

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 16 January 2020 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present	Councillor Wilson, Chair Councillors Ashton, Clarke, Corry, Cuddy, Elattar, Kerr, McNamee, Milne, Molloy, Monteith
Officers in Attendance	Mrs 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 Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Agenda Item 4 – Social Enterprise NI Mr Arthurs and Ms Johnston

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D001/20 Apologies

Councillors Black, Burton, Doris, Hughes and Kearney.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson extended the committee's sympathies to Councillor Black on the recent death of his grandmother. The Chair also sent the best wishes of the committee to Councillor Burton who is ill.

D002/20 Declaration of Interests

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

Councillor Kerr declared an interest in Coalisland Fianna.

D003/20 Chair's Business

None.

D004/20 Deputation – Social Enterprise NI

The Chair, Councillor Wilson welcomed representatives from Social Enterprise NI and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Arthurs outlined the mission and vision of Social Enterprise NI and provided an update on their activity to date. Ms Johnston set out the economic contribution of

Social Enterprise, the Social Enterprise business sector share, how Social Enterprise can help in the community and the barriers and enablers to their success.

Councillor Cuddy referred to the social enterprise sector and that statistics show this sector has doubled in the last 5 years and asked how this increase has come about.

Ms Johnston stated that social enterprise has become more popular in recent years and that there are a number of businesses that may previously have been a charity or are a charity with a trading arm who have felt that the best way for them to succeed is to have a business which is supporting social need.

Councillor Cuddy asked if it was felt this sector would continue to increase.

Ms Johnston stated she believed that the social enterprise sector would continue to increase and that Social Enterprise NI would like to conduct bi-annual surveys in this regard.

Councillor Kerr referred to Coalisland Credit Union which has won Credit Union of the year for the second year running and stated that this Credit Union does go above and beyond in the community.

Ms Johnston agreed with Councillor Kerr and stated that Coalisland Credit Union does have some unique ideas which Social Enterprise NI are keen to work with them on. Ms Johnston stated that Social Enterprise NI want to expand their work into more rural areas and that they would welcome referrals through Council.

Mr Arthurs advised that a business referred through Council would get one year free membership with Social Enterprise NI.

Councillor Corry asked how many businesses in Mid Ulster were registered with Social Enterprise NI.

Ms Johnston advised that most of their membership was in the larger towns and cities and that there were approximately half a dozen businesses in Mid Ulster that are registered with Social Enterprise NI.

Mr Arthurs advised of the Social Enterprise NI conference taking place on 5 March and stated that two free spaces were being offered to each Council. Mr Arthurs stated that the details of the conference would be forwarded to Council.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson thanked Mr Arthurs and Ms Johnston for their attendance and presentation following which the representatives withdrew from the meeting.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated that Social Enterprise NI seemed to be a good organisation and that Council should provide assistance where possible.

Matters for Decision

D005/20 Economic Development for Decision

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report which provided an update on key activities as detailed below -

- **Prince's Trust Proposal 2020/21**

Councillor Ashton suggested that in addition to the recommendation, that Council provide the contact details of local enterprise centres to the Prince's Trust.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –

- (I) To decline the request from the Prince's Trust, as the Economic Development budget is already committed for next year 2020/21, with priority being placed on funding Council's five new business programmes and the district wide Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme.
- (II) To provide the Prince's Trust with contact details of local enterprise centres.

- **Orchardville Proposal 2020/21**

In response to question from Councillor Kerr, he was advised that Orchardville do not currently have a presence in Mid Ulster.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to decline the Orchardville funding request as Council's budget to fund projects of this nature is already committed to supporting a number of other local ESF projects until 2022, which assist individuals to re-engage with the labour market. It is further recommended that Orchardville be directed to:

- i. Make an application to Council's new Social Enterprise Programme when it opens to applications in Spring 2020 to seek assistance to help their organisation investigate other avenues of funding and methods whereby the company could become more self-sustaining.
- ii. Liaise with the Project Lead on Mid Ulster's Community Planning Health & Wellbeing Group with a view to making representation to this Group about their work.

- **Irish Central Border Area Network**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the release of the 2nd (and final) 50% payment of £6,250 for 2019/20 to ICBAN.

D006/20 Community Development Report

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report and provided an update on the following:

- **Rolling Grants Awards – Good Relations and Local Community Festivals**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Rolling Grant Awards – Good Relations (£2,700) and Local Community Festivals (£2275) as per grant recommendations at Appendix 1 of report.

- **Community Development**

Members noted the Community Development update.

- **Community Planning Social Housing Working Group**

Members noted update on the Community Planning Social Housing Working Group.

D007/20 Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020

The Head of Culture and Arts presented previously circulated report which sought approval to issue a call for Expressions of Interest from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the call for Expressions of Interest to be issued inviting submissions from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020.

D008/20 Lough Neagh Rescue – Service Level Agreement

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which sought agreement for a Service Level Agreement between Council and Lough Neagh Rescue covering the period April 2019 to March 2020.

Councillor Kerr suggested that Lough Neagh Rescue be invited to provide presentation to Committee.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson advised that Lough Neagh Rescue had recently made a presentation to the Development Committee.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Service Level Agreement between Council and Lough Neagh Rescue for the period April 2019 to March 2020 and that Council provides funding of £6,000.

D009/20 Recommendations on allocation of Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants (Re-advertised)

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation presented previously circulated report which advised on the advertised Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree the Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants as set out at appendix to report.

D010/20 Sports Representative Grants

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation presented previously circulated report which sought approval for proposed Sports Representative Grants.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree Sports Representative Grants as set out at appendix to report.

Matters for Information

D011/20 Minutes of Development Committee held on 4 December 2019

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 4 December 2019.

Councillor Kerr asked if there was an update on the Cappagh issues.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated that there had been a meeting before Christmas and from this there was a commitment to meet with Forest Service and Water Service. The Director advised that officers have met with Forest Service and the meeting with Water Service has been arranged, the Director further advised that officers will also need to meet with colleagues from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council as part of the forest is in their area.

Councillor Corry referred to the workshop on domestic violence and asked if there was a date for this to be held.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that the event would be organised but a date had yet to be confirmed.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson suggested that dates for the workshop be brought to the January Council meeting.

Councillor Cuddy referred to the recent meeting in relation to Castlehill and that following this meeting it had been agreed that some broad concept proposals would be brought forward. The Councillor stated that there was no paper on the matter this month and asked for an update.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that officers were working on a paper and it was hoped that this would be ready for next month's committee meeting.

Councillor Monteith stated it was disappointing that there was no paper this month and that it was important to build on the momentum of the previous meeting. Councillor Monteith felt that a meeting with Water Service would also be beneficial.

Councillor Cuddy agreed with Councillor Monteith's comments.

D012/20 Economic Development For Information

The Chair, Councillor Wilson declared an interest in the launch of Mid Ulster's new suite of Business Programmes.

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on matters related to Caledon Regeneration Partnership, NI Apprenticeship Week and the launch of Mid Ulster's new suite of Business Programmes.

The Head of Economic Development advised that further to the report the launch of the new suite of business programmes may have to be delayed to a later date.

In respect of Caledon Regeneration Partnership Wool Store Project Councillor Ashton asked when the Capital Discretionary Grants would close and when this project could move forward.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that the application from Caledon Regeneration Partnership had been received and is pending the estimate process. The Director advised that the three grants available for 2019/20 have been allocated and the process has commenced for this year and that Caledon Regeneration Partnership would seem to be the most advanced recipient for the 2020/21 allocation.

D013/20 Halloween and Christmas Events Overview 2019

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the successful Halloween and Christmas events delivered throughout October to December across the District.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson commended staff on the recent events held. Councillor Wilson stated that the Chair of Council, Councillor Kearney had also asked him to pass on his thanks to staff for the organisation of the events.

Councillor Cuddy agreed that any of the events he had attended were very good and asked if it was possible to get an idea on how much Council spent on each event compared to the number of people that attended.

The Head of Tourism advised that this is something officers look at after an event, he stated that some events are easier to gauge than others and that counters and cctv are used. The Head of Tourism stated that the formula to calculate was simple enough however it did need to be used with caution.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated that numbers can become skewed and used the Burnavon as an example in which someone coming in to use the toilet in the building is counted as a visitor.

Councillor Kerr referred to the suggestion of the Christmas Light Switch On in Coalisland being moved from a Sunday to a Friday night and that officers should engage with businesses and the community in the town on their opinion on this before coming to a decision.

The Head of Tourism advised that officers are engaging with businesses and communities in Coalisland at the moment in relation to the Christmas Lights Switch On.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that officers appreciated the positive comments of Members and advised that Council organises twelve civic events per year for a total cost of £120,000 which he felt represented good value for money. The Director advised that officers would like to improve on the events year on year but that this tends to increase the overall cost of the event. It was advised that officers will try to find monies within existing budgets this year but that additional monies may be required in future years.

Councillor Monteith stated that he had also received good feedback from those attending recent Council events and asked if Council had spoken with businesses within towns to get a feeling on what their experiences have been over the Christmas period. Councillor Monteith felt it is incumbent on Council to engage with these businesses.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that town centre forums would be able to engage with businesses and provide a report back.

Councillor Milne referred to the amount of organisation which goes into events and that, particularly in rural areas, a lot of voluntary work is needed. Councillor Milne commended this voluntary work.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson concurred with Councillor Milne's remarks and stated that some events do rely on a lot of goodwill and that everyone who gives of their time should be congratulated.

D014/20 Report on Tourism Groups Mid Ulster - 2020

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of progress made through the tourism teams work at trade shows and exhibitions in 2019.

Councillor Cuddy stated that the tourism team does do a lot of good work but that the tourism industry was something this Council needed to work on and that more momentum was needed in this area. Councillor Cuddy referred to Northern Ireland Tourism Board annual figures and that Council should measure itself against these and seek a 5% annual year on year improvement.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson suggested that as Councillor Cuddy was on the Tourism Group that he bring his suggestion forward through this forum.

Councillor Milne left the meeting at 7.37 pm.

Councillor Kerr asked if there was going to be a more localised effort in relation to tourism.

The Head of Tourism referred to the 'Embrace the Giant Spirit' brand being promoted by Northern Ireland Tourism and that officers are currently looking at putting together three experiences within the Mid Ulster area under this brand, namely – Sheepdogs at Work, Stars and Stones at Davagh and Seamus Heaney HomePlace. The Head of Tourism advised that officers will market the experiences as much as possible and that tourists will be able to build experiences into an itinerary.

Councillor Clarke referred to the proposed motorsport track in Coalisland which would have been a game changer for tourism in the area but that now looked as if it would not come to fruition.

Councillor Kerr stated that more investment should have been made in Coalisland Canal.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor McNamee 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 D015/20 to D022/20.

Matters for Decision

D015/20	Faber & Faber Licencing Agreement
D016/20	Caravan Tariffs 2020/2021
D017/20	Tariffs and opening hours for the Dark Sky Park & Observatory 2020 / 2021
D018/20	Catering Contract Davagh Dark Skies Park

Matters for Information

- D019/20 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 4 December 2019
- D020/20 Update on Seamus Heaney HomePlace Open Ground Project
- D021/20 Maghera High School Site
- D022/20 Women’s Aid

D023/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 7.55 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____