

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 12 September 2019 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

**Members Present**

Councillor Wilson, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Black, Burton (7.20 pm), Clarke (7.10 pm), Corry, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Hughes, Kearney, Kerr, McNamee, Milne and Monteith

**Officers in Attendance**

Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation  
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities  
Mr Brown, Head of Tourism  
Mr Hill, Head of Parks  
Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts  
Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development  
Mr McShane, Acting Head of Leisure  
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in Attendance**

Deputation: Lissan House Trust  
Sharon Loughrin (Chair Lissan House Trust)  
Mark Conway (Lissan House Trust)  
Ryan O'Neill (Treasurer Lissan House Trust)

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

**D136/19 Apologies**

None.

**D137/19 Declaration of Interests**

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

*Councillor McNamee declared an interest in Community Development Report – Decade of Anniversaries – Cookstown INF.*

**D138/19 Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor Wilson raised concern regarding the official opening of the new Fire College at Desertcreat on Tuesday. He said that none of the elected representatives from Mid Ulster District Council including the Council Chair had received an invite which was an outright snub to this Council and especially when the Council had acquired the land for the Fire Service in the first instance and worked extremely hard to encourage neighbouring properties to agree to the proposal. He said that the issue was raised at the Environment Committee on Tuesday night where

it was suggested that the Council write to the Fire Service to raising concerns, but firstly bring to the attention of the Development committee for their final recommendation.

Councillor McNamee agreed with the Chair's sentiments and stated that no MLA's or MP's from the area were invited and was disappointed as the Deputy First Minister, Michelle O'Neill signed the project off.

Councillor Kearney said that he raised the issue with the Communications Department and agreed that it was an insult to Councillors and especially Cookstown DEA's and stated that he was invited to the official opening to part of the new A6 where he was regally treated.

The Chair proposed to write to the Fire Service expressing this Council's dissatisfaction at being snubbed and felt although they may come back to say it was an oversight on their part and issue an invite for a later date that this would be too little too late and a downright snub to Mid Ulster District Council.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to write to the Fire Service expressing the Council's dissatisfaction regarding no representation from the Council being invited to attend the official opening of the new Fire Training College.

#### **D139/19 Deputation: Lissan House Trust**

The Chair, welcomed representatives from Lissan House Trust and invited them to make their presentation to the committee.

Ms Loughrin thanked members for the opportunity and advised that Lissan House had an impressive 4 centuries behind it but wanted to update members on what lies ahead.

Mr Conway stated that the house dated back to 1610, which had a unique story and a continuity within Mid Ulster for over 400 years and was one of the most historically significant and stunning landed estates in Ireland. The lands boast a 300-acre site with 12,500 cars visiting pa and 4,000/6,000 people. Following extensive restoration Lissan House opened its doors in the Spring of 2012 to reveal original interiors which boasted one of Mid Ulster's premier tourist destinations.

*Councillor Clarke entered the meeting at 7.10 pm.*

He stated that to break even they would require £60,000-£70,000 per annum and that presently their only income was coming from conacre, admissions, tea-room and events. Totally dependent on a tired/worn out volunteer group and minimal support from beyond the Lissan House Trust and with further disappointment from the planned LHT/Private Partnership now not proceeding.

Mr Conway concluded by saying that Lissan House was a sustainable base for the project with a meaningful local and civic ownership commitment and asked that the Council support the venture in any way they could.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation and asked for any comments.

Councillor Kearney thanked the representatives for their presentation and said that he had visited Lissan House a few times and was an eye-opener to see first hand the potential t and also the difficulties faced.

Councillor McNamee advised that he visited Lissan House as Chair of Cookstown Council and met Ms Hazel Dolling, the last member of the Staples. He said that she lived in one room upstairs and that the house was very badly dilapidated and that shortly after that the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development at the time Michelle Gildernew provided funding to restore the House. He enquired about the outbuildings and what condition they were in.

Ms Loughrin stated that the outbuildings are in a dire state of repair but that the main priority at the moment was to concentrate on the main building.

Mr Conway advised that when the house was opened up to the public it was absolutely freezing and couldn't do anything in the winter resulting in the Lissan House Trust securing a loan of £40k for a heating system with a repayment plan. He said that it is a catch 22 situation because if the house isn't warm enough people will not come and generate income that is so badly needed and if the heating was used this was costing money but there was a need to have the footfall to pay back the loan.

*Councillor Burton entered the meeting at 7.20 pm.*

Mr Conway stated that the roof was in a dreadful state and when potential heritage funding was secured and ready to proceed to fix outbuildings it was withdrawn at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour which was very disappointing and a danger that the outbuildings would collapse.

Councillor Milne enquired whether the Trust would consider leasing out the buildings.

Mr Conway said that the buildings were fenced off due to health and safety concerns and would cost a fortune to get them in a reasonable state of repair.

Ms Loughrin said that the main house is now used for mostly photographic purposes.

Councillor Corry enquired what kind of funding commitment would be required if the venture was to proceed.

Ms Loughrin stated that the financial requirement would be roughly £70k per annum, as the insurance alone was £900 per month. She said that insurance was expensive, and a lot of the public do not realise this as locals use the estate greatly and they have to be reminded of the potential dangers.

Mr O'Neill said that there were huge overheads and not enough money being generated to keep the project afloat. He said that there was a lack of resources for marketing and depend greatly on social media as it was a free advertising tool and would plead with the Council to help in any way they possibly can.

Ms Loughrin advised that they were in a fortunate position until last year as they were lucky enough to employ a Manager but there was no funding in the budget to continue with the employment and this is having an impact as there is no-one to answer phones and take bookings etc.

Mr Conway stated that money had been borrowed and had to be paid back resulting in a piece of land being sold to overcome this, but this resulted in payment for acreage decreasing.

Councillor Ashton enquired what the Lissan House Trust were requesting from the Council, i.e. revenue and capital funding or were they looking the Council to step in and take over the running of the venue.

Ms Loughrin said that the Trust would be looking for both really and were here tonight seeking for mercy from the Council looking financial funding at the top end or any help with promotion and diverting of phones to Council switchboards to help with the running of activities at Lissan House.

Mr Conway said that he was aware that the Council had huge financial commitments and also knows if funding was issued to them that everybody else would be looking the same thing but said that Lissan House was a precious commodity and there was a dire need for volunteers and hard cash to keep it going.

Councillor Cuddy enquired if the group had approached the National Trust as they supported the Argory.

Mr O'Neill advised that the group had approached them, but they have so many commitments to other places like Springhill and other places in the north west that at the moment they can not commit to anything else but may be interested in the land.

The Chair enquired what would happen the House if this project folds and where would it go to.

Mr Conway said that in 2006, Hazel Dolling, the last of the Staples of Lissan, left the house and estate to the Lissan House Trust, an independent charity tasked with the restoration and preservation of the property and if it folded then the charity would take it back it into their remit again.

The Chair thanked the representatives from Lissan House Trust for their presentation and at which they left the meeting at 7.30 pm.

The Chair, stated that Hazel Dolling, was very passionate about Lissan House and lived upstairs in the property. He said that it was a brilliant venue and that the Trust had to be commended for their work and felt that if the Council support this venture,

this could open up fantastic opportunities and would suggest the Officers take this away and investigate options to see if anything can be done to support the project.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **D140/19 Economic Development Report**

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report which provided an update on the following:

- **Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2020-2022**

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to:

- (i) Budget up to £90,000 (including expenses and excluding Vat) to be granted from Council's Economic Development budget over a period of 3 years (2020-2022) to develop and deliver a new Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme; and
- (ii) Officers to proceed to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to deliver the Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme (2020-2022).

- **Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges – Dungannon & Magherafelt**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the temporary reduced tariff for the first 3 hours of 10 pence in all Off Street Pay & Display Car Parks in Dungannon and Magherafelt from Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 to Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (6-week period) at a cost of £23,400.

Councillor Kerr referred to the provision of car parking in Donaghmore to ease congestion and asked if an update could be provided.

The Head of Economic Development said an update would be provided at a future meeting.

Councillor Monteith said that 12 to 18 months ago the issue of carparking charges in town centres was discussed and the negative impact that this was having on the retail sector with this only getting worse as time goes on. He said that when traders were asked after their business ceased trading why they thought the cause of this was, they said that footfall had decreased due to car parking charges and that customers were going to areas where there was free car parking facilities.

He said that this wasn't just relative to the Mid Ulster District area but right across the board and felt that this needed revisited again and proposed it be investigated by Officers.

Councillor Ashton said that when free carparking was trialled at Castlehill, Dungannon, traders were up in arms complaining that people abused the system by parking all day in the centre of the town.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that the issue of carparking charges in town centres be investigated by Officers.

- **Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-On Event**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the request for financial support received from CRAIC Theatre Company in Coalisland to the value of £4,200 to deliver the Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-On Event, subject to Officers being satisfied with the proposals submitted.

- **Business in the Community Proposal**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the funding proposal received from Business in the Community for 'Transformational Level Support' in relation to delivering a range of activities during the intense 6-month pilot period from October 2019 – March 2020, at a cost of £3,300 + Vat.

- **Town Centre Visitor Information Points**

Councillor Monteith advised that he had no difficulty with the concept, but that there was static information which was out of date at tourist information points and the town centre had not the footfall. He said that the Council had sold off some of the bus shelters and should consider the option of taking them back into its ownership again, adding the use of adshels would provide visual information where the public tend to congregate, and not solely in town centres.

Councillor Monteith requested the locations of the visitor information points be provided and agreed at the next meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy  
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

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

- (i) Budget of up to £29,000 (excluding Vat) is granted from the existing Economic Development and Tourism budgets during 2019/20 for the purchase of 3 number visitor information kiosks to be located in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt town centres, subject to the locations being agreed at the next Development Committee meeting.
- (ii) Officers proceed to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to provide the 3 number visitor information kiosks, once the locations are agreed at the next Development Committee Meeting.

- **Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Branded Jute Shopping Bags**

Councillor Burton raised the issue of providing branded jute bags to other towns and villages and advised that Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce and Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society were also keen to avail of the bags and enquired if this could be accommodated.

The Head of Economic Development said that the jute bags were focused on the three main towns who had their own town brands. She added that Council couldn't select one or two villages at random and provide bags to them, as all the other villages would want to avail of them too and there was no funding in the budget to provide such. In response to Councillor Burton's query on whether Council could purchase bags on behalf of the groups in Fivemiletown and Castlecaulfield if the groups agreed to provide the budget themselves, the Head of Economic Development added that she would liaise with Council's procurement team on the matter and seek advice. The Director of Business and Communities added that the Council could not purchase the bags on behalf of third parties, we could provide the groups with the contact details of where the bags can be procured.

Councillor Burton suggested that going forward that this could be considered for next year and felt that every village should have opportunity to avail of this scheme and not just the three main towns.

Councillor Monteith referred to the Branded Jute Shopping bags and Branded Town Centre Merchandise and proposed that Dungannon funding element be put on hold until the proposal from Dungannon Regeneration Partnership was resolved.

The Director of Business and Communities advised members that there was a limited budget within economic development and the focus of the town centre funding was concentrated on the 'retail core' to help develop the a retail core to develop with three large towns which in turn supports hundreds of retail jobs in local businesses.

He said that there was only money in the budget for the 3 main towns, and if this scheme was opened up to other smaller towns and villages we wouldn't have the resources to do so. He stated that if members wished, Officers could look at their budget next year to see if resources were available but added this would mean reducing funding to other town centre projects where Council is not 'formally

contracted to deliver', or alternatively members would have to make provision for additional funds in next year's estimates.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to proceed with the purchase of Branded Jute Shopping bags for Cookstown and Magherafelt and put on hold the budget for Dungannon Branded Shopping Bags until the proposal from Dungannon Regeneration Partnership was resolved.

- **Branded Town Centre Merchandise**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to proceed with the purchase of Branded Town Centre Merchandise for Cookstown and Magherafelt and put on hold the budget for the Dungannon Town Centre Merchandise until the proposal from Dungannon was resolved.

- **PLATO Mid Ulster Programme 2018/19**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to note the PLATO Final Report and to approve the release of the final payment of £2,500.

- **Town Centre Enhancement Works**

Councillor Kerr referred to other areas and felt that villages should also be included in the scheme and suggested that this be investigated.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that options be investigated to include villages in the scheme.

Councillor Monteith referred to Moy residents raising concerns about the larger towns availing of enhancement schemes and felt that equality wasn't being shown towards smaller villages. He said there was a need to look towards a funding initiative for smaller villages and settlements as there was more to this Council than the 5 main towns. He further requested that Members be provided with a list of proposed locations for enhancement works in each town.

Councillor Burton said that she was aware an earlier Village Spruce Up Scheme was oversubscribed but felt that it was important to keep all villages and premises looking decent to encourage people to shop local.

Councillor Ashton said that there was a need to see what was coming back from the Villages Schemes and work on that.



Councillor Clarke said that the Village Renewal Scheme generates more funding into villages than any other scheme within the North of Ireland.

The Chair advised that this can be looked at when the time comes to set the budget.

The Director of Business and Communities said that currently there is not sufficient funds to undertake the proposed Town Centre Enhancement Works across all towns and villages this year, but if it was the will of members to undertake a much larger district wide scheme next year, then they would have to consider making provision for such in next year's budget estimates.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve:

- (i) Budget for town centre enhancement works of up to £100,000 across the towns of Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Maghera and Coalisland from the existing Economic Development budget, subject to Members being provided with the locations of the proposed works in each town at a future meeting.
- (ii) From within the budget of £100,000, to seek tenders for the production and erection of hoarding around unsightly derelict/gap sites and/or replace some existing hoarding which is now in a poor state of repair, subject to Members being provided with the locations of the proposed works in each town at a future meeting.

- **Management and Leadership Network Event**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve that Management and Leadership Network's request for a contribution towards sponsorship costs (venue hire and catering) of their MLN Mid Ulster event on 24 September 2019 with costs up to £1,040 excluding Vat, subject to Council support being acknowledged in the event promotion and post event publicity, and there being no charge to local businesses to attend the event.

- **NI Chamber of Commerce Networking Event**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the NI Chamber of Commerce's request for a contribution towards the costs (venue hire and catering) to their Mid Ulster Business Networking event on 9 October 2019 in the region of £850 (excluding vat), subject to Council support being acknowledged in the event promotion and post event publicity, and the business fee waived for Mid Ulster businesses.

- **Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) Launch Event**

The Head of Economic Development advised that the launch scheduled to take place on 20 September 2019 was now postponed until a later date.

Noted.

- **Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2019**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve that the two complementary tickets be allocated to the Council Chair and one Officer to attend the Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2019 to be held on Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 7pm in Corick House Hotel & Spa.

- **Women in Business Conference and Awards Request**

Councillor Doris stated that it would be useful for members to be kept up to date on events and asked for more events to be brought to the Mid Ulster area.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the contribution of up to £375 towards the 'Best New Start Up Category' at the Women in Business Awards and allocation of Council's complementary ticket to the Council Chair or his nominated representative to attend the Awards Evening on Thursday 7 November 2019 at 7pm in the Crowne Plaza, Shaw's Bridge Belfast.

- **Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 & Conference 2020 Request**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve a contribution of up to £280 towards the 'Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 and Conference 2020' and the attendance of the Chair, if he or his nominated representative, wishes to attend the Awards (subject to the availability of tickets) on Friday 11 October 2019 at 7pm at the Crowne Plaza, Shaw's Bridge, Belfast.

- **Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week**

Members noted proposal to deliver a Programme of events to mark Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week taking place during 18-22 November 2019.

- **Coalisland Town Centre Forum**

Members noted Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes (5 June 2019).

- **Business Improvement District Feasibility Study**

Councillor Monteith raised concern about the study findings and said that this did not reflect the views of the Dungannon Traders or Regeneration Partnership and asked to hold off on making a decision on this until the Dungannon Regeneration Partnership proposal is resolved.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith

Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to put this on hold until the Dungannon Regeneration Partnership proposal is resolved.

Councillor McNamee agreed there was no appetite for BIDS in Cookstown either.

- **Cookstown Continental Market Evaluation Report 2019**

Members noted Evaluation Report on Cookstown Continental Market 2019.

- **Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme**

Members noted progress regarding Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme.

Councillor Kerr said that he had been approached by Traders in Coalisland regarding some areas of the town being excluded from the scheme and requested that the boundaries be looked at again as some Traders were struggling and may have to make staff redundant before Christmas. He said that it was necessary to include all the other areas on a point of equality.

Councillor Ashton said that she would support Councillor Kerr's comments and that some Traders were in the same position outside Dungannon but added that it was unlikely the scheme boundaries could be changed at this stage.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the scheme is currently open to applications and that the boundaries cannot be moved at this stage.

The Chair advised that the deadline to apply to the scheme was next Wednesday and indicated if the scheme was delivered again in the future, boundaries could be reviewed then.

- **5G Rural Connected Communities Grant Competition**

The Director of Business & Communities advised that it would be beneficial for Mid Ulster District Council to work with colleagues from other Council areas as a collective for a strong voice across the region.

Councillor Ashton stated that she attended a very direct broadband meeting with the Department of the Economy last Monday night and said that it would be unwise to spend our resources before seeing where this goes and working as a collective for a better deal.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve:

- (i) That Officers explore the possibility of submitting a bid to the 5G Rural Connected Communities grant completion through the Full Fibre NI Network.
- (ii) To procure any specialist technical expertise deemed necessary to assist with the bid preparation.

- **Invest NI – Flexible Workspace Loan Scheme**

Members noted update on Invest NI – Flexible Workspace Loan Scheme.

- **DAERA Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Interventions – MUDC Draft Recommendations**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve Mid Ulster District Council’s draft recommendations to DAERA on their Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Interventions.

- **Mid South and West Region Growth Deal**

Councillor Monteith raised concern regarding no engagement with the wider bodies and for Councillors there has been no invitation to any update meetings for those members which are not on the Governance Working Group. He said as Independent Councillors, Councillor Kerr and himself were being excluded and would not be supporting any proposals being brought forward.

Councillor Kerr said that as Independent Councillors they have a mandate and this mandate was being excluded from this and would also not be supporting the project.

The Director of Business and Communities said that four elected members had been appointed to the Governance Working Growth Group and next week there was a meeting being held in Craigavon with information being fed back to members.

Councillor Monteith reiterated that Councillors were being excluded and were not being made aware of what rate-payers money was being spent on and would not be part of it.

Councillor Cuddy said that he depended on his Party Leader to keep them up date and that Members all agreed to this and although nothing was perfect, we wouldn’t want to be missing out on this through squabbling as there was a need to move forward on this.

Councillor Monteith said that he wasn’t arguing that the Committee couldn’t work through this but felt that there should be regular work-shops organised to keep all members up to date.

Councillor Ashton agreed with Councillor Monteith and advised that she hadn’t received any invitations either to any update meetings.

Councillor Kearney said that there was an excellent meeting held at the Hill of The O'Neill and would be looking forward to the one next week and stated that it would be important to let all members know what was happening and said that any updates would be reported back.

Councillor McNamee said that a meeting was held last year with Mr Philip Orr, who owns the Market Rights in Cookstown. He said that it would be beneficial to move this forward as Cookstown on a Saturday was like the Wild West with everyone parking everywhere. He asked if there was any update and if not could the Head of Development touch base with him to progress the matter.

The Head of Development said she would seek clarification from Mr Orr and provide an update at a future meeting.

Councillor Burton referred to Aughnacloy Market and said that it was dying on its feet and said that other Councils like Coleraine do fantastic work in working with Market Traders and felt that this should be the case for our Council also. She said that very little assistance was being provided by this Council to Aughnacloy and Dungannon Farmers Market and that 30 years ago Aughnacloy was thriving every second Wednesday with a fair day on one side and car-boot sale on the other side which encouraged people to recycle their items. She said that there was still lots of interest in this type of market trade. She stressed that Dungannon Farmers Market was struggling and felt that this Council should be looking at supporting small businesses to encourage new crafts, fresh food and produce.

The Chair said that Aughnacloy was a designated area and should be looked at.

## **D141/19      Community Development Report**

The Director of Business and Communities presented previously circulated report and provided an update on the following:

Councillor Monteith said that it would be important to have a review on grants before they go through in January.

In response to Councillor Black's query regarding the budget and where things sat, the Director of Business and Communities advised that the Community Development budget was in the region of £1.6m and although an expenditure profile is determined, it never runs exactly how you profile as groups sometimes cannot deliver their project when they anticipate. He said that there were no concerns at the moment and that all funding is generally allocated to over the different grant funds with no shortage of uptake. He advised that Officers were doing their best to ensure the budget is maximised across Mid Ulster.

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

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Rolling Grant Awards – Good Relations and Local Community Festivals as per grant recommendations in Appendix 1 of the report to a value of £17,606 and Decade of Anniversaries Grant Awards.

- **Community Development Update**

Members noted Community Development Update.

**D142/19 Proposal to Name the Sensory Garden at Seamus Heaney HomePlace**

The Head of Culture and Arts presented previously circulated report and sought approval to name the sensory garden at Seamus Heaney HomePlace ‘The Back Yard Sensory Garden’

Proposed by Councillor Milne  
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to the naming of the garden area to the rear of Seamus Heaney HomePlace at Moyola Hall, currently The Sensory Garden, to ‘The Back Yard Sensory Garden’.

**D143/19 Forest Service NI Consultation Forestry Planning in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone Area**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval for the consultation response being carried out by Forest Service Northern Ireland (FSNI) – Scoping a new forestry plan for forests in East Fermanagh and East Tyrone.

Councillor Kerr asked that Altmore be included in this and requested that consideration be given to inviting Cappagh Village Regeneration Group to a future meeting to make a presentation.

Councillor Burton referred to Lumford’s Glen and said that it was important to try and bring it back to what it was as it had become very dilapidated and dangerous after recent bad weather which caused landslides.

Councillor Doris enquired why Drumcairne Forest wasn’t included in the study.

The Head of Parks referred to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Mid Ulster District Council and Forest Service and advised that although Drumcairne wasn’t on the list it still was included the Council’s improvement scheme as there was a generative response in our outdoor recreation strategy which will be in the scope.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That it be recommended

- (i) That Altmore Forest be included in the consultation as per Appendix 1 and to confirm that the Council will continue partnership working arrangements to expand opportunities for the development of Forest Recreation in East Fermanagh and East Tyrone. This continued development will be managed under the scope of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Mid Ulster District Council and Forest Service NI and delivered through the creation of new Licence and Lease Agreements for identified properties within the catchment of scoping area;
- (ii) That Cappagh Village Regeneration Group be invited to make a presentation to Council

The Chair raised concern regarding admission charges by the Forestry Service and Council having no justification in the matter and felt that it would be beneficial to issue an invite for representatives to attend a future meeting on the criteria for charges.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to issue an invite to representatives from the Forest Service to attend a future meeting to get clarification on admission charging for Forestry Parks.

**D144/19 Mid Ulster District Council and DAERA (RDP/TRPSI) Capital Works Programme**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval for Council to take forward Capital Projects under the MUDC/DAERA/Rural Development and TRPSI Programme. The Council to act as lead partner for Rural Development Projects, with Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership (the LAG) as co-applicant regarding to the following:

Councillor Ashton referred to issue of capital funding and advised it had been brought to Policy & Resources Committee seeking the release of additional funding and enquired where we are with the capital fund and the timeframe as the Council has made a significant contribution for maintenance programme at the last Policy and Resources meeting and whether this was ringfenced within the budget.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that work has being ongoing with the Officer team identifying significant match funding and requirements would be uncertain as projects needed to be further developed. She said that this was DAERA's funding but there was a need for investment from Council to meet the overall budget requirements. This would be brought to Policy & Resources Committee for approval.

Councillor Ashton stated that there was a need for an officer collective across all departments as there was a significant request brought for approval to P&R Committee by the Environment & Properties department last week and felt that members on the P&R should be furnished with the full picture as this was a regular occurrence.

Councillor Doris enquired if Officers could investigate for the next committee meeting the potential for 24-hour toilet facilities at Washingbay.

Councillor Monteith referred to the major project for Railway Park and advised that this scheme was due to commence in October or November but unfortunately there has been an issue with the landowner and suggested that a Dungannon DEA meeting be arranged to discuss.

- Ballyronan Marina – Refurbishment Works
- Washingbay Wetlands Park
- Portglenone Angling Stands
- Davagh Forest Mountain Bike Trails – Extension
- Maghera Outdoor Recreational Facilities
- Fivemiletown Round Lake
- Moydamlaght

Proposed by Councillor Corry

Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to:

- (i) Progress with the identified Capital Works Programme as detailed in the report.
- (ii) Engage, tender and procure the necessary IST Capital Works contractors, where necessary, in order to deliver the programme of Capital Works as proposed, subject to confirmed funding confirmation (LoO).
- (iii) Endorsement to present listed projects and Capital Funding request to P&R Committee for approval.
- (iv) Dungannon DEA meeting to be arranged to discuss Railway Park Scheme as a matter of urgency.

#### **D145/19 Sports Representative Grants**

The Acting Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report and sought approval for grant allocations for the Sports Representative Grant – Team and Individuals.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith

Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to agree the Sport Grant Allocation in relation to the Individual and Team Representative Grant and to approve the transfer of £6,000 from the Sports Capital Grant Programme.

#### **D146/19 Schools Sports Facilities Grant**

The Acting Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report and sought approval for the Schools Sports Facilities Grant 2019/20.



Proposed by Councillor Ashton

Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

In response to Councillor McNamee's query, the Acting Head of Leisure advised that there has been no update on expansion of Mid Ulster Sports Arena.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to roll out the Schools Sports Grant programme as in previous years with funding from an underspend in the current Grant programmes.

#### **D147/19 Update on Capital Projects – DAERA Funding**

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to update members on the progress of the Capital Projects funded by DAERA at Davagh Forest and Ballyronan Marina.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee

Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to relocate the on-water glamping pods project from The Round Lake in Fivemiletown to Ballyronan Marina. To work up the full application to be submitted to DAERA on or before 31 December 2019, for the Ballyronan Marina site.

#### **D148/19 Darina Allen Visit**

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which outlined the planned visit to the region in October by Darina Allen, Ballymaloe and Caroline Hennessy, Head of the Irish Food Bloggers Association and member of the Irish Food Writers Guild. The Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme and the Seamus Heaney cluster members to coordinate this visit.

Proposed by Councillor Milne

Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to proceed with the event to promote and showcase the Seamus Heaney Cluster and Food Producer across Mid Ulster. Darina Allen to also take part in book signing in Seamus Heaney HomePlace as part of her visit.

#### **D149/19 Corporate Events 2019**

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to provide an update on the change of date for the Dungannon Annual Christmas Lights Switch On from Saturday 23 November 2019 to Friday 22 November 2019 to allow a local community group to participate in an event.

Councillor Doris asked if Officers could investigate for next year the option of Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch On being changed to a Friday evening instead of a Sunday.

*Councillor Monteith declared an interest in the Dungannon Switch on as a member of the Thomas Clarke GAC.*

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to change the date of the Christmas Lights Switch On in Dungannon to Friday 22 November 2019.

#### **D150/19 Stone Mountain Highland Games**

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report and sought permission to attend Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta, Georgia, promoting the Presidential Trail that includes US Grants Homestead.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy  
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for one member of staff to attend Stone Mountain Highland Games with Tourism Ireland in October 2019.

#### **Matters for Information**

#### **D151/19 Minutes of Development Committee held on 3 July 2019**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 3 July 2019.

The Chair referred to issue which was raised at last month's Development Committee regarding VE Day commemorations in the District and advised that a report would now be brought to October meeting.

Councillor Cuddy enquired if contact had been made with representatives from Killeeshil and it was anticipated that there would be a lot of visitors coming over and there was a need to develop this.

The Director of Business & Communities said that there was work underway and that a full report would be brought to committee in October.

#### **D152/19 2019 Summer Activities**

Members noted update on 2019 Summer Programme of Activities.

#### **D153/19 US Ulster Scots Familiarisation Trip**

Members noted update on US Ulster Scots Familiarisation Trip to Northern Ireland (3-day trip 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> September 2019 (visiting US Grant Ancestral Homestead as part of the 3-day trip).

Councillor Ashton said that it would be worthwhile issuing an invitation to the US Consulate General Belfast, Ms Elizabeth Kennedy Trudeau, to coincide with the visit.

### **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items D154/19 to D157/19.

#### Matters for Decision

- D154/19 Tender Report for the Appointment of a Contractor to Deliver the Mid Ulster Transform Programme
- D155/19 Review of Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre Education Programme Charges
- D156/19 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2019/20

#### Matters for Information

- D157/19 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 3 July 2019

### **D158/19 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.30 pm.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_