

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 10 September 2020 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present Councillor McNamee

Councillors Ashton, Black, Burton, Clarke*, Corry*, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Kerr, Hughes, Kearney, Milne*, Monteith, Wilson*

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Mr M Browne, Head of Tourism**
Mr Gordon, Head of Leisure
Mr Hill, Head of Parks
Ms Linney, Head of Community Development**
Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts
Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development
Mr Brown, ICT Support
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

Others in Attendance

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Cllr McNamee 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.

D111/20 Apologies

Councillor Molloy

D112/20 Declarations of Interest

The Chair Councillor McNamee reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

Councillor Clarke declared an interest in LAG

Councillor Hughes declared an interest in LAG

Councillor Burton declared an interest in LAG

Councillor Kearney declared an interest in LAG and Lough Neagh Partnership

Councillor Milne declared an interest in Lough Neagh Partnership

Councillor Elattar declared an interest in Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in LAG

D113/20 Chair's Business

The Chair advised members that a Special Development Committee meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday 1st October to deal with the backlog of presentations and said that an email would be issued in due course clarifying the date.

The Director of Business and Communities referred to Covid19 Business Support Grant and said that this was welcome. He updated Members on the current position relating to Tranche 1 as follows;

Tranche 1 (Covid19 Business Support Grant Scheme)

DFC £281,000 (urban areas)

DAERA £148,000 (rural areas)

Council £133,000 (rural areas)

£562,000 Fully committed & letters of offer issued to projects within 3 weeks of receipt of funding

The Director of Business and Communities sought approval to progress to Tranche 2 of the Covid19 Business Grants Scheme. He advised that DfC would provide £281,000 as per previous programme, and indicated he is hopeful of receiving similar DAERA funding as in Tranche 1 of £148,000, but awaits confirmation of this. He added Council's Head of Economic Development had been reviewing the existing economic development budget and was able to contribute a further £133K to match DAERA funding for rural areas. He said that Officers are working extremely hard to try to progress the scheme as soon as possible.

Councillor Doris commended Officers on their commitment and said that she would be more than happy to propose that Tranche 2 is progressed but asked that it be reiterated back to both Departments the need to address the boundaries situation.

Councillor Monteith concurred with Councillor Doris and said that he welcomed the extra funding for businesses but also raised his concern around boundaries and about the different emphasis for tranches and enquired how this affects the other.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that the same criteria for urban and rural businesses would be followed the same as tranche one.

The Director of Business and Communities advised Members that since the committee papers were issued that Council had received notification from DfC that DfI would provide Mid Ulster Council with a further £464,659, the focus of which would be based on the following areas; pavement widening to allow for social distancing, active travel, promote connectivity, access to services, enhancement of green/blue spaces etc. He stated that this is a positive development, but the timing is challenging with Council's application due back to the Department next week,

He advised that DfI funding was to be allocated towards the urban areas like Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt and Coalisland and sought agreement in principle from Members for the following proposed works, subject to greater detail being provided at Town Centre Forum meetings involving representation from DEA Members and businesses;

- **Cookstown** – The area to the front and side of the Burnavon Theatre and The Hub – outdoor covered civic spaces, seating etc, to provide pedestrian rest areas.
- **Coalisland** – The new civic area off Main Street – outdoor covered civic space, seating, etc, to provide pedestrian rest areas. A second project is proposed for Coalisland relating to the Canal Walk and is a perfect opportunity to consider upgrade works along the pathway.
- **Dungannon** – Civic Space at the front of Ranfurly House and Hill of The O'Neill and on Irish Street – outdoor covered civic space, seating, etc, to provide pedestrian rest areas.
- **Magherafelt – The civic space in the Diamond** – outdoor covered civic space, seating, etc, to provide pedestrian rest areas.

The Director of Business and Communities advised members that the application has to be submitted by the 18th September 2020. The Director requested permission to appoint an ICT Team with immediate effect, after which meetings would be held with Town Centre Forums's on the specific schemes.

Councillor Clarke commended Officers on their work regarding projects and said it was great to see such good work being carried out in such a short space of time and would be happy to second the proposal.

Councillor Wilson praised the work being carried out by Officers, but said that he would have some concerns regarding how as a committee this proposal can be pushed through without it being agreed by Council. He said that at the previous Environment Committee a number of consultations were presented with a short date and it was agreed that these would be agreed in "draft form" and asked for this project to be treated the same, subject to gaining full Council approval.

The Director of Business and Committee advised that any works commissioned would be treated in draft format, subject to attaining Full Council approval.

Councillor Kerr commended Officers on their quick reaction, but also raised concern around the boundary issue as there seemed to be a separate element for spruce up grant scheme which was available for businesses to use to renovate shops with some financial support from the Council. He said that he welcomed the fact that the scheme was at an advanced stage but felt this was unacceptable for businesses which operate outside the boundary lines and when we return to normality, rural areas needed to be included in terms of equality and asked if there was any update on this.

Councillor Ashton concurred with previous members comments regarding the work commitment by the Officer team when it was previously debated and decided to proceed with the funding issue. She said that she was glad that things were moving forward, but

enquired about the new scheme and the appointment of the ICT team costings and if these could be recouped.

The Director of Business and Committees advised that costs would be determined as part of the framework but could not determine yet if the fees could be included in the costs.

Councillor Kearney congratulated the Officer team on their work, but enquired why Maghera was being excluded from the scheme.

The Director of Business and Committees stated that specific projects were for urban areas and larger towns with populations greater than 5000. He added however, that subject to gaining confirmation from DAERA that rural funding will be made available, that Maghera would be included again in the next round of funding for Covid19 Business Support Grants.

Councillor Black referred to Covid19 Business Support Grant Scheme and enquired if this funding would go towards applicants on the reserve list and said that he was also disappointed that Maghera was being excluded from the DFI funding initiative.

The Director of Business and Communities in response to the query advised that there was no reserve list for Covid19 Business Support Grants as this was a rolling grant programme and all the monies were allocated in Tranche 1, however, any business who wished could reapply when the scheme opens again.

Councillor Cuddy queried about applicants who applied for Covid grant funding at the beginning and when list is complete, will they be eligible to apply for the small grant or will this be re-advertised again.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that Tranche 2 of the Covid19 Business Support Grant Scheme will be rolled out as in Tranche 1 until all the monies were allocated. He said that there was a high volume of businesses seeking grants between £500 - £3,000.

In response to a member query, the Head of Economic Development advised that a high number of businesses had applied for the funding in Tranche 1 and there was a surge of applications as the funding pot was almost fully allocated. She said that any business that submitted an application when all the funding was allocated had been written to advising them they were unsuccessful due to Tranche 1 funding being fully allocated but if an opportunity for Tranche 2 funding became available, they could reapply with a fresh application.

In response to Councillor Black's query, the Director of Business and Committees advised that Tranche 1 closes when money was all allocated and Council is currently working up a funding application for Tranche 2. He stated that forms for applying would be straight forward and basic.

Councillor Milne enquired about the closing date for completion of works.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the scheme must be completed by the end of March 2021.

Cllr Milne advised that an applicant had advised him that that returns had to be submitted by the 14th October 2020.

The Head of Economic Development said that all works must be complete and claims submitted by March 2021 but agreed to investigate Cllr Milne's query and would respond directly to him.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that Covid19 Grant funding had been sourced from DfC and DAERA and this had to be spent by the end of this financial year.

The Chair said that it was great to see the funding coming through and for the people who previously missed out, there will be another opportunity for them to apply.

The Director of Businesses and Communities in reply to Councillor Kerr's query, regarding Council's Spruce Up Scheme, advised that there were;

- 38 schemes completed with a budget of £124,122 in 2019/20;
- 69 schemes were awarded funding of £249,147 through letters of offer in 2020/21; and
- 70 schemes are budgeted for to the value of £250,191 in 2021/22

He added that a further 74 schemes remain on the reserve list to the value of £272,387. He said that money has to be sourced to fund these but at present the Economic Development budget has been maximized to fund as many schemes as the budget currently allows.

The Chair stated that he had received enquiries about the reserve list by someone which was on it.

Councillor Kerr congratulated Officers on their great amount of work, but stated that his main concern would be the boundaries of the spruce up grant scheme and rural businesses falling outside the area of the town and asked if they would be opted out of the scheme or will they have the opportunity in the next Phase.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the Spruce Up Scheme had opened and closed with an enormous amount of applications and advised that Council had been upfront and made applicants aware that funding towards the scheme would take a phased approach to allow funding to be sourced. She said that Council Officers cannot go back and change the existing scheme at this stage, but moving forward with any new scheme in the future, consideration would be given towards how the scheme could be made more inclusive.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree;

- (1) to move forward with the Covid19 Recovery Revitalisation Funding Programme in association with DfC, DAERA and DFI.

- (2) Funding of £133,000 be made available in Tranche 2 from Council's economic development budget for the Covid19 Business Grants Scheme to co-fund rural applications, alongside DAERA (*subject to confirmation of DAERA funding*).
- (3) Appointment of an ICT team with immediate effect to assist Council progress the proposed projects as outlined for each town for DFI streetscape funding, subject to all works being treated as 'drafts' until full Council approval is attained, and Town Centre Forum Meetings held to agree the schemes.

Councillor Wilson stated that it was brought to his attention of concerns relating to 2 National Trust Properties, Wellbrook Beetling Mill and Springhill which are struggling very badly due to the covid pandemic and looking at cost cutting measures. He said that Springhill House was closed indefinitely, with gardens being opened but with no carparking facilities. Staff are off or on furlough and not there to tend to the grounds and there needs to be something considered and put in place to keep it up to standard.

He advised that the National Trust had sought a DEA meeting with Councillors to progress this as tomorrow was the deadline for staff and volunteers.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that a meeting be arranged for DEA's and representatives from the National Trust to investigate a favorable outcome relating to Springhill and Wellbrook Beetling Mill.

Matters for Decision

D114/20 Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Programme

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval to appoint a qualified consultancy to develop Master Plans for the potential development of Drumcairn, Altmore and Dunmoyle Forests as local multi-activity hubs, subject to available funding. As outlined in the Action Plan of Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan, March 2020.

Councillor Doris said that she was happy to propose the report as it was a long time coming for the Drumcairne & Cappagh/Altmore areas and said that there would be more ability for mountain biking and walking trails, picnic areas, parks and possible glamping in the areas of outstanding natural beauty.

She sought a meeting with Stewartstown Community Group and Cappagh Village Regeneration Group to progress these projects forward.

She also asked that the carpark at Drumcairn be given attention as it was in a dire need of a good clean up.

Councillor Kerr concurred with member's comments and said that it would be important to work with the community groups in Stewartstown and Cappagh and would like an

Interagency meeting relating to Altmore Forest project. He sought an update on Cappagh Reservoir project and how it was progressing.

Councillor Clarke referred to Dunmoyle Forest and sought clarification on whether it was part of Mid Ulster District Council area.

The Head of Parks advised that it was part of the former Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council remit and that Ballygawley was part of the Council's jurisdiction.

Councillor Clarke stated that Drum Manor was identified as a regional hub and enquired if Forest Service had made this identification as space and opportunity was limited.

The Head of Parks advised that Drum Manor, Parkanaur and Ballyronan were identified as regional hubs as part of the Council approved strategic plan as they were recognised as visitor destinations. He said that access was important and structure on site and these were points to determine whether they were classed as a local facility or a regional facility.

Councillor Elattar said that she was happy the people of Tyrone and looked forward to the projects coming through but when the Strategy went out Iniscarn Forest and Derrynoid Forest were not recognised and felt that it was a pity as Iniscarn Forest was adjacent to Slieve Gallion. She stated that there were very poor carparking facilities and overflowing bins and asked if extra bins could be installed or addressed to protect the area.

The Head of Parks advised that there were a number of other activities within the Strategy which would cater for those. In referring to carparking he said that he would liaise with the Forestry Service to see if anything can be done to elevate carparking issues. He said that the Council wanted people to follow the Countryside Code and be pro-active and responsible with their litter and didn't want to follow down the route of installing more bins but would take on board and seek to address the issue.

Councillor Elattar said that it would be beneficial if some benches could be placed in some areas going towards the top of Iniscarn so people can stop and rest.

The Head of Parks advised that a current scheme would be looking at this for Iniscarn.

Councillor Burton said that this was the next 5-year plan and raised concern regarding Lumfords Glen being overlooked. She stated that she had raised Lumfords Glen on numerous occasions and felt that not enough was being done to address issues around the damage caused by adverse weather conditions dilapidating the beauty spot. She also referred to Brantry Lough and said that more bins were required as it was a very busy attraction and used a lot by the community especially during the pandemic.

The Head of Parks advised that Lumfords Glen was continuously being brought to the attention of Forestry Service and that he would continue to press on the issue and keep the committee updated.

In referring to request for additional bins at Brantry Lough, the Head of Parks advised that no additional bins would be installed due to the fact that everyone should be

adhering to the Countryside Code and taking their litter home with them, but would continue to get the area where the bins are located, picnic area and carpark serviced.

Councillor Burton raised concern as she felt that Lumfords Glen should be given more priority when others have come more recently and are listed on the agenda, it is disheartening to see and wants this matter moved forward as its being overlooked.

She stated that it was important that the bins at Brantry Lough were emptied on a regular basis as litter is being blown around the forest and into the water.

Councillor Cuddy referred to the incident at Dungannon Park where a handbrake failed to work and a car ran away. He said that it could have been a tragic incident as a lot of pedestrians were around that area and asked for an update on how this could be prevented in the future.

The Head of Parks advised that the handbrake wasn't secured resulting in the car rolling away and coming into contact with a bollard. He said that the car did progress down the pedestrian area where people were moving about and that a review on carpark safety would be investigated with Safety Officers looking at other methods for safety measures within the Park environment.

The Chair said that it was good to see the masterplans for Forests going forward.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted to procure and appoint qualified consultancy to develop Master Plans for the potential development of Drumcairn, Altmore and Dunmoyle Forests as local multi-agency recreational hubs, subject to available funding.

D115/20 Lough Neagh Partnership Core Funding 2020/21

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report and sought approval for annual contribution for year 2020/21 towards the core running costs associated with Lough Neagh Partnership (LNP) in the delivery of marketing tourism, recreational, environmental and heritage activities on Lough Neagh (LN) and the shoreline on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor Corry left the meeting at 7.50 pm and returned at 7.54 pm.

Councillor Doris stated that she would be happy to propose the recommendation but had an issue around the boglands at Derrylaughan and Derrytresk. She said that it was upsetting to see the burning of moss and the detrimental effects that this was having on wildlife and the environment. She referred to the June Development Committee meeting where she made a proposal that the burning of moss be carried out in a controlled way and thanked the locals for their assistance in working for years to preserve the lands.

Councillor Kerr concurred with member's comments and said that he would be happy to second the proposal.

He said that he had met with community groups regarding the issues around Derrytresk and Derrylaughan and felt that it was important that something was done to address this issue around the boglands.

In regard to the linkage to Washingbay, Lough Neagh and Coalisland Canal, there is a huge potential to interlink each specified area and to become a recognised pathway. He said that it would be hugely significant that Council does all it can to continue and maximise their efforts to support the fantastic work LNP was carrying out.

Councillor Kerr referred to The Low Country Native Irish Honeybee Association where members of LNP are interested in getting a conservation area and asked that Council Officers engage the group on the use of Council maintained lands.

The Head of Tourism said that he would pursue the issue raised regarding Derrylaughan and Derrytresk boglands and advised that as off today there still was no agreement from the Education Board.

The Head of Tourism stated that he would follow up Councillor Kerr's request.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve that:

- (i) Mid Ulster District Council fund Lough Neagh Partnership £22,000 as requested subject to funding being secured from all five Councils on the shores of Lough Neagh.
- (ii) Lough Neagh Partnership submit a quarterly update to MUDC.

D116/20 ITT Report for Augmented Reality and Trail Interpretation for Davagh Forest (Cookstown), Slievemore (Mayo) and Ballyronan Marina (Magherafelt) and Update on Grant Aid Letters of Offer for OM, Dark Sky Park Solar Walk

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to provide an update regarding:

- ITT Report for Augmented Reality and Trail Interpretation for Davagh Forest (Cookstown), Slievemore (Mayo) and Ballyronan Marina (Magherafelt)
- Letters of Offer for the DAERA match funding for OM Solar Walk, OM Archaeological Walks & The Ballyronan Tourism Project

Councillor Clarke stated it was a very comprehensive, strong report and a lot of progress in Mid Ulster but enquired about 40% quality for overall 88 and still 70%. He said that it seemed to be difficult for people to meet the criteria and maintain a good score.

Councillor Ashton said that it would be useful for officers to update members in the future on the scoring mechanisms used.

Councillor Corry said that it was an excellent initiative and a great selling point which captured peoples attention.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council:

- (i) To approve for acceptance the tender received from Tandem Partners Ltd, being the most economically advantageous tender and their tender total price of £218,443.
- (ii) That Council grant approval for the match funding for the projects outlined within the report.

D117/20 Autumn Corporate Events Update

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to which updated members on no advice being given yet regarding mass gatherings and maximum numbers permitted to attend an outdoor event. However, from Monday 24 August 2020 the maximum number of people who can meet outdoors has been reduced from 30 people to 15 people. Any meetings of more than 15 people will be required to complete a risk assessment.

To ensure all options were investigated; site visits took place in particular looking at the logistics of hosting firework displays with Officers and Health and Safety.

Councillor Ashton referred to item 4.1 and said that proposals looked to be more cost effective than fireworks costings and asked if the money could be put towards the Economic Development budget.

The Head of Tourism advised that savings have been made and a report would be brought to the next meeting on allocated funding measures.

Councillor Wilson said that he had no problem with agreeing to the report but queried why the issue of Magherafelt Christmas was included in the Halloween festivities and brought to this meeting.

The Head of Tourism advised that it was an error on his part and would form part of his report next month.

Councillor Doris said that discussions with the Coalisland Town Centre Forum had included the possibility of having a Halloween Shop Window Decoration Initiative which would bring a happy atmosphere and deter anti-social behavior.

The Head of Tourism reassured the member that he would investigate the matter.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted to celebrating Halloween and Christmas in Mid Ulster in a new way. With no mass gatherings of people, but in a safe way enhancing the atmospheres within

our town centres and instilling civic pride with our residents amidst these uncertain times.

D118/20 Social Housing Working Group & Pilot Dungannon Place Shaping Plan

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report to:

- Update members on Social Housing Working Group issues and plans to address these
- Seek agreement to proceed with the development of a pilot Place Shaping Plan for Dungannon

Councillor Monteith said that he was glad to see the issue of affordable housing on the agenda tonight.

He raised concern about affordable housing in Dungannon and the extortionate cost of renting in the town, with no families being allocated social housing and forced down the road of expensive renting. He stated that the minimum for a 3-bed former housing executive house was in the region of £620 per month and stressed the need for a rigorous rent control system between the private and public sector which must be adhered to. If anyone was paying more than 30% of their weekly wage then this was classed as rental poverty and there was a need to move away from Housing Associations as they are also expensive and don't help the people as there is an extra amount to be paid on top of the housing benefit. He said that in this day and age this was totally unacceptable and in relation to the strength of the report, there was a need for a buy in from Developers and others who buy up retail businesses and turn them into 2-bedroom apartments, which are unacceptable for families. He said that MUDC's Planning Department were also to blame for approving these type of buildings as they approved town houses outside the town and there was a need to grasp this and have more homes adapted for families. He suggested a simple solution called mixed tenure development where a development is not approved unless some goes towards social housing.

Councillor Kerr supported Councillor Monteith's comments and said that there was a similar problem in Coalisland regarding social housing, with people being the working poor and having to choose between feeding their families or paying rent. He said that unfortunately there will more poverty-stricken families after the furlough scheme ends and no employment opportunities and these 2 areas will be the hardest hit.

Councillor Wilson sought clarification on item 3.2 and enquired if all the phased land was used up in Dungannon.

The Head of Community Development advised that phased land still remained and that social housing development was important and NIHE are re-examining potential sites and any issues regarding these. This was agreed at an earlier meeting of members as the current social housing list was mainly retail units.

Councillor Monteith noted that it is important if Council invests this money in the pilot plan that there needs to be action from this.

The Head of Community Development stated that it was about getting the right people around the table at the beginning and having everyone involved in the development of a specification and ensuring commitment at this time. Due to the level of proposals currently it is important that this is taken forward as soon as possible and setting up a working group to progress this issue.

Councillor Wilson said that it was strange that Dungannon was considering phase II land for social housing as the phased land for Cookstown hasn't been considered; he is aware of one such site discussion. He asked that a report be brought to a future meeting on the difference between Dungannon and Cookstown.

The Chair concurred with members' comments about extortionate rental prices, with rental prices over £600 in Cookstown. He referred to people living in social housing and in receipt of housing benefit expected to pay an extra £20 per week to cover their rent.

Councillor Black left the meeting at 8.15 pm

Councillor Corry said that it was important that this matter be sorted asap and agreed with Councillor Kerr's theory that things were going to get more difficult for people once furlough ends and people end up losing their jobs.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council:

- (i) To note update on social housing issues and plans to address them
- (ii) To commit up to £10,000 towards the development of a Place Shaping Plan for Dungannon with a further 50% match from NIHE (from within existing budgets).

D119/20 Community Development Report

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report to update members on the following:

- Grants – approval sought for rolling Good Relations Grants
- Peace IV – approval sought for Peace IV proposals and to note the update
- Community Development – to note the Community Development update

In response to Councillor Ashton's query regarding Good Relations DOA Events, the Head of Community Development advised these had to be completed by March 2021.

Councillor Burton declared an interest in Ulster in Bloom as a member of NILGA.

Councillor Burton referred to appendix 1, Good Relations Report, Ulster in Bloom 2021 and sought clarification if this event was going ahead next year.

Councillor Milne left the meeting at 8.17 pm.

The Head of Community Development said that the project was anticipated to be delivered as the main element of the project being funded is bringing the diverse groups and people together from across the village through planting.

Councillor Burton said that there was no issue but it could be a bit misleading re the title.

Councillor Black returned to the meeting at 8.19 pm.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve:

- (i) Grant award recommendations for Good Relations totaling £3,000
- (ii) Peace IV extension end date of June 2021 and Peace IV update
- (iii) Note the contents of Community Development report.

D120/20 Economic Development Report

Councillor Milne returned to the meeting at 8.20 pm.

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report to update members and sought approval for the following:

(1) Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges - Dungannon & Magherafelt

To boost trade over the Christmas period during the last 5 years, Council previously agreed to introduce a reduced tariff car parking scheme in Dungannon and Magherafelt. Approval sought to bring into effect a similar scheme this year to support the local retail sector.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges – Dungannon & Magherafelt
Implement a temporary reduced tariff for the first 3 hours of 10 pence in all Off Street Pay & Display Car Parks in Dungannon and Magherafelt during the Christmas period from Saturday 21 November 2020 to Saturday 2 January 2021 (6-week period) at a cost of £23,400.

Councillor Monteith said that for a few years he had been arguing the fact that carparking should be free and now post Covid, this should be the case more than ever as more shops are closing and people highlight the fact that carparking charges deters them from coming into town centres. He said that there was supposed to be a pilot scheme carried out and doesn't know what become of that but welcomed the reduction in carparking charges for Christmas.

The Chair advised that the pilot scheme had been brought to the Environment Committee for decision with the first 2 hours free across all carparks to see if it was viable.

(2) DAERA Public Consultation – Further Education (FE) Support & Charging Policy at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)

DAERA has launched a public consultation on a Review of Further Education Support and Charging Policy at CAFRE. They provide a range of full-time and part-time further and higher education courses as well as industry training course at CAFRE. The courses cover agriculture, equine, food, horticulture and business for agri-food and rural enterprise. Permission sought to approve the draft consultation response to enable it to be submitted to DAERA before closing date for submissions of 11th September 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved DAERA Public Consultation – Further Education Support & Charging Policy at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)

Delegate authority to the Development Committee to approve the draft consultation response to enable it to be submitted to DAERA before the closing date for submissions of 11th September 2020.

Councillor Clarke left the meeting at 8.23 pm.

(3) Review of Council’s Online Business Directory

The function of this directory is to provide a facility for Mid Ulster businesses to include their details on Mid Ulster District Council’s Online Business Directory

Councillor Ashton enquired if the Council community services database was just for the Council or for public use.

The Head of Economic Development advised that she believed the Council’s community database was an internal database.

Councillor Ashton said that she would have an issue with removing community groups from the platform and would propose putting these groups back on a database for public use.

Councillor Clarke returned to the meeting at 8.26 pm.

She referred to appendix 2, item 3 where it seemed to review the complaints regarding religious beliefs and then on page 8 referred to “political beliefs” was raised again and felt that this needed checking or screening. She said that she would not be supporting this regardless of their background and if

people were willing to work with community then Council should work with them.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that it was appropriate that businesses are seen to be acting responsibly and that going forward they would be offered the option of completing an Equality Monitoring Form.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that going forward that a community platform be publicly advertised on the Council's website.

Councillor Ashton said that the community groups section should not have been removed from the business directory in the first instance due to the great work being carried out i.e. Niamh Louise Foundation.

The Director of Business and Communities in response to member's query, advised that a policy approach would be brought forward on the issue to Council's P&R Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

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

Review of Council's Online Business Directory

Approving the recommendations contained in the Review of Council's Online Business Directory.

D121/20 A29 Cookstown and Dungannon By-Passes

The Director of Business & Communities presented previously circulated report to:

- (1) Update member on the progress of the A29 Cookstown by-pass project
- (2) Seek agreement with Dungannon DEA elected members to form a working group with officials from the Department of Infrastructure (DfI) to progress a by-pass scheme for Dungannon

The Chair advised members that the bimonthly meetings with DfI representatives were very useful and this meeting should be extended to discuss Dungannon also but felt that there was a need to start identifying Moneymore too as an issue as it was becoming a problem due to traffic congestion.

Councillor Clarke agreed that Moneymore needed to be kept on the radar as it was the 3rd link from north to south.

Councillor Cuddy said that it was great to see Cookstown progressing as our Council extends from Swatragh to Fivemiletown and stated that primary things needed to be done and learn from the Cookstown Councillors.

Councillor Kearney felt it was a good day for Mid Ulster due to the launch of the Mid South West Growth Deal Economic Strategy.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

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

- (i) Note update on the progress of the A29 Cookstown by-pass scheme
- (ii) Form a working group comprising Dungannon DEA elected members and officers from the Department of Infrastructure (DfI) to progress the development of a by-pass scheme in Dungannon

D122/20 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2020/21

The Head of Culture & Arts presented previously circulated report to:

- (1) Inform members of the 2020/21 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion funding programme
- (2) Seek Council approval to participate in the 2020/21 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Scheme and to request project submissions from internal Arts & Culture, Leisure, Parks, Tourism Services and to assess submissions received in advance of submitting all project applications to the Department for Communities for further project funding assessment.

Councillor Corry said that this was a great opportunity for projects as it would create a positive impact for people who may be otherwise disadvantaged.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

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

- (i) Participation in the 2020/21 DfC Access and Inclusion Programme
- (ii) Council requesting project submissions from internal Culture, Arts, Leisure Parks, Recreational and Tourism services to form applications for funding to the 2020/21 DfC Access and Inclusion Programme.

Matters for Information

D123/20 Minutes of Development Committee held on 9 July 2020

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 9 July 2020.

D124/20 OM Dark Sky Park & Observatory, Davagh

Members noted update on the progress and scheduled official launch of the OM Dark Sky Park and Observatory, Davagh Forest.

Councillor Ashton referred to page 98 and stated that there was a typo error on the report and should read “BBC Northern Ireland”.

Councillor Doris enquired if there was any possibility of arranging a site visit to the OM Dark Skies Project for members.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that there would be an opportunity for a visit for members and the community before opening the venue to the public.

Councillor Black commended the work by Officers to get the project to this stage and said that from looking at the images, it looks spectacular. He said that it was unfortunate that the project won't get the launch it deserves at this current time.

He referred to the financial impact with the possibility of a 70% decrease in tourist footfall and increased costs regarding Covid restrictions and asked if it would be possible for a report to be brought back to committee on the impact Covid was having on tourism, arts, leisure and other venues used by the public.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that budget predictions were due to commence shortly, and similarly for other venues like theatres etc. which were unlikely to open this side of Christmas. There will be challenging times ahead as no performances can be booked but officers will do their best to try and keep things moving forward.

D125/20 Macmillan Move More Service Update

Members noted update which provided information on a research and evaluation report completed in partnership with Queen's University Belfast and Macmillan, demonstrating how proactive the Macmillan Move More Programme has been throughout the Covid pandemic.

D126/20 Leisure – Covid 19 Recovery Update

Members noted update on the response from the Leisure Team to the Covid 19 pandemic and the ongoing engagement and contact with customers and users of Council Leisure Services.

Councillor Cuddy said that these were worrying times for the public and private sectors and stated at the beginning of Covid, the Council stated that they would be eligible to get 10% back and enquired where we were presently and also asked about Furlough and leisure staff who received it.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that centre managers were all working at all levels through the pandemic. Staff up to Duty Managers were furloughed but were back at work by June. She said that family packages had been introduced this week and the service had been building reassurance and confidence within the community to use leisure facilities, with positive feedback being received. She stated that

income was below where it had been but anticipated that when the swimming lesson programme was launched things should improve.

Councillor Cuddy said that it was the Councillors responsibility to find out where we were financially.

D127/20 Mid Ulster Walking and Hillwalking Festival

Members noted update on the upcoming walking festival.

Councillor Corry said that she welcomed the report and commended officers on their work in such a short period of time. She stated that Mid Ulster had some magnificent walking opportunities and felt that during the Covid pandemic walking had been reignited again and suggested that marketing be considered to enhance this.

She enquired about promotional adverts for Carntogher Way Walk and if this was taken on board.

The Head of Tourism advised that a date still had to be finalised for Carntogher Walk but would be worked upon.

Councillor Doris enquired if there was any update on DEA meetings for Councillors for their local areas.

The Head of Tourism said to date that this still hadn't been progressed but were looking at a complement across the District of long and short walking routes and advised that there would be consultations over the next couple of weeks to progress this.

Councillor Ashton referred to £10pp rate and enquired if there were any packages if any individual wished to take part in 3 walking opportunities.

The Head of Tourism advised that to date there has been no package for groups but going forward this can be investigated.

D128/20 EA Youth Engagement Mid Ulster

Members noted update on the Education Authority (EA) funding support for Youth Services in Mid Ulster.

Councillor Monteith said that he welcomed the fact that there was communication between staff and Education Authority (EA) but felt that there needed to be a further development for co-ordination of working together moving forward. He stated that youth clubs were going to be hindered and our programmes needed to be adapted with more money being put into youth activity. He said that this could include staff being trained up to do more youth outreach. He stated that although the youth got bad press, they went through a horrific time over the last few months and that blame towards them was unwarranted as they were responsible in protecting their families. He suggested that the youth outreach be moved forward with possible areas identified like the Hill of The O'Neill and Burnavon arts, education outreach and street arts.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to investigate opportunities for officers to work with Education Authority on working in co-ordination to enhance youth activity in the area and source possible areas for outreach and street arts.

Councillor Corry referred to youth services in Maghera and why were there two contracts in this area for the north and south and enquired why this might be.

The Head of Community Development said that the EA had noted this was due to previous youth delivery which had worked well in the area.

D129/20 Economic Development Report – OBF1

Members noted correspondence relating to the following:

- Ministerial Launch of Council's £1million Business Support Package
- Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes
- Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes
- Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Minutes
- Maghera Town Centre Forum Minutes

Councillor Burton declared an interest in item 2.1 as relative is employed by PJD Safety Supplies.

Live broadcast ended at 8.50 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Corry 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 D130/20 to D137/20.

Matters for Decision

- | | |
|---------|---|
| D130/20 | Reservoirs Safety Management Appointment of Integrated Consultancy Team |
| D131/20 | Moydamlaght Forest Permissive Path Agreement |
| D132/20 | Meadowbank Sports Arena Carpet |
| D133/20 | Sports NI Multi Facility Fund Application |

Matters for Information

- | | |
|---------|---|
| D134/20 | Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 9 July 2020 |
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D135/20 Greenvale Leisure Centre
D136/20 Culture & Arts Update Report
D137/20 Economic Development Report

D138/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and concluded at 9.10 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____