

COOKSTOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Proceedings of a DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 15th March 2011 at 7.00 pm

Present:	Councillor Cassidy	(Chairman)
Councillors:	Baker, Clarke, Glasgow, Lees, McAleer, McCartney, McCrea, McFlynn, McGarvey, McNamee, Molloy, Quinn and Wilson	
Officers:	Adrian McCreesh Emma Bell	Director of Development Administrative Officer

Councillor Lees congratulated R&M Greenkeepers Ltd for achieving the Investors in People Award and proposed that it is appropriately recognised by Council.

It was proposed by Councillor McCartney
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and AGREED

That R&M Greenkeepers Ltd be nominated by Council for a Civic Award in recognition of their achievement of the Investors in People Award.

Councillor Molloy extended his sympathies to Councillor Clarke on his recent family bereavement.

Councillor Cassidy acknowledged the death of Mr Billy Bownes and extended his condolences to the former Chief Executives family.

Councillor Cassidy congratulated Mr Eunan Murray on the recent birth of his baby daughter Olivia and he wished them well for the future.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of Councillors Greer and McIvor and Mr Michael McGuckin.

2. PRESENTATION

The Director of Development welcomed Mr Martin O'Rourke from the Services, Industrial, Professional and Technical Union (SIPTU) to the meeting to update Members on their campaign to protect the Community Sector, the service users and providers of the vital services to our local community.

Mr O'Rourke thanked Members for the opportunity to present and he advised that SIPTU aims to engage with all 26 Councils located in Northern Ireland. SIPTU is Ireland's largest Trade Union, representing over 200,000 workers across both Northern and Southern Ireland and is committed to working for the protection of Community and Voluntary Sector employees, to ensure that they receive the same terms and conditions of employment as the Public Sector. The Community and Voluntary Sector have endured a 10% cut resulting in higher unemployment and hardship, and increased demand for community support and services. SIPTU believe that the Community Sector play an important role in the economic recovery, as community development has proven its capacity to involve target groups in the process of addressing their own exclusion, thus ensuring that strategies are informed, focused and sustainable.

Community work has played a key role in enhancing the capacity of other measures to deliver better health and social services, such as alcohol awareness, anti-drug strategies and suicide prevention. This sector has made a unique and vital contribution enhancing the lives of local communities, by building relationships within the community, empowering people to gain new skills and confidence to re-enter education, increased engagement with local democracy and providing support services, such as employment, crèches for young mothers, and gyms to improve their health and well being. It is essential that the current level of Government funding is maintained for this sector to safeguard the vital services which they provide. Furthermore a reduction in funding may render a key service unviable, resulting in a non existence of the bridging role between Government departments and local communities. To date it is estimated that 27,000 people are employed within the Community and Voluntary Sector with a volunteer base of approximately 100,000. Government funding to this sector equates to 45% of its income and the majority of this money is used to pay for the efficient delivery of services. SIPTU believes that the decisions made today will have a dramatic impact on the future and it is essential that disadvantaged communities are not further penalised by the reduction of

vital support and services. M O'Rourke advised that Council may help by ensuring that all Community Sector employees have the protection of a Trade Union and also by joining SIPTU's campaign to protect service users and providers. He further advised that SIPTU has engaged with approximately 13 of the 26 local Councils' in Northern Ireland to encourage support, in addition to engaging with the current MLAs. Council can assist by promoting Community Sector achievements in the media and highlighting the need to protect it. He therefore requested that Council support SIPTU's Generic Motion:

“This Council noting the excellent and necessary work carried out by the local Community Sector organisations rejects any move towards cutting the funding available to the Community Sector as a false economy which makes neither social nor economic sense. The Council calls upon all Community Sector workers to consider joining a trade union organising a campaign to protect our local services.”

Councillor Cassidy thanked Mr O'Rourke for his informative presentation, after which he answered a number of questions from Members.

Councillor Molloy thanked Mr O'Rourke for his enlightening presentation.

M O'Rourke advised Members that a high proportion of the Community and Voluntary Sector do not realise that the budget cuts are coming and therefore will not engage until the cuts arrive. NICVA is currently engaging with Community and Voluntary organisations resulting in very positive feedback.

Councillor McGarvey advised that he welcomed the efforts made by SIPTU and reassured Mr O'Rourke that the SDLP will assist the campaign to secure the regeneration of the Cookstown District.

Councillor Wilson welcomed the motion and advised that the Community and Voluntary Sector within the Cookstown District has a very positive impact on the local community.

Mr O'Rourke thanked Members for their time and left the meeting at 7.14pm.

The Director of Development welcomed the general concept of the Generic Motion, however the issue of Trade Union Membership needs to be explored further. It was recommended that the Director of Development ascertain how this matter is being addressed by other local Councils.

AGREED.

3. DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORTS

Officer End of Year Reports for April 2010 – March 2011 and Proposed Programme of Events/Plans for April 2011 – March 2012 were circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor McGarvey
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and AGREED

That all Officer Reports, as outlined below be taken as read:

- 3.1 Sports Development Programme
- 3.2 Tourism Programme
- 3.3 Burnavon Arts & Cultural Development Programme

Councillors McCartney and Lees opposed the hosting of Cookstown Half Marathon on a Sunday, as outlined within item 3.1, Sports Development Programme.

Councillor Wilson congratulated Officers and associated staff on the preparation and content of their annual reports and the delivery of individual programmes throughout the year.

4. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

4.1. Tender for the Development of Six Integrated Village Action Plans

The Director of Development advised Members that the programme initiative for the Development of Six Integrated Village Action Plans for Cookstown District was presented to Council in November 2010. Approval was subsequently granted for Council to seek to appoint a suitably interested and competent organisation(s) to develop six Integrated Village Action Plans for settlements identified by SWARD. A tender specification was developed and a public advert was placed in the Belfast Telegraph week commencing 24th January 2011. The closing date for return of submissions was 12 noon on Wednesday 16th February 2011. A total of 11 tenders were received before the closing date/time and they were opened after 4pm by the Council Chairman, Councillor John McNamee, the Community Services Manager and the Peace III Officer. Submissions were assessed by the Community Services Manager, Economic Development Manager and the Community Safety Officer using the DARD process of 70% methodology, 30% pricing structure. The tenders scored accordingly:

Organisation	Score
URS/Scott Wilson	70
Rural Development Council & Venturei Network & Willie Miller Urban Design	68
MWA Partnership Ltd	67
The Boyd Partnership	66.5
Strategic Planning	64.5
RPS Planning	43.5
Mitchell & Associates	43
The Paul Hogarth Company	43
Place First Ltd & Rural Innovation & E*Scape	37
Drew Mackie Associates, Willie Millar Urban Design & Full Circle	-
SLR & Colin Buchanan	-

The Scoring Panel felt that the assessment process did not fully address all the issues of methodology and community consultation. It was agreed by the panel at a meeting on 1st March 2011 that the following applicants would be invited for interview and requested to deliver a presentation on their methodology.

- 1) URS/Scott Wilson
- 2) Rural Development Council & Venturei Network & Willie Miller Urban Design
- 3) MWA Partnership Ltd
- 4) The Boyd Partnership

The 4 organisations were requested to attend an interview on 11th March 2011 to give a 15 minute presentation on methodology with 30 minutes for questions and answers.

The Director of Corporate Services chaired the panel which consisted of the Community Services Manager and the Community Safety Officer.

Following interview the panel reassessed the scoring to reflect evidence gained at interview on the competency of those tendering for the work. This evidence related to methodology and community consultation. The revised scores are as follows:

Organisation	Score
Rural Development Council & Venturei Network & Willie Miller Urban Design	69.25
URS/Scott Wilson	68.75
MWA Partnership Ltd	67
The Boyd Partnership	64

The Director of Development highlighted that it is essential for the most appropriate organisation to be appointed to ensure that comprehensive action plans are compiled as this information will provide a basis for a future funding application to the Rural Development Programme.

Councillor McGarvey advised that it is important that the appointed organisation has a comprehensive methodology and is able to secure community buy in to enable the action plan to be a success.

Councillor Clarke highlighted the importance of each community's interests being taken into consideration and advised that it is essential that the appointed organisation is capable of fulfilling the requirements as outlined within the Terms of Reference.

Councillor Wilson raised concern that the lowest tender was not recommended for appointment, however he advised that based on the robust case put forward he would propose the appointment of the Rural Development Council & Venturei Network & Willie Miller Urban Design.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and AGREED

That Council appoint the Rural Development Council & Venturei Network & Willie Miller Urban Design to develop six Integrated Village Action Plans for settlements as identified by SWARD at a cost of £37,850 excluding VAT.

4.2. South West Local Action Group

The Director of Development advised Members that the Rural Development Programme is a huge entity therefore it is important for all Members to be kept up to date through the regular inclusion of minutes on the Development Committee Agenda.

Members NOTED minutes of South West Local Action Group Meetings held on 3rd November 2010 and 2nd February 2011.

4.3. Joint Council Committee

Members NOTED minutes of Rural Development Programme Joint Council Committee Meeting held on 17th January 2011.

5. PEACE III

5.1. Tender for Pomeroy - Cultural Awareness Training Programme in Cookstown District Council Area

The Director of Development advised Members that it was agreed at a recent PR&S meeting that Council, in conjunction with the South West Partnership PEACE III Partnership, seek to recruit a competent organisation to deliver a Cultural Awareness training programme to a total of up to 20 people from the Pomeroy area with Cookstown District Council area. This programme will include work with individuals, groups and also work between groups. A tender specification was developed and a public advert was placed in the Belfast Telegraph and The Anglo Celt on Wednesday 9th February 2011. The closing date for return of submissions was Monday 28th February 2011 at 4pm.

A total of 3 tenders were received before the closing date/time. Returned tenders were opened at 4pm on Monday 28th February 2011 by the Council Chairman, Councillor McNamee, the Community Services Manager and the Peace III Officer. The submissions were subsequently assessed by the Rural Development Programme Manager, the Community Services Manager and the Peace III Officer on Monday 7th March 2011 in accordance with the Terms of Reference. The 3 tenders were scored accordingly:

Organisation Name	Tender Price (excluding VAT)	Score
Copius Consulting	£12,350.00	63
Ulster Sports Academy	£5,462.50	53.5
LOCUS Consultancy	£2,975.00	67

The Director of Development recommended that Council appoint LOCUS Research and Consultancy to deliver Cultural Awareness Training to 20 people in the Pomeroy area between now and 30th April 2011, at a cost of £2,975.00 excluding VAT. LOCUS Research and Consultancy have demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the assignment with a robust methodology, and a clear schedule with regard to the timeframe and good value for money.

It was proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and AGREED

That Council appoint LOCUS Research and Consultancy to deliver Cultural Awareness Training to 20 people in the Pomeroy area between now and 30th April 2011, at a cost of £2,975.00 excluding VAT on behalf of the South West PEACE III Partnership and progress as a matter of urgency.

5.2. Tender for Pomeroy – Empowerment Programme in Cookstown District Council Area

The Director of Development advised that on behalf of the South West Cluster PEACE III Partnership, Council sought to recruit a competent organisation to deliver a support programme consisting of up to 10 people from the Pomeroy area of the Cookstown District. This programme will provide training and support for those who work with the victims of trauma. A tender specification was developed, and a public advert was placed in the Belfast Telegraph and The Anglo Celt on Wednesday 9th February 2011. The closing date for the return of submissions was Monday 28th February 2011 at 4pm. Only 1 tender was received before the closing date/time and it was opened at 4pm on Monday 28th February 2011 by the Council Chairman, Councillor McNamee, the Community Services Manager and the PEACE III Officer. The submission was then subsequently assessed in accordance with the Terms of Reference by the Community Services Manager, the Rural Development Programme Manager and the PEACE III Officer on Monday 7th March 2011.

Organisation Name	Tender Price	Score
Margaret T O’Hagan Keenan	£3668.75	66.5

It is therefore recommended that Council appoint Margaret T O’Hagan Keenan, as her submission exceeded the pass mark of 65 and the individual marks within this category, to deliver an empowerment programme to consisting of up to 10 people in the Pomeroy area, between now and 30th April 2011 at a cost of £3668.75. The recommended tender has clearly demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the assignment with a structured methodology and a clear schedule with regard to the timeframe and good value for money.

It was proposed by Councillor McGarvey
Seconded by Councillor Baker and AGREED

That Council appoint Margaret T O'Hagan Keenan to deliver an Empowerment Programme to a total of up to 10 people in the Pomeroy area, between now and the 30th April 2011 at a cost of £3668.75 on behalf of the South West Cluster PEACE III Partnership and Cookstown District Council and progress as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Wilson sought assurance that the Community Services unit are able to maintain their current work load considering the high volume of tenders which they are putting forward for Council approval. Furthermore Councillor Wilson highlighted that the cost of delivering this tender to 10 people is quite extravagant. The Director of Development confirmed that there is an increased workload in the Community Services unit, however as a result of staff redeployment and the utilisation of staff in other sub divisions such as the Burnavon, then Council is more than capable of fulfilling its requirements.

Councillor McCrea arrived at 7.28pm.

Councillor McCrea apologised for his late arrival and further queried the cost of delivering the Empowerment Programme. The Director of Development advised that PEACE III stipulated the number of participants who are able to avail of this programme. He further advised that he will arrange for the Community Services Manager to furnish Councillor McCrea with the Empowerment Programme Methodology.

AGREED.

6. POMEROY BUSINESS PARK

Councillors Wilson and Molloy declared an interest in the matter.

Members were advised that the Evaluation Report for Pomeroy Business Park was comprehensive and transparent. Indicated within the report are a range of targets which the Managing Agents, Cookstown Enterprise Centre and Pomeroy Development Projects are striving to achieve. Occupancy rates in January 2011 were at 75%, and for the period January 2010 to December 2010, 3 jobs were created which fell below their initial target of 12, however the Managing Agents and the board of Pomeroy Development Projects have identified these issues and reasons for them and are exploring ways to address them. Initially Pomeroy Business Park was targeted at the engineering sector however due to the current economic climate they have had to refocus and target a new customer base.

Councillor Molloy highlighted that it is very satisfying to observe the development of Pomeroy Business Park considering all of the hard work and effort which went into its development. Furthermore it is very positive that they have devised a range of plans for the future development of the business park.

Councillor McCrea highlighted that he would like to see Pomeroy Business Park fully occupied and he raised concerns that the current level of rent is very cheap and enquired if this is sustainable long term. Councillor Molloy advised that the rent charged for units has increased and is gradually rising at a standard rate.

Councillor Wilson raised concern regarding the delay in securing planning permission for the business park and he indicated that the survival of Pomeroy Business Park may be in jeopardy should this not be granted. He emphasised the need for a response from Planning Service NI in the very near future.

The Director of Development advised that he will clarify the current status of the Planning Service application and inform Members accordingly.

AGREED.

7. COMMUNITY SERVICES

7.1. Additional DSD Funding for Community Services and Voluntary Body Grants

The Director of Development advised Members that Minutes of a Voluntary Body Grant Aid Sub Committee Meeting held on 15th March 2011 were circulated for their consideration. He reminded Members that an additional Letter of Offer for £5,555 was received from the Department for Social Development (DSD) advising that there is further Voluntary Body Grant Aid funding available, however spend must be accrued before 31st March 2011. A Sub Committee Meeting was held in February 2011 to progress this matter and it was subsequently decided to accept the Letter of Offer and place an advertisement in the press week commencing 7th March 2011 indicating a closing date of 3pm on 14th March 2011 for receipt of submissions. A total of 22 applications were received prior to the closing date/time, 4 applications indicated timeframes outside of 31st March 2011 and 4 were submitted with incomplete documentation.

The following applications were assessed by the Voluntary Body Grant Aid Sub Committee:

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	RECOMMENDATION
Group		
Mid Ulster Talking Newspapers	£500	£500
Molesworth Youth Club	£363	£363
Lilac Cancer Support	£1,000	0
Gortalowry Park Residents Association	£500	£500
The Complementary Therapy Foundation	£400	0
Rainbow	372	0
Claggan Bowling Club	1,420	0
Tullylagan Pony Club	500	£500
Loup Womens Group	410	£410
Fairhill & District Development Association	410	£410
Killymoon Rangers FC	500	0
Shopmobility, Cookstown	490	0
Cookstown Hockey Club	750	0
Ancient Order of Hibernians	500	£500
14 th Tyrone Pomeroy Scouts	500	0
<i>Sub total</i>		£3,183

Individuals		
Laura Sloan	£150	£150
Kirstie McCammon	£150	£150
Lorraine Burns	£150	£150
Stephanie Burns	£150	£150
Emma Campbell	£150	£150
Sara Campbell	£150	£150
Matthew Rollins	£150	£150
<i>Sub Total</i>		<i>£1,050</i>
TOTAL		£4,233

Members were advised that Cookstown Hockey Club met the criteria however they are unable to achieve spend within the deadline of 31st March 2011.

As per recommendation from DSD, Voluntary Body Sub Committee Members agreed to allocate any slippage to the Cookstown Citizens Advice Bureau.

The first call for 2011-2012 will open on 4th April 2011 and will close at 3pm on 22nd April 2011 pending funding from DSD and it was recommended by the Voluntary Body Sub Committee Members that all applications which indicated timeframes outside the 31st March 2011 are automatically transferred to this call.

It was proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor McGarvey and AGREED

That Council accept the recommendations outlined in the Minutes of Voluntary Body Grant Aid Sub Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15th March 2011, as outlined above and also Letters of Offer can be issued to successful applicants immediately.

8. IRISH CROSS BORDER AREA NETWORK

8.1. ICBAN

It was proposed by Councillor McGarvey
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and AGREED

That Council release its second payment of £6,250 to ICBAN for the financial year 2010/2011 following receipt of documentation as requested.

9. LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

9.1. New Local Economic Development Project Proposals

Members were advised that at the Development Committee Meeting in January 2011, it was agreed to transfer a proportion of local economic development funding from 2010/2011 year to add to the local economic development budget for 2011/2012, for the delivery of new projects. As a result the Economic Development Manager has consulted with Operational Services, Invest NI and Cookstown Enterprise Centre to identify the needs of the small business sector. Therefore it is proposed that Council bid for funding to deliver the following 2 programmes:

- SME Resource Efficiency Programme
- Business Elevate Programme

SME Resource Efficiency Programme

The Director of Development advised that the SME Resource Efficiency Programme will be undertaken over a 2 year period to assist 40 businesses. Each participating business will receive an initial Resource Efficiency Audit, followed up with a tailored Resource Efficiency Action Plan and bespoke mentoring support. Invest NI is also presently in the infancy stages of developing a Resource Efficiency Programme **targeted at larger scale businesses** across Northern Ireland. They have not as yet worked up their programme content but believe there will remain a distinct gap in resource efficiency support for small businesses whose energy, waste, water/effluent and raw material costs is less than £30,000.

Invest NI has also indicated that there is further opportunities for Council to work with them on our programme, addressing gaps that Invest NI's new programme may be unable to fulfil, especially for those businesses with resource costs ranging between £30,000 to £60,000.

Business Elevate Programme

The Director of Development advised that it has been identified that a number of small businesses require one to one tailored support to assist with the development of a number of key areas in their business. The Business Elevate Programme will be rolled out over a 3 year period and will engage with 84 non/non-active Invest NI client companies to provide support in a range of areas, such as sales/marketing, business planning, financial management, ICT, product and process development. This Programme is designed to operate and provide support to businesses on 2 levels:

- Tier 1 – Growth support for 75 businesses with a lower range turnover and
- Tier 2 – Higher Growth Support for 9 businesses with the potential to reach £100,000 turnover and 25% export sales.

The Director of Development advised that Tier 1 Growth Support businesses will be required to make a contribution of £50+VAT towards programme costs and will receive up to 5 days assistance to address the recommendations of audits. He further advised that Tier 2 High Growth Businesses will receive up to 8 days tailored support and will contribute £70+VAT towards the programme costs

The Director of Development further advised that both programmes have been designed to ensure that they attract the maximum amount of support from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) and Invest NI, whilst meeting the needs of businesses within our District.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Baker and AGREED

That Council accept the recommendations as outlined within the New Local Economic Development Project Proposals Report to take forward a (1) Business Elevate Programme and (2) SME Resource Efficiency Programme, as outlined below:

SME Resource Efficiency Programme

- Commit £32,364.50 from Council's Economic Development Budget to progress an SME Resource Efficiency Programme.
- Submit a detailed Stage 2 Application to Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) for Competitiveness Programme funding of £60,302, towards the delivery of an SME Resource Efficiency Programme.
- Submit an application to Invest NI for funding of £27,937.50 towards the delivery of an SME Resource Efficiency Programme.
- Subject to funding being secured from DETI and Invest NI for the Programme then arrange for an advertisement to be placed in the press to seek a suitably qualified organisation(s) to deliver the programme.

Business Elevate Programme

- Commit £62,444.75 from Council's Economic Development Budget to progress a Business Elevate Programme.
- Submit a detailed Stage 2 Application to Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) for Competitiveness Programme funding of £119,993.50, towards the delivery of a Business Elevate Programme.
- Submit an application to Invest NI for funding of £57,548.75 towards the delivery of a Business Elevate Programme.

- Subject to funding being secured from DETI and Invest NI arrange for an advertisement to be placed in the press to (a) seek a suitably qualified organisation(s) to deliver the programme and (b) seek a suitably qualified organisation(s) to independently evaluate the programme.

10. TOURISM

10.1. Lands at Tullaghoge Fort

Members were advised that a letter from the College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise (CAFRE), dated 1st March 2011, regarding the transfer of lands at Tullaghoge Fort has been received. The letter requests formal notification that Cookstown District Council is no longer interested in the remaining Loughry lands at Tullaghoge. The Director of Development indicated the area referred to on the NIEA Transfer Map for Members consideration.

Council's Tourism Sub Committee met with NIEA to discuss the project and they have agreed to submit a funding application to National Heritage Lottery for the development of the site encompassing a new access point.

Councillor McCrea advised that he and Mr Patsy McGlone, MLA have obtained clarification from the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD) that any future development of the site would be progressed in an efficient manner.

It was proposed by Councillor McGarvey
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and AGREED

That Council forward formal notification to Mr Fintan McCann, Loughry Estates Manager, CAFRE indicating that Council is no longer interested in the remaining Loughry lands at Tullaghoge.

10.2. Tourism Sub Group

Members NOTED minutes of Tourism Sub Group Meeting held on 2nd February 2011.

Councillor Wilson sought clarity regarding the demolition of cycle paths at Drumcairne Forest. The Director of Development advised that an update report will be circulated at a future Council Meeting for Members information. He further advised that a meeting will be convened with Members, Forest Service NI and Friends of Drumcairne Forest with a view to resolving the matter.

10.3. Lough Fea

Members NOTED update report on the Development of Angling Product at Lough Fea, dated 28th February 2011, from Council's Tourism Officer.

10.4. Davagh Forest

The Director of Development advised that an update report on Davagh Forest Proposed Trails Development had been circulated for Members information. He also drew attention to page 9 of the report which outlines the projects' next steps and he sought approval for the project to be progressed immediately pending the Letter of Offer.

It was proposed by Councillor McGarvey
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and AGREED

That Council progress the development of Davagh Forest with immediate effect on receipt of the Letter of Offer from the Rural Development Programme, as outlined below:

- i. Determine phased delivery over 2011/12 – 2012/13.
- ii. Consider the appointment of Countryside Access Activities Network as a possible Managing Agent for the Project.
- iii. Consider fully all other external sources of project funding. Possible funding streams include DCAL NITB Tourism Development Fund Scheme.
- iv. Negotiate and agree key stages with Forest Service NI with the overall objective of finalising a joint legal agreement.

- v. Commission a macro specification for the project, including a comprehensive corridor evaluation and tender specification.

10.5. Tourism Innovation Fund

Members NOTED minutes of Tourism Innovation Fund Meetings held on 16th December 2010 and 8th February 2011.

10.6. Western Regional Tourism Partnership

Members NOTED minutes of Western Regional Tourism Partnership Meetings held on 16th December 2010 and 8th February 2011.

11. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

11.1. Town Centre Forum

The Director of Development advised that the next meeting of the Town Centre Forum is scheduled for Thursday 24th March 2011 at 12.30pm in the Chamber. He further advised that a meeting will be convened in the very near future with Members and the President of Cookstown Chamber of Commerce.

Members NOTED minutes of Town Centre Forum Meetings held on 31st August 2010 and 27th January 2011.

11.2. Association of Town Centre Management

Members NOTED the Association of Town Centre Management Regional Manifesto for Northern Ireland which was launched on 1st March 2011.

11.3. Shop Improvement Scheme Sub-Committee

Members NOTED minutes of Shop Improvement Scheme Sub Committee Meeting held on 24th February 2011.

11.4. Shopmobility

Members NOTED minutes of Shop Mobility Meetings held on 19th October 2010 and 16th November 2010.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1. DETI's Consultation on a 'Draft Telecommunications Action Plan for Northern Ireland (2011-2015)

The Director of Development reminded Members that at the Statutory Meeting on Tuesday 8th March 2011, they were made aware of DETI's Consultation exercise with reference to their 'Draft Telecommunication Action Plan for Northern Ireland (2011-2015)' and it was agreed that Council would formally request that DETI organise a specific consultation event in the Mid Ulster area, as the selected locations were not representative of this area. He advised that Council's Economic Development Manager forwarded this request to Mr Paul Rose, DETI on 9th March 2011. A response was received from Mr Rose outlining that 7 public meetings have been organised, resulting in one meeting being held within each County, in addition to one being held in central Belfast. Mr Rose's response also outlined that DETI is keen to hear the views from the Cookstown District and it is hoped that they will be able to attend one of the scheduled public meetings. Mr Rose stated DETI is already very much aware of these views as a result of extensive engagement with both Council representatives and Members. The Director of Development advised that Council will arrange a meeting with DETI Officials and Party Leaders to address ongoing broadband issues.

Councillor Clarke highlighted that the issues experienced within the Belfast area will be very different to the issues which are experienced within the Cookstown District. Councillor Clarke added that some equipment has been purchased for base stations and unfortunately has not been installed to date.

Councillor McCrea advised that he is willing to liaise directly with Minister Arlene Foster, MLA, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to seek to convene a closed meeting with Council Members and the Minister.

AGREED.

Councillor McGarvey also raised concerns regarding the lack of telecommunications equipment installation.

The Director of Development advised that the Economic Development Manager will research and forward any available information to Members in advance of such a meeting with Minister Foster, MLA.

Councillor McGarvey enquired if Council possesses a map outlining the proposed location of each telecoms base station.

Both the Director of Development and Councillor Clarke confirmed that a map existed which outlines fibre optic, satellite and radio transmitters.

Councillor McGarvey requested that Council check to see if the transmitters have been installed.

The Director of Development advised Members that the Economic Development Manager is in frequent contact with representatives from DETI's Telecoms Unit regarding broadband issues.

Councillors Clarke and McGarvey advised that if Council locates the relevant map then they could indicate to the best of their knowledge where broadband equipment has been installed.

Members AGREED that a map should be prepared outlining the installation sites for fibre optic cables, satellite and radio transmitters.

The meeting ended at 7.56pm.

Chairman

Clerk/Chief Executive

Date