

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF DUNGANNON & SOUTH TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2006 IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, CIRCULAR ROAD, DUNGANNON

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** In the Chair, Councillor Monteith (Chairman)
Councillors Hamilton, McGonnell, McLarnon, Molloy and O'Neill
- OTHERS:** Councillor Cuddy
- APOLOGY:** Councillor Mulligan
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mr Murphy and Mrs Smith

The meeting started at 7.30 pm

1 AMALGAMATION OF OFFICIAL NORTHERN IRELAND SUPPORTERS CLUB

The meeting was advised that due to personal circumstances the representative was unable to attend this evening.

2 AUTISM NI PAPA

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Donna Grew and Mrs Amanda Moore to the meeting who were in attendance to increase members' awareness of this invisible disorder and the work of the local support group.

Mrs Grew and Mrs Moore related their personal experiences in dealing with a child with autism and the attitude of health and educational specialists, which is improving. They spoke of the families feeling of isolation, the experiences in social settings and the fear of other people's reaction. Mrs Grew spoke of how through the use of the cinema for private sessions and with the introduction of different situations ie light on/out families can now join in public cinema times.

Mrs Grew stated that in the region of 70 families are currently connected with the local group which covers Dungannon/Armagh although plans are in place with regard to setting up a group in Armagh. Mrs Grew quoted statistics from DoE Taskforce report on Autism.

The representatives spoke of the successful summer gardening club held at Willowbank and the families desire to be involved in projects run by the Council ie Picnic in the Park, Halloween and Christmas festivities but there was a need for special arrangements to allow this to happen. The current project being considered by the group is the setting up of a monthly youth club.

Costs associated with events can be prohibited and any funds held by the group have been acquired through fund raising.

Representatives answered members questions, members spoke of the suggestion of including awareness of the disorder in relation to retail training programme, how the Council could assist with the production of information leaflets that could be distributed to retail outlets through the borough and that the Council would be happy to host awareness evening in the Council Offices.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Grew and Mrs Moore for their moving presentation following which they left the meeting at 8.40 pm.

Resolved That Mr Murphy would take salient points made to the next meeting of the Development Committee.

3 HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMOs) - NIHE

The Chairman welcomed Mr Terry Waide and Mr Andy McGarry who where in attendance to update members on HMOs.

Mr Waide with the use of powerpoint presentation (appendix 1) updated members on the definition of HMOs, problems with HMO spread, applicable standards and HMO Statutory registration scheme.

Members questioned Mr Waide on how the Council area could be designated an HMO area and how the spread of HMO's could be controlled and monitored.

Mr Waide stated that over the next few months the NIHE intends to put in place the necessary process to have Dungannon declared an HMO Action Area by January 2007. Following this HMO's will have to register and Mr McGarry stated that any assistance in identify HMO's would be appreciated. In terms of controlling spread of HMO's Mr Waide stated that legislation changed in November 2004 that requires new HMO's to have planning permission.

Mr Waide outlined how in Belfast he had brought together all the relevant statutory and community agencies which resulted in the Planning Service agreeing to produce a HMO Subject Plan for Belfast. The Plan is now in draft form and sets out restrictions in various areas. The problem still remains in the areas that currently exist and with enforcement.

The representatives expanded on a number of points for members following which they left the meeting at 9.05 pm.

Following discussion

Resolved That recommendation go forward to next meeting of development Committee that meeting be held with Planners in relation to getting their view point towards producing HMO Subject Plan for Dungannon and if in agreement agree to Council working in partnership with planners to produce plan.

4 DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and ended at 9.10 pm.