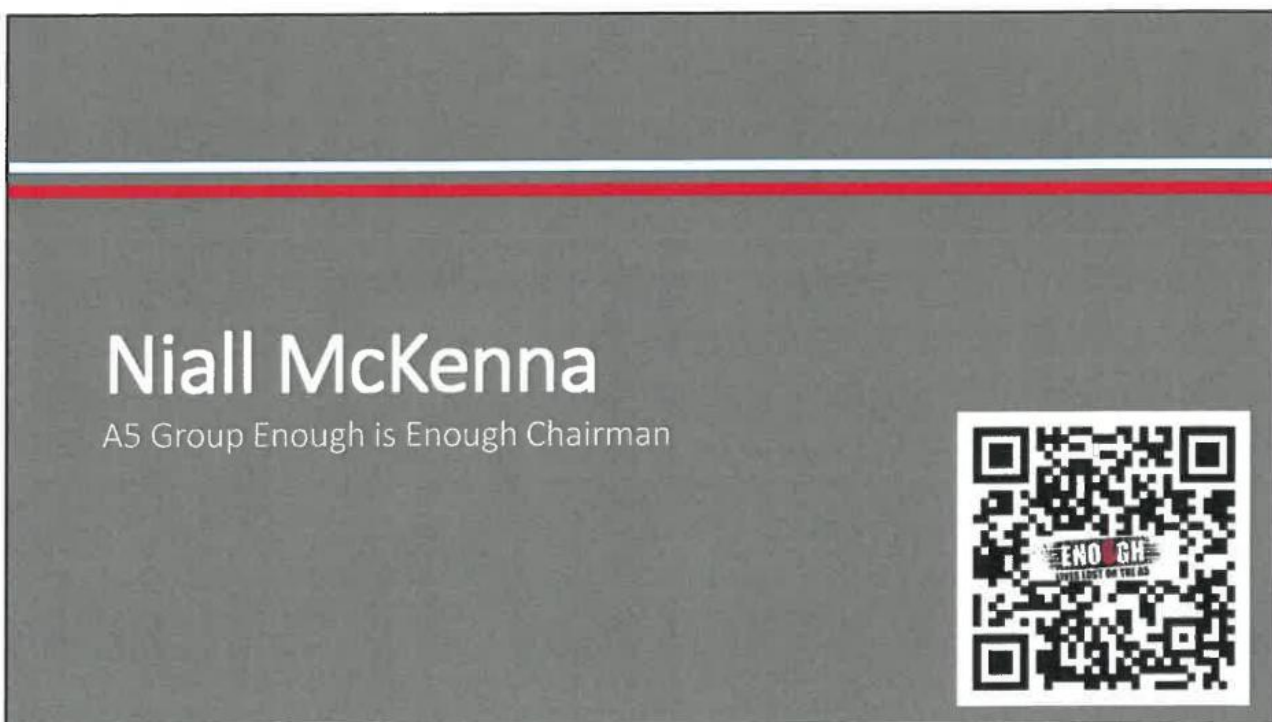


ENOUGH
LIVES LOST ON THE A5


Mid Ulster District Council
14th February 2023



1



Niall McKenna
A5 Group Enough is Enough Chairman



2

17th July 2007
NI Assembly Approve A5 Western Transport Corridor



3

5,691 days
and counting...



4

Four Aims...

To support the actions required to bring about an end to a process that is now 15 ½ years long.

To positively promote the need to begin work on the new A5 as soon as possible.

In the meantime, to seek immediate mitigating road improvements that might start saving lives now.

To share road safety messaging and educate people on the danger of driving on this road.



5

Our ask of you...



6