

Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 13 September 2022 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by virtual means

Members Present

Councillor S McGuigan

Councillors Kearney, N McAleer, S McAleer*,
B McGuigan, McNamee*, Milne*, Totten*

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env)

Mr Fox, Principal Building Control Officer**

Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services (HoTS)**

Mr McAdoo, Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES)**

Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS)

Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Agenda Item 5 -

Deputation: East Border Region – Faster Project

Ms Arthurs, Chief Executive

Agenda Item 25 –

Gribben’s Bar Entertainment Licence Application

Mr O’Lone – Objector

Mr and Mrs Currie - Applicant

* 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 7.05 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.

E192/22 Notice of Recording

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

E193/22 Apologies

Councillors Brown, Buchanan, Burton, Cuthbertson, Glasgow, Graham and Wilson.

E194/22 Declarations of Interest

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

E195/22 Chair's Business

None.

E196/22 Deputation: East Border Region – FASTER Project

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan welcomed Ms Arthurs from East Border Region and invited her to make the presentation on the FASTER Project (Appendix 1).

Ms Arthurs outlined that the FASTER Project is a joint cross border project across Scotland, the border counties of Ireland and Northern Ireland which supports the development and expansion of the electric vehicle public charging network to complement the existing TEN-T rapid charger network. The project aims to install 73 rapid chargers in the project region and that in addition to the installation of the chargers the project also has a behavioural change element which is led by South West College. Ms Arthurs provided an update on the project which included how sites for chargers were selected, the identification of sites in Mid Ulster and also outlined the next steps for moving the project forward.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan thanked Ms Arthurs for the presentation and stated that one big concern in respect of the project is the lack of infrastructure and asked if there is any way of resolving this.

Ms Arthurs advised that when the project is complete the number of fast chargers in Northern Ireland will double but she agreed that there is a long way to go. Ms Arthurs highlighted that the newer electric vehicles can have a range of 330 miles from a full charge so therefore average daily use will not require public charging infrastructure as charging can be done at home. Ms Arthurs advised that fast chargers can charge a car in 20 minutes and in order to encourage turnover and to maximise the number of cars that can be charged, car owners will be penalised if they overstay at a charging station. In terms of infrastructure, Ms Arthurs advised that Scotland and Ireland are ahead in this respect.

Councillor B McGuigan thanked Ms Arthurs for the update on the project and asked if there were any discussions between central government and NIE in terms of infrastructure and funding being provided by government to support this. Councillor B McGuigan referred to the proposed points within the presentation and also referenced report within committee papers which stated that Maghera Leisure Centre was not approved but rather Tirkane Road in Maghera.

The Assistant Director of Property Services clarified that the Councillor was referring to another scheme listed within report for agenda item 25.

Ms Arthurs stated that for the FASTER Project it is primarily Council owned leisure centres that are being used as there is availability on the grid, 24 hour access etc. Ms Arthurs stated that it would also be desirable to have a reserve list of sites just in case something went awry with one of the selected sites. Ms Arthurs stated that the FASTER Project is funded through SEUPB and Interreg up to 85% and there is also funding from Department for Infrastructure and Department for Transport. Ms Arthurs stated that the Department for Infrastructure are working with the project but that there is a lot more work to be done in the future. Ms Arthurs stated that the chargers are costed at approximately £50k per charger and that when looking at potential sites measures have been considered to try to mitigate costs. Ms Arthurs also stated that a market soundings exercise had been carried out at which companies had come in at the start of the procurement process and that the outcome of this exercise was that the companies are able to carry out civil works, install and maintain the equipment meaning that separate tender processes would not be required. Ms Arthurs also advised that the Electric Vehicle Association of Northern Ireland have a very strong lobby seeking additional chargers.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan thanked Ms Arthurs again for the presentation and wished her well with the project.

Ms Arthurs stated that this is a complicated project and getting to procurement stage has been complex but that once there are chargers on the ground there will be publicity and that she looked forward to meeting Members at this stage.

Ms Arthurs left the meeting at 7.28 pm.

Matters for Decision

E197/22 Renaming and Renumbering Existing Streets Survey Results

The Assistant Director of Property Services presented previously circulated report which outlined the result of a survey undertaken on all applicable residents on a road in response to a Street Naming Request.

Proposed by Councillor N McAleer
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to rename Stewartstown Road (branch road), Coalisland, Dungannon to Moss Road, Coalisland, Dungannon.

E198/22 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Assistant Director of Property Services presented previously circulated report which considered the naming of new streets within residential Housing Developments within Mid-Ulster.

Site of Moss Road, Ballymaguigan, Magherafelt

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor N McAleer and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development off Moss Road, Ballymaguigan, Magherafelt as Sally Gardens.

Site off Annagher Road, Coalisland

Proposed by Councillor N McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development off Annagher Road, Coalisland as Annagh View.

Matters for Information

E199/22 Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 4 July 2022

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 4 July 2022.

E200/22 Building Control Workload

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

E201/22 Entertainment Licensing Applications

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

E202/22 Dual Language Signage Surveys

Members noted previously 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 N McAleer asked for update on when Dual Language signage will be installed at Lakeview Cottages in Ardboe.

The Assistant Director of Property Services stated he did not have the specific detail to hand and would come back to the Member with an update.

E203/22 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.

E204/22 Maghera Walled Garden Green Flag Award

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined success for Maghera Walled Garden at the Green Flag Awards.

Councillor B McGuigan commended staff on the good work taking place within the Walled Garden and maintaining the Green Flag Award. Councillor McGuigan stated that a lot of people do not even know that the Walled Garden is there and some sort of feature or signage to highlight the facility and access to it would be beneficial.

Officers took on board that Councillor's comments and agreed to look at this matter.

E205/22 Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management (LACMW) Report for January to March 2022

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 Quarter 4 of 2021/22 from January to March 2022.

E206/22 Update on refuse collection route optimisation project

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on route optimisation and changes to the refuse collection service.

E207/22 Update on new Waste Management Strategy and Plan

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the development of a new Waste Management Strategy and Plan.

E208/22 Internal Bi-lingual Signage Mid Ulster District Council Facilities

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the new bi-lingual signage for Mid Ulster District Council facilities accessed by the public.

E209/22 Biodiversity – 6 month update – April-September 2022

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the main biodiversity activities over the last six months (April to September 2022).

Live broadcast ended at 7.35 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor N McAleer 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 E210/22 to E225/22.

Matters for Decision

- E210/22 Extension to contracts for processing of dry recyclables
- E211/22 Amendment to inscription for memorial tree application
- E212/22 Application for Memorial Bench on Council Property
- E213/22 Service Level Agreement – Structural Engineering Services
- E214/22 Off Street Car Parking: Quarter 1 2022/2023 and Agency Agreement 01/11/22 to 31/10/23
- E215/22 Electric Vehicle Charging Points Update
- E216/22 Gribben’s Bar Entertainment licence application
- E217/22 Murley Road Footpath, Fivemiletown
- E218/22 IST Award Greenvale Sports Hall Refurbishment
- E219/22 Bus Shelters Update

Matters for Information

- E220/22 Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of meeting held on 4 July 2022
- E221/22 Energy Management Update – Display Energy Certificates (DEC’s)
- E222/22 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
- E223/22 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
- E224/22 Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update
- E225/22 Peace IV – Towns Shared Spaces

E226/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.58 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