

A

**Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 17
December 2015 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon**

Members Present: Councillor Dillon, Chair

Councillors Ashton (7.15pm), Bateson, Bell, Buchanan, Burton, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Elattar, Glasgow, Gildernew, Gillespie, Kearney, McEldowney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, McKinney, McNamee, McPeake, Molloy, Monteith, Mullen, Mulligan, J O'Neill, M Quinn, T Quinn, Reid, Robinson, G Shiels, J Shiels, Totten and Wilson

**Officers in
Attendance:**

Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell, Director of Culture & Leisure
Ms Canavan, Lead HR Officer
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mrs Mezza, Head of Marketing Communications
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Mr Moffett Head of Democratic Services
Mr Tohill, Director of Finance
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

The meeting commenced at 7pm

C231/15 Apologies

Councillors Clarke, Forde, Mallaghan, McAleer, S McGuigan, McLean, C O'Neill and it was noted that Councillor Ashton would arrive late.

C232/15 Declarations of Interest

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

C233/15 Chair's Business

Councillor Wilson requested civic reception recognition for the undernoted:

- Magherafelt High School Lego League team had won the Northern Ireland Regional Lego League;
- Cookstown Primary School student Jasmine Chan winner of the Princess Diana Courageous Citizen Award;
- Cookstown Primary School Gardening Club winner of Princess Diana Award promoting healthy living.

Councillor Wilson expressed concern regarding difficulties experienced by people in Cookstown due to the implementation of 4G signal masts by O2 and stated that Council when granting planning approval needed to ensure that companies had consulted and addressed issues raised by residents.

Councillor Burton entered the meeting at 7.05pm

The Chair, Councillor Dillon expressed concern about broadband coverage in relation to businesses.

Councillor McNamee concurred with Councillor Wilson's comments and stated that many Cookstown residents had to purchase filters at a cost of £60 for their televisions as many could not receive the signal. Councillor McNamee suggested that the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure carry out research regarding the situation. The Director agreed to do so and the Chief Executive advised that an email had been issued to Members earlier in the day advising of companies who could assist with the problem. Councillor T Quinn also concurred with previous comments and stated that he had been speaking with residents who had to spend up to £170 to restore television signals.

Councillor Glasgow advised that Kildress Mothers Union were celebrating their 90th Anniversary and requested that the Chair Councillor Dillon send a letter of congratulations. The Chair, Councillor Dillon agreed.

Councillor G Shiels requested that Council raise awareness of the dangers of button batteries especially to young children. The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that he was aware of the issue and stated that his department would be endeavouring to raise awareness. The Chair, Councillor Dillon stated that she would like to be involved.

Matters for Decision

C234/15 Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at Special Council meeting held on Thursday 19 November 2015

Councillor McKinney advised he had omitted to declare an interest in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust at this meeting.

Councillor T Quinn requested that on page 8 of the minute 'public care' be changed to 'palliative care.' Councillor McNamee was not in attendance and was to be removed from the attendee list.

Proposed by Councillor J O'Neill
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 19 November 2015 (SC16/15 – SC18/15), transacted in "Open Business" having been printed and circulated were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

C235/15 Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at Council meeting held on Thursday 26 November 2015

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 26 November 2015 (C209/15 – C219/15 and C230/15), transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

Councillor Bateson made an observation on the motion brought by Councillor M Quinn in November and queried if there was merit in bringing such motions on international affairs. He stated that if they were to bear any credibility and if the international community was to give them any cognisance, consistency would be essential. Councillor Bateson made reference to the fact that there was no similar motion tabled by the Councillor on the agenda for the meeting highlighting that the Air Force in Saudi Arabia were killing hundreds of innocent people with British Government supplied arms and missiles in Yemen, the Royal Air Force had been engaged in a bombing campaign terrorising communities in Syria and therefore to comment selectively about deaths in relation to international affairs lacks credibility.

C236/15 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 1 December 2015.

Councillor Cuthbertson requested undernoted amendment to page 14 M2014/0299

Councillor Cuthbertson proposed that the condition relating to operational hours of the building should be reduced from 7.00 am to 8.30 am to limit the disturbance to nearby properties.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That the Minutes and recommendations of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1 December 2015 (P137/15 – P143/15 and and P147/15) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

C237/15 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 December 2015

Proposed by Councillor McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 December 2015 (PR167/15 – PR176/15 and PR188/15), transacted in “Open Business” having been

printed and circulated were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

C238/15 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8 December 2015

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

In response to Councillor Mulligan’s concerns it was noted that the references to Fivemiletown had been recorded within the Environment Committee Confidential Business minute to be taken later on the agenda. With regard to the issue raised within the minute on opening times of the public toilets in Fivemiletown the Director of Environment and Property stated that they should be opened seven days a week.

Councillor Burton concurred with concerns raised regarding Fivemiletown and in relation to winter maintenance advised that she had received a call to say a large branch had been swept down the River Blackwater and was blocking the bridge at Caledon which if not dealt with could lead to a dangerous situation. The Chair, Councillor Dillon stated that this was an issue for the Rivers Agency. Councillor Gildernew stated that the matter had been reported to the Rivers Agency a week ago but to date nothing had been done. The Chair, requested that officers follow the matter up.

Resolved That the Minutes and recommendations of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8 December 2015, (E227/15 – E249/15 and E257/15), transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C239/15 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 10 December 2015.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

Resolved That the Minutes and recommendations of the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 10 December 2015, (D230/15 – D248/15 and D256/15) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C240/15 Conferences and Seminars

The Head of Democratic Services drew attention to the previously circulated report Approval which sought approval for attendance of Members and Council officers to conferences and seminars, where requested, and the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

(i) Local Government Reform Conference

Thursday 4 February 2016 in Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn (9am-4pm)

- (ii) Northern Ireland Housing Conference 2016
Thursday 11 February 2016 in Crumlin Road, Gaol, Belfast (9am-1.15pm)
- (iii) Waste Management Breakfast Seminar, CBI
Friday 28 January 2016 in Malone House, Belfast (7.45am -10.45am)
One Officer (Director of Environment & Property)

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved That the attendance of Members and officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved, as required

C241/15 Rate Support Grant

The Chief Executive drew attention to the previously circulated report.

The Chair, Councillor Dillon advised that she had attended the cross council delegation which met with the Minister for the Environment on 11 November 2015. Speaking on the proposed motion detailed in the report the Chair asked that officers check if there was sufficient time within the current mandate for the motion to be considered by the NI Assembly and if not stated that it should be held for the next mandate.

The Lead Officer for Finance stated that if the motion was held back it would affect the Rate Support Grant in the incoming year. The Chair, Councillor Dillon suggested that Council seek a meeting with the NI Executive to protect the Grant in the incoming year and sought direction as to who should participate.

Councillor Wilson suggested that the Chair and Deputy Chair attend with relevant council officers.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That

- (i) Undernoted Motion be presented to NI Assembly :

That this Assembly commits to ring-fencing a sum of £18.325m within Executive budgets from 2016/17 onwards, either from the Department of the Environment budget or otherwise, and until such time that a detailed review is undertaken in conjunction with Local Government officers to determine the real level of future need required to ensure that those Councils with proven socio-economic need can maintain parity of service provision with those Councils with stronger, more sustainable rates bases;

- (ii) A meeting is requested with OFMDFM of the NI Assembly to discuss the aforementioned cross council motion to which the Chair and Deputy Chair attend with Officers.

C242/15 Review of NI Local Government Association

The Chief Executive drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for the response to the independent review of NILGA.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That the response to the independent review of NILGA be approved and be submitted.

Matters for Information

C243/15 Consultations notified to Mid Ulster Council

The previously circulated paper on consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council was noted.

C244/15 Consideration of Motion

C244.1/15 Councillor Cuthbertson to move

‘That Mid Ulster District Council calls for an urgent meeting with DARD / Rivers Agency to discuss the serious flooding at the Linen Green and demands that urgent action be immediately taken to clear all designated waterways in the Moygashel area. Also calls for the extension of the current Emergency Flooding Hardship fund to include businesses, as well as domestic dwellings. Further acknowledges the positive and constructive response from Council Officers in arranging immediate emergency support.’

Councillor Cuthbertson read out the aforementioned notice of motion and stated that such floods in the area had not been witnessed before and in some places the flooding had reached three feet. He stated that the floods had been devastating to retailers at the Linen Green and he paid tribute to Council Officers who provided practical help in the clear up. Referring to the floods Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the cause had been traced back to the watercourse at the Park Lake stream where a metal grill had been clogged. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that it had been reported by Rivers Agency that the grill had been cleared on the previous Friday but that the Minister of Department of Agriculture and Rural Development later clarified that it had been cleared on 30 November. Advising that he had walked the water course he stated that all landowners of which Council was one needed to play their part in keeping their section of the water course clear. With regard to flooding payments Councillor Cuthbertson stated that at present the emergency payment did not apply to businesses and that although £1,000 was not a large amount of money it would assist businesses and minimise if not stop staff redundancies.

Concluding, Councillor Cuthbertson stated that he would like to add the undernoted to the end of the motion

“...also work carried out to date by the Rivers Agency.”

Councillor Cuddy supported the motion stating that as a business owner he could appreciate why any business in this situation needed financial support and that the dam in the park was an old problem. He added that the Council needed to support the businesses.

Councillor Ashton supported the motion and commended Officers who worked over the weekend and stated that the Linen Green businesses had been very appreciative.

Councillor McGinley concurred with points raised and in acknowledging that the level of rainfall had been difficult to deal with he emphasised that as stated by the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development the grill had been cleared on 30 November. Councillor McGinley stated that the Rivers Agency had also responded well and suggested that the Linen Green Management should also be included in the suggested meeting, as proposed within the motion.

Councillor Cuthbertson concurred that the Linen Green Management together with Transport NI should be included in the motion.

In relation to the clearing of grills, Councillor Gillespie stated that he had worked at clearing these in the past and had witnessed grills cleared one day only to be blocked the following day.

The Chair Councillor Dillon stated that a number of homes in Coalisland had been flooded and expressed appreciation to officers who endeavoured to ensure people received prompt payment of the emergency flooding hardship grant. The Chair advised that Rivers Agency staff did come out but initially in Coalisland the cause could not be determined which turned out to be similar to that in the Linen Green. With reference to the proposed meeting the Chair stated that attendance should be as wide as possible.

Councillor Glasgow left the meeting at 7.35pm

Councillor Gillespie stated that often people dump large items in local rivers and it would be worthwhile to highlight the council's Bulk Waste Collection Service.

Councillor McFlynn expressed support for the motion and in referring to previous instances of flooding in Magherafelt she stated there would be value in meeting with the Rivers Agency and seeking hardship payment for businesses.

Councillor Burton referred to flooding at the McCague Centre in Aughnacloy and a Special Needs group which had to switch activities to a different venue as a result. She stated that the matter had been raised previously with Rivers Agency but no money was available to address the causes but emphasised that Council should

stand up for the vulnerable and asked that the matter be raised at the proposed meeting. The Chair, Councillor Dillon concurred with this stating that such groups and facilities may not be as well insured.

Councillor M Quinn stated that in speaking to residents who had suffered flooding they had complained about the initial lack of response from Rivers Agency and stated that Rivers Agency staff had indicated that there was no one on standby, to avoid overtime payments. Councillor M Quinn continued stating that in the Coalisland area houses flooded annually and the timing of Rivers Agency response was an issue.

The Chair, Councillor Dillon stated that at the proposed meeting all the issues would be raised but acknowledged that the response from the Rivers Agency had improved in recent years and that the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development and the Rivers Agency had taken a lead on flooding issues, but in every situation there was room for improvement.

Councillor Cuthbertson in responding to comments stated that he presumed the motion would be passed and clarified that he had mentioned the dates regarding the clearing of the grill as a Rivers Agency official had stated it was cleaned on one date but the Minister had clarified it to be an earlier date. Referring to Councillor Gillespie's comments on dumping, Councillor Cuthbertson stated that in some instances it can be an issue but the flow to the Linen Green comes from the park lake stream which can become overgrown and thus create blockages.

In response to Councillor McGinley's request the Chair Councillor Dillon clarified the motion as undernoted:

'That Mid Ulster District Council calls for an urgent meeting with DARD / Rivers Agency, Linen Green Management and Transport NI to discuss the serious flooding at the Linen Green and demands that urgent action be immediately taken to clear all designated waterways in the Moygashel area. Also calls for the extension of the current Emergency Flooding Hardship fund to include businesses, as well as domestic dwellings. Further acknowledges the positive and constructive response from Council Officers in arranging immediate emergency support and also work carried out to date by the Rivers Agency'

The Chair declared the motion carried.

Councillor Burton emphasised the need for a response from the Rivers Agency on the situation at the McCague Centre in Aughnacloy as it was an annual occurrence.

Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

Resolved That items C245/15 – C252/15 be taken as confidential business.

The press left the meeting at 7.50 pm

C251/15 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 8.17pm

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

B

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 11 January 2016 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present	Councillor Kearney, Chair Councillors Bateson, Bell, Clarke, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Glasgow, Mallaghan, McAleer, McEldowney, McKinney, McPeake, Mullen, Reid, Robinson
Officers in Attendance	Mr Tohill, Chief Executive Dr Boomer, Planning Manager Mr Bowman, Head of Development Management Ms Doyle, Senior Planning Officer Mr Marrion, Senior Planning Officer Ms McCullagh, Senior Planning Officer Ms McNally, Solicitor Miss Thompson, Committee Services/ Senior Admin Officer
Others in Attendance	Councillor McFlynn Applicant Speakers LA09/2015/0762/F Mr Cassidy H/2015/0004/F Councillor McFlynn Representatives of TSA Planning H/2015/0068/F Mr Monaghan Mr Loughrey LA09/2015/0660/F Mr Ross

The meeting commenced at 7.02pm.

P1/16 Apologies

Councillor J Shiels.

P2/16 Declarations of Interest

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

P3/16 Confirm Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 1 December 2015

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 1 December 2015, (P137/15 – P143/15 & P147/15), were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

Matters for Decision

P4/16 Planning Applications for Determination

The Chair drew Members attention to the undernoted planning applications for determination.

LA09/2015/0762/F Storage shed at 80m NE of 16 Drumanee Road, Bellaghy for Mr Brian Scullion

Ms Doyle (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2015/0762/F advising that it is recommended for refusal.

The Chair advised the committee that a request to speak on the application had been received and invited Mr Cassidy to address the committee.

Mr Cassidy advised that the applicant is a young farmer who has two fields with no buildings, the applicant has five cattle and intends to use the proposed shed for the shelter of these cattle and storage of machinery. Mr Cassidy referred to the planning requirement to demonstrate that a farm has been in existence for 6 years and that evidence from DARD cannot confirm this however, Mr Cassidy also advised that DARD have requested that the applicant build a shed to assist with animal testing. Mr Cassidy requested that this application be deferred for an office meeting.

The Head of Development Management asked Mr Cassidy when the applicant acquired the land and Mr Cassidy advised that the land was purchased two years ago but that the applicant had land prior to this and would be able to show herd activity prior to 2013. Mr Cassidy again stated the genuine need for the proposed shed for shelter and storage.

The Head of Development Management advised that although there may be a need for the proposed shed there was not enough evidence that this was an established farm holding.

Councillor Reid felt that there appeared to be some conflict in the information being presented by planners and the applicant's architect. Councillor Reid proposed that the application be deferred for an office meeting.

Councillor McPeake seconded Councillor Reid's proposal.

The Head of Development Management did not feel an office meeting would be of any benefit to this application in that no additional information could be brought to the meeting.

In response to Councillor McKinney's question Ms Doyle advised that the holding size was 0.92 hectares.

Councillor McKinney advised that the holding would never qualify for a single farm payment as it was less than five acres.

Councillor Reid stated he could not stand over his proposal if the holding was less than five acres and the adequate information could not be supplied.

Councillor McPeake asked if there was any other way forward.

Mr Cassidy again referred to the need for the shed and stated that the applicant was stuck in a vicious circle in that the proposal was necessary for his holding but that the planning requirement regarding its establishment could not be demonstrated.

The Planning Manager agreed that this was a difficult case and suggested that an office meeting be held for this application.

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor McPeake and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0762/F be deferred for an office meeting.

Councillor Cuthbertson urged caution in that should this application be approved another application for a dwelling may follow in the coming months at the same location.

**H/2015/0004/F Alterations to layout and Private Streets Determination;
change of house types and reduction in number of units
from 99 to 75 at Salters Bridge, Magherafelt for Salters
Bridge Ltd**

The Head of Development Management advised Members that consideration should only be given to the change of house types, that the Private Streets Determination will be regulated under other legislation.

Ms Doyle (SPO) presented a report on planning application H/2015/0004/F advising that it is recommended for approval.

The Chair advised the committee that requests to speak on the application had been received and invited Councillor McFlynn in the first instance to address the committee.

Councillor McFlynn advised that she was not opposed to the application and felt it should be welcomed in the Magherafelt area, the Councillor stated she would speak on behalf of objectors who were unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Councillor McFlynn stated that objectors concerns were centred around flooding in the area which occurred in August 2014 and felt that this development would exacerbate flooding issues. As the site lies within a flood plain the Councillor stated that stipulations should be placed on Rivers Agency and NI Water to ensure the adequate infrastructure is in place and maintained to ensure no further flooding in the area.

Councillor McFlynn also raised concern in relation to the proposed pedestrian/cycle lane, stating there is no street lighting or connection with a public path, objectors felt this would be dangerous for users. Councillor McFlynn called for a deferral of this application for an office meeting.

Representatives from TSA Planning endorsed the recommendation to approve this application advising that the homes are intended for first time buyers and that the applicant had reduced unit numbers to make the development more desirable. It was advised that concerns in relation to flooding had been addressed by design amendments and that flood risk and drainage assessments had been carried out.

The Head of Development Management stated there was no doubt as to the impact of flood events to which concerns could not be dismissed lightly although there appeared to be some conflict as to the cause of the flooding at this location in August 2014. The Head of Development Management advised that a flood risk assessment had been carried out and that as no concerns were raised it would be difficult to refuse this application.

In response to Councillor Mallaghan's question which asked if this application would make any difference in terms of flooding the Head of Development Management advised that it would not.

Councillor McKinney felt that if previous flooding had been caused by a blocked culvert then this was not a planning issue. Councillor McKinney proposed the approval of the application.

Councillor McAleer felt that as there had been no recurrence of flooding despite the recent inclement weather then the blocked culvert was the cause in August 2014. The Councillor stated that the proposed development will be good for the Magherafelt area.

Councillor Bateson stated that there had been no further flooding at this location and that recent development had no detrimental effect. The Councillor felt that there is a public perception that this development will cause future flooding and that reassurances need to be given. Councillor Bateson also suggested that it would be prudent for the developer to make an effort, in so far as possible, to address the issue of pedestrian access to the Castledawson Road.

Councillor Reid asked if there is a commitment from Rivers Agency in relation to maintenance of infrastructure he also asked if there was provision for a play area within the development. Councillor Reid seconded Councillor McKinney's proposal to approve the application.

The Head of Development Management advised that there is open space provision within the proposal.

The Planning Manager advised that this application has been in the system for a year, he stated that drainage assessments have been completed and that the nearby watercourse will be left open and not culverted. The Planning Manager advised that Rivers Agency have a statutory responsibility to maintain their infrastructure.

Councillor McPeake felt that it is important for Council to ensure that statutory agencies are maintaining their infrastructure and that this could be addressed through community planning.

Members voted on Councillor McKinney's proposal –

For 14

Resolved That planning application H/2015/0004/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

H/2015/0068/F Change of use from basement car parking to supermarket unit to include new mall and amended service yard at existing Meadowlane Shopping Centre, Moneymore Road, Magherafelt for Castlefarm Properties

The Head of Development Management presented a report on planning application H/2015/0068/F and set out the options available.

The Chair advised the committee that requests to speak on the application had been received and invited Mr Monaghan in the first instance to address the committee.

Mr Monaghan spoke in relation to the shortfall in car parking spaces if the proposed development went ahead stating that this would lead to illegal parking and shoppers going elsewhere which would be to the disadvantage of local businesses. Mr Monaghan also called into question the legality of the proposed Planning Agreement.

Mr Loughrey advised that this proposal demonstrated a significant investment within Magherafelt town centre and that the additional unit will support other units within the Meadowlane Shopping Centre. Mr Loughrey advised it is in the interests of the developer, and other shop units, to create a good retail development within the Magherafelt area that shoppers will come to.

The key issue of concern regarding this application centred around potential parking shortfall if the proposal went ahead. Mr Loughrey felt that there is an abundance of parking available and that even with the creation of a new supermarket there would still be adequate parking available to meet customer needs. He also confirmed that the developer would be happy to work with the Council in relation to the use of a Planning Agreement.

Councillor Clarke referred to the vacant units within Meadowlane Shopping Centre and questioned whether these would be suitable for the proposed development. The Councillor also spoke in relation to Magherafelt Public Realm Scheme which will result in fewer car parking spaces within the Town Centre.

Councillor McPeake felt that the use of a Planning Agreement could be problematic.

Councillor Bell asked where the additional parking would be built if it was found to be required as a result of this proposed development going ahead.

Councillor Bateson felt it would be important to consider the impact of the town bypass currently under construction and the need to encourage retail into Magherafelt. The Councillor also asked if the Planning Agreement could be reversed.

Councillor McKinney advised he would be in favour of the application stating that it is bringing additional retail to the town centre. The Councillor referred to his own use of the centre and advised that he had always been able to get a parking space outside the centre and had never had to use the multi storey car park, it was also highlighted that there was an additional DRD car park beside the centre. Councillor McKinney also referred to the comments raised by Mr Monaghan relating to the legality of a Planning Agreement.

The Planning Manager advised that this type of proposal will be given priority in a town centre location under the town centre first approach of the SPPS providing it can be accommodated, he also commented that the upper floors of the multi storey car park do not currently be fully used. In relation to the Planning Agreement, the Planning Manager stated that this would be a legal document which would be enforceable by injunction, if it was found the terms of the Planning Agreement were not being met then the developer would have to revert the store back to a car park.

In response to Councillor Reid's comments with regard to the number of parking spaces per m² of retail floor space the Planning Manager advised that as the proposal is within a town centre then minimal operational requirements could be sufficient.

Councillor Gildernew stated the importance of ensuring the viability of town centres.

In response to Councillor Bell's request for clarification on where additional car parking spaces could be provided Mr Loughrey advised that extra spaces could be made available by adding further floors to the multi storey car park already in existence.

Councillor Bateson referred to the fact that there were no objections from other retailers in relation to the proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor McKinney

That planning application H/2015/0068/F be approved.

Councillor McPeake proposed that the planning application should be approved but that a Planning Agreement should also be explored as he felt there were a number of unknowns in relation to the town bypass and public realm scheme and the Planning Agreement would be a safeguard for the future.

Councillor Gildernew seconded Councillor McPeake's proposal.

In response to Councillor Glasgow's question the Planning Manager advised that the timescale for exploring the use of a Planning Agreement could not be guaranteed.

In response to Councillor Cuthbertson's question the Council Solicitor advised that the Planning Agreement would be legally binding.

Councillor Cuthbertson commented that if the developer thought this proposal was going to have an adverse effect on the shopping centre then they would not proceed with the application.

The Planning Manager remarked that should it be found extra parking is required at the shopping centre in the future it would indicate that the centre is performing well.

Councillor Cuthbertson advised he would withdraw his proposal if it was believed the best way forward was to explore a Planning Agreement with the developer.

Resolved That planning application H/2015/0068/F be deferred for the Planning Manager and Council Solicitor to further explore a Planning Agreement to secure future car parking if required.

**LA09/2015/0660/F Replacement dwelling and garage 140m NE of 149
Coolreaghs Road, Cookstown for Mr Alan Junk**

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2015/0660/F advising that it is recommended for refusal.

The Chair advised the committee that a request to speak on the application had been received and invited Mr Ross to address the committee.

Mr Ross advised that research has shown that the existing building was occupied as a dwelling at the time of the 1911 census, he referred to policy which states that the walls of an existing dwelling should be substantially intact and Mr Ross believed was the case for this application, he also highlighted photograph within Member's papers which showed sash window. Mr Ross stated he was convinced the existing building was once a dwelling and that policy should allow for approval of the proposal for a replacement dwelling.

In response to question from Head of Development Management Mr Ross advised that the position of the proposed dwelling would be the same as the existing building.

The Head of Development Management referred to Policy CTY3 which is to promote sustainable development in the countryside, he stated that this application could be approved in that there are signs of an old dwelling which are relatively intact.

Councillor Clarke referred to a similar application brought to committee some months ago, he felt the site was viable for replacement and proposed approval of the application.

Councillor McAleer seconded Councillor Clarke's proposal stating that it was good to see people wanting to come back to an area.

Councillor Robinson agreed with the sentiments expressed by Councillors Clarke and McAleer.

The Planning Manager commented that the design and siting of the proposal were appropriate for the application.

Councillor McKinney agreed that the existing building had been a dwelling at some stage but expressed the need for the application to meet all planning requirements.

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0660/F be approved.

LA09/2015/0692/F Amended house design (from I/2009/0583); increase in roof height for thatched roof, garage, loft and landscaping at 7 Roughan Road, Stewartstown for Martin Amour

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0692/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

H/2014/0194/O 1.5 storey farm dwelling and garage 40m NW of 39 Rocktown Road, Bellaghy for Margaret Anne Arrell

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Glasgow
Seconded by Councillor McPeake and

Resolved That planning application H/2014/0194/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

The meeting recessed at 8.45pm and recommenced at 8.57pm.

Members considered the remaining planning applications as per agenda.

I/2015/0019/F Wind turbine with 50m hub height at Brigh Road, lands approximately 300m W of junction with Mountjoy Road, Stewartstown for Mr Wesley Davidson

Application listed for refusal on the grounds stated in the officer's report.

In response to Councillor Robinson's query Ms McCullagh advised that relevant assessments had not been received.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That planning application I/2015/0019/F be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.

**M/2015/0112/F Replacement dwelling at 37 Aghareany Road, Donaghmore
for Mr and Mrs D Hand**

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved That planning application M/2015/0112/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

**M/2015/0122/F 2 additional broiler houses, 4 feed bins, 2 biomass sheds
and 2 fuel bins at lands approximately 175m SW of 44 Dyan
Road, Caledon for Mr Randal Livingstone**

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved That planning application M/2015/0122/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

**M/2015/0129/F Renewal of approval for a replacement dwelling
(M/2009/1060/F) at 30m S of 51 Ballybeg Road, Dungannon
for Mrs Jennifer Bell**

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application M/2015/0129/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

**M/2015/0143/RM Replacement dwelling at 40 Legaroe Road, Ballygawley for
Ms D Gilmour**

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That planning application M/2015/0143/RM be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

LA09/2015/0158/F Dwelling and garage (to supercede I/2010/0529) adjacent to and S of 32 Tullywiggan Cottages, Cookstown for Ms Paula McIvor

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Glasgow and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0158/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

LA09/2015/0228/F New access to dwelling (alternative to that approved) at 11b Derrycloony Road, Derrynascobe, Augher for Helen McMeel

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2015/0228/F advising that it is recommended for refusal.

In response to Members queries which asked if it was absolutely necessary for all of hedging to be removed Mr Marrion advised that in order to provide the necessary visibility splays approx. 80m of vegetation would be required to be removed as per report.

Councillor McAleer asked if there were any other options for achieving access.

Mr Marrion advised that there had been an offer to share an access lane however this was declined by the applicant.

Proposed by Councillor Bateson
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0228/F be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.

LA09/2015/0269/F 250kw wind turbine at 465m NW of 36 Loup Road, Moneymore for Mr James O'Brien

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0269/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

LA09/2015/0450/F Dwelling at 20m SW of 37 Springhill Road, Moneymore for Mr Ronald McGarvey

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report. The following additional condition was also attached to the application –

'Prior to the commencement of any development, the width of the vehicular access shall be widened to 4.8m for the first 12m and gates or security barriers at the access shall be located at a distance from the edge of the public road that will allow the largest expected vehicle to stop clear of the public road when the gates or barriers are closed.'

The reason for this additional condition is to ensure there is a satisfactory means of access in the interests of road safety and the convenience of road users.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0450/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report and the additional condition provided above.

LA09/2015/0579/F Dwelling and garage (renewal of H/2010/0206/F) at site 280m SW of 7 Ballymoghlan Lane, Magherafelt for Camilla Brown

Application listed for refusal on the grounds stated in the officer's report.

Councillor Clarke commented that up until PPS14 this application could have been renewed and stated that this issue needs to be addressed as there are countless sites which have been approved and cannot now be renewed.

The Planning Manager advised that this application cannot be treated any differently to others.

In response to Councillor Reid's question regarding the Head of Development Management advised that when outline permission is given applicants have a maximum of 5 years to apply for full planning permission.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0579/F be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.

LA09/2015/0605/O 1.5 storey bungalow and garage adjacent to 36 Drumconvis Road, Coagh for G Richardson

Application withdrawn.

**LA09/2015/0714/F 2 infill dwellings and garages at lands 45m NW of 71
Blackrock Road, Cookstown for Michael Quinn**

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2015/0714/F advising that it is recommended for refusal.

Councillor Mallaghan referred to additional dwelling which should also be considered as having road frontage and therefore creating a suitable gap site.

The Head of Development Management suggested an office meeting be held for this application.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Bell

That planning application LA09/2015/0714/F be approved.

The Head of Development Management referred to recent PAC ruling.

Councillor Gildernew asked if there would be a precedent in refusing this application.

The Planning Manager also suggested that an office meeting be held for this application.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor McKinney

That office meeting be held for planning application LA09/2015/0714/F.

Ms McCullagh advised that additional assessments will be required in order to address TransportNI issues.

Councillor McKinney felt that a deferral will allow for all issues to be given further consideration.

The Planning Manager agreed that the best way forward in this case was to defer the application.

Councillor McAleer urged caution in relation to approving the application.

Councillor Mallaghan withdrew his proposal to approve the application.

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0714/F be deferred for an office meeting.

**LA09/2015/0744/O Dwelling and garage at 60m NE of 50 Sixtowns Road,
Draperstown for Mr John McNamee**

**LA09/2015/0748/O Dwelling and garage at 120m SW of 46 Sixtowns Road,
Draperstown for Mr John McNamee**

Councillor Clarke sought clarification in relation to these applications.

Ms Doyle (SPO) presented reports on planning applications LA09/2015/0744/O and LA09/2015/0748/O and advised that they were recommended for refusal.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor McPeake and

Resolved That planning applications LA09/2015/0744/O and LA09/2015/0748/O be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.

LA09/2015/0758/O Dwelling and garage on a farm at land approximately 70m N of 31 Dunroe Road, Ballynagurragh, Augher for Francis McKenna

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2015/0758/O advising that it is recommended for refusal.

In response to Councillor Gildernew's question Mr Marrion advised that alternative sites would be available however this would require a new planning application to be made.

The Head of Development Management suggested that the application be deferred for an office meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor McAleer

That planning application LA09/2015/0758/O be deferred for an office meeting.

The Planning Manager suggested that the applicant be written to and advised of nearby alternative sites which would accommodate the proposed development and invite a new application to be made. If there is no response to this correspondence then planning application LA09/2015/0758/O should be refused.

Councillor Gildernew withdrew his proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That correspondence be sent to the applicant which advises of nearby alternative sites which would accommodate the proposed development, the applicant will be invited to make a new planning application. If no response is received to this correspondence then planning application LA09/2015/0758/O will be refused.

LA09/2015/0807/A Retention of illuminated electronic shop sign adjacent to 45 Charlemont Street, Moy for Mr E Toner

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2015/0807/A advising that it is recommended for refusal.

Proposed by Councillor Bateson
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0807/A be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.

LA09/2015/0885/F Installation and operation of 4.9MW solar farm at site approximately 350m S of the Dale Farm complex at 139 Moneymore Road, Cookstown for Solar Farm DFD Ltd

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2015/0885/F advising that it is recommended for approval. Ms McCullagh also advised of recent correspondence received which raised concern in relation to land ownership and removal of vegetation. Ms McCullagh advised that TransportNI have been consulted again in relation to removal of vegetation.

Councillor Mallaghan asked how the application will assist Dale Farm in terms of energy usage.

Councillor Glasgow stated that the Dunman factory is one of the largest creameries in Northern Ireland, that this proposal would be of significant economic benefit to Mid Ulster and would also assist local dairy farmers. Councillor Glasgow proposed the approval of planning application LA09/2015/0885/F.

Councillor Bell echoed Councillor Glasgow's sentiments and felt this was an important new initiative for Mid Ulster which should be progressed. The Councillor stated that he fully supported this application.

Ms McCullagh advised of correspondence received from the Director of the Dale Farm factory which stated that in order to remain competitive it is important to find ways of reducing costs and that the proposed solar farm would bring significant benefits, such as electricity savings, a reliable source of power and increased power availability.

Councillor Reid felt that the concerns relating to land ownership could be overcome and seconded Councillor Glasgow's proposal.

Councillor Robinson felt this application would offer Dale Farm considerable energy savings which could be passed on to milk producers.

Councillor Bateson commented that the land ownership issue was irrelevant to the planning application.

The Head of Development Management suggested that the application be approved subject to response from TransportNI regarding removal of vegetation.

Councillor Mallaghan suggested that should TransportNI have any comments regarding removal of vegetation that these be added to the conditions of the approval.

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0885/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report and any further conditions being returned from TransportNI in relation to removal of vegetation.

LA09/2015/1219/A Advertisement at Council Offices, 15 Circular Road, Dungannon for Mid Ulster District Council

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/1219/A be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

Members present declared an interest in this application. (Councillors Bateson, Bell, Clarke, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McAleer, McEldowney, McKinney, McPeake, Mullen, Reid, Robinson.)

I/2014/0296/F Wind turbine at lands 350m N of 25 Ballynagilly Lane, Cookstown for Mr D Campton

I/2014/0375/F Wind turbine at lands 270m N of 20 Beaghbeg Road, Cookstown for Mr Charles Quinn

Councillor Clarke declared an interest in applications I/2014/0296/F and I/2014/0375/F and requested to speak on these applications.

Councillor McAleer declared an interest in I/2014/0296/F and left the room.

Councillor Clarke advised he had been present at both site meetings for these applications. In relation to application I/2014/0296/F, the Councillor advised that the proposed turbine would be located on a prominent site within the Sperrins AONB and that this application would have a massive detrimental impact in the area. Councillor Clarke referred to the substantial number of objectors to this application with concerns related to health and noise, it was also felt that if this proposal went ahead it would have an effect on sites which could have been used for future dwellings. The Councillor also commented that the owner of the lane which is proposed to be used for access to the turbine has not been consulted with in relation to this application.

Referring to application I/2014/0375/F, Councillor Clarke advised that this proposal will also be located within Sperrins AONB but additionally it will be within an area of

archaeological significance as the turbine will overlook Beaghmore Stone Circles. The Councillor again advised of numerous objections to this application. Councillor Clarke also referred to page three of the ETSU document in which there is a disclaimer for what is written in the report.

Councillor Mallaghan referred to the astronomical value of the Sperrins as having the darkest sky he also commented that the turbines would only be of benefit to individual parties. Councillor Mallaghan proposed the refusal of planning application I/2014/0296/F stating that the proposal would be a visual intrusion on the amenity of the area which is within an AONB.

The Head of Development Management referred to consultations with NIEA and advised that a refusal could only be made on the grounds of visual impact.

Councillor Bell seconded Councillor Mallaghan's proposal.

Councillor Cuthbertson proposed the approval of planning application I/2014/0296/F stating there was no reason to refuse the application.

Councillor Glasgow seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal.

Councillor Reid questioned the value of the Wind Turbine Working Group.

The Planning Manager advised that it would not be possible to embargo wind turbines within an AONB however there was a presumption that they should be limited in number. Referring to I/2014/0375/F the Planning Manager advised that it would be inappropriate for the Committee to refuse this application on heritage grounds given the opinion received from NIEA however the views of local people should be given consideration. Referring to I/2014/0296/F the Planning Manager advised that visual intrusion would be valid grounds on which to refuse the application if the Committee were minded to do so.

Councillor Robinson asked if requirements had been met regarding notification of application I/2014/0296/F.

Councillor Bateson felt that due to visual impact and the ambiguity of the AONB it would be reasonable to refuse application I/2014/0296/F.

Councillor Bell stated that the Sperrins should be treated with the same respect as other AONB's ie. Mourne and Giant's Causeway.

In response to Councillor Robinson's question the Planning Manager advised that neighbour notification was carried out according to the 90m rule.

Members voted on Councillor Mallaghan's proposal to refuse planning application I/2014/0296/F –

For	6
Against	7

Resolved That planning application I/2014/0296/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

Councillor Mallaghan referred to this being the first time the Chair, Councillor Kearney had voted on an application.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor McKinney

That planning application I/2014/0375/F be approved.

Members voted on Councillor Robinson's proposal –

For	7
Against	6

Resolved That planning application I/2014/0375/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

In response to Councillor Bell's comments, Councillor Glasgow advised that his address is Lower Kildress Road, Cookstown. The Councillor stated that he had no involvement with planning application I/2014/0296/F, did not have to declare an interest and was entitled to vote on the application.

In response to Councillor Mallaghan's earlier comment, the Chair, Councillor Kearney clarified that this was not the first time he had voted on an application.

LA09/2015/0463/O Dwelling and garage opposite 20 Killary Lane, Stewartstown for Seamus Carrow

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2015/0463/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officers report.

Matters for Information

P5/16 Report of Delegated Decisions Issued in November 2015

Members noted the content of the report of delegated decisions issued in November 2015.

In response to Councillor Cuthbertson's request the Head of Development Management advised that due to deadline for submission of papers it would be difficult to provide a more up to date list.

P6/16 Enforcement Appeal Decisions Received

The Head of Development Management presented previously circulated report advising Members of recent decisions by Planning Appeals Commission.

Members noted the content of the report.

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That items P7/16 to P9/16 be taken as confidential business.

P10/16 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00pm and ended at 10.35pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

C

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Tuesday 12 January 2016 in Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

Members Present Councillor McFlynn (Chair)

Councillors Burton, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Gillespie,
Glasgow, Kearney, McGinely, B McGuigan, S McGuigan,
McNamee, Mullen, Mulligan and Totten

Others in Attendance: Councillor Bell

Officers in Attendance Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mr Hall, Risk Management Officer
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services
Mr McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
Mrs McClements, Head of Environmental Health
Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services
Mr Wilkinson, Head of Building Control
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

In Attendance Agenda Item 3 – Fold Housing Group
Eileen Patterson Director of Housing

The meeting commenced at 7.04 pm

E1/16 Apologies

Councillors Buchanan and J O'Neill

E2/16 Declarations of Interest

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

E3/16 Fold Housing Association

The Chair Councillor McFlynn welcomed Ms Patterson Director of Housing Services and Ms O'Kane Urban Regeneration Manager with Fold to the meeting.

Ms Patterson made a presentation to the meeting detailing the history of Fold, their portfolio across Mid Ulster and showed video clips promoting their work including a recent social enterprise development. During the presentation it was emphasised that Fold did not just provide rental accommodation but aimed to invest in the social value of communities. Ms Patterson highlighted schemes through which apprenticeships had been offered and Fold's endeavours to ensure the creation of

vibrant communities. In conclusion Ms Patterson made reference to a current feasibility study to identify sites in Dungannon

The Chair Councillor McFlynn thanked Ms Patterson for the presentation and commended Fold on their 40th anniversary and the great work undertaken across Northern Ireland making reference in particular to the development in Cookstown where there was a great need for housing.

Councillor McNamee welcomed the handover of homes scheduled for April 2016 at the development in Cookstown and sought clarity as to the completion date, if homes were suitable for people with disabilities and if people on the waiting list for housing would automatically be considered. In response Ms Patterson advised that the project was on schedule for the first handover of homes on 10 April, that accommodation would be suitable for people with disabilities and that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive waiting list would be considered and that Fold would also do a leaflet drop inviting applications for housing.

Councillor McGinley asked if there was provision for short term crisis accommodation within the District. In response Ms Patterson advised that the closest accommodation for short term crisis accommodation for example the homeless people was in Enniskillen but that Fold was currently working with the Department of Social Development with the aim of improving crisis accommodation.

Councillor Burton entered the meeting at 7.27pm

In response to Councillor Cuddy's query regarding provision of sites in the Southern Trust area, the balance sheet debt in relation to assets and the potential for amalgamation Ms Patterson advised that there was Fold housing across the southern area but new sites were always being sought, with regard to comments regarding the balance sheet Ms Patterson stated it was down to interpretation but emphasised Fold had over 6000 dwellings and that reserves was earmarked for future repairs. With regard to merging Ms Patterson advised that until the recent merger of housing associations Fold had been the largest in the province, that Fold was endeavouring to find new sites and would only consider mergers if it was beneficial to tenants.

Councillor S McGuigan sought clarity as to how Fold acquired land and if Council had lands available would they consider a partnership approach. In response Ms Patterson stated that with market prices being low landowners did not want to sell. Continuing Ms Patterson advised that Fold had an employed a 'Site Finder' who endeavours to identify sites but emphasised that Fold was restricted in that they could only pay for land what the Department of Finance permitted. With regard to partnership working Ms Patterson advised in some instances Fold would not qualify for grants if they were working in partnership.

In response to Councillor Mulligan's question Ms Patterson confirmed that the Fold in Fivemiletown was part of their portfolio.

In response to Councillor McGinley's query Ms Patterson confirmed that Members could contact the site finder through herself.

Councillor McNamee sought clarity regarding the rental value of the various homes being made available at the Burnvale development in Cookstown. In response Ms Patterson advised that Fold had a rent point system similar to that of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and stated that Fold rents were below 80% of local housing market and advised if people qualified for full housing benefit this would cover the rent.

Councillor B McGuigan commended the Fold facility at Ballinascreen and asked if it coped with the need in the area. In response Ms Patterson advised that there was often an enigma attached to sheltered housing as people mistake it for nursing home accommodation but stated that they were fantastic facilities and that on occasions they had vacancies.

The Chair, Councillor McFlynn stated that her mother resided in sheltered accommodation and was extremely happy and felt secure. The Chair concluded thanking Fold representatives for the presentation and wished Fold well with future developments.

Fold representatives withdrew from the meeting at 7.35pm.

E4/16 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor McFlynn reflected on the recent flooding issues around the district and thanked staff for their response to both residents and business owners. The Chair made reference to a Ministerial meeting and the subsequent Executive meeting scheduled to take place to discuss the flooding crisis and stated that whilst everyone was doing their best and the flood gates were open on Lough Neagh the water levels were such as never experienced before.

E5/16 Change of Order Agenda – Environmental Services Scale of Charges 2016/17

The Chair Councillor McFlynn sought approval to consider agenda item 9, Paper F Environmental Services Scale of Charges 2016/17 in committee.

Resolved That agenda item 9, Paper F Environmental Services Scale of Charges 2016/17 be considered in committee.

E6/16 Receive and confirm minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8 December 2015

In response to Councillor Cuthbertson's request the Director of Environment & Property advised he would provide an update on E233/15 when considering agenda item 21, paper R, Emergency Preparedness.

Councillor McNamee requested an update regarding item E236/15 Winter Maintenance. In response the Director of Environment and Property advised that the review was not yet complete and it was hoped to present a report to the February Committee but that he could clarify that the payment received from the Department

was an annual payment and not 'per event'. The Director of Environment and Property stated that the Department had a £30k budget which had to be distributed between 11 Councils and that it was really aimed at covering insurance costs.

Councillor Cuthbertson referring to a comment made by the Council Chair in a recent press article stated that there was one area being included in gritting whilst others were not.

The Director of Property and Environment stated that across the legacy Councils there was four main towns, three of which were covered and one which was not and that the new Council had to look across the district and the inclusion of Coalisland had been considered. Councillor Mulligan expressed concern regarding the equity of service delivery stating that there was substantial villages and settlements and if Council was diverting from main towns all needed to be considered.

The Chair, Councillor McFlynn stated that the Director of Property and Environment would present a paper regarding the issue.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Gillespie and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 8 December 2015 (E227/15 – E249/15 and E257/15) were considered and, subject to the foregoing, signed as accurate and correct.

E7/16 Transport NI proposals to Mid Ulster District Council

The Director of Environment and Property drew attention to the previously circulated report

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the proposals to introduce two stretches of 'no waiting' at Moygashel submitted by Transport NI be endorsed.

E8/16 Grounds Maintenance – Britain in Bloom

The Head of Property Services drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval to nominate Castlecaulfield for Britain in Bloom 2016.

Councillor Burton proposed the nomination and stated that the Horticultural Society had turned the village around, the flower show had been reinstated and had become a major cross community event attended by people from across Northern Ireland and that the whole village played a part in the competitions.

Councillor Cuddy seconded the proposal stating that the legacy Council had supported many villages but that both Castlecaulfield and Donaghmore with their Horticultural societies had excelled.

Councillor Gillespie stated that the two villages often worked together on projects and asked if Donaghmore could be nominated together with Castlecaulfield. In response, the Head of Property Services advised that this could not be done as Castlecaulfield qualified for nomination as the regional winner in 2015. Councillor Cuddy asked if Donaghmore would be entered for Ulster in Bloom to which the Head of Property Services stated that a paper would be presented to committee in March.

In response to Councillor Burton's query the Head of Property Services advised that the repairs to the sign at Cookstown roundabout was currently progressing. Councillor Burton asked if Council would work on encouraging other villages to engage in competitions. The Head of Property services stated that some communities were more proactive than others but if any village contacted the Council it would be encouraged.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that Castlecaulfield be nominated for Britain in Bloom 2016.

E9/16 Recycling Environmental Education Communications Plan

The Chair, Councillor McFlynn introduced Councils Recycling Officers Mr Murtagh and Ms Brown following which they made a presentation outlining the work of the recycling/environment officers throughout the district and sought approval for the Recycling Environmental Education Communications Plan.

The Chair, Councillor McFlynn thanked officers for the presentation and sought an update regarding the progress regarding issue of caddy liners and compost bins to all households. The Head of Environmental Services advised that the issue had been approved subject to funding and Council was still awaiting confirmation of grant approval.

Councillor Cuddy asked if the officers received a good response from schools. In response Ms Brown advised that feedback was positive and Mr Murtagh confirmed that if the Principal together with staff were keen officers could be at schools regularly.

In response to Councillor McGinley's query regarding the 'binovation app' Mr Murtagh confirmed that to date there had been no direct promotion of the app but it had been downloaded approximately 500 times and response had been good through the website.

Councillor Kearney asked if the 'recycling education vehicle' visited schools to which Ms Brown responded that it was available.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that the 'app' should be reported but sought confirmation that a paper form of the information would be available for those who

did not use smart phones. In response Ms Brown advised that a paper based information leaflet was currently being developed.

The Chair, Councillor McFlynn stated that the card version of information produced by the legacy Cookstown Council had been excellent and also advised that as Chair of the committee she had attended a number of events all of which were excellent.

Councillor Glasgow left the meeting at 8.22pm

Councillor Burton asked if the Youth Speak Competition was opened to all schools and if the theme changed each year. Councillor Burton also drew attention to the fast food outlets which used a lot of recyclable packaging and asked if these outlets were targeted for recycling bins.

In response Mr Murtagh advised that 'Youth Speak' was open to all schools and clarified that the theme changed annually but advised that within the new Education Communications Plan it was hoped to run a Mid Ulster District Council event. Regarding the recycling of waste at many fast food outlets Mr Murtagh confirmed that the paper packaging was lumped in with waste but advised that officers carried out a lot of work through the eco schools project promoting such problems with litter namely 'pester power'. This work then extended into homes and the community becomes involved because the children are involved '

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Mulligan and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Recycling/Environmental Education Communications Plan.

E10/16 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Head of Building Control drew attention to the previously circulated report regarding the street naming of new residential housing developments within Mid Ulster as undernoted:

- (I) Site at Drumearn Road, Cookstown: Ferguy Park and Ferguy Close; and
- (II) Site off Hospital Road, Magherafelt either Regency Manor, Regency Grange or Regency Close.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Glasgow and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to name the two developments at Drumerarn Road, Cookstown .Ferguy Park and Ferguy Close.

Councillor B McGuigan suggested the name Regency Drive for development at Hospital Road, Magherafelt.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to name the development off Hospital Road, Magherafelt as Regency Drive.

In response to Councillor Cuddy's query regarding street naming of development site at Burn Road, Cookstown the Head of Building Control advised it had been named

within the legacy Council. Councillor McNamee stated that the names had commenced with the name Burnvale then Close etc.

Matters for Information

E11/16 Annual NIEA Waste Management Statistics and NILAS Report

Members noted the previously circulated report which provided details of the content of the NIEA Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics 2014/15 Annual Report and the Annual Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme 2014/15 Annual Report.

E12/16 Cleansing of DRD/Transport NI Park and Ride Car Parks

Members noted the previously circulated report which provided information on the agreed arrangements in relation to the cleansing of DRD/Transport NI Park and Ride/Share Car Parks in the Mid Ulster District,

E13/16 Update on Animal Welfare work delivered within MUDC between April 2015 and end of September 2015

Members noted the previously circulated report providing Council with an update on the Animal Welfare services delivered through an SLA across Mid Ulster area between April 2015 and the end of September 2015

E14/16 Proposed Scrap Metal Dealers Bill

Members noted the previously circulated report giving an update on the provision of the proposed Scrap Metal Dealers Bill that was introduced to the Northern Ireland Assembly on 19th October 2015 and is currently in the Committee Stage of proceedings. It was noted that there are a number of scrap metal dealers in its area mostly in the form of motor salvage operators who buy old cars and break them down to component parts for second hand sale.

E15/16 Entertainment Licensing Applications

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

E16/16 Test Purchasing Activity

Members noted the previously circulated report providing an update on the activities carried out and scheduled in relation to the test purchasing of tobacco products from April 2015 to March 2016.

Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That items E17/16 – E24/16 be taken in as confidential business.

The press left the meeting at 8.25pm

E25/16 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00pm and ended at 10.50pm

D

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 13 January 2016 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present	Councillor S McGuigan, Chair Councillors Ashton, Bateson, Buchanan, Cuddy, Elattar (7.05 pm), Forde, Gildernew, McKinney, McPeake, Mallaghan (7.13 pm), Molloy, M Quinn (7.02 pm) and T Quinn
Officers in Attendance	Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development Mr Cassells, Director of Environment & Property Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing & Communications Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services Mrs C McNally, Council Solicitor Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance Mrs Grogan, Committee Services Officer
Others in Attendance	Councillor Mulligan

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

PR001/16 Apologies

Councillors McLean and Totten.

PR002/16 Declaration of Interest

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

PR003/16 Receive and confirm minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 December 2015

Proposed by Councillor Bateson
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 December 2016 (PR167/15 – PR176/15/15 and PR188/15) were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

In response to Councillor McPeake's query regarding the Irish Language Policy, and the use in branding, the Chief Executive advised that the Policy is now in its final stage.

Councillor Ashton advised that out of the consultation there were a number of issues highlighted about implementing Irish language policy, these were referred to Good Relations Working Group and a paper was presented on how these issues were going to be dealt with. The recommendations were not specific and the Director of Culture & Leisure was to bring back more details on how they would be addressed. She added these should come back before anything is rolled out on the ground.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that the Director of Culture & Leisure bring to Committee details on how recommendations are being addressed and implementation of the Policy.

Matters for Decision

PR004/16 Performance Improvement Arrangements Timeline – 2016/17

The Head of Democratic Services drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide members with a timeline for the consideration and development of corporate level Improvement Objective(s) and Performance Indicators for the period April 2016 – March 2017.

In response to Councillor Cuddy's query regarding whether Directors are in agreement of this, the Chief Executive advised that as Officers there will be a need to sit down and see how to develop a performance improvement culture whilst acting in accordance with guidance from the Department. Member priorities will be considered at Committee rather than a workshop. Councils arrangements will be robustly audited through a transparent process undertaken by the Local Government Auditor.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for the development of the Improvement Objectives and Performance Indicators.

PR005/16 Annual Subscription to the Somme Association

The Head of Democratic Services drew attention to the previously circulated report to consider payment of Mid Ulster District Council's annual subscription to the Somme Association.

Councillor Molloy asked that a list of all the Council's memberships be brought to the next meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for the annual subscription for membership of the Somme Association and that a list of memberships be brought to the next Committee meeting.

PR006/16 Transfer of Lands at NIW Water Booster Station, Killymeal Road, Dungannon

The Council Solicitor drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek members' approval to progress the transfer of lands at Killymeal Road to NI Water.

Councillor Cuddy enquired if any payment had been made towards this.

The Council Solicitor advised that no money had exchanged hands with the only cost to the Council being Solicitor fees.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to the transfer of lands to NIW relating to the Water Booster Station at Killymeal Road be progressed to conclusion with no cost to the Council only fees.

PR007/16 Refurbishment of Moneymore Recreation Centre – Project Agreement

The Council Solicitor drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval of members in relation to the Project Agreement between CWSAN and Mid Ulster District Council.

Proposed by Councillor T Quinn
Seconded by Councillor McPeake and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the contents of the Project Agreement.

Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That items (PR008/16 to PR018/16) be taken as confidential business.

PR019/16 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.30 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

E

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 14 January 2016 in the Council Offices, Drum Road, Magherafelt

Members Present

Councillor Burton, In the Chair

Councillors Clarke, Dillon, Forde, McAleer (7.05 pm), McEldowney, McNamee, Monteith (7.06 pm), C O Neill, T Quinn, Reid (7.15 pm), G Shiels and Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Ms Campbell, Director of Culture and Leisure
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Mr Brown, Head of Tourism
Mr Glavin, Head of Leisure
Mr Hill, Head of Parks
Ms Linney, Head of Community Services
Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts
Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development
Ms Grogan, Committee Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Agenda Item 3: Breakthru

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D001/16 Apologies

Councillors Elattar and Molloy.

D002/16 Declaration of Interests

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

D003/16 Breakthru

The Chair, Councillor Burton welcomed to the Committee Ms Bernie McHugh from Breakthu.

Ms Mc Hugh gave a brief synopsis of the work carried out by the organisation and advised that Breakthu is a project of Dungannon Development Association Ltd.

The core values which underpin all their work are:

- Accessible - *Open and available to all*
- Supportive - *Serving the communities in which we work*
- Innovative - *Creative inventions and fresh responses*
- Respect - *Accepting everyone equally and without judgement*
- Empowerment - *Helping people to help themselves*

Councillor McAleer entered the meeting at 7.05 pm
Councillor Monteith entered the meeting at 7.05 pm

Practice is informed by Policies including:

- **NSD Phase 2 December 2011**
- **Making Life Better (Strategic framework for public health)**
- **June 2014**
- **Hidden Harm Action Plan 2009**
- **Transforming your Care December 2011**
- **Young People's Drinking Action Plan 2009**
- **Protect Life – A Shared Vision 2012**
- **People and Place – A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal 2003-2015**
- **PCSP Strategic Priority 2**

Role of responsibility

- Governance – Dungannon Development Association Board of Directors has overall responsibility to ensure that all Breakthru activity is delivered to the highest standard compatible with the Code of Good Governance
- Manager – Overall responsibility for the day to day running of the organisation, strategic development, securing funding, liaising with funders, networking and nurturing relationships with relevant statutory and voluntary organisations and ensuring that policies and procedures are in line with Clear Standards
- Finance and Admin Manager – Holds responsibility for budgeting, maintaining and implementing effective internal financial control systems and liaising with external auditors PWC in preparing end of year accounts.

The Outcomes Focused Model:

1. Short-Learning

- Increased Awareness
- Increased Knowledge
- Change in Attitudes
- Increased Skills
- Challenged Opinions
- Increased Aspirations
- Increased Motivation

2. Medium-Action

- Behaviour Change
- Improved Practice
- Improved Decision Making
- Influence Policy Making
- Social Action

3. Long-Conditions

- Societal Change
- Economic Benefits

- Civic Responsibility
- Environmental

The Geographical areas covered:

- Armagh City and District
- Dungannon and South Tyrone
- Omagh and District
- Fermanagh
- Mid Ulster Council Area

Current Projects and Funders:

· Dungannon/Coalisland Neighbourhood Renewal Project

Breakthru are funded to deliver Alcohol and Drug Awareness programmes within the Neighbourhood Renewal Areas of Dungannon and Coalisland. The desired outcome would be to reduce harm in communities brought about by the use of drugs and alcohol.

Dungannon/Coalisland Neighbourhood Renewal Health Project had been awarded first prize in the Community Health Initiative category in the Pride of Place Awards announced at a Gala Event in Ennis Co Clare on the 13/14 November. In their citation the judges said “The winning project impressed the judges by the extent of its outreach too so many impacted groups of people in its effort to improve the health and wellbeing of its community. The quality of the presentations, the excellent support from so many agencies, volunteer groups and individual examples of the project impact offer great opportunities and hope for a long and healthy future”.

· DICE (Drug Intervention and Community Education Project)

DICE is funded by the Big Lottery to provide support and education for Young people in care or care experienced as a result of parental substance misuse. The desired outcome is to help young people to understand and accept their experience, minimise risk taking behaviour and provide learning opportunities to maximise their potential. The areas covered are Armagh/Dungannon and Omagh/Fermanagh.

· The Big Lottery Impact of Alcohol Detached/Outreach Project

This is related to SHSCT Big Lottery Portfolio. The desired outcome would be to provide detached outreach service to engage vulnerable at risk young people who are disaffected and involved in underage street drinking.

· GEMS (Group Education and Motivation Support)

Partnership with Community Addiction Team of SHSCT to provide services in the Stepped Care Service Model by facilitating GEMS and relapse prevention groups for clients misusing substances. Areas covered Dungannon and Newry.

- **Building the Community Pharmacy Projects**

Boots Pharmacists and Breakthru working in partnership.

The desired outcome would be to work in partnership with the pharmacist to deliver health programmes which encourage vulnerable groups within the community to live healthier more fulfilling lives by enhancing their knowledge and understanding of determinants of ill health and by promoting positive health and wellbeing

Target Groups are:

- Vulnerable Women
- Older People 50+
- Men only (South Tyrone Men's Shed)
- In partnership with Willowbank – Adults with learning, physical and sensory disabilities

- **Omagh Neighbourhood Renewal Project**

Breakthru are funded to deliver Alcohol and Drug awareness programmes within the 5 neighbourhood renewals of Omagh.

- **Gambling Scoping Exercise**

Breakthru have been awarded a Strategic Grant to carry out a scoping exercise to see if gambling is problematic among young people across the Mid Ulster Council Area.

Councillor Reid entered the meeting at 7.15 pm.

Counselling @ Breakthru

Breakthru offers both counselling and signposting to service users.

The following organisations use the Breakthru Centre to deliver services locally:

- Nexus
- Relate
- Men's Advisory Project
- Dunlewey – Impact of Alcohol over 18's
- Dunlewey – PHA Young People's Service
- Praxis
- Care Call
- Pips Newry and Mourne
- Barnardo's

- Staff Care
- Addiction NI
- Private Counsellors

Volunteering with Breakthru

Opportunities to gain experience in Youth and Community Work in Counselling can be achieved through Student Placements from Schools, Regional Colleges, Parkanaur Training Centre and High Education (Queen's and University of Ulster).

Breakthru Going Forward

- i. Breakthru are recruiting a Funding and Communications Officer
- ii. Breakthru Healthy Living Centre – Part of the Healthy Living Alliance
- iii. Breakthru Discretionary Disposal Scheme
- iv. Second Chance, Last Chance in Partnership with PSNI and PCSP – Pilot across Mid Ulster Council Area 2016-17

The Chair, Councillor Burton thanked Ms McHugh for her impressive presentation and stated that as a previous Councillor on Dungannon Council, Breakthru was an invaluable service to the area.

Councillor Dillon congratulated Ms McHugh on work carried out by Breakthru and stated that she had worked with the organisation through Dungannon & Coalisland Neighbourhood Renewal. She advised that Breakthru's work goes much further than drugs and alcohol.

Councillor Dillon suggested that it would be worthwhile considering offering a service to provide confidence building in young men as there is a lot who are suffering low self-esteem and a feeling of worthlessness.

Ms McHugh agreed that this is an issue and stated that in November & December last year there were "Think-Tank" sessions organised with the Council, Government Agencies, Service Providers and young people and one issue kept arising was loneliness and isolation.

She advised that starting next week there will be a drop-in centre for anyone, particularly young men and Dads who are finding it difficult dealing with loneliness and isolation.

Councillor G Shiels agreed that Breakthru provide an invaluable service and that as they are seen as a panacea organisation this could prove difficult for other organisations in Cookstown and Magherafelt to compete due to financial restraints.

Ms McHugh advised that Breakthru would have no interest in taking over and would only be too happy to be working in partnership with other groups as expertise can be gained in all areas and through sharing of resources.

The Chair, Councillor Burton thanked Ms McHugh for her attendance at which she withdrew from the meeting.

D004/16 Receive and confirm minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 10 December 2015

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on Thursday 10 December 2015 (D230/15 to D256/15 and D249 to D255/15), were considered and signed as correct and accurate.

The Director of Business & Communities updated the Committee on current situation regarding Agewell and advised that a development plan has been drawn up to present a business case to PHA and the Trust towards sustaining support towards Agewell and Hearty Lives.

He advised that a meeting has been arranged for Monday 18 January at 2 pm and an update will be forwarded to members on the outcome of the negotiations.

Matters for Decision

D005/16 Visitor Information App/Portal Development

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek Council approval to work in partnership with the Northern Regional College (NRC) ICT department and specifically the year 2 students (Level 3), in working up a design concept and or prototype for a full visitor information solution for Mid Ulster District Councils visitor information centres.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that the Council work in partnership with the Northern Regional College (NRC) with regards to developing an innovated visitor information solution.

D006/16 Proposed Preparation of a Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape, stage 1 application

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report and advised that it was to seek Council approval to provide financial assistance and staff resources to develop a funding application to Round One of the Heritage Lottery Landscape Partnership funding programme.

Councillor Clarke enquired about flexibility within the boundary as part of it overlaps with the Sperrin Gateway. Strip of land in the valley at The Six Towns is within Mid Ulster area and would like it investigated to see if the facility can be included in the scheme.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council:

- 1) That provision of financial support be granted of up to £5,000 to external assistance to assess the heritage assets in the area, liaise with the local community and interested stakeholders, form a new Landscape Partnership Group and make the Round One application to the Heritage Lottery Landscape Partnership Scheme, on condition that Mid Ulster Council approves same
- 2) That the Council authorises an Officer to provide reasonable, practical assistance to support this activity.
- 3) Investigate whether strip of land within Mid Ulster area at The Six Towns can be included in the scheme.

D007/16 Waterways Ireland: Tourism & Recreational Study and Proposed Heritage Trail

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek Council approval to provide financial assistance and staff resources to develop a product development study along the Lower Bann River provision for which exists in the tourism budget. Also to provide financial assistance and staff resources to develop a funding application to Round One of the Heritage Lottery Landscaping Partnership funding programme for a Lower Bann Heritage Trail.

Proposed by Councillor C O'Neill
Seconded by Councillor Clarke

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council:

- 1) That Council agree to the provision of up to £2,000 to Waterways Ireland towards the cost of a product development study along the Lower Bann River provision for which exists in the tourism budget, subject to similar contributions being agreed by Causeway Coast & Glens, Mid and East Antrim, Antrim & Newtownabbey Councils and the Irish Society.
- 2) That Council agree to the provision of up to £2,000 match-funding towards the cost of developing a heritage trail along the Lower Bann River from the 2016-17 estimates, subject to an application to HLF being successful and to similar contributions being agreed by Causeway Coast & Glens, Mid and East Antrim, and Antrim & Newtownabbey Council.

D008/16 Economic Development Report

The Head of Economic Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to update members on progress and consideration of the following:

- Regional Start Initiative
- Department of Finance and Personnel's (DFP) Consultation on the Review of NI's Non Domestic Rating System
- Mobile Infrastructure Project

The Head of Economic Development advised that the draft responses prepared by Council's Economic Development and Finance sections on the Consultation Reviewing the NI Non Domestic Rating System would be combined into one joint

response before submitting to DFP on 25 January 2016, noting that Council's response is subject to ratification at Full Council on 28 January 2016.

The Head of Economic Development updated the Committee on the Mobile Infrastructure Project. She stated that in response to members seeking clarity at the November 2015 Development Committee meeting on whether infrastructure funding could be 'ringfenced' by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to use and develop Mobile Phone Infrastructure Projects in 2016/17, she advised that correspondence had been received on 17 December 2015 from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport confirming that only projects completed by 31 March 2016 would be funded as this is when the contract between DCMS and Arqiva would end. No funding can be 'ringfenced' to spend during 2016/17 in Mid Ulster. A further letter from Arqiva dated 16 December 2015 also confirmed that three sites would not progress in Mid Ulster, as opposed to two previously reported.

Councillor Clarke raised concerns that one of the sites earmarked for development at Draperstown will not progress due to landowner passing away. He stated that there was no trail or no legal issues to back this up and suggested that the Council write to Arqiva, DCMS and DETI to identify if alternative sites for Mobile Phone Infrastructure could be found for Draperstown and the other sites at Castlecaulfield and Aughnacloy as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Dillon advised that she had been approached by business owners in Dungannon raising concern about the lack of O2 mobile coverage in the town centre and felt that this needs to be investigated as its deterring shoppers from entering the town.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Dillon and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to:

- 1) Note progress on the Regional Start Initiative.
Grant approval for the Council's draft response to the Department of Finance and Personnel's consultation on the review of Northern Ireland's Non-Domestic Rating System. Officers to ensure that the economic development response is to reflect the overall corporate view of Council, prior to submission.
- 2) Approval granted to submit the response by the closing date of 25 January 2016, stating that this is subject to agreement and ratification by Full Council on 28 January 2016.
- 3) Note responses from Arqiva and Department of Culture, Media and Sport regarding the Mobile Infrastructure Project in Mid Ulster.
- 4) Write to Arqiva, DCMS and DETI to express Council's disappointment at the loss of these vital pieces of infrastructure, as a result of some site issues not being resolved within the short timeframe of 31 March 2016 before Arqiva's contract ends with DCMS and lobby for alternative site solutions to be found to address the areas where the infrastructure was identified as needed but will no longer be progressed as part of the MIP project such as Draperstown, Castlecaulfield and Aughnacloy.

5) Investigate the loss of O2 signal in Dungannon town centre.

Councillor Wilson raised concerns on behalf of residents in Morgan's Hill Road and Coolmount, Cookstown after losing signal for Freeview TV as a result of the rollout of 4G services. He stated that after the problem emerged, residents paid a significant fee to have their aerial system upgraded so they could regain access to free television channels.

He advised that when residents contacted at800 customer services they were told to revert to their Sky box for service.

Councillor Wilson indicated that he had raised the matter with Council previously and suggested meeting with at800's PR Company to raise concerns regarding inadequate service provision and information provided by customer services etc.

The Head of Economic Development advised that a letter had been issued to the Chief Executive of at800 inviting them to attend the Development Committee meeting in February 2016 to raise concerns directly.

Councillor Wilson felt that this matter should be addressed as a matter of urgency and requested an earlier date be sought for the meeting, indicating a quick response was needed from at800 to deal with customer complaints which had arisen.

Councillor McNamee agreed with Councillor Wilson and felt that the service provided by at800 was inadequate and that more could be done by the company to compensate those customers affected at no fault of their own.

The Director of Business and Communities said that the issue will be followed up urgently as the matter needs dealt with immediately.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McNamee

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that at800, Ofcom and the Press be invited to an open meeting to discuss customers concerns raised by members regarding the 4G rollout across Mid Ulster.

D009/16 INTERREG Applications for the Blackwater Region

Councillor Reid declared an interest in Blackwater.

The Head of Economic Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to update members on Greenways Application to Interreg V as requested at previous Development Committee Meeting and to request approval on the submission of 2 initial Stage 1 applications to the EU INTERREG V programme under the following themes:-

- Environment & Habitats Theme
- Cross Border River Catchment Theme

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that Stage 1 applications be submitted to INTERREG V through relevant Lead Partners for practical conservation work in Mid Ulster Council as part of the Blackwater region.

D010/16 Seamus Heaney Project

The Head of Culture & Arts drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform members of the range of Educational and Community engagement activity currently being delivered by Officers within Culture & Arts and Community Services relating to the Seamus Heaney Project.

Councillor Wilson suggested that the Seamus Heaney Centre Manager be invited to a future Development Committee Meeting to meet members.

In response to a query, the Director of Culture and Leisure advised that the Brand for the centre would be brought to Party Leaders and then to Development Committee for approval.

Councillor McNamee felt that this is a perfect opportunity for the Seamus Heaney Centre Manager to promote the O'Neill brand in America to attract tourism to the area.

Councillor Dillon agreed with Councillor McNamee and suggested the Hill of the O'Neill and Tullyhogue should also be promoted.

Proposed by Councillor T Quinn
Seconded by Councillor McNamee

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that:

- 1) Members note both the Education Programme and Community Engagement Programme activity.
- 2) Approval be granted for community actions and inclusion activities as listed.
- 3) Approval be granted for Seamus Heaney Centre Manager's attendance at the Jump in Ireland East Show on 29 February – 7 March 2016 and that the O'Neill brand is also promoted on this trip.
- 4) Seamus Heaney Centre Manager be invited to attend a future Development Committee meeting.

D011/16 DCAL Sub-Regional Stadia Programme for Soccer

The Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members on the DCAL Sub Regional Stadia Programme for Soccer and to seek Members agreement on the Consultation response.

Councillor Wilson felt that more should be done to try and enhance the response before submission. There is a need to try to get as much funding as possible for soccer and football clubs in Mid Ulster.

Councillor Dillon agreed with Councillor Wilson and felt that more should be done to try and encourage youth to get involved in sport as this could encourage family members and friends to also be involved.

Councillor Wilson stated that it would benefit clubs who owned their own grounds more.

Councillor Clarke stated that Sport was essential for health and mental wellbeing in young people and it would be vital that the fair share of funding comes to the area as most is ring-fenced for the Belfast area.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Forde

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to bring back to February Development Committee a re-drafted Council response to consultation for Members approval before submission. It was agreed that this would be submitted to Council approval.

D012/16 Proposed Response to DCAL Strategy for Culture & Arts 2016-2026

The Head of Culture and Arts drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek Council approval for submission of Council response to consultation initiated by DCAL with regard to DCAL Strategy for Culture & Arts 2016-2026, titled Improving Society and outcomes by promoting equality and tackling poverty and social exclusion.

Councillor Wilson felt that this was an opportunity to highlight the works carried out by the existing theatres within Mid Ulster.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve Council response to consultation to allow formal submission to be issued and returned to Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure in advance of the closing date of 12 February 2016.

Matters for Information

D013/16 Culture and Arts Progress Report

The Head of Culture and Arts drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members on the progress being made in Culture and Arts Services and highlight events that have occurred during the months of November/December. Also to identify events and activities within Culture & Arts Services that will be occurring in the future.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Dillon and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that Members note the report on Culture and Arts.

D014/16 Leisure Services Progress Report

The Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members of the progress being made regarding activities in Leisure Services and highlight events that will be occurring in the future.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Dillon

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that Members note the report on Leisure Services.

D015/16 Parks Service Progress Report

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members of the progress being made regarding activities and associated to Parks Services and highlight events or consultations that will be occurring in the future.

Councillor Monteith raised concern regarding the aftermath of the Earl Project where some parts of Railway Park are open and others are closed to the public. He asked that an urgent meeting be arranged with Council Officers and DEA Councillors to discuss concerns.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that Members note the report on Parks Service Progress and that an urgent meeting be arranged with Council Officers and DEA Councillors to discuss concerns around the Earls Project.

Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

Resolved: That items (D016/16 to D025/16) be taken as confidential business.

D026/16 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 9.25 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

F

Minutes of Meeting of Special Planning Committee (Development Plan and Enforcement) of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 19 January 2016 in Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present	Councillor McAleer, Chair Councillors Bateson (7.09 pm), Clarke, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Glasgow, Mallaghan (7.04 pm), McKinney, Reid (7.11 pm), Robinson, J Shiels
Officers in Attendance	Dr Boomer, Planning Manager Ms McEvoy, Head of Development Plan and Enforcement Ms McKearney, Senior Planning Officer Miss Thompson, Committee Services/Senior Admin Officer
Others in Attendance	Councillors McFlynn, S McGuigan and T Quinn

The meeting commenced at 7.03 pm.

P11/16 Nomination of Chair

In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair the Planning Manager called for the nomination of a Chair for the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That Councillor McAleer chair the meeting.

Councillor McAleer took the Chair.

(Councillor Mallaghan entered the meeting at 7.04 pm)

P12/16 Apologies

Councillor Kearney.

P13/16 Declarations of Interest

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

Matters for Decision

P14/16 Development Plan Position Paper – Health, Education and Community Uses

The Head of Development Plan and Enforcement presented the position paper relating to health, education and community uses in Mid Ulster, as previously circulated. This paper highlighted to Members the issues that need to be considered in preparation of the Local Development Plan.

(Councillors Bateson and Reid entered the meeting at 7.09 pm and 7.11 pm respectively during presentation of the above paper)

Speaking in respect of health indicators provided within the report Councillor J Shiels asked how emergency admission rates are slightly better within Mid Ulster given that there is no Accident and Emergency Department located within the District.

The Head of Development Plan and Enforcement advised that this statistic could have been taken from addresses given by patients on admission to an A&E Department.

Councillor Clarke commented that some areas of Mid Ulster have the longest travel distances to a hospital on some of the worst roads in the District.

The Planning Manager advised that whilst the planning authority has limited decision making powers in respect of health care provision the Council as a corporate organisation does have a lobbying role. The Planning Manager also advised that consideration will need to be given as to how longer life expectancies could affect future planning policy.

Councillor Clarke spoke of the rural character of Mid Ulster and the need for 24/7 availability of Coronary and Emergency care within the District. The Councillor referred to a voluntary first responder group within his own locality.

In response to the Planning Manager's question Councillor Clarke stated he was unsure if there was a role for planning in respect of community self-help provision.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer advised of a walk in Coronary Care Unit located at the Tyrone County Hospital in Omagh.

Councillor Reid questioned the accuracy of statistics within the report and stated that statistics provided to a previous Council meeting in relation to mental health were inaccurate. The Councillor felt that any future planning is made more difficult due to the inaccurate statistics being provided to Council.

The Planning Manager advised that Planning and Council as a whole would have a role in relation to mental health issues.

Councillor Clarke referred to presentation made to Cookstown Council a number of years ago by the Northern Health Trust which demonstrated the disparity in ambulance response times between rural and urban areas at that time.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer referred to recent press coverage in relation to Radon levels within the District and asked if the Planning Department have any role in this regard.

The Planning Manager advised of measures that can be taken to prevent Radon infiltration into a building and stated that Building Control has control over ensuring preventative measures are taken in respect of new buildings.

Councillor Clarke spoke in relation to school closures within the Sperrins area and felt that the maps within the report demonstrate a visual gap in relation to education provision in that area, the Councillor felt this gap is getting bigger and will have an impact on where people decide to live in the future.

The Planning Manager again spoke of the lobbying role of Council in relation to provision of education and referred to how the planning department can influence future use of sites of schools which have been closed.

Councillor Clarke spoke in relation to proposed Air Ambulance for Northern Ireland and where this service could be based. The Councillor felt that Loughry College would be central location within Northern Ireland for this service.

(Councillor Glasgow declared an interest in Councillor Clarke's comments regarding Air Ambulance provision)

The Head of Development Plan and Enforcement stated that the Local Development Plan can contribute to the wellbeing of the community, the Planning Manager also referred to links with other planning policies.

Councillor Reid spoke in relation to the numerous health issues experienced by members of the community and the specialised treatment required in some instances, the Councillor felt a more local service is required ie. re-opening of South Tyrone Hospital.

The Planning Manager referred to specialist services located in Belfast and the difficulty of getting doctors to move out of the city.

Resolved That Council agree with the content of the Development Plan Position Paper on Health, Education and Community Uses.

P15/16 Development Plan Position Paper – Minerals

The Head of Development Plan and Enforcement presented the Minerals position paper as previously circulated. This paper provided Members with an overview of minerals development in Mid Ulster and advised on the regional planning context and legislative context for mineral development. The paper also considered current

area plans for the district, how they plan for mineral development and detailed the options for mineral development or protection within the Local Development Plan.

The Planning Manager stated that the planning department had worked closely with Quarry Products Association Northern Ireland (QPANI) in relation to this paper, that discussions had been positive and he hoped the paper offered a solution everyone could buy into. With regard to the SPPS for mineral development the Planning Manager informed Members that DOE have advised that this document is now subject to judicial review.

Councillor J Shiels spoke in relation to maps contained in the report which identified a quarry located within an area of constraint and asked what would happen this quarry.

The Planning Manager advised that the key issue would be whether the quarry mentioned was dormant or active. If the quarry is active and has appropriate planning permissions then he believed it would be able to continue operating, a dormant quarry would have to reapply for all permissions before operations could recommence.

The Planning Manager also referred to ancillary services associated with quarrying and felt that if the quarrying takes place in Mid Ulster then the additional services should also be located within the District.

Councillor Mallaghan advised that an area of constraint listed within the report for Cookstown area should be Camlough not Carnlough. Councillor Mallaghan also referred to discussions between the planning department and QPANI and felt that the advice from QPANI may not be a true reflection of all quarry operators, particularly smaller businesses.

The Head of Development Plan and Enforcement advised that QPANI state that they are the trade association representing approximately 95% of quarries in Mid Ulster.

The Planning Manager also stated that a planning application for mineral extraction represents a significant financial investment.

Councillor Mallaghan spoke in relation to mineral constraints and how this may affect dormant quarries becoming operational again.

The Planning Manager advised that if a dormant quarry is located within an area of mineral constraint then the operators would have to demonstrate valid grounds for an exception to be made. Decisions related to gold extraction would be made by Planning Headquarters.

Councillor Mallaghan referred to new technologies within sand and gravel industry which may allow a dormant site to become active again.

The Planning Manager advised that decisions related to dormant quarries will not be clear cut.

Councillor Clarke concurred with Councillor Mallaghan's comments in relation to representation from QPANI on behalf of smaller quarrying operations. The Councillor also spoke with regard to added value being created by ancillary services and stated the benefit to local communities.

Councillor Reid asked what the position of the Planning Committee would be if a planning application was received for a new quarrying operation to which numerous objections were made.

The Planning Manager advised that should the scenario referred to ever occur then the neighbouring amenity would not cease to be important and that all representations would be considered.

Proposed by Councillor J Shiels
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that the Planning Department consult with QPANI with regard to –
1.The amount of mineral that will be required over the plan period up to 2030.
2.The options set out within the minerals paper presented for the identification of Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development.

P16/16 Draft Timetable for Production of Mid Ulster Local Development Plan

As previously circulated, the Head of Development Plan and Enforcement presented a draft timetable for the production of the new Local Development Plan (LDP) for Mid Ulster District Council area. The timetable provided detail on the key stages, actions and timescales in the plan preparation process.

The Planning Manager advised that following consultation with PAC the timetable will be brought before full Council for approval. The Planning Manager also spoke in relation to consultation periods within the timetable and the timing of when these consultations would take place. The Planning Manager spoke of the risk of slippage within the timetable and that dates should be reviewed after the first year.

In response to Councillor Clarke's comment in relation to delivery of the Local Development Plan within this Council term the Planning Manager advised that this would be challenging and referred to the huge job of work required to bring the Local Development Plan to fruition. The Planning Manager also advised that this Council was only one of two Councils to have got to this stage with their Local Development Plan.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that the Planning Department consult with Planning Appeals Commission in relation to the draft timetable for production of Mid Ulster's Local Development Plan.

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Proposed by Councillor J Shiels
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved That item P17/16 be taken as confidential business.

P18/16 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00pm and ended at 8.40 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

G

Subject Conferences & Seminars

Reporting Officer P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	Provide an update on seminars and conferences received. To seek approval for attendance and the payment of registration/ attendance fees and associated costs, as incurred.

2	Background
2.1	The following seminar/ conference sessions are presented for consideration of representation from Mid Ulster Council.
2.1	Approval for Consideration of Attendance
2.1.1	<i>Celebrating Progress and Looking to future of the Regional Community Resilience Group (Red Cross and Regional Community Resilience Group)</i> · Thurs 11 February - Long Gallery, Stormont (9.30am-12.30pm)
2.1.2	<i>Centre for Cross Border Studies: 2016 Annual Conference</i> · Thurs 18 to Fri 19 February - Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk
2.1.3	<i>Study Trip to Leuven Institute, Belgium organised by ICBAN on EU Activity</i> · Tuesday 16 February to Thursday 18 February - Leuven Institute, Belgium § Cllr S McPeake
2.1.4	<i>Democratic Government and its Survival: 27th Colmcille Winter School</i> · Friday 26 to Saturday 27 February - Colmcille Heritage Centre, Letterkenny
2.1.5	<i>Presentation and Health & Safety Seminar</i> · Thursday 10 March – Dunadry Hotel, Templepatrick (9am – 1pm) § 1 officer request to attend: Director of Environment & Property
2.1.6	<i>Somme Commemoration and Trip 2016 organised by Somme Association</i> · Thursday 30 June to Sunday 3 July 2016

2.2	Retrospective Approval <i>General Power of Competence Training - NILGA and APSE Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday 28 January (9.30am to 12.30pm)
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3	Key Issues
3.1	N/A

4	Resources
4.1	<u>Financial</u>
4.1.1	Celebrating Progress and Looking to future of the Regional Community Resilience Group (Red Cross and Regional Community Resilience Group) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No charge to attend
4.1.2	Centre for Cross Border Studies: 2016 Annual Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £140 to include conference fee, meals and accommodation
4.1.3	Study Trip to Leuven Institute, Belgium organised by ICBAN on EU Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> estimated at €500 to cover flights, coach transfers, accommodation at Leuven Institute and site visits
4.1.4	Democratic Government and its Survival: 27th Colmcille Winter School €150 per delegate (accommodation is not included in this price)
4.1.5	Presentation and Health & Safety Seminar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No charge to attend
4.1.6	Somme Commemoration and Trip 2016 organised by Somme Association <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £730 - £900 per person depending on the allocated hotel. 4 places are being held for the Council until 31 January and thereafter will be released (see appendix 2). The Association has chartered its own plane to avoid any disruption caused by Euro Finals. <p>Please Note: the annual member allocation for conferences and seminars is currently set at £750.</p>

5	Other Considerations
5.1	Costs associated will be set against 2015-16 or 2016-2017 member Conference & Seminar allocation.

6	Recommendations
6.1	Approval for attendance at the conferences/ seminars by members and council officers as required.

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	<div>Appendix 1 Conferences Seminars Details</div> <div>Appendix 2 Somme Association 2016 Commemoration Trip details</div>



Celebrating success, looking to the future

You are warmly invited to an event
hosted by the British Red Cross:

**‘Celebrating the progress, and looking
to the future of the Regional
Community Resilience Group’**

11 February 2016

Long Gallery, Stormont



Celebrating progress, looking to the future

At its 'Call to Action' at Stormont in January 2013 the Red Cross called on decision-makers to establish measures to support emergency preparedness and response in Northern Ireland.

Since this time, there has been significant progress made in building more resilient communities across Northern Ireland, including the development of community engagement projects by the multi-agency Regional Community Resilience Group (RCRG) formed in March 2014.

Come along to hear about the work of the RCRG and Red Cross in supporting local communities to prepare for future emergencies. The event will be an opportunity to reflect on progress and look to the future.

Date: **Thursday 11 February 2016** from 09.30 to 12.30

Location: Long Gallery, Stormont, sponsored by Chris Lyttle MLA

Tea, coffee and scones served from 9.30am

Please rsvp to Roisin Devlin by Tues 5 January 2016 RDevlin@redcross.org.uk

For queries call 028 9073 5350

An early indication of attendance would be helpful as places are limited (invite is transferable)



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016

BORDERING BETWEEN UNIONS:

What does the UK Referendum on Europe mean for us?





BORDERING BETWEEN UNIONS:

What does the UK Referendum on Europe mean for us?

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

9.30	Registration and Refreshments
10.00	Welcome by Chair Dr Helen Johnston, <i>Chair, Centre for Cross Border Studies</i>
10.15	KEYNOTE: How the European Union has changed Ireland: North & South Mr Dáithí O'Ceallaigh, <i>Former Irish Ambassador to the UK</i>
10.45	PANEL DISCUSSION: Constitutional & Political Implications of Withdrawal from the EU Dr Martin Mansergh, <i>Former Minister of State at the Department of Finance</i> Dr Mary C Murphy, <i>Lecturer, University College Cork</i>
11.15	Q&A / Table Discussions
11.30	BREAK
11.45	KEYNOTE: Constitutional & Political Implications of Withdrawal from the EU Ms Fiona Hyslop MSP, <i>Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs, Scottish Government</i>
12.15	PANEL DISCUSSION: Constitutional & Political Implications of Withdrawal from the EU Dr Katy Hayward, <i>Senior Lecturer at Queen's University Belfast (CHAIR)</i> Dr Adam Lazowski, <i>Professor of Law, University of Westminster</i> Dr Lee McGowan, <i>Senior Lecturer, Queen's University Belfast</i> Prof Steve Peers, <i>Professor of Law, University of Essex</i> Mr Paul Brannen MEP <i>Labour Party Member of the European Parliament</i>
13.00	TABLE DISCUSSIONS: Constitutional & Political Implications of Withdrawal from the EU
13.30	LUNCH
14.30	KEYNOTE: Free Movement of People Mr Jeremy Harding, <i>Author of Border Vigils and Refugees at the Rich Man's Gate</i>
15.00	PANEL DISCUSSION: Free Movement of People Ms Annmarie O'Kane, <i>Information Manager, Centre for Cross Border Studies (CHAIR)</i> Mr Jerome Mullen, <i>Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Northern Ireland</i> Mr Yassen Georgiev, <i>Executive Director, Economic Policy Institute, Bulgaria</i> Ms Bernadette McAliskey, <i>Director, South Tyrone Empowerment Programme</i>
15.45	TABLE DISCUSSIONS: Free Movement of People
16.15	END OF DAY 1 SUMMARY Dr Anthony Soares, <i>Deputy Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies</i>
18.00	RECEPTION
19.00	DINNER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

9.30	KEYNOTE: What Europe Do We Want? Ms Mairead McGuinness MEP, <i>Vice-President of the European Parliament (TBC)</i>
10.30	PANEL DISCUSSION: The Economic Reform Agenda Philip McDonagh, <i>Independent Economist (CHAIR)</i> Dr Edgar Morgenroth, <i>Associate Research Professor, Economic & Social Research Institute (ESRI)</i> Mr Ross Martin, <i>CEO, Scottish Council for Development and Industry</i> Mr Nigel Smyth, <i>Director, CBI Northern Ireland</i>
11.00	TABLE DISCUSSIONS: The Economic Reform Agenda
11.30	BREAK
12.00	PANEL DISCUSSION: The Institutional Reform Agenda Ms Jane Morrice, <i>Former Vice President European Economic & Social Committee (CHAIR)</i> Professor Hugh Quigley, <i>Visiting Professor on EU Regulatory Affairs, University of Ulster</i> Mr Pat Colgan, <i>Former CEO Special EU Programmes Body</i> Ms Colette Fitzgerald, <i>Head of the EU Commission Regional Office in Northern Ireland</i>
13.00	TABLE DISCUSSIONS: The Institutional Reform Agenda
13.30	LUNCH
14.30	PANEL DISCUSSION: The Political Reform Agenda <i>(CHAIR) (TBC)</i> Ms Jill Evans MEP, <i>Plaid Cymru</i> Ms Marian Harkin MEP, <i>Independent Member of the European Parliament</i> Mr Patsy McGlone MLA, <i>SDLP</i> Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA, <i>Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party (TBC)</i>
15.00	TABLE DISCUSSIONS: The Political Reform Agenda
15.30	CLOSING REMARKS Ms Ruth Taillon, <i>Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies</i>
15.45	CONFERENCE CLOSES

PROPOSED EU STUDY TRIP, FEBRUARY 2016

Introduction

In the ICBAN Corporate Plan 2015-2016, an emphasis is placed on 'People, Capacity and Organisational Development'.

This section notes:

'The Impact of our work relies on the capabilities of our people'.

'We will reshape the organisation so that more resources are targeted towards development roles'.

'We will build on our talent, knowledge and structures to provide the capability we need in EU partnership working'.

'We will equip the organisation and support its people to navigate this transition process'.

To support these tasks the Management Board recognise the need to:

- Develop relationships with a growing emphasis on our Region's role and place in Europe
- Collaborate with EU institutions, UK/NI and Irish governments, Councils (and other key stakeholders) to align ICBAN's strategies and maximise the impact of our work.

To help advance this, it is proposed to organise an EU Study Trip, as set out below, with support from member Councils for the participation of their elected representatives on the ICBAN Management Board.

Objectives

ICBAN to organise a Study Trip for Board members and Council Officials, to:

1. Gain a better understanding of how the EU works.
2. Advance ideas on how we can lever effect support and assistance from the EU to help deliver on key regional and local issues.
3. Help advance key projects/initiatives through partnering, best practice awareness, info on financial supports (focusing on priority areas High Speed Internet capabilities, Creative Industries, and Urban Regeneration, etc.).
4. Enhance joined-up working between member local authorities and ICBAN on common matters of EU interest.

Format of Study Trip

- 3 Days Study visit to Leuven Institute, Brussels and cross-border regions in Belgium/Netherlands/Germany.
- Study format to include presentations, workshops and site visits.
- Presentations to be organised by Leuven Institute using Euro Commission officials and academics from the Leuven Institute, sectoral experts, reps from Local/Regional authorities, programme national contact points and other representatives of bodies involved in EU working, etc.
- Accommodation to be provided in the Leuven Institute.

When

February 2016 - dates to be confirmed.

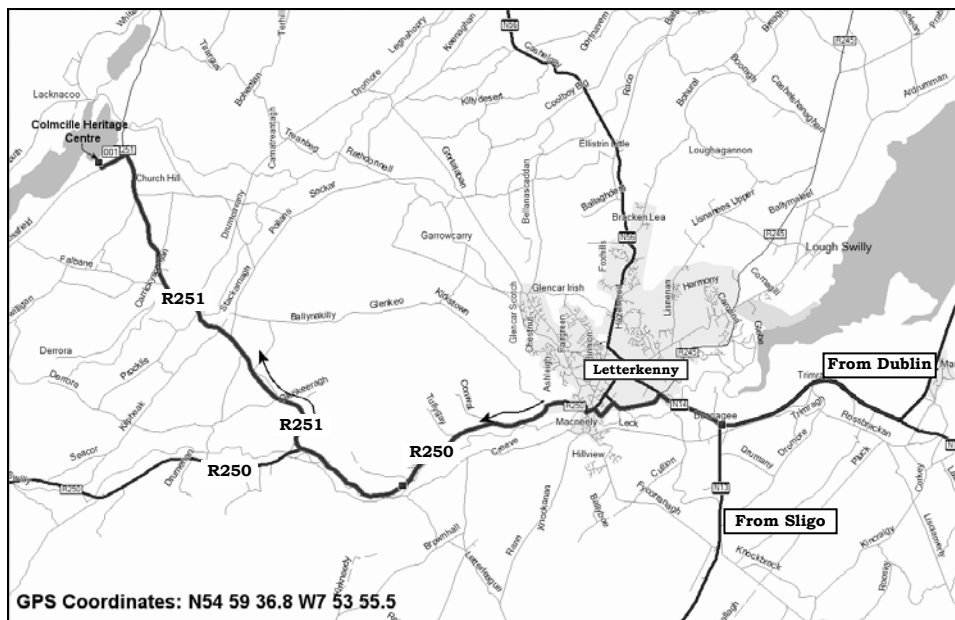
Costs Involved

- To cover flights, coach transfers, accommodation at Leuven Institute, food and subsistence, presentations and site visits.
- Cost estimated at approximately €500 (£ Sterling equivalent) per delegate. Final cost will be known upon final determination of numbers.

Proposal

ICBAN is seeking Member Councils' financial support for the costs of attending Councillors on the Management Board of ICBAN, along with any interested Councils' Officials and other stakeholders who also wish to avail of this group opportunity.

Directions from Letterkenny



Directions: At Letterkenny; take the R250. Continue on the R250 for ~ 6km and then take the R251 to Church Hill. After Church Hill follow the signs for the Colmcille Heritage Centre.

Sat. Navigation GPS Coordinates for Colmcille Heritage Centre are:
N54 59 36.8, W7 53 55.5

See www.colmcilleheritagecentre.ie for more details.

27th Colmcille Winter School 27^ú Scoil Gheimhridh Cholmcille

26th & 27th February 2016



Democratic Government – and its survival?

Rialtas Daonlathach – an mhairigh sé?



Organised by the Colmcille Heritage Trust with the co-operation of
Co. Donegal Vocational Education Committee

Rialtas Daonlathach – an mhairigh sé?

27^ú Scoil Gheimhridh Cholmcille
Clár an Deiridh Seachtaine

Venue: Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Church Hill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

Friday, 26th February 2016

Dé hAoine 26^ú Feabhra 2016

Oíche Ghaelach

Seisiún 1

5.00 p.m. **Clárú** – Registration Tae/Café
7.00 p.m. **Fáiltiú** – Reception *Ceol Ghaelach*
7.30 p.m.

Oscail Oifigiúil & Cathaoirleach:

Seosamh Ó Duibheannaigh.

Stiurtheoir Coláiste na Rosan

Téama: An Ghaeilge, an Daonlathas agus 1916'

Aindrias Ó Cathasaigh Uas.,

Staraí, údar '1916 Seachtar na Cásca'

8.40 p.m. *Béile*

Saturday, 27th February 2016

Session 2:

9.00 a.m. **Registration** Tea/Coffee

9.30 a.m. **Chair: Mr Martin Egan**

Secretary Colmcille Heritage Trust

Topic: 'Democracy and citizenship in Classical Athens: lessons for the modern world?'

Prof. Brian McGing

Regius Professor of Greek, Trinity College Dublin.

Discussion

10:45 a.m. *Tea/Coffee*

Session 3:

11.15 a.m. **Chair: Mr Cathal Breslin**
ARICS

Topic: 'An assessment of the concept of 'Public Service' in a Twenty-First Century context'

Ms Orla O'Donnell, MSc, MA (Econ)

Senior Research Officer, Institute of Public Administration.

Democratic Government – and its survival?

27th Colmcille Winter School
Weekend Programme

Contd. Saturday, 27th February 2016

12:00 p.m. *Topic: Politics across the Water: an increasingly dis-United Kingdom?*

Prof. David Phinnemore, Head of Department, School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy, Queen's University Belfast

Discussion

1:00 p.m. Lunch

Session 4

2:00 p.m. **Chair: Mr Tommy Francis**

Member of Senate of National University of Ireland.

Topic: "The European Union and Democracy: a case of two cheers"

Prof. David Phinnemore, Head of Department, School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy, Queen's University Belfast

3:00pm *Open Forum on the Irish Political System-- the rights and wrongs*

4:00 p.m. **Close of Conference**
Tea/Coffee

Programme available to download from: www.colmcilleheritagecentre.ie

Contact Details

Mr. Martin Egan, Secretary
Gartan
Church Hill
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

Tel:(074) 9137044

Email: martinjegan@eircom.net

WISHNI

IMPROVING HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS



Presentation of the 2016 Ambassador Awards and Health & Safety Seminar

Thursday 10 March 2016 - 9.00am to 1.00pm
Dunadry Hotel, 2 Islandreagh Drive, Dunadry

09.00am - 09.40am *Registration*
(Tea, coffee & breakfast bap on arrival)

09.40am - 10.00am *Presentation of Awards*

10.00am - 1.00pm *Health & Safety Seminar*

To register for this free event, please email your
contact details to: events@hseni.gov.uk



in association with:

hseni

CONTROLLING RISK TOGETHER



THE SOMME ASSOCIATION



Vice-President
The Viscount Brookeborough, DL

Chairman
Mr Alan McFarland

Director
Mrs Carol Walker

233 Bangor Road
Newtownards
BT23 7PH

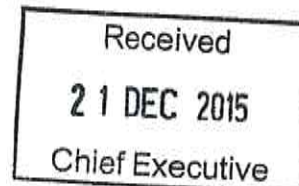
Telephone 028 91823202
Facsimile 028 91823214

Website: www.sommeassociation.com
Email: sommeassociation@btconnect.com
Face Book: The Somme Association

Honorary President:
H.R.H The Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO

18th December 2015

Mr Anthony Tohill
The Chief Executive
Mid Ulster Council
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT



Dear Mr Tohill

Commemoration of the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme

As you are no doubt aware 1st July 2016 marks the centenary of the start of the Battle of the Somme, a military engagement in which most families throughout Ulster had a relative serving and which unfortunately was to cost many thousands of lives.

The Somme Association, in conjunction with the Northern Ireland and UK governments, is organising the official Northern Ireland commemoration at the Ulster Memorial Tower, Thiepval, France on the afternoon of 1st July 2016. On 2nd July there will be an "Act of Remembrance" at the Memorial to the 16th (Irish) Division at Guillemont. These will be unique occasions and I am honoured to extend an invitation to your Council to attend in solemn recognition of all those from your Council area who served and died during the Battle of the Somme. The Association would particularly welcome representation from each Party to reflect the totality of service from our community.

As you might appreciate the French authorities are prescribing tight security for the commemorations therefore we are arranging a special travel itinerary for the VIP groups. Details of this are attached, and if you are able to avail of this invitation I would ask that you book before 31st January 2016. A limited number of places are available for those wishing to attend.

If you require any further details at this stage please contact Mrs Carol Walker at 02891 823202.

Yours faithfully,

Carol Walker

David Campbell, CBE
Chairman – Somme Centenary Committee

THE SOMME ASSOCIATION

Vice-President
The Viscount Brookeborough, DL

Chairman
Mr Alan McFarland

Director
Mrs Carol Walker



Honorary President:
H.R.H The Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO

233 Bangor Road
Newtownards
BT23 7PH

Telephone 028 91823202

Facsimile 028 91823214

Website: www.sommeassociation.com

Email: sommeassociation@btconnect.com

Face Book: The Somme Association

18th December 2015

Dear Chief Executive

Please find attached an invite and all the information regarding the Somme Association's tour for the Centenary Commemorations of the Battle of the Somme. As you can appreciate the 2016 tour will be different from previous years, especially due to security arrangements and the prices also reflect the fact that the Euro Finals are also being held in France. We have secured two different hotels in Compiegne so there are two price options based on the hotel you chose.

Each Council is offered a place on the Association's tour as part of the Council's membership of the Association and with this in mind we are able to offer each Council **four** places in 2016 on the Centenary trip. We are aware that some Councils may wish to have more places allocated and some less. As such we would ask that you apply for the amount you want and after the 31st January we will reallocate as availability allows us to. This will be done on a "first come first served basis" after allocation of the four places. I would also ask that if you do not wish to accept your four allocated places you inform us as soon as possible by email to:

claire@sommeassociation.com

The Commemoration tour also includes tickets to the Ulster Memorial Tower Service, the "Beat the Retreat" musical event and Reception on the 2nd July and meals.

Places will only be secured when deposits are received. Deposits will be refunded for any extra places requested but not successfully secured. We anticipate demand to be high so please apply early so as not to be disappointed.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my PA Mrs Claire McWhirter on 02891823202.

I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Successful New Year.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Carol Walker
Director
Enc.



SOMME COMMEMORATIONS 2016

30th June – 3rd July 2016

Provisional Itinerary

"Subject to change"

The estimated price is £730.00 per person (excludes personal insurance)

Includes: Flights TBC, luxury coach travel throughout with experienced courier. Ferry crossings if required. 2+ Star hotel accommodation is twin bedrooms with private facilities (there will be a single room supplement of £100.00), buffet breakfast and two evening meals included. Guaranteed tickets to the Ulster Memorial Tower Service and "Beat the Retreat" TBC.

For booking conditions see below

All flights are booked through an ABTA Bonded Agent

Thursday 30th June 2016:- Flights arrangements and times will follow TBC. Hotel Campanille in Compiègne.

Friday 1st July 2016:- Depart hotel for Albert, here guests will disembark coach to clear security then onward to the Ulster Memorial Tower. Northern Ireland's Ceremony will take place at 1430hrs. Lunch provided. Following the service return to Compiègne for dinner.

Saturday 2nd July 2016:- Depart for half day in the Somme area, this will include a short "Act of Remembrance" at the 16th (Irish) Division Memorial at Guillemont. Commemoration Lunch. In the afternoon a visit to Compiègne Armistice Museum. In the evening return to the Somme and Ulster Memorial Tower for a "Beat the Retreat" and Reception in the grounds.

Sunday 3rd July 2016:- Depart hotel for journey home.

To reserve a place on this tour, please complete the slip below. A deposit of £200.00 per person is payable on booking (non-refundable) N.B. No bookings will be accepted without a deposit and completed form. Final payments must be made eight weeks before departure date. The names of those nominated to travel must be submitted by Monday 2nd May 2016 as the airline have a policy on group fares and will charge for any amendments after this date.

Please make cheques payable to **The Somme Association:** and send to Mrs Carol Walker, Director, 233 Bangor Road, Newtownards. BT23 7PH.

.....
Please reserve.....Place(s) on the 2016 Somme Trip I enclose a cheque for £.....

Type of room/rooms.....Name of Contact.....

Address.....

.....PostCode.....

Telephone.....Email.....

Signed.....Date.....

Full names of those travelling.....

.....

Booking Conditions:

Insurance: It is a condition of travel that clients are covered by travel insurance. Bookings can only be accepted on this basis.

Name of Insurance Company and policy number.....



SOMME COMMEMORATIONS 2016

30th June – 3rd July 2016

Provisional Itinerary

"Subject to change"

The estimated price is £900.00 per person (excludes personal insurance)

Includes: Flights **TBC**, luxury coach travel throughout with experienced courier. Ferry crossings if required. 3 Star hotel accommodation is **twin bedrooms** with private facilities (**there will be a single room supplement of £100.00**), buffet breakfast and two evening meals included.

Guaranteed tickets to the Ulster Memorial Tower Service and "Beat the Retreat" **TBC**.

For booking conditions see below

All flights are booked through an ABTA Bonded Agent

Thursday 30th June 2016:- Flights arrangements and times will follow **TBC**. **Hotel is the Best Western in Compiègne.**

Friday 1st July 2016:- Depart hotel for Albert, here guests will disembark coach to clear security then onward to the Ulster Memorial Tower. Northern Ireland's Ceremony will take place at 1430hrs. Lunch provided. Following the service return to Compiègne for dinner.

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Please reserve.....Place(s) on the 2016 Somme Trip I enclose a cheque for £.....

Type of room/rooms.....Name of Contact.....

Address.....

.....PostCode.....

Telephone.....Email.....

Signed.....Date.....

Full names of those travelling.....

Booking Conditions:

Insurance: It is a condition of travel that clients are covered by travel insurance. Bookings can only be accepted on this basis.

Name of Insurance Company and policy number.....

H

Subject Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council

Reporting Officer Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council for comment, since the last meeting of Council.

2	Background
2.1	Council is a consultee for many government departments, statutory agencies and other bodies, and as such receives consultation documentation inviting commentary on a wide range of issues which may be pertinent to council services and/or the District.

3	Key Issues																					
3.1	<p>The following outlines the open consultations of which Council has been notified:</p> <table><tr><th>Organisation</th><th>Issue</th><th>Closing Date</th></tr><tr><td>Department of the Environment – Marine Division</td><td>Proposals for Marine Conservation Zones in the NI Inshore Region at four sites – Rathlin, Waterfoot, Outer Belfast Lough and Carlingford Lough</td><td>11 Mar 2016</td></tr><tr><td>European Commission – Agriculture and rural development</td><td>Consultation on 'Greening' which makes the direct payments system more environment-friendly and supports action to adopt and maintain farming practices that help meet environment and climate goals.</td><td>08 Mar 2016</td></tr><tr><td>Department of Education</td><td>Consultation on the Complaints Tribunal (Curriculum and Related Matters) Regulations (NI) 2016</td><td>08 Feb 2016</td></tr><tr><td>Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety</td><td>Consultation on the Reform of Administrative Structures for Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland</td><td>12 Feb 2016</td></tr><tr><td>Department for Social Development</td><td>Abolition of Class 2 National Insurance (NI): Introducing a benefit test into Class 4 NI for self employed</td><td>24 Feb 2016</td></tr><tr><td>Post Office</td><td>Consultation on changes to Post Office services at five locations in the Mid Ulster District Council area (Appendix 1)</td><td>Range from 3 Feb 2016 to 12 Feb 2016 (Appendix 1)</td></tr></table>	Organisation	Issue	Closing Date	Department of the Environment – Marine Division	Proposals for Marine Conservation Zones in the NI Inshore Region at four sites – Rathlin, Waterfoot, Outer Belfast Lough and Carlingford Lough	11 Mar 2016	European Commission – Agriculture and rural development	Consultation on 'Greening' which makes the direct payments system more environment-friendly and supports action to adopt and maintain farming practices that help meet environment and climate goals.	08 Mar 2016	Department of Education	Consultation on the Complaints Tribunal (Curriculum and Related Matters) Regulations (NI) 2016	08 Feb 2016	Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	Consultation on the Reform of Administrative Structures for Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland	12 Feb 2016	Department for Social Development	Abolition of Class 2 National Insurance (NI): Introducing a benefit test into Class 4 NI for self employed	24 Feb 2016	Post Office	Consultation on changes to Post Office services at five locations in the Mid Ulster District Council area (Appendix 1)	Range from 3 Feb 2016 to 12 Feb 2016 (Appendix 1)
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	Documentation on the aforementioned consultations may be provided on request.																					

4	Resources
4.1	<u>Financial</u> - N/A
4.2	<u>Human</u> - N/A
4.3	<u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u> - N/A
4.4	<u>Other</u> - N/A

5	Other Considerations
5.1	Not applicable

6	Recommendations
6.1	Members review and note the open consultations.

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	<p>Appendix 1 – Post Office consultation letters on proposed changes to services in the Mid Ulster District Council area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ardboe Post Office, 125 Mullanahoe Road, Dungannon, BT71 5AX 2. Moortown Post Office, 167 Battery Road, Cookstown, BT80 0HS 3. Clogher Post Office, 45 Main Street, Clogher, BT76 0AA 4. Ballyronan Post Office, 124 Shore Road, Magherafelt, BT45 6JA 5. Tamnamore Post Office, 212 Ballynakilly Road, Dungannon, BT71 6HJ


 POST
OFFICE

Received
- 6 JAN 2016
Chief Executive

Mr Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster Council
50 Ballyronan Road
MAGHERAFELT
BT45 6EN

05 January 2016

Dear Mr Tohill

Arboe Post Office®
125 Mullanahoe Road, Dungannon, BT71 5AX

Changes to your Post Office® - tell us what you think

We're talking to the Postmaster about making some changes to the above Post Office and we'd like you to tell us what you think about the changes before we finalise our plans.

What's happening?

There's an exciting programme of investment and transformation taking place across the Post Office network, helping to make our branches more modern and convenient for you and for the Postmasters who run them. We're talking to the Postmaster about changing to one of our new-style local branches and if the change goes ahead:

- Post Office services would be offered from a low-screened, open plan style service point integrated into the retail counter
- The branch would be open for longer: Mon – Sat 06:30 – 22:00.
(Current opening times are: Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri 09:00 – 17:30, Wed 09:00 – 13:00 & Sat 09:00 – 12:00)
- Customers will still be able to get most of the Post Office products and services you're used to however for a small number of services you may need to visit an alternative Post Office, go on-line or, telephone our customer helpline. Details of product availability are provided overleaf
- To get the new branch ready, it may need to close for up to seven days during March/April 2016 for refurbishment

What's next?

We want to know what's important to you and would like you to tell us what you think, particularly on the following areas:

- Why you use this Post Office and what you like about it
- What you think about the proposed new-look Post Office. For example the Post Office service point would be on the retail counter, so is there anything you'd like to ask us or would like us to take into consideration about the proposed location of the Post Office till or the queuing area
- What you think about any changes to the opening hours
- If you have any comments about how you will access the Post Office products and services that won't be available at the branch if the change goes ahead
- If you have any comments about the potential closure period during the refurbishment or access to other branches in the area

There's also a list of frequently asked questions provided at the end which you may find useful.

It's easy to let us have your feedback by completing our convenient online survey via the following link postofficeviews.co.uk and entering the unique code for this branch 19071599



If you have a QR scanner on your mobile phone, all you need to do is scan here:

Customer information materials are also being displayed in branch and details are published on our website too at postofficeviews.co.uk

We'll be accepting comments up to and including 03 February 2016.

You can also let us have your comments in the following ways:



postofficeviews.co.uk



FREEPOST Your Comments

(This is the full address to use.

No further address or name details are required)



comments@postoffice.co.uk



Customer Helpline: 03457 22 33 44

Textphone: 03457 22 33 55

Please note that items sent by Freepost take 2 working days to arrive and don't include Saturday or Sunday. Therefore please do allow sufficient time for your comments to arrive before the end of the consultation period, as we are unable to consider feedback received after the deadline.

We won't be responding to you individually however the feedback received will be taken into consideration as we finalise plans with the Postmaster. We'll write to you again outlining the main comments received and our response to these and also to explain the final plans for the branch. All of the responses received will be provided to the independent statutory consumer watchdog, which in Great Britain is Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland, and in Northern Ireland, the Consumer Council.

When would the changes happen?

We're planning to make these changes in March/April 2016 and we'll put a poster up in branch at least two weeks before to let customers know the exact date and to tell them how we've considered the feedback. We'll make sure any disruption caused by the refurbishment is kept to a minimum.

The following branch will be happy to provide customers with Post Office services during this period.

- Coalisland Post Office, 30 Dungannon Road, Coalisland, Dungannon, BT71 4HP

We'll also be asking customers for their feedback once the changes have taken place and details will be available in branch shortly after the new look branch opens.

Yours sincerely

Damian Mulholland
Area Manager

To get this information in a different format, for example, in larger print, audio or braille please contact the Customer Helpline on 03457 22 33 44 or Textphone 03457 22 33 55.

This communication process has been agreed with the independent statutory consumer watchdog, which in Great Britain is Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland, and in Northern Ireland, the Consumer Council, and is being carried out in line with our Code of Practice for changes to the Post Office network, which we have agreed with them. If you'd like copies of the Code they are available in branch, or by contacting us or on our website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/transforming-post-office. If you think that the process has not been properly followed and wish to make a complaint, then please write to us or email us via the contact details included in our posters and letters and let us know why. We'll examine your complaint and respond to you as soon as we can. We will provide you with the relevant contact points for the consumer watchdog, so if you are still not satisfied when you have received our response, you can ask them for their assistance.

Arboe Post Office® services available

Your Postmaster or our Customer Helpline on 03457 223344 will be happy to help you with any queries about product availability or provide you with details of maximum value of transactions. Customers can also shop online at www.postoffice.co.uk

	Current branch	New branch
Mail		
First & Second Class mail	✓	✓
Stamps, stamp books (1 st class 6 & 12 only, 2 nd class 12 only)	✓	✓
Special stamps (Christmas issue only) & postage labels	✓	✓
Signed For	✓	✓
Special Delivery	✓	✓
Home shopping returns	✓	✓
Inland small, medium & large parcels	✓	✓
Express & contract parcels	✓	✓
British Forces Mail (BFPO)	✓	✓
International letters & postcards (inc. signed for & Aisure)	✓	✓
International parcels up to 2kg & printed papers up to 5kg	✓	✓
Parcelforce Worldwide International parcels	✓	✓
Articles for the blind (inland & international)	✓	✓
Royal Mail redirection service	✓	✓
Local Collect	✓	✓
Drop & Go	✓	✓
Withdrawals, deposits and payments		
Post Office Card Account	✓	✓
Personal & Business Banking cash withdrawals, deposits & balance enquiries using a card. Also enveloped cheque deposits and barcoded deposit slips.	✓	✓
Postal orders	✓	✓
Moneygram	✓	✓
Change giving	✓	✓
Bill payments		
Bill payments (card, barcoded or manual)	✓	✓
Key recharging	✓	✓
Transcash (without barcode)	✓	✓
Travel		
Pre-order travel money	✓	✓
On demand travel money	Euros	Euros
Travel insurance referral	✓	✓
Mobile Top-ups & E vouchers		
	✓	✓
Payment by cheque		
	✓	✓
Other Products are available at are available at Coalisland Post Office , 30 Dungannon Road, Coalisland, Dungannon, BT71 4HP		
Opening times: Mon – Fri 09:00 – 17:30 Sat 09:00 – 17:00		



Mr Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster Council
50 Ballyronan Road
MAGHERAFELT
BT45 6EN

11 January 2016

Dear Mr Tohill

Moortown Post Office®
Moorpark, 167 Battery Road, Cookstown, BT80 0HS

Changes to your Post Office® - tell us what you think

We're talking to the Postmaster about making some changes to the above Post Office and we'd like you to tell us what you think about the changes before we finalise our plans.

What's happening?

There's an exciting programme of investment and transformation taking place across the Post Office network, helping to make our branches more modern and convenient for you and for the Postmasters who run them. We're talking to the Postmaster about changing to one of our new-style local branches and if the change goes ahead:

- Post Office services would continue to be offered from a screened counter
- The branch would be open for longer:
Mon – Sat 08:00 – 20:00 & Sun 09:00 – 18:00.
(Current opening times are:
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 09:00 – 17:00, Wed 09:00 – 12:30 & Sat 09:00 – 13:00)
- Customers will still be able to get most of the Post Office products and services you're used to however for a small number of services you may need to visit an alternative Post Office, go on-line or, telephone our customer helpline. Details of product availability are provided overleaf
- To get the new branch ready, it may need to close for up to seven days during March/April 2016 for refurbishment

What's next?

We want to know what's important to you and would like you to tell us what you think, particularly on the following areas:

- Why you use this Post Office and what you like about it
- What you think about any changes to the opening hours
- If you have any comments about how you will access the Post Office products and services that won't be available at the branch if the change goes ahead
- If you have any comments about the potential closure period during the refurbishment or access to other branches in the area

There's also a list of frequently asked questions provided at the end which you may find useful.

It's easy to let us have your feedback by completing our convenient online survey via the following link postofficeviews.co.uk and entering the unique code for this branch 31371599

If you have a QR scanner on your mobile phone, all you need to do is scan here:



Customer information materials are also being displayed in branch and details are published on our website too at postofficeviews.co.uk

We'll be accepting comments up to and including 09 February 2016.

You can also let us have your comments in the following ways:



postofficeviews.co.uk



FREEPOST Your Comments
(This is the full address to use.
No further address or name details are required)



comments@postoffice.co.uk



Customer Helpline: 03457 22 33 44
Textphone: 03457 22 33 55

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We won't be responding to you individually however the feedback received will be taken into consideration as we finalise plans with the Postmaster. We'll write to you again outlining the main comments received and our response to these and also to explain the final plans for the branch. All of the responses received will be provided to the independent statutory consumer watchdog, which in Great Britain is Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland, and in Northern Ireland, the Consumer Council.

When would the changes happen?

We're planning to make these changes in March/April 2016 and we'll put a poster up in branch at least two weeks before to let customers know the exact date and to tell them how we've considered the feedback. We'll make sure any disruption caused by the refurbishment is kept to a minimum.

The following branch will be happy to provide customers with Post Office services during this period.

- Killymoon Street Post Office, 44 Killymoon Street, Cookstown, BT80 8JZ

We'll also be asking customers for their feedback once the changes have taken place and details will be available in branch shortly after the new look branch opens.

Yours sincerely

Damian Mulholland
Area Manager

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Moortown Post Office® services available

Your Postmaster or our Customer Helpline on 03457 223344 will be happy to help you with any queries about product availability or provide you with details of maximum value of transactions. Customers can also shop online at www.postoffice.co.uk

	Current branch	New branch
Mail		
First & Second Class mail	✓	✓
Stamps, stamp books (1 st class 6 & 12 only, 2 nd class 12 only)	✓	✓
Special stamps (Christmas issue only) & postage labels	✓	✓
Signed For	✓	✓
Special Delivery	✓	✓
Home shopping returns	✓	✓
Inland small, medium & large parcels	✓	✓
Express & contract parcels	✓	✓
British Forces Mail (BFPO)	✓	✓
International letters & postcards (inc. signed for & Airsure)	✓	✓
International parcels up to 2kg & printed papers up to 5kg	✓	✓
Parcelforce Worldwide International parcels	✓	✓
Articles for the blind (inland & international)	✓	✓
Royal Mail redirection service	✓	✓
Local Collect	✓	✓
Drop & Go	✓	✓
Withdrawals, deposits and payments		
Post Office Card Account	✓	✓
Personal & Business Banking cash withdrawals, deposits & balance enquiries using a card. Also enveloped cheque deposits and barcoded deposit slips.	✓	✓
Postal orders	✓	✓
Moneygram	✓	✓
Change giving	✓	✓
Bill payments		
Bill payments (card, barcoded or manual)	✓	✓
Key recharging	✓	✓
Transcash (without barcode)	✓	✓
Travel		
Pre-order travel money	✓	✓
On demand travel money	Euros/Dollars	Euros/Dollars
Travel insurance referral	x	✓
On demand travel insurance	✓	x
Mobile Top-ups & E vouchers	✓	✓
National Lottery Terminal	✓	✓
Payment by cheque	✓	✓
Products marked x are available at Killymoon Street Post Office, 44 Killymoon Street, Cookstown, BT80 8JZ		
Opening times: Mon – Fri 09:00 – 17:30 Sat 09:00 – 12:30		



Mr Anthony Tohill - Chief Executive
Mid Ulster Council
50 Ballyronan Road
MAGHERAFELT
BT45 6EN

13 January 2016

Dear Mr Tohill

Clogher Post Office®
45 Main Street, Clogher, BT76 0AA

Changes to your Post Office® - tell us what you think

We're talking to the operator about making some changes to the above Post Office and we'd like you to tell us what you think about the changes before we finalise our plans.

What's happening?

There's an exciting programme of investment and transformation taking place across the Post Office network, helping to make our branches more modern and convenient for you and for the operators who run them. We're talking to the operator about changing to one of our new-style local branches and if the change goes ahead:

- Post Office services would be offered from two screened counters
- The branch would be open for longer: Mon – Sat 08:00 – 20:00.
(Current opening times are: Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 09:00 – 17:30, Thu 09:00 – 16:30 & Sat 09:00 – 12:30)
- Customers will still be able to get most of the Post Office products and services you're used to however for a small number of services you may need to visit an alternative Post Office, go on-line or, telephone our customer helpline. Details of product availability are provided overleaf
- To get the new branch ready, it may need to close for up to seven days during March 2016 for refurbishment

What's next?

We want to know what's important to you and would like you to tell us what you think, particularly on the following areas:

- Why you use this Post Office and what you like about it
- What you think about any changes to the opening hours
- If you have any comments about how you will access the Post Office products and services that won't be available at the branch if the change goes ahead
- If you have any comments about the potential closure period during the refurbishment or access to other branches in the area

There's also a list of frequently asked questions provided at the end which you may find useful.

It's easy to let us have your feedback by completing our convenient online survey via the following link postofficeviews.co.uk and entering the unique code for this branch 25371599

If you have a QR scanner on your mobile phone, all you need to do is scan here:




Customer information materials are also being displayed in branch and details are published on our website too at postofficeviews.co.uk


We'll be accepting comments up to and including 11 February 2016.

You can also let us have your comments in the following ways:

 postofficeviews.co.uk

 FREEPOST Your Comments
(This is the full address to use.
No further address or name details are required)

 comments@postoffice.co.uk

 Customer Helpline: 03457 22 33 44
Textphone: 03457 22 33 55

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When would the changes happen?

We're planning to make these changes in March 2016 and we'll put a poster up in branch at least two weeks before to let customers know the exact date and to tell them how we've considered the feedback. We'll make sure any disruption caused by the refurbishment is kept to a minimum.

The following branch will be happy to provide customers with Post Office services during this period.

- Lisnaskea Post Office, 193 - 195 Main Street, Lisnaskea, BT92 0JE

We'll also be asking customers for their feedback once the changes have taken place and details will be available in branch shortly after the new look branch opens.

Yours sincerely

Damian Mulholland
Area Manager

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Clogher Post Office® services available

Your operator or our Customer Helpline on 03457 223344 will be happy to help you with any queries about product availability or provide you with details of maximum value of transactions. Customers can also shop online at www.postoffice.co.uk

	Current branch	New branch
Mail		
First & Second Class mail	✓	✓
Stamps, stamp books (1 st class 6 & 12 only, 2 nd class 12 only)	✓	✓
Special stamps (Christmas issue only) & postage labels	✓	✓
Signed For	✓	✓
Special Delivery	✓	✓
Home shopping returns	✓	✓
Inland small, medium & large parcels	✓	✓
Express & contract parcels	✓	✓
British Forces Mail (BFPO)	✓	✓
International letters & postcards (inc. signed for & Airsure)	✓	✓
International parcels up to 2kg & printed papers up to 5kg	✓	✓
Parcelforce Worldwide International parcels	✓	✓
Articles for the blind (inland & international)	✓	✓
Royal Mail redirection service	✓	✓
Local Collect	✓	✓
Drop & Go	✓	✓
Withdrawals, deposits and payments		
Post Office Card Account	✓	✓
Personal & Business Banking cash withdrawals, deposits & balance enquiries using a card. Also enveloped cheque deposits and barcoded deposit slips.	✓	✓
Postal orders	✓	✓
Moneygram	✓	✓
Change giving	✓	✓
Bill payments		
Bill payments (card, barcoded or manual)	✓	✓
Key recharging	✓	✓
Transcash (without barcode)	✓	✓
Driving		
Car tax	✓	✓
Travel		
Pre-order travel money	✓	✓
On demand travel money	Euros	Euros
Travel insurance referral	x	✓
On demand travel insurance	✓	x
Mobile Top-ups & E vouchers	✓	✓
National Lottery Terminal	✓	✓
Payment by cheque		
Products marked x are available at Lisnaskea Post Office, 193 – 195 Main Street, Lisnaskea, BT92 0JE	✓	✓
Opening times: Mon & Wed 08:00 – 18:00 Tue & Thu 09:00 – 19:00 Fri 08:00 – 17:30 Sat 09:00 – 17:30		



Mr Anthony Tohill - Chief Executive
Mid Ulster Council
50 Ballyronan Road
MAGHERAFELT
BT45 6EN

13 January 2016

Dear Mr Tohill

Ballyronan Post Office®
124 Shore Road, Ballyronan, Magherafelt, BT45 6JA
Changes to your Post Office® - tell us what you think

We're talking to the operator about making some changes to the above Post Office and we'd like you to tell us what you think about the changes before we finalise our plans.

What's happening?

There's an exciting programme of investment and transformation taking place across the Post Office network, helping to make our branches more modern and convenient for you and for the operators who run them. We're talking to the operator about changing to one of our new-style local branches and if the change goes ahead:

- Post Office services would be offered from a low-screened, open plan style service point, integrated into the retail counter
- The branch would be open for longer: Mon – Fri 08:00 – 20:00 & Sat 09:00 – 13:00. (Current opening times are: Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri 09:00 – 12:30 & 13:30 – 17:00 & Wed 09:00 – 12:30)
- Customers will still be able to get most of the Post Office products and services you're used to however for a small number of services you may need to visit an alternative Post Office, go on-line or, telephone our customer helpline. Details of product availability are provided overleaf
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- Why you use this Post Office and what you like about it
- What you think about the proposed new-look Post Office. For example the Post Office service point would be on the retail counter, so is there anything you'd like to ask us or would like us to take into consideration about the proposed location of the Post Office till or the queuing area
- What you think about any changes to the opening hours
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(This is the full address to use.

No further address or name details are required)



comments@postoffice.co.uk



Customer Helpline: 03457 22 33 44

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When would the changes happen?

We're planning to make these changes in 11 February 2016 and we'll put a poster up in branch at least two weeks before to let customers know the exact date and to tell them how we've considered the feedback. We'll make sure any disruption caused by the refurbishment is kept to a minimum.

The following branch will be happy to provide customers with Post Office services during this period.

- Magherafelt Post Office, 12 Union Street, Magherafelt, BT45 5DF

We'll also be asking customers for their feedback once the changes have taken place and details will be available in branch shortly after the new look branch opens.

Yours sincerely

Damian Mulholland
Area Manager

To get this information in a different format, for example, in larger print, audio or braille please contact the Customer Helpline on 03457 22 33 44 or Textphone 03457 22 33 55.

This communication process has been agreed with the independent statutory consumer watchdog, which in Great Britain is Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland, and in Northern Ireland, the Consumer Council, and is being carried out in line with our Code of Practice for changes to the Post Office network, which we have agreed with them. If you'd like copies of the Code they are available in branch, or by contacting us or on our website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/transforming-post-office. If you think that the process has not been properly followed and wish to make a complaint, then please write to us or email us via the contact details included in our posters and letters and let us know why. We'll examine your complaint and respond to you as soon as we can. We will provide you with the relevant contact points for the consumer watchdog, so if you are still not satisfied when you have received our response, you can ask them for their assistance.

Ballyronan Post Office® services available

Your operator or our Customer Helpline on 03457 223344 will be happy to help you with any queries about product availability or provide you with details of maximum value of transactions. Customers can also shop online at www.postoffice.co.uk

	Current branch	New branch
Mail		
First & Second Class mail	✓	✓
Stamps, stamp books (1 st class 6 & 12 only, 2 nd class 12 only)	✓	✓
Special stamps (Christmas issue only) & postage labels	✓	✓
Signed For	✓	✓
Special Delivery	✓	✓
Home shopping returns	✓	✓
Inland small, medium & large parcels	✓	✓
Express & contract parcels	✓	Express 24 & 48
British Forces Mail (BFPO)	✓	✓
International letters & postcards (inc. signed for & Airsure)	✓	✓
International parcels up to 2kg & printed papers up to 5kg	✓	✓
Parcelforce Worldwide International parcels	✓	x
Articles for the blind (inland & international)	✓	✓
Royal Mail redirection service	✓	✓
Local Collect	✓	✓
Drop & Go	✓	✓
Withdrawals, deposits and payments		
Post Office Card Account	✓	✓
Personal & Business Banking cash withdrawals, deposits & balance enquiries using a card. Also enveloped cheque deposits and barcoded deposit slips.	✓	✓
Postal orders	✓	✓
Moneygram	✓	✓
Bill payments		
Automated bill payments (card or barcoded)	✓	✓
Key recharging	✓	✓
Transcash (without barcode)	✓	x
Travel		
Pre-order travel money	✓	✓
Travel insurance referral	✓	✓
Mobile Top-ups & E vouchers		
	✓	✓
Payment by cheque		
	✓	x
Products marked x are available at Magherafelt Post Office, 12 Union Street, Magherafelt, BT45 5DF.		
Opening times: Mon – Sat 09:00 – 17:30		



Mr Anthony Tohill - Chief Executive
Mid Ulster Council
50 Ballyronan Road
MAGHERAFELT
BT45 6EN

14 January 2016

Dear Mr Tohill

Tamnamore Post Office®
212 Ballynakilly Road, Dungannon, BT71 6HJ

Changes to your Post Office® - tell us what you think

We're talking to the operator about making some changes to the above Post Office and we'd like you to tell us what you think about the changes before we finalise our plans.

What's happening?

There's an exciting programme of investment and transformation taking place across the Post Office network, helping to make our branches more modern and convenient for you and for the operators who run them. We're talking to the operator about changing to one of our new-style local branches and if the change goes ahead:

- Post Office services would be offered from a low-screened, open plan style service point, integrated into the retail counter
- The branch would be open for longer: Mon – Sun 06:00 – 23:00.
(Current opening times are: Mon - Sat 09:00 – 13:30 & 14:00 – 18:00 & Sun 13:00 – 18:00).
- Customers will still be able to get most of the Post Office products and services you're used to however for a small number of services you may need to visit an alternative Post Office, go on-line or, telephone our customer helpline. Details of product availability are provided overleaf
- To get the new branch ready, it may need to close for up to seven days during April/May 2016 for refurbishment

What's next?

We want to know what's important to you and would like you to tell us what you think, particularly on the following areas:

- Why you use this Post Office and what you like about it
- What you think about the proposed new-look Post Office. For example the Post Office service point would be on the retail counter, so is there anything you'd like to ask us or would like us to take into consideration about the proposed location of the Post Office till or the queuing area
- What you think about any changes to the opening hours
- If you have any comments about how you will access the Post Office products and services that won't be available at the branch if the change goes ahead
- If you have any comments about the potential closure period during the refurbishment or access to other branches in the area

There's also a list of frequently asked questions provided at the end which you may find useful.

It's easy to let us have your feedback by completing our convenient online survey via the following link postofficeviews.co.uk and entering the unique code for this branch 21571599

If you have a QR scanner on your mobile phone, all you need to do is scan here:



Customer information materials are also being displayed in branch and details are published on our website too at postofficeviews.co.uk

We'll be accepting comments up to and including 12 February 2016.

You can also let us have your comments in the following ways:



postofficeviews.co.uk



FREEPOST Your Comments

(This is the full address to use.

No further address or name details are required)



comments@postoffice.co.uk



Customer Helpline: 03457 22 33 44

Textphone: 03457 22 33 55

Please note that items sent by Freepost take 2 working days to arrive and don't include Saturday or Sunday. Therefore please do allow sufficient time for your comments to arrive before the end of the consultation period, as we are unable to consider feedback received after the deadline.

We won't be responding to you individually however the feedback received will be taken into consideration as we finalise plans with the operator. We'll write to you again outlining the main comments received and our response to these and also to explain the final plans for the branch. All of the responses received will be provided to the independent statutory consumer watchdog, which in Great Britain is Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland, and in Northern Ireland, the Consumer Council.

When would the changes happen?

We're planning to make these changes in April/May 2016 and we'll put a poster up in branch at least two weeks before to let customers know the exact date and to tell them how we've considered the feedback. We'll make sure any disruption caused by the refurbishment is kept to a minimum.

The following branch will be happy to provide customers with Post Office services during this period.

- Coalisland Post Office, 30 Dungannon Road, Coalisland, Dungannon, BT71 4HP

We'll also be asking customers for their feedback once the changes have taken place and details will be available in branch shortly after the new look branch opens.

Yours sincerely

Damian Mulholland
Area Manager

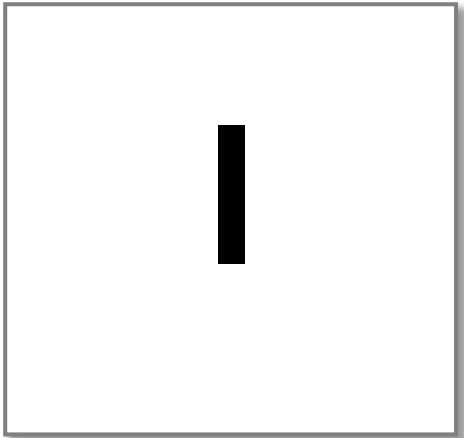
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Tamnamore Post Office® services available

Your operator or our Customer Helpline on 03457 223344 will be happy to help you with any queries about product availability or provide you with details of maximum value of transactions. Customers can also shop online at www.postoffice.co.uk

	Current branch	New branch
Mail		
First & Second Class mail	✓	✓
Stamps, stamp books (1 st class 6 & 12 only, 2 nd class 12 only)	✓	✓
Special stamps (Christmas issue only) & postage labels	✓	✓
Signed For	✓	✓
Special Delivery	✓	✓
Home shopping returns	✓	✓
Inland small, medium & large parcels	✓	✓
Express & contract parcels	✓	✓
British Forces Mail (BFPO)	✓	✓
International letters & postcards (inc. signed for & Airsure)	✓	✓
International parcels up to 2kg & printed papers up to 5kg	✓	✓
Parcelforce Worldwide International parcels	✓	✓
Articles for the blind (inland & international)	✓	✓
Royal Mail redirection service	✓	✓
Local Collect	✓	✓
Drop & Go	✓	✓
Withdrawals, deposits and payments		
Post Office Card Account	✓	✓
Personal & Business Banking cash withdrawals, deposits & balance enquiries using a card. Also enveloped cheque deposits and barcoded deposit slips.	✓	✓
Postal orders	✓	✓
Moneygram	✓	✓
Bill payments		
Bill payments (card, barcoded or manual)	✓	✓
Key recharging	✓	✓
Transcash (without barcode)	✓	✓
Travel		
Pre-order travel money	✓	✓
On demand travel money	Euros	Euros
Travel insurance referral	✓	✓
Mobile Top-ups & E vouchers		
Mobile Top-ups & E vouchers	✓	✓
National Lottery Terminal	✓	✓
Payment by cheque	✓	✓
Other Products are available at Coalisland Post Office, 30 Dungannon Road, Coalisland, Dungannon, BT71 4HP		
Opening times: Mon – Sat 09:00 – 17:30		



Subject	Correspondence to Council
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	Provide correspondence received to be brought to the attention of Council.

2	Background
2.1	<p>This paper makes reference to and provides correspondence received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark H Durkan MLA, Minister of the Environment in response to Mid Ulster District Council's request to extend financial support under the Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance to business premises and community buildings affected by flooding The Syrian Resettlement Correspondence Team within the Home Office following correspondence from the Chair of the Council to the Prime Minister

3	Key Issues
3.1	<p>Letter from Minister of the Environment:</p> <p>The Council carried the following motion as noted below at its meeting of Thursday 17 December:</p> <p><i>'That Mid Ulster District Council calls for an urgent meeting with DARD / Rivers Agency, Linen Green Management and Transport NI to discuss the serious flooding at the Linen Green and demands that urgent action be immediately taken to clear all designated waterways in the Moygashel area. Also calls for the extension of the current Emergency Flooding Hardship fund to include businesses, as well as domestic dwellings. Further acknowledges the positive and constructive response from Council Officers in arranging immediate emergency support and also work carried out to date by the Rivers Agency'</i></p>
3.2	<p>Councillor Dillon, Chair corresponded with the Minister of the Environment requesting that the Emergency Flooding Hardship fund be extended to include business premises and community buildings, as well as domestic dwellings. The response is attached as Appendix 1.</p>
3.3	<p>Letter from Syrian Resettlement Team:</p> <p>A special Council meeting was held on 10 September to discuss the humanitarian and refugee crisis unfolding in Europe at that time. The Chair wrote to the Governments following the meeting and Appendix 2 provides the response from the British Government.</p>

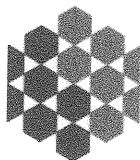
4	Resources
4.1	<u>Financial</u> N/A
4.2	<u>Human</u> N/A
4.3	<u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u> N/A
4.4	<u>Other</u> N/A

5	Other Considerations
5.1	N/A

6	Recommendations
6.1	That council notes receipt of the correspondence to Councillor Dillon, Chair, Mid Ulster District Council

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	Appendix 1: Letter from Mark H Durkan MLA, Minister of the Environment Appendix 2: Letter from Syrian Resettlement Correspondence Team

From the office of the
Minister of the Environment



Department of the
Environment

www.doeni.gov.uk

Received

18 JAN 2016

Chief Executive

Councillor Linda Dillon
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council
Dungannon Office
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

DoE Private Office
8th Floor
Goodwood House
44 - 58 May Street
Town Parks
BELFAST
BT1 4NN

Telephone: 028 902 56019

Email: private.office@doeni.gov.uk

Your reference:

Our reference: COR/2119/2015

12 January 2016

Dear Linda

Thank you for your letter of 22 December 2015 regarding flooding financial support for households, business premises and community buildings.

As you are aware there is currently a Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance to District Councils in operation, running from 7 November 2015 to 31 January 2016. I activated this Scheme following reports of internal flooding after a period of heavy rain. Under this Scheme emergency funds are available to cover council costs incurred when responding to the needs of householders across the North in the event of any flooding following Rainfall or Tidal Surge. In addition the Scheme includes an immediate payment of £1,000 to householders who have suffered severe inconvenience, as practical assistance to help make homes habitable as quickly as possible.

I am aware that it was not just private dwelling homes that were damaged by the recent flooding but also a number of businesses and community facilities. Currently the Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance does not extend to small businesses and community facilities damaged by flooding. On 23 November 2015 I circulated a paper to my ministerial colleagues in the Executive seeking approval to extend the Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance so that small businesses and, indeed, community facilities and churches can also avail of it. While Executive agreement to this extension is not, as yet, forthcoming, I will continue to make what I believe is a strong case for extension and I am hopeful that agreement will be reached without much further delay.

Yours sincerely

MARK H DURKAN MLA
Minister of the Environment



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

22 December 2015

Minister Mark H Durkan
Minister of the Environment
Department for the Environment
Goodwood House
44 - 58 May Street
Town Parks
BELFAST BT1 4NN

Dear Minister

I write following a discussion at a meeting of Mid Ulster District Council concerning damage caused by flooding to households, business premises and community buildings within our District as a result of the recent adverse weather conditions.

The Council area was affected by flooding, with business premises and community buildings particularly affected in the Dungannon area. The Council therefore requests that consideration be given to the extension of the current Emergency Flooding Hardship Fund to include business premises and community buildings, as well as domestic dwellings, in an effort to assist all those affected by flooding.

I trust that you will give this request favorable consideration.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Linda Dillon
Chair



Home Office

Direct Communications Unit
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 020 7035 4848
Fax: 020 7035 4745
www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Received

21 JAN 2016

Chief Executive

Councillor Linda Dillon
Mid Ulster Council
Cookstown Office
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

Reference: T14607/15

Date: 13 January 2016

Dear Councillor Dillon

Thank you for your letter of 30 September to the Prime Minister regarding the Syrian refugee situation. Your letter has been passed to the Syrian Resettlement Correspondence Team at the Home Office and I have been asked to reply. I am sorry for the delay in responding to your letter.

The Government is clear about our moral responsibility to assist those who are suffering as a result of conflict in the world. We are proud of our tradition of providing protection to genuine refugees. We recognise that many people in the UK are concerned about the refugee crisis but do not think the solution to the problem is simply for the UK to accept more refugees.

It may be helpful if I explain our position and some of the measures that we are taking in order to address the current migrant situation in Europe. Our priority is to continue to provide humanitarian aid to those most in need in the region, while actively seeking an end to the crisis. We believe this approach is the best way to ensure that the UK's help has the greatest impact for the majority of refugees who remain in the region and their host countries.

We have already committed more than £1.1 billion in humanitarian aid to the Syrian conflict - more than any other country in the world except the United States. The UK is one of only a few EU countries to fulfil its commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) to international aid and we should be proud of this.

By the end of June 2015, UK support had delivered almost 20 million food rations, each of which feeds one person for one month, shelter for over 416,000 people, relief items for 4.6 million people, resulted in over 7.2 million instances when people benefited from sanitation and hygiene activities, provided access to clean water for 1.6 million people in Syria and over 980,000 people in neighbouring countries (peak month), and over 2.5 million medical consultations in Syria and the region.

We are also supporting the EU's proposals for sustainable protection through Regional Development and Protection Programmes in the Middle East, North Africa and the Horn of Africa. These programmes will improve the conditions for refugees seeking protection in their region of origin until they are able to return to their homes, will improve economic opportunities for refugees and host communities, and will improve the asylum systems of host governments. Enhanced, safer and more sustainable regional protection is key to protecting those in genuine need of refuge, and preventing further dangerous journeys to Europe.

On behalf of Richard Harrington, Minister for Syrian Refugees, I would like to thank Mid Ulster Council for your support for the resettlement programme. The response of the public has been one of overwhelming generosity and we thank you for being part of that response.

The Government is working closely with the Office of the First and deputy First Minister to support Northern Ireland in delivering its generous offers of assistance. I am very pleased that these arrangements have worked well in enabling Northern Ireland to receive its first intake of Syrian refugees on 15 December last year.

I hope you find this response is helpful in explaining the Government's position.

Yours sincerely,



J Morrell

Syrian Resettlement Correspondence Team

Email: Public.Enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk