

Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 11 October 2022 in Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Members Present

Councillor S McGuigan

Councillors Brown, Buchanan, Burton*, Cuthbertson, Glasgow* (7.02 pm), Graham, Kearney*, N McAleer, S McAleer, B McGuigan, McNamee*, O'Neill*, Totten*, Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env)

Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services (HoTS)**

Mr McAdoo, Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES)**

Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS)

Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Councillor Quinn***

Ms Largy, Solicitor, Belfast City Council

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

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor S McGuigan in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee in the chamber and by virtual means, by referring to Annex A to this minute.

E227/22 Notice of Recording

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

E228/22 Apologies

Councillor Milne.

E229/22 Declarations of Interest

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

E230/22 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

E231/22 Review of Waste Collection Service Policy

The Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for an updated Waste Collection Service policy following review.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he was happy to propose the updated policy but that in relation to the Common Collections Guidance and the proposed changes to black bin and mixed dry recyclable collections the Councillor stated he would be totally opposed to these. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that there is a good system in Mid Ulster which is possibly the best throughout all of the Councils. The Councillor stated the system works well and there was no need to fix something that is not broken. Councillor Cuthbertson stated he wanted to be clear going forward to the consultation that he would be opposed to changes to the black bin and mixed dry recyclables collections.

Councillor Brown stated he agreed with Councillor Cuthbertson's comments and questioned if the system is not broken why changes are needed. Councillor Brown stated he was happy to second Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal in relation to the updated policy but that he did not agree with the proposals within the Common Collections Guidance, the Councillor felt there was no need for these proposals and collections should be left as they are.

Councillor Glasgow stated he also agreed with previous comments and highlighted that Mid Ulster has one of the highest rates of recycling and he would therefore not be in the mindset of making changes. The Councillor stated that Council has recently spent a lot of money on OAV bin lorries and that he would be concerned if there was to be a move to smaller collection boxes for dry recyclables in the future. Councillor Glasgow encouraged everyone to express their views in the forthcoming consultation.

Councillor Buchanan concurred with all other comments and that he would prefer black bin collections to remain as a 240 litre bin collection on a fortnightly basis and that glass, paper and card is kept with the other blue bin waste.

Councillor B McGuigan stated he did not feel changing to a 180 litre bin for collection of residual waste would be a good idea but that moving a 240 litre bin to a three weekly collection may be a better option to encourage as much blue bin and food caddy use as possible.

Councillor Burton stated that the public are precious about their bin service and that Council need to take on board what the public expect Council to deliver. The Councillor also concurred with previous speakers and felt that Council needed to put a lot of thought into what is being proposed, she highlighted that the public should also have the opportunity to feedback on the proposals. Councillor Burton questioned if black bins are regularly full when collected and also referred to issue in Aughnacloy in which a brown bin has not been collected in three weeks.

The AD: ES stated that Members have made good comments tonight which he would agree with, the officer advised that the report highlights what is being proposed and that Council will have opportunity to respond at consultation stage. The AD: ES agreed that a lot of black bins are not regularly full which was one the surprising things he had noticed from a day spent on a bin lorry. The AD: ES stated that if Councillor Burton sends further details in relation to the brown bin which is not being emptied then he would look into the matter.

Councillor Wilson highlighted that the development of Common Collections Guidance is being taken forward by DAERA and that nothing can be done until a policy paper has been produced at which stage Council can respond.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the updated Waste Collection Service Policy as set out at appendix 1 of report.

E232/22 River Blackwater Update

The Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) presented previously circulated report which provided update on activities relating to the River Blackwater.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan stated he appreciated the issues outlined but felt that option two is something Council should be considering.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he agreed with the principle of the project as he felt it would open up tourism into Tamnamore and Moy and would be welcome in the area. The Councillor stated he was happy that Council is pushing for something to be done and working with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council but expressed some concern that this Council will get bogged down into something that it has no responsibility to pay for. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that Council should not be taking the financial burden and should also be pressing the case with the relevant departments.

Councillor Quinn stated he did not think anyone would deny the tourist potential of opening up the River Blackwater and that this is something he would continue to push for. The Councillor referred to the mouth of the Blackwater which he felt this

Council owns one half of the opening and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council owning the other half. Councillor Quinn stated that the Victorians cut the Maghery Channel as the mouth of the river was not easily accessible but that he felt technology should have advanced in this respect since then. The Councillor highlighted that the difficulty with using the Maghery side for the likes of Lough Neagh Rescue is that it puts 15 minutes on to getting up the Blackwater which can be the difference between life and death in some situations. Councillor Quinn referred to the Maghery Channel and that there is still a lot to be worked out in respect of potentially clearing this channel. The Councillor stated he did not feel this project is something that this Council should be taking on on its own and that Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council along with other departments need to be involved. Councillor Quinn again stated that the tourism potential from the project is fantastic and also highlighted the lifesaving ability and the added 15 minutes to getting up the River Blackwater.

Councillor O'Neill felt that option two is the only way forward but that Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council should not be going solo with the project and that this Council also needs to show leadership. The Councillor stated that if money needs to be spent then this should happen to get the project up and running.

Councillor Kearney advised that he sits on Lough Neagh Partnership and IC BAN and therefore declared an interest on the matter. The Councillor stated he was glad to see the matter under consideration tonight.

Councillor Brown referred to meeting of Lough Neagh Partnership on 1 September at which it was agreed that Mid Ulster Council would take the lead on and coordinate tenders. The Councillor questioned why this Council was taking the lead as the Maghery Channel falls mainly within the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council area. Councillor Brown stated he had no difficulty in this Council partnering with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon along with all other departments and agencies but felt that the other Council should be taking the lead on this issue.

The SD: Env stated that the issue was initially raised by Members of this Council and that officers started to look at options as part of the river is within this Council area. The SD: Env advised that through looking at options available it has become apparent that the preferred option may not be within this Council area. The SD: Env stated that Members in Mid Ulster are more energised about dealing with the issues and taking the project forward and felt that if this Council does not take the lead then she felt the project will go nowhere. The SD: Env advised that this Council is not working alone and that it wants to work in partnership with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon and other departments. Members were also assured that Council would not be making any unnecessary expenditure if it did not have responsibility to do so. The SD: Env stated that the report tonight seeks to look at determining the role of the statutory agencies, the feasibility and cost of such a project.

Councillor Brown stated he appreciated the comments of the Strategic Director of Environment and asked if Lough Neagh Partnership were included in discussions.

The SD: Env advised that Lough Neagh Partnership are part of the process and have been involved in previous workshops held. A further meeting with them has also been organised in the coming weeks.

Councillor Wilson referred to the role of statutory agencies and that officers should be meeting with these agencies to establish their responsibilities and when this response has been received Council can assess how to proceed. The Councillor stated that this is an important stretch of water and that works are clearly required but there have been previous cases of statutory agencies stepping aside because Council has taken a project on. Councillor Wilson stated he did not think it was Council's responsibility to dredge a river and that statutory agencies needed to step up to the plate before Council considered further expenditure.

The SD: Env advised that officers have been meeting with the statutory agencies and that they are part of the process. The SD: Env stated that the difficulty is that there is nothing to say who is responsible for what and that this needs to be determined before Council expends too much money.

Councillor Wilson stated that officers should be clear on who is responsible for what before any money is spent.

The SD: Env asked if Members were saying they did not want any survey work done until responsibility has been legally determined. If that was the case then the report recommendation would be required to be changed.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan stated that Members appeared to be content with the concept however some concerns have been raised in relation to responsibilities and that subject to these being resolved Council should proceed with the survey work. The Chair asked if Members were happy to progress the survey work.

Councillor Wilson proposed to include the survey work but that this should only happen after clarification from the statutory agencies regarding their responsibilities

Councillor Cuthbertson seconded Councillor Wilson's proposal.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To work to determine responsibility of statutory agencies in relation to dredging of channel of River Blackwater.
 - Depending on outcome of who has responsibility, Council may progress undertaking required survey work subject to Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council agreeing to work in partnership and funding 50% of the cost of fees (approx. £40k) for legal and technical survey work required at this stage.

Councillor Glasgow left the meeting at 7.28 pm.

E233/22 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - Parking and Waiting Restrictions Charlemont Street, Moy

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to Proposed introduction of Parking and Waiting Restrictions at Charlemont Street, Moy.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he was content to propose but asked if the department are putting in restrictions did this mean there would be enforcement. The Councillor stated there is an issue with parking in The Square, Moy and that there is enforcement in the area once a month. The Councillor stated it was easy to put restrictions in place but if they are not enforced then they are pointless. Councillor Cuthbertson requested that correspondence be sent to the Department asking if parking enforcement would be more regular in Moy.

The Chair, Councillor S McGuigan seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed introduction of Parking and Waiting Restrictions at Charlemont Street, Moy.
 - To write to the Department to ask how often parking enforcement will take place in Moy.

E234/22 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - One Way System – Layby on A6 Glenshane Road, opposite Ranaghan Road

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to Proposed introduction of a One Way System - Layby on A6 Glenshane Road, opposite Ranaghan Road.

Councillor B McGuigan proposed the recommendation and stated that there are safety upgrades to the A6 in the area.

Councillor S McAleer seconded Councillor B McGuigan's proposal.

Councillor Kearney stated that the A6 road in is area is currently under a lot of pressure and that anything that can be done to alleviate this pressure is helpful.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed introduction of a One Way System - Layby on A6 Glenshane Road, opposite Ranaghan Road.

E235/22 Renaming and Renumbering Existing Streets

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report which advised of request for the renaming and renumbering of an existing

street and sought approval to undertake a survey of all applicable residents on the street/road in question.

Councillor B McGuigan stated he was happy to propose that the survey be undertaken as this issue has been a nightmare for residents for a number of years. The Councillor referred to three roads running parallel which are all under one postcode and that numbers are spread across the three roads which inevitably causes issues for emergency services. Councillor B McGuigan stated that the renaming of the road will be a starting point and that he hoped the residents would return the survey agreeing to rename the road.

Councillor Brown seconded Councillor B McGuigan's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to proceed with the Street Renaming Survey of the Cahore Road (branch road), Draperstown, to all occupiers of each property as listed on the Electoral Register of the road, in accordance with the Policy for Street Naming and Numbering.

Matters for Information

E236/22 Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 13 September 2022

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 13 September 2022.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he had asked at the Council meeting for the signage for Darren Clarke to be updated and asked if there had been any progress on this matter.

The SD: Env stated she would come back to the Councillor with an update.

E237/22 Translink Ulster in Bloom Competition Results 2022

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the Translink Ulster in Bloom 2022 competition results.

Councillor Burton highlighted that Mid Ulster did very well in the Ulster in Bloom competition this year and that an enjoyable afternoon had been spent recognising the work put in by volunteers at the awards ceremony. The Councillor stated she did not know how Council could ever fully appreciate the service of volunteers but felt that there should be some feedback to the various groups as there is a lot of work undertaken which often goes unnoticed but that she felt their work does help to bring people to the area. Councillor Burton stated that some groups have also experienced set backs by way of anti social behaviour but that they have kept going and it is a credit to them. The Councillor paid tribute to the work that is done through Ulster in Bloom and also Translink and NILGA who contribute to the running of the competition.

Councillor Kearney concurred with Councillor Burton's comments and commended the Assistant Director of Environmental Services and his staff for their assistance at the awards ceremony and also the support given to the towns and villages from the District who entered the competition. The Councillor highlighted Donaghmore who also won a gold award for village category at the Britain in Bloom Awards yesterday. Councillor Kearney also highlighted that Northern Ireland won three gold awards out of the eight overall categories and that three community champions also came from Northern Ireland. The Councillor felt that Council should always remember the civic pride and community spirit that is to be found across the towns and villages and that every assistance should be given to the Environmental Services officers in the year ahead.

Councillor Cuthbertson left the meeting at 7.37 pm.

E238/22 Bin Ovation App Update

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined usage of the Bin Ovation App.

Councillor Wilson referred to recent press article which stated that the tops of milk cartons are not recyclable. The Councillor asked if this report was correct and if so, that it needs to be highlighted to the public.

The AD: ES stated that this is not something which has been highlighted by either of the two reprocessors of dry recyclables. If the report is true then consideration would have to be given as to how to communicate the message to the public or whether tops could be removed at reprocessing stage. The AD: ES stated that officers would await news from reprocessors on the matter.

E239/22 Bus Shelters Update

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

E240/22 Building Control Workload

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

E241/22 Entertainment Licensing Applications

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

E242/22 Dual Language Signage Surveys

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

E243/22 Dual Language Signage Requests

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

Live broadcast ended at 7.41 pm.

Councillor Burton left the meeting at 7.41 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor S McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items E244/22 to E252/22.

Matters for Decision

- E244/22 Award of Contract for the Collection, Treatment and Recycling / Recovery of Textiles from Recycling Centres
- E245/22 Sustainability Zero Carbon Co-operative and Smart Grid Ireland
- E246/22 Extension of Fire & Security Contractor
- E247/22 Entertainment Licensing – The Elk

Matters for Information

- E248/22 Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of meeting held on 13 September 2022
- E249/22 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
- E250/22 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
- E251/22 Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update
- E252/22 Disposal/Sale of Assets - Fleet and Plant

E253/22 Duration of Meeting

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

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

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

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

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

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

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda