

APPENDIX 1

PHOTOS OF MINISTERIAL LAUNCH OF MID ULSTER COUNCIL'S £1 MILLION BUSINESS SUPPORT PACKAGE 27 AUGUST 2020 AT PJD SAFETY SUPPLIES, BALLYGAWLEY



Councillor Mallaghan, Council Chair welcomes Economy Minister, Diane Dodds to Mid Ulster to launch the £1m suite of business programmes



Minister Dodds, pictured with Council Chair, Cllr Mallaghan, and participant businesses on the programmes along with Invest NI



Minister Dodds pictured with Paul Coote, owner of PJD Safety Supplies Ltd, Ballygawley and his team who hosted the launch on their premises.



Pictured with Minister Dodds is Council Chair, Cllr Mallaghan, Deputy Chair, Cllr Graham and Paul Coote, PJD Safety Supplies



Pictured are Council Members who attended the visit by Minister Dodds to Launch Council's £1m business support package



Council Chair, Cllr Mallaghan presents Minister Dodds with a gift to mark her visit

Appendix 1

MINUTES OF COOKSTOWN TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 12.30 PM IN THE CHAMBER, MUDC OFFICES, COOKSTOWN

Present:

TP Sheehy	Small Independent Retailer
Councillor Hughes	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Mallaghan	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Wilson	Mid Ulster District Council
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities
Tom Jebb	Vintners Association
Paul Wilson	Large Independent Retailer
Peter Beckett	Large Retailer
Sean MacMahon	Property Developer
Hazel McKenzie	Cookstown North Community Association
Bernie Sonner	Tenants Association
Mary McCullagh	Mid Ulster District Council

In attendance: Deborah Ewing Mid Ulster District Council

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor John McNamee Mid Ulster District Council; Raymond McGarvey, Chamber of Commerce; Andrew McConnell, Large Independent Retailer; Jim Eastwood, Cookstown Enterprise; Adrian McCreesh, Mid Ulster District Council; Fiona McKeown, Mid Ulster District Council, Annette McGahan, Mid Ulster District Council, Inspector Daniel Walsh, PSNI and Ursula Marshall, Cookstown Disability Forum.

Vice Chair, TP Sheehy, chaired the meeting due to Councillor McNamee's absence.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by P Anderson and seconded by Councillor Hughes to ADOPT the minutes of the Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 29 May 2019.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There were no matters arising from minutes.

4. TO RECEIVE AND DISCUSS DRAFT RESPONSE TO BUSINESS RATES CONSULTATION

M McCullagh advised that she had prepared a draft response which is to be returned to the Department of Finance by Monday 11 November 2019. The proposed response was circulated to members via email on 5 November 2019 for members to read prior to the meeting.

M McCullagh advised that Alan Bronte, Department of Finance, had conducted a presentation in Dungannon which was open to all retailers across the Mid Ulster District. M McCullagh was in attendance at the meeting and has drafted this response based on comments and observations made at the meeting. She stated that this is only in draft format at present and all comments will be taken on board and reviewed prior to the final version being submitted on behalf of Cookstown Town Centre Forum.

The floor was opened to members for discussion on the proposal.

S MacMahon commented on planning issues in terms of commercial property and noted that the Historical Buildings and Planning Department do not always work in tandem when taking into account certain issues with regards to listed buildings and having them delisted. Councillor Mallaghan advised that the Planning Department do not have authority to delist a building and stated that they are aware of issues and they try to take a flexible view on listed buildings where appropriate. He also stated that there other Departments and utilities which have to be liaised with prior to any decisions being taken on listed buildings.

T Jebb stated that commercial property is paying too much proportionally at present. TP Sheehy also stated that retail on the high street at present is at an all-time low. He stated that the retail parks at each end of the town have been detrimental to business and with the increase in internet sales the footfall is down with takings down by approximately ¼. He advised that rental and rates are a major concern for town centre businesses, stating that if he had to pay rent then the business would not survive.

Councillor Wilson commented that the meeting with Alan Bronte was a revelation and stated that all Mid Ulster Councillors are in agreement that something needs to be done to help local town centre businesses. He stated that there is no additional money to offset rates reduction. The meeting held in Belfast with high street retailers shows that people are starting to think outside the box with proposals to introduce mobile phone tax.

T Jebb agreed that the meeting was sympathetic with commercial property owners but stated that he did not agree with vacant property tax increase as if a tenant leaves it can be difficult to raise the money required to cover this. He stated that it is also a bad market for selling commercial property at present. S MacMahon concurred stating that rates can

cost more than rent. T Jebb stated that renting property to charities for free should enable them to remain rate free also. Councillor Wilson commented that there are many charity shops in the town centres at present – this is not a reflection on charity shops but he stated that there should be a balance.

P Beckett informed members that his business has also seen a decline in market due to online sales and agrees that online tax should be an option – online businesses are not paying rates or rent so should be taxed in other avenues. He stated that the internet is not only affecting small retailers but large retailers, providing an example of Mothercare going into administration. The ordering and service i.e. free delivery and returns make it hard to compete.

P Anderson also attended the meeting in Belfast called the Innovation Lab, and advised that they are recognising that town and city centres are being crippled by these issues across the board. A lot of discussion took place on rates, rent and online sales but they also discussed the possibility of car parking charges increasing to compensate against rates – or would this push people further away. He stated that should they receive further information on the issues he will report back with more information.

Members discussed online sales and possible tax options in detail as potential areas to be included in the response letter. The possibility of charging for car parking in each town centre was also discussed, with Councillor Wilson advising that this occurred in Belfast and traders noticed a drop in footfall.

M McCullagh advised that she will incorporate proposed suggestions but advised members that they can forward any further suggestions by 12 Noon on Friday 8th November 2019.

5. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON MID ULSTER TOWN CENTRE PROJECTS

M McCullagh provided an update on Mid Ulster Town Centre Projects as follows:

a) Marketing & Promotion

i) Marketing & Promotion across Mid Ulster Towns

A comprehensive marketing and promotional campaign will be delivered for Christmas in Cookstown over a number of platforms i.e. bus rears/social media/billboards and local press. There are plans to run the Small Business Saturday competition in Cookstown for Saturday 7 December 2019 for every customer that spends £10 in town centre businesses that they are entered into a prize draw. Information will be distributed to town centre businesses in the next few days, asking for interested businesses to sign up.

ii) Town Centre Branding

Council have been successful in obtaining funding from the Department for Communities to upgrade the A29 Roundabout to reflect the newly refreshed brand of 'Cookstown Looking Good, Feeling Great'. It is anticipated that the project will be complete by 31 March 2020.

Tenders have been completed for branded merchandise for town centre, which will include branded shopping bags. Merchandise will be distributed in due course.

b) Town Centre Events

i) Cookstown Christmas Lights 2019

Cookstown Christmas lights switch on will take place on Friday 22 November 2019 commencing at 6pm with light switch on at approximately 7.15pm. Entertainment at the event will include a Lion King parade and musical entertainment on stage from Craft Crows, Stewartstown Panto, and Tullylagan Pipe Band. Other activities will include the gaming bus, Art Cart, Jumping Clay and various walkabouts.

Road diversions will be in place from 5pm – 9.15pm. Letters with all information will be hand delivered to traders next week.

ii) Cookstown Continental Market 2020

Marketplace Europe have been in contact to request that Cookstown host a Continental Market in 2020. The proposed dates are Saturday 30 May to Sunday 31 May 2020. M McCullagh advised that feedback received from the 2019 event has been generally positive with footfall to the town still large. While members acknowledged that not all local businesses do well during the event, they agreed that the increase in footfall and publicity for the town is good. TP Sheehy stated that his personal view is that it is good for the town and the diverse mix of traders at the event added to its success.

Councillor Wilson advised that this date may not coincide with the Pipe Band competition in 2020 but will advise as soon as possible when final dates are confirmed. It was noted that the 2 events worked well in tandem the past few years.

c) Physical Regeneration/Improving Infrastructure

i) Rural Regeneration Projects

There are 37 villages who will access funding to develop and deliver projects identified through their respective village plans. Assistance will be provided to the following villages within the former Cookstown District: Pomeroy; Ardboe; Stewartstown; Sandholes; Coagh/Drummullan; Rock; Ballyronan; Moortown' Churchtown/Lissan; and Orritor/Broughderg.

Meetings have taken place to finalise projects and move them to the next stage involving an appointed professional led design team. The following projects have been completed: Ardboe, Ballyronan, Orritor, Lissan and Coagh.

ii) Mid Ulster Town & Village Spruce Up Scheme

Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme offers discretionary grants of up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000 per property for external and/or internal improvements. The scheme was open to both occupied commercial premises and vacant/derelict units within the town centre boundary of each of the towns and

development limits of the eligible villages as per the proposed Mid Ulster Settlement Report as per the draft Local Development Plan (2030).

Knox & Clayton Architects were appointed as independent consultants to assist in the delivery of the Scheme – which includes assessment of applications and management and monitoring of the successful projects.

The Scheme opened for applications on Monday 19 August 2019 and closed for applications at 4pm on Wednesday 18 September 2019. 12 business clinics were delivered during the open period across the Mid Ulster District Council area.

A report of recommended applications will be submitted to Development Committee on 14 November 2019. Members were advised that applicants will be notified on their outcome approximately 2 December 2019.

iii) Town Centre Enhancement

A range of town centre enhancement proposals for Cookstown has been put forward which are due to be completed by 31 March 2020. These proposals will be subject to funding and are being prioritised. The list of proposals are as follows:

- Replacement hoarding and vinyl A29 Roundabout
- Powerwashing of main retail core (paved areas)
- Replacement of street banners
- Replacement hoarding and vinyl 40 Oldtown Street
- Replacement hoarding and vinyl 1 Killymoon Street

Councillor Wilson advised that the road at Broadfields Retail Park is not adopted and there is no street lighting which is also an issue. Members expressed their disappointment in landowners not carrying out remedial works themselves and stated that they should be held accountable in some regard.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

M McCullagh advised members on the Mid Ulster Enterprise Week which is the first time that the Council has delivered a high range of free events throughout the district in one week. A copy of the programme was distributed to members who were asked to spread the word. Registration for each of the events will take place on Eventbrite with links available on the Council website.

M McCullagh updated members that gas works are completed within the town at present. She is not aware of any other works taking place in the town centre at present.

7. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be arranged. Members will be notified accordingly.

The meeting ended at 1.10pm

MINUTES OF COOKSTOWN TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM
ON MONDAY 15 JUNE 2020 AT 12.30 PM

Present:

Councillor McNamee	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Hughes	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Mallaghan	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Wilson	Mid Ulster District Council
Tom Jebb	Vintners Association
Ursula Marshall	Cookstown Disability Forum
Bernie Sonners	
Annette McGahan	Mid Ulster PCSP
Andrew McConnell	Large Independent Retailer
Paul Wilson	Large Independent Retailer
Sean MacMahon	
Mary McCullagh	Mid Ulster District Council
Adrian McCreesh	Mid Ulster District Council
Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council

In attendance: Deborah Ewing Mid Ulster District Council

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor W Buchanan, Councillor M Glasgow, TP Sheehy, Peter Beckett, and Danny Walsh, PSNI.

Councillor J McNamee welcomed everyone to the meeting. This meeting has been organised as a one item agenda to discuss the actions contained within the draft Town Centre Recovery Plan.

2. TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY PLAN

Councillor J McNamee advised that the Town Regeneration Managers have been tasked with developing a Town Centre Recovery Plan for the towns of Mid Ulster. M McCullagh provided an overview of the key actions proposed to date:

The Council are working based on the Institute of Place Management Recovery Framework. This is a 4 stage approach:

Crisis – The first stage ‘crisis’ is where towns and cities have been in, with lockdowns and closures of all business premises apart from essential retail, and with the majority of the population working or learning from home, many town centres are currently deserted. The crisis stage focused on how town centres acted immediately, supporting and helping stakeholders through the initial stages of the crisis, with some businesses switching or offering online trading. This stage involved gathering evidence and signposting, meeting with key stakeholders and distributing relevant information.

Pre-recovery – The ‘pre-recovery’ stage is a crucial step towards planning for the recovery. It involves working together on good ideas and plans to encourage footfall back to the town with recovery dependent on building more local capacity for action and effective mechanisms for coordinating this. During and after lockdown, it is anticipated that town centres will undergo a period of change, and it is unlikely that businesses that do not have, at least, some online presence for communicating with customers can survive. At present approximately 75% of town businesses in Cookstown town centre boundary have at least one method of online presence.

Recovery – The ‘recovery’ stage aims to provide guidance on the tasks that should be undertaken once the lockdown measures start to be lifted in order to get businesses operational and to encourage footfall back to towns. There will be no one-size-fits-all solution, however learning how other towns and places across the UK and globally are recovering will be crucial for town centres to learn from each other and adopt suitable approaches or new remedial action. There will be an immediate need to react quickly in order to revise plans that do not work. Working together will ensure that the measures undertaken will hopefully drive footfall back to our town centres, safely i.e. outdoor spaces and how to support this through recovery to get to the transformation stage.

Transformation – Finally, the ‘transformation’ stage brings together lessons learnt from the three previous stages and will contribute to assisting town centres to improve the place – to do more than recover but to innovate and address new challenges, such as going digital, new social distancing measures etc. In many ways, the transformation stage will be about adapting to the ‘new normal’, which will reflect both the economic and social impact of coronavirus in our towns and cities and mitigating measures.

M McCullagh stated that Northern Ireland is now rapidly moving towards the recovery phase with changes to lockdown measures updating at an advanced pace than anticipated. Town Regeneration Managers have been reviewing good practice on how town centres are rebuilding and coming out of pre recovery and identifying what measures Council can assist with to encourage the recovery to our town centres.

As previously advised 75% of Cookstown town centre businesses have a minimum of 1 online presence i.e. website, Facebook page, twitter etc. She noted that A McConnell, Blacks Shoes, Adrian & Co Jewellers are examples of businesses who pushed forward during this difficult time with their digital presence.

Council are at present working on a proposal to Department for Communities to access funding towards assistance for the re-opening of town centres. Council are also lobbying

Government to access a similar scheme to those currently in England such as the Future High Street Fund and/or Reopening High Street Safely.

The proposals which Council are considering to assist town centres will potentially include:

- A small business grant which will be open to all town centre businesses for the purchase of PPE, awnings, customer signage, etc. potentially up to £5,000.
- Providing an covered area within the town centre to encourage pavement cafes – potentially located at the Burnavon.
- Webinars and digital support programmes for town centre businesses
- Social distancing measures – using 2 metre social distance at present and keeping in mind footpath space
- Intensive marketing programme.

A McCreesh stated that it was good to see the businesses and the town back up and running again. He advised members on the current situation with Council: over 300 staff on furlough until income generated premises are able to open again; over £700,000 is being lost per month due to loss of income and expenditure which will impact on what Council can do going ahead. He commended the essential staff who have worked throughout the pandemic and advised that during this time there were 3 Council meetings and 8/9 Committee meetings held.

Going forward he anticipates that the high streets will have to be substantially redesigned to make the town centre more attractive to new generations i.e. re-configuring buildings to enable them to be fit for purpose – knocking down 2 buildings to create a new version. The on-street café/cultural activity will be critical moving forward – this may include businesses moving out onto the main street. However, moving onto the street will involve legislation being correct and in place before any new measures can be put in place.

He commended A McConnell for his use of social media platforms during this time – going forward Council will propose to provide support programmes to help businesses increase their online presence.

F McKeown advised that the Mid Ulster Digital First Programme is currently open for applications. The programme provides assistance with online support to help build your businesses digital capacity, providing expertise to help adopt new technologies and strategies to grow online presence and sales.

U Marshall sought clarification on the opening of public toilets. She also stated that whilst she is in support of the café culture and street furniture outside to enable businesses to survive, Council must take into consideration the other street furniture already in place on the town centre as well as placing obstacles in the area which will hinder people with visibility, wheelchair users etc.

A McCreesh advised that public toilets are kept under review on a day to day basis. At present public toilets in each of the towns are not open which is based on the hygiene direction at present. The public toilets in some of the parks and open spaces have been re-opened at present which are kept under review.

He advised that he is aware businesses are requiring to utilize frontages to enable them to remain viable, however this will only be permitted after consultation with Disability Forum and when appropriate legislation has been put in place.

Councillor Hughes advised that she is aware of businesses using online videos to promote themselves at present. She recommended that town traders market their services via online shop windows which could send out mail shot offering discounts etc.

F McKeown advised that Councillor Hughes is correct and resilience videos are being conducted with local businesses at present. These are uploaded to Council's social media channels to encourage other businesses throughout the pandemic. She advised that it is Council's aspiration to have a platform, subject to funding, to develop and take forward which will enable each business to advertise their offers. Without a platform, Council cannot be seen to promote one business over another.

M McCullagh also advised that Council are investigating the possibility of a Mid Ulster Gift Card which will be open for businesses across Mid Ulster to sign up to.

T Jebb raised concerns on the 2 metre restriction for bars and restaurants advising that it is not practical. He proposed that he would utilize the car park at the rear of the bar to enable more customers and to accommodate restrictions but noted that there may be an issue with PSNI.

A McCreesh addressed the query raised by T Jebb advising that the NI Executive are currently deliberating on the 2 metre restriction and any updates will be notified. He advised that Environmental Health would monitor any of these types of request in conjunction with PSNI.

A McConnell advised that he had become vocal on social media towards the end of the lift of restrictions for retail businesses and expressed his opinion that Council did not utilise any grey areas that existed within the Executive announcement. He thanked everyone who had been in touch and assisted in lobbying for re-opening. He also expressed his concerns on the public toilets not being open in the town which is a major issue for visitors to the town and has to be a health and safety issue. This also results in people utilising other areas of the town as a toilet which is unhygienic and detrimental to the town.

He sought clarification on when traffic wardens would be back and visible in the town centres which will help dissuade abuse of parking restrictions on the main thoroughfare. He also welcomed the grant for PPE and advised that it cost approximately £3,000 to £4,000 to prepare his business for opening so any help would be appreciated by businesses. He requested that businesses are supported in completing applications and that the requirement for quotations especially in relation to PPE be reviewed.

Councillor J McNamee agreed that it is of key importance to open public toilets in the town centres, especially as no toilets are available due to closure of restaurants, cafes and bars. He also added that if Railway Park in Dungannon is being facilitated then so

should town centres. He also stated that the bureaucracy involved in small grants should be simplified to make the process easier for businesses.

A McCreesh agreed to take the concerns forward. He advised that DFI have advised that traffic wardens will be returning Thursday 18 June 2020 and that parking restrictions will be in place from this date forward. He also advised that the Government stipulates the grant criteria which Council are responsible to deliver effectively and efficiently. He advised that an urban response will be sent to the Minister raising any issues and stated that there is a 3 week window for the re-opening of the hospitality industry.

A McConnell requested that an update on any potential public utility works is provided for the summer periods and requested that they are kept to a minimum. Councillor T Wilson also advised that he had received several complaints with regards to works taking place in the Tullagh area. M McCullagh stated that NI Water are currently working on Westland Road but are expected to finish within the next few days. She advised that a Gas to the West meeting has been organised with Council for Wednesday 17 June 2020 but indications are that works will be within estates and not on any main roads. She will advise of the outcome in due course.

A McCreesh requested that if there are any significant public utility works issues raised in the future that the provider is invited to a Zoom meeting with members to discuss.

B Sonners sought clarification on when play parks would be open as there has been incidents of people climbing over fencing to use the facilities. A McCreesh advised that at present the guidance states not to open play parks due to touch points being unmanageable at present. Councillor J McNamee advised that this situation will be reported to relevant personnel within Council.

B Sonners also raised concerns on the vandilisation of public toilets in Drum Manor Forest and asked that this forwarded to the appropriate agency and fixed prior to opening.

3. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

A McCreesh suggested to keep the momentum meetings should take place on a regular basis, subject to agreement from members. Councillor J McNamee advised that an Annual General Meeting is due to take place in the near future and that future meetings will be discussed and agreed by Chair and Town Regeneration Managers. Members will be notified in due course.

The meeting ended at 1.35pm

Appendix 2

Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum Meeting **Monday 2nd March 2020 at 5.30pm** **Cornmill Heritage Centre** **Coalisland**

Present

Raymond O'Neill	Coalisland Traders Association (Chair)
Cllr Niamh Doris	Mid Ulster District Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr Joe O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Malachy Quinn	Mid Ulster District Council (arrived 5.45pm)
Melanie Campbell	Coalisland & District Development Association
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Wendy Lowe	Trader Representative

In Attendance

Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council
Catherine Fox	Mid Ulster District Council
Oliver Donnelly	Mid Ulster District Council
Mark Leavey	Mid Ulster District Council
Michael McGibbon	Mid Ulster District Council
Gail Lees	Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION																								
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2.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting Monday 3rd February 2020</p> <p>Proposed by R O'Neill</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr Doris and agreed: -</p>																								

	The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3 rd February 2020 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.
3.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting</p> <p>Rates C Fox stated that if anyone wanted to question their rates valuation to get in contact with LPS where updates are available from Dept. of Finance website.</p> <p>Brackaville Bus Shelter Cllr Doris reported that discussion was ongoing as location of bus shelter has to be decided.</p>
4.	<p>Coalisland Project Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Coalisland Public Realm Scheme</p> <p>M Leavey updated the Forum stating Fox Contracts were progressing well with developments.</p> <p>The Stop & Go in situ at the Dungannon Road was an effective measure to manage traffic flow in area.</p> <p>R O'Neill stated the one-way system on the Stewartstown Road was still causing problems with traffic and queried who was accountable in relation to revenue loss. Members were informed DfI are responsible for the legislation of the one-way system.</p> <p>Coalisland Events</p> <p>C Fox outlined all dates scheduled to take place in Coalisland 2020.</p> <p>Summer – Friday 26th June 2020 In reference to the Summer Bash 5/ 10k event Keep er Lit in association with Newell Stores are required to carry out a road traffic management plan. Colin stated the event had won an award at a recent ceremony.</p> <p>C Fox informed members that another event, organized by various GAA clubs locally was scheduled to take place on the same night and to be aware of it. Any club interested in availing of grants to run individual events should contact Philip Clarke in MUDC for further information.</p> <p>Halloween – Saturday 31st October 2020 Forum requested a list of entertainers/entertainment be presented at next meeting. Cllr O'Neill queried training for stewarding. O Donnelly informed the Forum that all Council employees have been trained. Cllr Doris queried if PCSP could deliver training to Forum Members.</p> <p>Action: O Donnelly to liaise with PCSP regarding training.</p>

	<p>R O'Neill queried whether the Coalisland Connects Group could become constituted to be eligible to apply for funding, they are to liaise with Michael Callaghan from Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce and arrange a meeting.</p> <p>Action: O Donnelly to arrange a meeting with Coalisland Connects and Michael Callaghan</p> <p>Christmas – Friday 4th December 2020 C Fox stated this will be the first year the event will be held on a Friday evening. R O'Neill will discuss at next Traders Meeting and ask for input to the event, which Council staff said, would be beneficial.</p> <p>C Fox to set up meeting with Community Development in Council to give guidance on becoming a constituted group to allow Traders to apply for funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gortgonis Recreation Centre Redevelopment M Leavey updated that the project was proceeding as planned.
5.	<p>Town Centre Graffiti</p> <p>C Fox advised the Forum a contractor had been appointed and due to commence week commencing 9th March 2020. Due to the weather, it was not safe to commence any earlier.</p>
6.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>C Fox advised that the issue on recycling bins in Coalisland Town Centre, had been passed to Mark McAdoo Head of Environmental Services to liaise with Cllr O'Neill.</p> <p>Action: C Fox to liaise with Mark McAdoo</p> <p>Forum queried information available regarding business grants. C Fox encouraged all Traders to register through the business directory found on the MUDC website.</p> <p>Forum members discussed the starting time of summer meetings and it was proposed to include on Agenda at next meeting.</p>
7.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Date of next meeting Monday 6th April 2020 @ 5.30pm.</p>
8.	<p>Meeting Duration Meeting ended at 6.15pm</p>

Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum Meeting
Monday 15 June 2020 at 5.30pm
Microsoft Teams

Present

Raymond O'Neill	Coalisland Traders Association (Chair)
Cllr Niamh Doris	Mid Ulster District Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr Malachy Quinn	Mid Ulster District Council
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Dermot McGirr	Translink NI
Patrick Anderson	Dept for Communities
Francie Molloy MP	Coalisland Residents Association
Brian O'Neill	Coalisland Credit Union

In Attendance

Adrian McCreesh	Mid Ulster District Council
Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council
Michael Browne	Mid Ulster District Council
Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council
Catherine Fox	Mid Ulster District Council
Oliver Donnelly	Mid Ulster District Council
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2.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting - Monday 2nd March 2020</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Doris Seconded by U Marshall and agreed: -</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2020 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.</p>																

3.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting</p> <p>Rates C Fox updated that the consultation on Rates Review was now complete.</p> <p>Brackaville Bus Shelter Cllr Doris reported that discussion was ongoing as the location of bus shelter has yet to be decided.</p>
4.	<p>Coalisland Project Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Coalisland Events M Browne (Head of Tourism MUDC) provided an update on the proposed new format of the Halloween and Christmas Events. With the current Covid-19 guidelines there is a need to organise events in an engaging format to include social distancing measures. The focus currently is to work up proposals that would be appropriate for the event and meeting current social distancing guidelines. It is suggested that the events group, that have worked closely with Council over the past number of years, is reconvened to look at possible options.</p> <p>Action: O Donnelly to organize a meeting with events group to look at possible options for Halloween and Christmas Events.</p> <p>R O'Neill asked if there is potential in holding a 'Bloom' style event where local residents work together and carry out planting of the town, possibly engaging with local businesses. This would be similar to other areas such as Donaghmore and Fivemiletown. O Donnelly updated that he had organised for Michael Callaghan, from Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce, to come and speak with the Coalisland Connects Group on the 31st March but due to the Covid -19 situation this was postponed. This could be revisited at a later stage once restrictions relax.</p> <p>Action: O Donnelly to organise for M Callaghan to speak to Coalisland Connects group once lockdown restrictions ease.</p> <p>Coalisland Public Realm Scheme</p> <p>R O'Neill raised the issue that the current Coalisland Town Boundary would need addressed. It doesn't allow for certain businesses to be eligible for certain funding programmes as they fall outside the area. F McKeown updated that the issue has been raised and is currently being addressed in consultation with the Department for Communities (DfC).</p> <p>Cllr Quinn suggested two ideas to assist businesses once they re-open. The first one is a tailored social media/video campaign on what each individual shop offers and promote this via social media channels. Secondly, where local businesses could offer discount across an online platform, offering the consumer an alternative and greater options through local businesses.</p> <p>A McCreesh reiterated that there will be no mass gatherings at Council events as was the case in previous years. He also stated that the current Mid Ulster Council</p>

	<p>Covid-19 Recovery Plan is near finalised and that there is a need to resource this with Council submitting an application to DFC to facilitate this. There is an urgent need for this funding as retail premises are currently in process of reopening. All guidance was set out by the Department for Communities and Council adhered to the guidelines set. A McCreesh also advised that a submission had also been sent the DAERA Minister to support businesses in rural areas. P Anderson stated that Council had submitted an extensive Expression of Interest into the Department for consideration.</p> <p>F Molloy raised the issue of the land on the former Railway Line. There needs to be something done to bring this into use as there are local community and voluntary organisations who would be willing to do projects on this site. A McCreesh stated that there were previously well know issues on this land that had been found difficult to get around. Cllr Doris advised that Council was taking a report to the P & R committee and suggested that Council write to the Housing Association once again to get a resolution to the matter.</p> <p>Action: A McCreesh to liaise with Community Development Team in Council in relation to lands on old Railway Line.</p> <p>M Leavey updated that the Public Realm Scheme is back up and going. Work will commence on Main Street and Lineside which will mean that there is a requirement for a one-way system along Main Street and Lineside. Works are also to commence on the area adjacent to Newell Stores as NIE need to upgrade their network in preparation for the Gortgonis project commencing.</p> <p>Fox Contracts are to carry out a letter drop to local businesses and residents to inform them of the work schedule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gortgonis Recreation Centre Redevelopment <p>M Leavey updated that due to Covid-19 this had an implication on planning and the discussions with DfI in regard to the road layout into the site for the school and Council projects. This will now be progressed as soon as possible.</p> <p>F Molloy raised the point that the delay in this project was holding other projects being developed.</p>
5.	<p>Covid-19 Town Centre Recovery Plan</p> <p>R O'Neill suggested that there is a need for guidance and support for businesses on what measures they need in place when opening up and adhering to social distancing measures.</p> <p>F McKeown updated that there will be a section on Council's website specifically for retailers to provide guidance on social distancing measures. There will also be sample posters for businesses to print off to put up in the shops. Guidance is being provided through Environmental Health on what business owners should have in place for their customers. There are also a number of Programmes that are currently open for businesses to apply in to, details of which are on Council's</p>

	<p>website. The Recovery plan is due to be presented to Council in July and there is a need to resource this via an application to DFC.</p> <p>Action: C Fox to forward details of Councils Business Support Programmes and information on the Business Directory to the Forum.</p> <p>U Marshall raised the issue that any works on streets should take into consideration wider needs such as those with disabilities when planning any works to pavements etc to cater for social distancing. Guidance had been sent to Councils Corporate Policy & Equality Officer on this.</p> <p>F Molloy suggested a shop window competition could be rolled out. A similar competition was previously held during Christmas with the support of local newspapers.</p>
6.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Discussion took place with regard to times of meetings going forward. It was agreed the next meeting should be held earlier in the day such as 12.30pm.</p>
7.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Monday 6th July 2020 @ 12.30pm via Microsoft Teams</p>
8.	<p>Meeting Duration</p> <p>Meeting ended at 6.55pm</p>

Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum Meeting
Monday 6 July 2020 at 12.30pm
Microsoft Teams

Present

Cllr Niamh Doris	Mid Ulster District Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr Robert Colvin	Mid Ulster District Council
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Dermot McGirr	Translink NI
Patrick Anderson	Dept. for Communities

In Attendance

Michael Browne	Mid Ulster District Council
Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council
Catherine Fox	Mid Ulster District Council
Oliver Donnelly	Mid Ulster District Council
Mark Leavey	Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION																								
1	<p>Apologies</p> <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>Raymond O'Neill</td><td>Coalisland Trader (Chair)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Joe O'Neill</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Dan Kerr</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Niall McAleer</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mark Kelso</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Adrian McCreesh</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fiona McKeown</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Raymond Lowry</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Celene O'Neill</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Francie Molloy</td><td>Coalisland Residents & Community Forum</td></tr> <tr> <td>Declan Dorrity</td><td>The Venue/The Beer Shed</td></tr> <tr> <td>JP McCartan</td><td>PSNI</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Raymond O'Neill	Coalisland Trader (Chair)	Cllr Joe O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Dan Kerr	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Niall McAleer	Mid Ulster District Council	Mark Kelso	Mid Ulster District Council	Adrian McCreesh	Mid Ulster District Council	Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council	Raymond Lowry	Mid Ulster District Council	Celene O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council	Francie Molloy	Coalisland Residents & Community Forum	Declan Dorrity	The Venue/The Beer Shed	JP McCartan	PSNI
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2.	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Cllr Doris Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and took the role of Chair.</p>																								
3.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting - Monday 15 June 2020</p> <p>Proposed by U Marshall Seconded by P Anderson and agreed: -</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15 June 2020 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.</p>																								

4.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – Monday 15 June 2020</p> <p>P Anderson updated that there is interest in the site behind Torrent View with 2 parties. Due to staff being furloughed there will be no progress until end of July. There are plans to re-fence the entire site and to also remove the plant machinery that is currently located on the lands.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to develop a new Business Support Programme funded by DfC. Council have put in a request to move the normal red line boundary for DfC applications and await DfC response.</p>
5.	<p>Coalisland Project Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Coalisland Public Realm Scheme – BT Phone box</p> <p>The phone box located at Landis is currently out of use and unsightly. Cllr Doris asked if there was any issue that it could be removed.</p> <p>Cllr Colvin updated that they had not heard anything from residents and perhaps a check could be done with Cllr Kerr and Cllr Quinn.</p> <p>O Donnelly read out an email sent in from Chair Raymond O Neill who was unable to attend the meeting. It stated that 3 businesses reported to Raymond that during the one-way system imposed on Main Street over the last 2 weeks that their sales are down approximately 33%. Raymond was concerned that this was an ominous signs of things to come.</p> <p>Cllr Colvin said that he felt it was a little early to say if traffic on a one-way system would cause a problem.</p> <p>Patrick Anderson said that in the future there would also be new parking with 12 extra spaces on Main Street.</p> <p>U Marshall asked for the dimensions of the disabled parking bays as in her experience some disabled bays are not big enough for some vehicles.</p> <p>Action: M Leavey is to confirm the size of the parking bays across the scheme and update at next meeting.</p> <p>M Leavey updated that the work is continuing on Main Street and on Barrack Street from 14 July 2020.</p> <p>Cllr Doris asked as to the construct of the seating on Lineside. M Leavey updated that the seating was made of granite.</p> <p>Gortgonis Recreation Centre Redevelopment</p> <p>M Leavey updated that there is a meeting with DFI Roads Service with regard to the right run into the Gortgonis site. This meeting will be held 24th July and M Leavey will provide an update at the next town Centre Forum Meeting.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalisland Events – Halloween & Christmas 2020 <p>M Browne said that a report is going to Council on Thursday 9th July with regard to proposals for the Halloween and Coalisland Events this year. The current guidance on mass gatherings is potentially going to be relaxed so the events will be reviewed on a continuous basis.</p> <p>Cllr Doris asked about the budget allocated to the Newell 10K event and if this can be re allocated to the Halloween and Christmas Events. M Browne updated that that budget was re-allocated to a central Covid19 response from Council.</p>
6.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Cllr Doris mentioned that the Dungannon Herald had raised the possibility of Council sponsoring a shop front window competition. O Donnelly stated that in previous years a local newspaper drove this and was usually organized in conjunction with the local traders.</p> <p>M Leavey updated on a meeting regarding recent flooding in the town. NI Water and other agencies are in the process of investigating potential issues with their systems and a further meeting will be held in the next few weeks.</p> <p>C McKenna updated on the current programme of installation of the full fibre network for Coalisland town.</p> <p>Action: C McKenna to send on full details to Cllr Doris.</p>
7.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Monday 3rd August @ 12.30pm via Microsoft Teams</p>
8.	<p>Meeting Duration</p> <p>Meeting ended at 13.35pm</p>

Appendix 3

MINUTES OF MAGHERAFELT TOWN CENTRE FORUM
MONDAY 4 November 2019 AT 5:30PM
MAGHERAFELT OFFICES,
MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Present:

Councillor Clarke	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Councillor McLean	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Brown	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Totten	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor McFlynn	Mid Ulster District Council
Robin Kennedy	Magherafelt Chamber of Commerce
Jack Keatley	Magherafelt Trustees
Gareth Thomas	Meadowlane Shopping Centre

In Attendance:

Davina McCartney	Mid Ulster District Council
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Apologies:

Claire McOsker	Professional Sector Representative
Shauna McCloskey	Mid Ulster PCSP
Ursula Marshall	Disability Forum
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities
Sinead McAvoy	Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	WELCOME The Chairman, Cllr Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	MATTERS ARISING <u>Car Parking Charges</u> D McCartney reported a pilot of pay on foot in Central Car Park, Magherafelt is to be carried out before any changes are made.	
2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes of previous meeting 3 June 2019 were agreed as accurate. Proposed by: Cllr Brown Seconded by Cllr Clarke	

3.	2019 Review of Business Rates - Consultation Papers circulated previously on 2019 Review of Business Rates was discussed. One amendment was to reduce business rates and increase VAT to raise alternative income.	
4.	TOWN CENTRE EVENTS UPDATE D McCartney provided an update on the Christmas Market and Lights Switch on events taking place on 23 & 24 November.	
5.	Enterprise Week 18-22 November 2019 D McCartney provided an update on the Enterprise week events planned from 18 – 22 November 2019.	
6.	REGENERATION MANAGER REPORT D McCartney updated on the previously circulated Regeneration Managers Report. Marketing & Promotion A variety of branded promotional materials have been purchased and continue to be distributed as per the implementation plan at town centre events. Business Support / Attracting Investment <u>Seamus Heaney HomeGround Project</u> The project aims to enhance the work being developed in Seamus Heaney HomePlace through the development of a series of experiences for visitors to Seamus Heaney HomeGround. FP McCann have been appointed to undertake the Capital works and Tandem to carry out the interpretative works. Town Centre Events <u>Tafelta Festival</u> The Tafelta Festival took place on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 June. <u>Magherafelt Christmas Market & Christmas Lights Switch On</u> Magherafelt Christmas Market and Christmas Lights Switch On will take place on Saturday 23 November & Sunday 24 November 2019. Physical Regeneration / Improving Infrastructure <u>Rural Regeneration Projects</u> Work has been completed on all Phase 1 projects. Phase 2 projects in Ballymaguigan, Knockloughrim, Curran, Tamlaght O'Crilly, Culnady and Innisrush are underway.	

	<p><u>Public Art Piece – Castledawson Roundabout</u> Officers are continuing to work with Department of Infrastructure (Roads) on the installation of a Public Art Piece on the pedestrian bridge at the Castledawson Roundabout. An update on this was requested for the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Magherafelt Revitalisation Project</u> Department for Communities awarded Mid Ulster District Council £160,706 to upgrade the Pedestrian Linkages from Union Road and Central Car Parks to Broad Street, Magherafelt. The project which included upgraded lighting, surfacing and graffiti removal is now complete..</p> <p><u>Mid Ulster Shop Front Scheme</u> Council has approved the provision of a new Business Spruce Up Scheme for towns and villages across the district, as classified within Mid Ulster's Draft Local Development Plan 2030. Applications have now closed and are being assessed.</p> <p><u>Town Centre Enhancement Schemes</u> A number of sites across the five towns that require intervention to address their physical appearance have been identified.</p> <p>Two projects in Magherafelt have been identified (Church Street & Rainey Street). Officers are currently seeking permission from the Property Owners to carry out the works. If the Rainey Street project does not go ahead it was suggested the area where the toilets were removed could be tidied up.</p>	
6.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>R Kennedy stated he has been approached about the former Maghera High School site and the potential loss of 2 giant redwood's on the site.</p> <p>R Kennedy asked if the lights in Greenvale Leisure Centre could be changed to more energy efficient lights. R Kennedy stated there was in issue of parking at Greenvale Leisure Centre and enquired if enforcement could be investigated to stop people parking on the footpaths.</p> <p>W Brown highlighted there will be a part time taxi stand outside Bank of Ireland in the evenings.</p>	

8.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	To be circulated.	

Meeting ended 6:20pm

MINUTES OF MAGHERAFELT TOWN CENTRE FORUM
MONDAY 6 JULY 2020 AT 5:30PM
Zoom Meeting

Present:

Councillor Clarke	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Councillor McLean	Mid Ulster District Council
Claire McOsker	Professional Sector Representative
Shauna McCloskey	Mid Ulster PCSP
Ursula Marshall	Disability Forum
Marcus Finlay	PSNI
Mark Stewart	Vintners Representative

In Attendance:

Davina McCartney	Mid Ulster District Council
Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council

Apologies:

Councillor Brown	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Totten	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor McFlynn	Mid Ulster District Council
Frances Bradley	Escape Beauty
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities
Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	WELCOME The Chairman, Cllr Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	MATTERS ARISING None	

2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes of previous meeting 4 November 2019 were agreed as accurate. Proposed by: Cllr Brown Seconded by Cllr Clarke	Note
3.	Draft Town Centre Recovery Plan D McCartney highlighted the 4 themes within the draft Town Centre Recovery Plan and proposed actions subject to funding being secured from Department for Communities. U Marshall highlighted the need to be mindful of people who are visually impaired or who use walking aids when considering the Pavement Café applications and that traders need to be aware of their responsibilities. Meetings with Environmental Health have satisfied the Disability Forum that Council have mitigated against these concerns in a positive way. U Marshall raised concerns about the fact public toilets were not open yet and this needs addressed. P McLean stated as the civic space in Magherafelt was not a footpath there should be no issues with this area as a pavement café space. P McLean stated the footpaths have a lot of chewing gum and requested the gum buster is used to remedy this. P McLean highlighted the poor condition of the footpaths on Rainey Street. D McCartney to get an update from DfI Roads about proposed works. Members stated there was full support for any grant scheme rolled out under the Town Centre Recovery Plan.	Note Note Note Note MUDC MUDC Note
6.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS P McLean asked if there was any update on the proposed pilot scheme for Central Carpark. D McCartney to follow up with Property Services.	MUDC
8.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING To be circulated.	

Meeting ended 6:10pm

Appendix 4

MINUTES OF MAGHERA TOWN CENTRE FORUM **WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7PM** **WALSH'S HOTEL, MAGHERA**

Present:

Cllr Brian McGuigan	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Cllr Sean McPeake	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Kyle Black	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Cora Corry	Mid Ulster District Council
Jonathan Crawford	Crawford's
Una Morgan	The Dugout Bar
Cathy O'Neill	Walsh's Hotel
Kieran Bradley	Walsh's Hotel
James Armour	Maghera Heritage Association
Michael McCrory	Mid Ulster District Council
Sandra Hyndman	Maghera Traders Association

In Attendance:

Davina McCartney	Mid Ulster District Council
Mark Kelso	Mid Ulster District Council
Mark Leavey	Mid Ulster District Council

Apologies:

Cllr Martin Kearney	Mid Ulster District Council
Kate Lagan	Maghera Development Association
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities
Colin McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council
Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council
Conor Molloy	Watty Graham's GAC
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Conal McKee	DfI Roads

	DISCUSSION
1.	WELCOME Cllr McGuigan welcomed everyone to the meeting of Maghera Town Centre Forum.
2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 17 JUNE 2019 Proposed by Una Morgan Seconded by Cllr S McPeake and AGREED That the minutes of the previous meeting on 17 June 2019 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.
3.	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES None

4.	<p>MAGHERA PUBLIC REALM SCHEME</p> <p>M Leavey delivered a presentation on the most recent proposals for Maghera Public Realm Scheme. Discussion about the current proposals followed:</p> <p>Further discussions will be held with Translink as the project develops. Impact of scheme on car parking numbers will be confirmed at design stage. Need for parking restrictions to be imposed outside Chapel on Upper Main Street was highlighted. Enhancements to alleyway fro St Lurachs Road will be completed as part of the scheme. The finishes will be decided after the Economic Appraisal is completed and the funding package is secured. Need for right hand turning lane on Coleraine Road into filling station was highlighted. Vesting and demolishing buildings is not within the remit of theis scheme. Focus of funding is on improving the pedestrian experience. Need to look for other car parking solutions was highlighted. Need to consider traffic calming at Primary School on Glen Road due to increased flows due to the proposed one way system. Former PSNI Station is being developed as part of the leisure centre.</p>
5.	<p>2019 REVIEW OF BUSINESS RATES</p> <p>Previously circulates paper was discussed. Include reference to need to take into account online sales / purchases. Remove reference to sports clubs from response.</p>
5.	<p>MAGHERA CHRISTMAS EVENT</p> <p>D McCartney gave an update on the Christmas Lights Switch On event planned for Saturday 30 November 2019 from 3pm – 6pm.</p> <p>J Armour stated Maghera Heritage Association are planning to do a vintage parade through Maghera on 30 November also.</p>
6.	<p>ENTERPRISE WEEK 18 – 22 NOVEMBER 2019</p> <p>D McCartney provided an update on the Enterprise week events planned from 18 – 22 November 2019.</p>
7.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>The next meeting will be the AGM of Maghera Town Centre Forum.</p>
8.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>To be circulated.</p>

MINUTES OF MAGHERA TOWN CENTRE FORUM
WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2020 AT 6PM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Present:

Cllr Brian McGuigan	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Cllr Sean McPeake	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Kyle Black	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Cora Corry	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Martin Kearney	Mid Ulster District Council
Jonathan Crawford	Crawford's
Una Morgan	The Dugout Bar
Cathy O'Neill	Walsh's Hotel
Gary Burns	Maghera Development Association
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities

In Attendance:

Davina McCartney	Mid Ulster District Council
Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council

Apologies:

Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council
James Armour	Maghera Heritage Association
Michael McCrory	Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION
1.	WELCOME Cllr McGuigan welcomed everyone to the meeting of Maghera Town Centre Forum.
2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 6 November 2019 Proposed by Cllr C Corry Seconded by Cllr S McPeake and AGREED That the minutes of the previous meeting on 6 November 2019 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.
3.	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic Maghera Public Realm Scheme is on hold until further consultation can be carried out in line with Government Guidance.
4.	DRAFT TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY PLAN D McCartney highlighted the 4 themes within the draft Town Centre Recovery Plan and proposed actions subject to funding being secured from Department for Communities.

	<p>U Marshall highlighted the need to be mindful of people who are visually impaired or who use walking aids when considering the Pavement Café applications and that traders need to be aware of their responsibilities. Meetings with Environmental Health have satisfied the Disability Forum that Council have mitigated against these concerns in a positive way.</p> <p>Cllr McGuigan highlighted guidance had been agreed at Environment Committee on Tuesday 7 July regarding pavement café licencing and the need to maintain a minimum of 1.5m from the kerb. Each application will be looked at on a case by case basis.</p> <p>U Morgan highlighted there was very little space in Maghera to accommodate pavement cafes.</p> <p>Cllr McGuigan stated this was being looked at by the Minister and the need to design town centres to accommodate pavement cafes in the future.</p> <p>U Marshall raised concerns about the fact public toilets were not open yet and this needs addressed.</p> <p>Cllr Kearney said there was some very positive news for the hospitality industry with the announcement of the voucher scheme.</p> <p>U Morgan stated this does not help all hospitality businesses only those with food and accommodation – wet bars do not yet have an opening date.</p> <p>Patrick Anderson highlighted the funding package that was being put together by Department for Communities. The package has not been fully agreed yet but it will consist of £10m over the 11 Councils for settlements over 5,000. DAERA are looking at contributing towards this package for the rural areas and DfC are awaiting this decision.</p> <p>G Burns asked if the grants would fund items retrospectively as a lot of businesses are open and have made adjustments already. D McCartney stated the grants are unlikely to cover items retrospectively.</p> <p>Members felt the local businesses who had supported the community during the pandemic should be rewarded and the gift card scheme was seen as a very positive way of doing this.</p>
7.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Cllr McPeake asked for an update on the Full Fibre Project. C McKenna stated the Project Stratum tender was currently being assessed and should be ready to begin roll out early autumn. The full Fibre project linking Council sites will be rolled out between September and March.</p> <p>D McCartney highlighted that Fibrus were going to begin works in late July to roll out fibre to the home in Maghera. Further information to be sent to members when it is available.</p>

	<p>Cllr McGuigan stated this is all very good news for Maghera.</p> <p>C O'Neill said she wanted to put on record her thanks for the Council's Tourism Section during the Covid 19 pandemic that the information and support provided had been invaluable.</p>
8.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>To be circulated.</p>