

Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 12 October 2021 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by virtual means

Members Present Councillor Brown, Chair

Councillors Buchanan, Burton, Cuthbertson, Graham, Kearney, N McAleer, S McAleer*, S McGuigan*, McNamee, O'Neill*, Totten*, Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment
Mr Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure and Wellbeing**
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services**
Mr McAdoo, Assistant Director Environmental Services**
Mrs McClements, Head of Environmental Health**
Mr Scullion, Assistant Director Property Services**
Mr Wilkinson, Head of Building Control**
Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

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

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

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

E222/21 Apologies

Councillors Glasgow, B McGuigan and Milne.

E223/21 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Burton declared an interest in Agewell under agenda item 10 – Positive Ageing Month.

Councillor S McGuigan declared an interest in Killeeshil Community Centre under agenda item 15 – Entertainment Licensing Applications.

E224/21 Chair's Business

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he wanted to highlight issues currently affecting Dungannon traders, residents and shoppers. The Councillor stated that since June virtually every approach road into the town had been dug up and filled in on several occasions, he stated that this work seemed to be ongoing seven days a week by utility companies and that there may be a further two utility companies who are going to do work in the town. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that in addition to this there has been an increase in complaints regarding traffic enforcement and tickets which have been issued with the apparent reason for this being a change in personnel in traffic attendants. The Councillor stated that traders only have a short window of opportunity in relation to the High Street voucher and that he had been contacted by someone who, after various detours around the town to avoid roadworks then received a parking ticket. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the person advised him that they would not be back in Dungannon to spend their voucher when it arrived. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that this is a serious situation and asked officers to contact DfI and utility companies in relation to the issues raised. The Councillor stated that the message needs to go out that Dungannon is open for business and that roadworks, unless they are an emergency, should stop between now and Christmas and that there needs to be discussions with DfI in relation to traffic attendants and a common sense approach deployed in relation to the issuing of tickets. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that traders in the town have suffered immensely over the past 18 months and that there were now only ten weeks to Christmas in order to claw something back.

Councillor Wilson stated that people from the Dungannon area had contacted him to enquire what had been done in Cookstown when all the road works were ongoing there. The Councillor advised that during these works one of the things that was done was to put up signs to say Cookstown was open for business and that, listening to Councillor Cuthbertson, he felt this is the message that is needed for Dungannon. Councillor Wilson stated he supported Councillor Cuthbertson's comments and that it might be an idea to look at what was done in Cookstown to mitigate the circumstances at that time.

The Chair, Councillor Brown stated he agreed with all comments and that businesses are only starting to come back after Covid. The Chair stated that as many people as possible should be encouraged back into town centres and asked if there is anything that can be done in relation to a moratorium of works until after Christmas.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated it was disappointing to hear what is happening in Dungannon and that officers will make linkages with DfI Roads to set up a meeting. The Director stated that work normally has to be planned and scheduled with DfI Roads to ensure that there is free movement of traffic and that arterial routes are kept clear at peak times. The Director advised that officers would reflect on the comments raised tonight and seek to have a workshop with Dungannon DEA Members and DfI Roads.

Matters for Decision

E225/21 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed No Waiting At Any Time – Post Office Lane, Magherafelt

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposed No Waiting At Any Time – Post Office Lane, Magherafelt.

Proposed by Councillor N McAleer
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed No Waiting At Any Time – Post Office Lane, Magherafelt.

E226/21 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed 20MPH Speed Limit – Redford Park, Moy

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposed 20MPH Speed Limit – Redford Park, Moy.

Proposed by Councillor N McAleer
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed 20MPH Speed Limit – Redford Park, Moy.

E227/21 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed 20MPH Speed Limit – Park View, Riverside North, Riverside South and Riverside Gardens, Castledawson

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposed 20MPH Speed Limit – Park View, Riverside North, Riverside South and Riverside Gardens, Castledawson.

Proposed by Councillor N McAleer
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed 20MPH Speed Limit – Park View, Riverside North, Riverside South and Riverside Gardens, Castledawson.

E228/21 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which considered the naming of new streets within residential Housing Developments within Mid-Ulster.

Site off Eglis Road, Dungannon

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he appreciated that the site was not far away from the Black Lough but that he would consider the area as Beechvalley or the road that connects the site is the Manse Road with the focal point being the Presbyterian Manse and that he felt this could be incorporated into the name of the development. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the Black Lough is not visible from the site and proposed that officers go back to the developer to seek further naming options.

Councillor Graham seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal.

Councillor S McGuigan stated that whilst he had no objection to what Councillor Cuthbertson had said he would propose the name Crannog Way and was content that this name met with policy.

Councillor McNamee seconded Councillor S McGuigan's proposal.

Members voted on Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal –

For – 6

Against – 7

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development off Eglis Road, Dungannon as Crannog Way.

Site off Mullaghboy Road, Bellaghy

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development off Mullaghboy Road, Bellaghy as Folly Brae.

E229/21 SLA for the administration of Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) funding for product safety related work

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which outlined a request received from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (CCG) for a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to be established and agreed, in relation to the administration of Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) funding for product safety related work. The SLA is between CCG, Mid Ulster District Council and the other 9 District Councils in Northern Ireland.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Service Level Agreement (SLA) in relation to the administration of the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) funding with Causeway Coast and Glens and the other District Councils in Northern Ireland, as outlined in Appendix 1 of report.

Matters for Information

E230/21 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 14 September 2021

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 14 September 2021.

E231/21 Positive Ageing Month 2021

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the planned events during Positive Ageing Month taking place during October 2021.

E232/21 Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS) in Northern Ireland (NI)

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the findings of a report on hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and ozone-depleting substances (ODS) in Northern Ireland which are important types of fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-gases).

E233/21 Community Resuscitation

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the procurement and provision by Mid Ulster District Council of additional AEDs in Mid Ulster District Council area.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that having raised the issue several times at this Committee it was disappointing to now be told that the AED proposed at the President Grant Homestead is the responsibility of Tourism despite it being passed at this Committee last November. The Councillor stated that this is the first time the Tourism Department had been mentioned and felt that the buck was being passed from the Environment Committee.

In relation to Gardeners Hall, Councillor Cuthbertson felt that there seems to be an attitude of officers not following a decision made by the Environment Committee. The Councillor highlighted that Gardeners Hall belongs to the Council and is available for public hire but that it will be the only venue that Council has that does not have an AED. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that there is a registered AED at the boxing club at the rear of Gardeners Hall and that it had been agreed to discuss moving this AED to a more accessible location but that if these discussions were not successful there should still be an AED which is accessible to all at this location.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that other departments are working through discussions with the boxing club as they are responsible for the building. The officer went on to highlight the presentation given by NI Ambulance Service in which they spoke of an AED being available within 1 mile and she advised that there is another AED available within 0.2 miles of Gardners Hall. The Head of Environmental Health stated that officers hope to discuss further with the boxing club the proposal of moving their AED to a more accessible location and that she would follow up on this and advise Councillor Cuthbertson on how discussions are progressing.

Councillor McNamee referred to item raised at Council meeting in relation to maintenance of defibrillators. The Councillor stated that whilst it is good that all

defibrillators in the district are mapped out it is critical that they are all maintained and asked if there is a process of ensuring they are being maintained.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated it was still disappointing to hear that a year on the necessary conversations have still not taken place and now for the first time Members are hearing it is the responsibility of another department. The Councillor stated that Gardeners Hall is a Council building which is available for public hire and should have its own AED like every other Council facility and should not have to depend on a third party defibrillator which is located 3 or 4 streets away from the Hall.

The Head of Environmental Health stated that, in relation to Council owned properties with AEDs, it is the person responsible for that building who is responsible for the maintenance of the AED. The officer stated that officers could explore working with the Ambulance Service to see what could be done to improve the maintenance of community owned AEDs. The Head of Environmental Health advised that the cost of maintenance of community owned AEDs is borne by the community group and that Council has never taken a decision in relation to the supply or maintenance of AEDs which are not in its ownership. The Head of Environmental Health advised she would contact Councillor Cuthbertson with an update in relation to Gardeners Hall and again highlighted it is the department responsible for the building who are responsible for progressing discussions with the boxing club in relation to the siting of the AED at this location.

Councillor McNamee proposed that Council work with the Ambulance Service to explore and progress a system of checking whether an AED is being maintained as it would be a travesty to find an AED not working when it is needed in an emergency.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that community defibrillators should be formally registered and that as part of the registration process there is a maintenance record and that the Ambulance Service may use this as a mechanism of supporting the community in ensuring the AED is maintained. The Director advised that this detail can be clarified with the Ambulance Service and a report brought back to Committee.

Councillor Burton seconded Councillor McNamee's proposal and also asked that the Round Lake be considered as a potential site for an AED.

The Head of Environmental Health stated that this would be investigated.

The Head of Technical Services advised that there is a defibrillator already installed at the Round Lake facility as part of the recent capital scheme.

Councillor Kearney referred to update in relation to Glenone River Walk and that there is no electricity supply on site for an AED. The Councillor stated that there is a developer on site with glamping pods who needs an electricity connection and suggested a link up in the future.

Councillor S McAleer stated it is important to keep community groups involved with the maintenance and use of an AED as she felt there is no point having them if people are afraid to use them.

The Chair, Councillor Brown agreed in that there was no sense in having something if it can't be used.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to work with the Ambulance Service to explore a system of checking whether a community AED is being maintained and what support can be given to the community in this regard.

E234/21 Cancer Strategy for Northern Ireland 2021-2031 – Consultation

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the opportunity to respond to a consultation document entitled "Cancer Strategy for Northern Ireland 2021-2031".

Councillor Burton stated that this is an important strategy and having spoken to cancer patients and their carers she would ask that immunology treatment needs to be stepped up in each specialist hospital and that elected members should be able to play their part in the strategy and its monitoring and governance. Councillor Burton requested that her comments above be added to the response previously circulated.

The Chair, Councillor Brown stated that all Members should have received the draft response to the Cancer Strategy for Northern Ireland.

Councillor Kearney acknowledged the workshop held on this consultation and commended officers who made the issues raised unique to Mid Ulster and that the key recommendation of the response is the need to prioritise the short, medium and long term issues. The Councillor stated he felt that the report was useful and that the workshop had been time well spent.

The Chair, Councillor Brown asked if the comments raised by Councillor Burton can be incorporated into the response.

The Head of Environmental Health stated that Councillor Burton's comments can be added to the response and highlighted that there were still a few days in which to submit the response. The officer advised that the comments/issues raised at the workshop have been incorporated into the draft response circulated but that if a Member would like to add any other comments she asked that these be forwarded to her so that the response can be finalised for the end of the week.

The Chair, Councillor Brown stated that as there is an opportunity for additional comments to be forwarded he asked if Members were content to proceed with the draft response circulated and to include Councillor Burton's comments as above.

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Wilson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to submit the draft response to the consultation on the Cancer Strategy for Northern Ireland 2021-2031 as previously circulated – to include comments raised by Councillor Burton as above and any other comments forwarded by Councillors prior to the submission date.

E235/21 Building Control Workload

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

E236/21 Entertainment Licensing Applications

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

E237/21 Dual Language Signage Requests

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

E238/21 Dual Language Signage Surveys

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

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to the request for dual language signage at Georges Street in Dungannon and he would have some concern regarding this as it is in the town centre and is not recognised as a highly residential area but that he would await the survey result coming back on this Street.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that in relation to the surveys before Members tonight he felt it highlights the farce of the process as there was one survey in which the response was less than 10%. The Councillor stated the process is a waste of officers valuable time and Council money and that something needed to be changed. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the outcome of the review of policy in relation to dual language signage was not satisfactory to all.

Councillor McNamee stated that there is a policy in place for dual language signage and referred to issues previously raised in relation to Earls Court in Dungannon and documentation within report on same. The Councillor referred to the advisory group which could discuss this issue and advised that there is a similar advisory group in Cookstown for the Burnvale development which he sits on. Councillor McNamee highlighted that Council's policy states that if the request meets the criteria then it should progress to survey and asked for update in relation to Earls Court.

The Head of Building Control advised that a survey has been issued in relation to Earls Court and officers are awaiting the outcomes on this. The officer advised that there was no issue with the request in relation to Earls Court meeting Council policy and that he discussed the issues previously raised with Radius Housing and NIHE and that their response is as noted in the report. The Head of Building Control advised that the outcome of the survey on Earls Court should be before Members at next month's Committee meeting.

E239/21 Bus Shelters Update

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

Councillor N McAleer referred to bus shelter at Cappagh and stated that when this bus shelter was installed a park bench was removed, the Councillor asked if this bench will be reinstated. Councillor N McAleer asked for an update in relation to bus shelter at Brackaville and also whether Councillors would be issued with the neighbour consultation on bus shelter at St Colmans, Moortown.

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to bus shelter at Drumkee which had been vandalised in the early hours of the morning and thanked officers and staff for the quick response in repainting the bus shelter. The Councillor stated that a lot of time and effort went into the vandalism and that he expected officers to be speaking to Police on the matter.

Councillor O'Neill asked for update in relation to installation of bus shelters at Washingbay Road, Clonoe and Brackaville.

The Head of Technical Services advised that the issue with the park bench in Cappagh was being investigated and a response would be issued to Members in due course. In relation to bus shelters at Brackaville and Washingbay Road, the officer stated that these are approved and are being progressed for installation. The officer advised that Members would be issued with the neighbour consultation in relation to St Colmans, Moortown as is normal practice.

E240/21 Recycle Week 2021

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the activities carried out for Recycle Week 2021.

The Chair, Councillor Brown commended the officers and team on the good messaging put out during Recycling Week. Councillor Brown highlighted that the report sets out messaging that will go out from now until the early part of next year which will help to encourage people to recycle.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked if there are any housing developments within Mid Ulster that only operate a black bin collection.

The Assistant Director Environmental Services advised that all areas are covered with the three bin system but if there were any particular issues with an area to advise him of this.

E241/21 Tullyvar Joint Committee Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the business of the Tullyvar Joint Committee.

E242/21 Town Centre Footpath Snow/Ice Clearance Agreement Maps

Members noted previously circulated report which provided the treatment boundary maps associated with the annual agreement with DfI/Transport NI in relation to the treatment of footpaths in the main town centres within Mid Ulster District following heavy snowfall or prolonged freezing.

Live broadcast ended at 7.40 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Burton 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 E243/21 to E250/21.

Matters for Decision

E243/21 Installation of Memorial Bench on Council Property
E244/21 Extension of waste recycling and processing contracts

Matters for Information

E245/21 Confidential Minutes of Environment Committee held on
14 September 2021
E246/21 Clean Neighbourhood Action Plan
E247/21 Recovery of Building Control Fees
E248/21 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
E249/21 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
E250/21 Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update

E251/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.15 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

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

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

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

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

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda - apologies and then roll call of all other Members in attendance.