

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Wednesday 6 April 2022 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt and by Virtual Means**

Members Present

Councillor Molloy, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Black, Burton, Clarke*, Corry*, Cuddy,
Doris*, Elattar*, Hughes*, Kerr**, McNamee*, Milne*,
Monteith*, Quinn* and Wilson

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities and Place
Ms Campbell**, Strategic Director of Environment
Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and
Wellbeing
Ms Linney**, Assistant Director of Development
Ms McKeown**, Assistant Director of Economic
Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes Others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7. pm.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Cllr Molloy 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.

D055/22 Notice of Recording

This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site

D056/22 Apologies

None

D057/22 Declarations of Interest

The Chair, Councillor Molloy reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

D058/22 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Molloy welcomed the newly appointed Strategic Director of Communities and Place, Mr Ryan Black to the meeting.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to the slurry spill into local rivers which had caused environmental damage and killed fishing stock. He advised that local fishermen had been in contact with him. He requested that if it had not already happened that Council make with relevant agencies and advise Members on any forthcoming updates received.

Councillor McNamee concurred with the request and said the spill had had a massive impact especially on Claggan, Ballinderry and Killymoon rivers. He asked if Council was aware how it had happened as it had caused 12-15 miles of damage to rivers resulting in complete devastation of fish including salmon and trout as well as other insects. He said that tighter regulations were required together with stiffer penalties as year on year similar instances occurred and it took years for rivers to recover.

In response AD: HLW said that Council was aware of the incident and although not within the remit officers had been in contact with DEARA and NIEA who were following due process. He said the incident had been self reported and as an investigation was ongoing it would be inappropriate to comment further. He concluded that Council had stressed the need to be kept informed.

Councillor Cuddy drew attention to Dungannon Regeneration Partnership which had been constituted by the legacy council and had been run by local business representatives. He said that the group together with the High Street had declined and proposed that officers set up a meeting with them to commence discussions on how best to progress. He concluded that Dungannon Enterprise Centre had a sub committee of High Street retailers.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy concurred and commended the Regeneration Officer on her work with town traders. He seconded Councillor Cuddy's proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that officers progress a meeting with representatives of Dungannon Regeneration Partnership.

Councillor Cuddy advised Members that there had been a particularly nasty act of vandalism at the Cenotaph in Dungannon when wreaths had actually been broken. He said that with CCTV in the town centre it was hoped that the perpetrators would be identified. He advised that representatives of the Royal British Legion had been in contact with him asking that council set up a meeting to discuss the matter. Councillor

Cuddy proposed that Council officers progress a meeting with representatives of Dungannon/Moy Royal British Legion to discuss vandalism at War Memorials in both locations. Councillor Cuddy suggested that local representatives attend.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that officers progress a meeting with representatives of Dungannon/Moy Royal British Legion to discuss vandalism at War Memorials in both locations.

Councillors Burton and Black entered the meeting at 7.10 pm

The Chair, Councillor Molloy stated that it was a disgraceful act and emphasized that all graves and monuments across the board should be respected.

Matters for Decision

D059/22 Development Report

The AD: Development presented previously circulated report which provided update and sought approval on the following -

- Community Grants - to agree the rolling grant awards - Local Community Festivals, and Good Relations.
- Jubilee Community Arts Programme – to agree the tailored arts activities within the current community arts programme to recognise the Queens Platinum Jubilee.
- Ukraine Refugee Scheme – to update members on the Ukraine refugee scheme.
- Development - to update on Development.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

Resolved To propose the Development Report as detailed below:

- **Community Grants**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree the rolling grant awards – Local Community Festivals, and Good Relations.

- **Jubilee Community Arts Programme**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree the tailored arts activities within the current community arts programme.

- **Ukraine Refugee Scheme**

The AD: CD advised that as more information was received regarding the Ukrainian Refugee scheme it would be communicated to Members.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note update on the Ukraine Refugee Scheme.

Councillor Doris requested that Officers explore how Council may assist groups securing funding to organise one-off events processing payments for same.

The AD: CD advised that the Audit Committee who approve the criteria for grants would need to investigate the suggestion to see if it was possible. She clarified that the suggestion would only apply to groups without bank accounts

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that Officers explore how Council may assist groups securing funding to organise one-off events processing payments for same. The assistance would be applicable to those groups who struggle to open a bank account.

Councillor Doris referred to the update on the Heritage Strategy and spoke of an event last year which had taken place in Stewartstown. She advised that a community activist had been very keen that an O'Neill trail be developed from Dungannon to Stewartstown. Councillor Doris requested that officers investigate and carry out a feasibility study for a potential O'Neill trail throughout Mid Ulster. She concluded that other areas would no doubt wish to be involved and said it would be an excellent way of promoting smaller villages.

In response the AD: CD said that DEA meetings were scheduled to discuss the Heritage Strategy and would take place during the next six weeks.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to explore and progress to feasibility study on creating a district wide O'Neill Trail.

Councillor Clarke said that there was all sorts of O'Neill connections from Carntogher right through to Benburb and said a big effort should be made to achieve this. He said that during the past 18 months in his townland many elements of history had been stumbled upon which had been totally unknown. He concluded there was a rich heritage across the district.

The AD:CD reminded Members that there was an O'Neill trail website listing many sites.

Councillor Doris suggested that signage and access could be improved and should be detailed with a recognizable logo like such on the Collins trail in Cork which has a small figure to make them identifiable.

Councillor Ashton said she was happy to propose the report items and reflecting on payments for community groups she said she did not know what the impact would be given there could be a number of invoices, different suppliers etc. She said the matter should be considered through Policy and Resources.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy concurred and said it should be looked at from all perspectives.

- **Development**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the update on Development

D060/22 Sports Representative Grants

The AD: Health, Leisure and Wellbeing presented previously circulated report which detailed proposed community grant allocations for the range of:

- Sports Representative Grant - Team and Individuals (March 2022)

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the sports grant allocations as outlined in the report.

D061/22 Extension of the Service Level Agreements with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

The AD: Health, Leisure and Wellbeing presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the renewal of Service Level Agreements (SLA's) with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (ABC) for the provision of Tobacco Control and Health Inequalities work for the period April 2022 – March 2023.

In response to Councillor Quinn's request for an update on Maghery Bridge the SD: Env advised that there had been senior level meetings with officers between Mid Ulster, the Department and ABC Council and that a draft study was being worked on. She concluded that there was no definitive outcome to date but there was progress.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the signing of the renewal Service Level Agreements with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council for the provision of Tobacco Control and Health Inequalities work for the period April 2022 – March 2023.

D062/22 Clean Neighbourhood Action Plan

The AD: Health, Leisure and Wellbeing presented previously circulated report which provided an update on the Council's Clean Neighbourhood Action Plan and sought approval for Council to participate in the 'Walk This Way Initiative' in partnership with the Dogs Trust and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB). The AD: HLW sought approval for £300 spend for Council to participate in the 'Walk This Way Initiative'.

Councillor McNamee welcomed the initiative and asked that Lough Fea Walk be included within it as it was a hotspot for dog fouling.

Councillor McNamee reflected on the number of fines issued in Cookstown to be much higher than that of the other main towns and asked if the wardens had patrolled it on a more regular basis or was littering offenders more prevalent. He drew on the statistics and expressed concern that the majority of fines were focused on smokers and asked were they being targeted in particular. He said at the workshops the areas of concern were dog fouling and fast food packaging, yet to date only five and three fines issued respectively. He asked was smokers an easy target for the WISE staff to get salaries paid.

Councillor Doris concurred and said this was not travelling in the direction Members had wanted. She asked was rural walkways being monitored and also reflected on the lack of bins requesting that the Stewartstown Road be looked at as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Corry also concurred and said dog fouling was the biggest issue and asked for a breakdown of where the patrols were, she stated that although some areas were rural if one or two fines are issued word soon gets out and people would think twice.

Councillor Monteith concurred and said the company was hitting the towns and following people even into shops. He stated this had most definitely not been what Members had wanted and was in fact failing miserably. He said he was still receiving as many calls about dog fouling and the system needed to be changed.

Councillor Cuddy concurred stating that the matter had previously been considered by the Environment Committee. He said from his shop and post office in Dungannon he was aware of the fines being issued. He said there was little communication to the public as to when this would commence and many in the foreign national community still could not read English. He also shared that one person had to pay an £80 fine for disposing of a cigarette butt and this had been a 'big wack' of their weekly income yet when he goes to open the shop in the mornings the street is littered with take away papers. He concluded that the outcomes of the project were not what Council had desired.

Councillor Quinn too concurred and said it was easy to follow a smoker but he was still persistently being contacted about dog fouling and litter on the Canal path and Clonoe walkway. He said he had not had one complaint about a cigarette butt. He reiterated Councillor Monteith's comments that the whole thing needed re-examined.

Councillor Kerr echoed the comments that smokers were the easy target and asked were the workers on commission and was this their motivation. He also said that the jobs should be direct employment of Council and not privatized as this project was. Councillor Kerr emphasized that it needed to be communicated to WISE that the real issues were dog fouling and waste.

Councillor Clarke said other information was also required as to where the patrols are as littering was not confined to towns and that it is concentrated anywhere there is a fast food outlet. He suggested that establishments that supply packaging should have to have it branded and council would then be able to identify where it had originated and notify the owners who in turn should encourage customers to dispose of their waste correctly.

The Chair Councillor Molloy said any road side is the same with litter he also stated that Members had raised valid points which would be fed back.

Councillor Wilson said he appreciated that the highest number of offences was cigarette butts but litter was litter. He stated that Council was only two months into the contract, that when comments were communicated it would improve but stressed that Council needed to keep sending the message out about litter. Councillor Wilson highlighted that it cost approximately £0.5million to clean Cookstown per year and that either via WISE or education littering had to stop. He also commented that many food outlets did use branded packaging.

Councillor Burton concurred with Councillor Wilson and said that neither butts nor chewing gum on the footpath were pleasant for anyone. In relation to dog fouling she said that at a recent workshop at Castlecaulfield it had been raised that people would like more litter bins especially on the road out to Parkanaur. Councillor Burton reflected that this was the first report and the main emphasis seemed to be on villages and towns she was emphatic that a zero tolerant message needed to go out and told of how she had challenged someone who had been quite hostile. She asked that patrols would also be carried out in parks and reflected on how she had asked that dog waste bags be made available as occasionally people did genuinely forget to bring a bag. Councillor Burton also asked that more bins were made available as often they were at the car park on popular walks with none along the way.

The AD:HLW thanked Members for their comments and said he would urgently report back to the WISE contract manager. Responding to queries he said that reports can be drawn down on where the WISE patrols took place and he would bring a report to give an idea of the profile, he also stated that fine levels could be down to behavior not

necessarily time spent in a location. With regard to the high rate of fines for cigarette butt littering he referred to the Keep NI Beautiful campaign and said it was consistent with their statistics but reiterated he would feedback Members comments regarding targeted approach to WISE.

The AD: HLW advised that WISE enforcement officers were paid an hourly rate with no performance incentives, with regards to dog fouling he provided a further update that three more fixed penalty notices had been issued in the last week and reports on targeted hotspots had assisted thus intelligence was paying off. He reminded Members that Council's own staff were working in tandem with WISE officers and there had been a dramatic increase from 20 March in that a further eight notices had been issued from Council's own team. With regard to additional bins the AD: HLW said he would make contact with colleagues in Environmental Services and also acknowledged the consensus regarding cigarette butts. Referring to comments regarding communication he advised that there was work with communications team to highlight the project to community groups, across social media and highlighted that translations were being worked on.

Responding to the suggestions that dog waste bags be made available the AD: HLW said this had been previously raised at Environment Committee and a pilot project was planned for sites such as Dungannon Park, Davagh and Round Lake. He concluded thanking Members for comments and said officers would continue to monitor the project which was now running for eleven weeks.

In response to Councillor Kerr's query the AD:HLW advised that 90% of income is retained by WISE, Council incurs no charges and receives 10% of income. It was noted that the first reconciliation report was now due. He concluded that the fixed penalty notice could be paid either on line or over the phone.

Councillor Cuddy stated that $806 \times £80 = £64,480$ thus it was a profitable business.

In response to Councillor Burton's query whether they had patrolled villages to date the AD: HLW advised that they are obliged to pay 50% of time in rural areas. He reminded Members a report would be brought in due course.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to participate in the 'Walk This Way Initiative' in partnership with the Dogs Trust and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) at an initial cost of £300.

D063/22 Economic Development Report - OBF

The AD: Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes presented previously circulated report which provided an update on the below –

- Sperrins Partnership Project
- Sperrins Walking Festival
- Covid19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme
- Consultation Response - Draft Investment Strategy NI
- Covid Small Settlement Regeneration Programme
- Sliabh Beagh Partnership – Request for Contribution Towards Scoping Study

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the key activities as listed below in the Economic Development Report – OBFD.

- **Sperrins Partnership Project**

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to –

- i. Approve a continued financial contribution to Sperrins Partnership of up to £22,000 for the 2022/23 financial year towards salaries and running costs to enable delivery of the initiatives as outlined within the report, and further referenced within Appendices 1A and 1B.
- ii. Approve that Council prepare and issue an SLA (once approved by Council's legal team) to Sperrins Partnership, and subject to their acceptance and return of the signed SLA, Council's recommended financial contribution of up to £22,000 be released.

- **Sperrins Walking Festival**

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve Council's participation in the 2022 Sperrins Walking Festival and contribute a maximum budget of up to £6,000 towards the Mid Ulster leg of the event.

- **Covid19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme**

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve authority for Chief Executive to sign the Covid-19 Recovery Programme Letter of Variance as detailed at Appendix 2, dated 22 March 2022 which grants an extension to the period

of funding to 31 December 2022. Approval also given to return the signed letter of variance to DfC immediately following the Development Committee in order to meet DfC's response timeframe.

- **Consultation Response – Draft Investment Strategy NI**

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve Council's consultation response to the draft Investment Strategy for NI and submit the response before the consultation deadline closes on 20th April 2022. Should any Member wish to add further comments, these can be forwarded to the Assistant Director of Economy, Tourism & Strategic Programmes no later than 13th April 2022, to allow time for Council's response to be finalised and submitted in a timely manner.

- **Covid Small Settlement Regeneration Programme**

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note Council's acceptance of the Contract for Funding received from DfC under the Covid Small Settlements Regeneration Programme for £2,781,000 and approve the partnership arrangement with SIB, through the use of Project Management assistance from their Council Support Unit for a minimum of two years with an option to extend for 3 years.

- **Sliabh Beagh Partnership – Request for Contribution Towards Scoping Study**

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve a financial contribution of £5,000 from Council's tourism budget in 2022/23, towards Sliabh Beagh Partnership to assist the Partnership undertake a scoping exercise of potential outdoor recreation projects, subject to confirmation of similar commitments on the part of Monaghan County Council and Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and when the successful company is appointed to undertake the scoping study, a workshop be convened with all Members of Mid Ulster District Council along with relevant officers to feed into the consultation process.

Councillor Doris drew attention to the Covid Recovery Revitalisation and sought an update on the project for Coalisland Canal.

In response the AD: EDT&SP said that the Council's Capital team would be able to provide an update. The AD: HLW said that there was currently three different projects ongoing in relation to Coalisland Canal and he would provide update to the Member.

Councillor Kerr sought an update on the litter bins along the Coalisland Canal pathway and said currently there was only one bin in place and even temporary bins would assist in the interim with litter issues.

Councillor Corry sought clarity on who would be approached regarding the Sperrins Walking festival and Sliagh Beagh Partnership as she knew of a number of areas/groups interested.

In response the AD: EDT&SP advised that there was Member representation on the partnership but she would ask Council's Tourism Manager to ensure all Members from Mid Ulster Council would have an opportunity to feed into the Sliabh Beagh Partnership scoping study consultation process.

D064/22 Update on ESF Call 3 Match Funding Requests 2022/23

The AD: Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes presented previously circulated report which provided an update on ESF Call 3 Match Funding Requests 2022/23.

In response to Councillor Kerr's question regarding HGV driving training the AD: EDT&SP advised that a number of options were being worked up and Council was awaiting a letter of offer from Department for Communities following which work could be tendered and organisations appointed to progress the initiatives.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the contributions as outlined below for the period 2022/23, subject to the project promoters providing confirmation of their final match funding package being in place, verifying their capacity to deliver their projects as outlined and committing to achieving the targets as detailed in their proposals:
- (i) Approve up to £25,000 to SWC for the SUSE+ Programme for the period 2022/23
 - (ii) Approve up to £12,500 to First Steps Women's Centre for the Women Towards Education and Employment Programme for the period 2022/23
 - (iii) Approve up to £6,250 to Enterprise NI for the Exploring Enterprise Programme for the period 2022/23

- (iv) Approve up to £6,250 to the NOW Group for the VERVE Project for the period 2022/23
- (v) Approve that officers write to Specialisterne NI and Bytes to advise that Council has no available budget in 2022/23 to fund their requests.

Matters for Information

D065/22 Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 March 2022

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 March 2022.

Councillor Doris drew attention D042/22 and requested that she be provided with update on progress regarding securing lands for additional car parking in Stewartstown village.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Burton declared an interest in Agewell

D066/22 Ageing Well Initiative Update

The AD: Health, Leisure and Wellbeing presented previously circulated report which provided update on the progress of the Ageing Well Initiative and the outcome of the tender process to support the Age Friendly Coordinator for the future delivery of the initiative.

Members noted the content of the report.

D067/22 DfC Response - Notice to Quit Periods for Private Tenancies

The AD: Health, Leisure and Wellbeing presented previously circulated report which detailed the Government response, published in February 2022, to the recent consultation exercise on Notice to Quit periods carried out by the Department for Communities (DfC).

Members noted the content of the report.

Councillor Kerr said he had been contacted by local residents and advised that the Housing Associations were raising their rent prices. He asked that Council officers make representation to the various associations as even a £5 per week increase was very difficult for families on low incomes especially at a time when cost of living expenses were soaring.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy said this should be worked through the Housing Forum.

The AD:CD advised that the Department was setting up a review group and she would feed through comments via the Housing Forum.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that Members comments to be fed through to the Housing Associations and via Council lobbying with regards to increase in Housing Association Rents.

Councillor Wilson said it was very hypocritical for some Members to sit and complain about rent prices given the rates hike they had voted for a short while ago.

D068/22 Play Strategy Update

The AD: Health, Leisure and Wellbeing presented previously circulated report which provided an update on progress of the Mid Ulster District Council Five Year Parks and Play Strategy.

Members noted the content of the report.

Councillor McNamee welcomed the report.

Councillor Doris welcomed the report together with the work completed to date on the ground. She expressed concern regarding parks at Cappagh and Altmore and requested an update as to the current status of the projects.

Councillor Quinn concurred and also sought clarity regarding the relocation of Ardboe Park and asked if any alternative sites were being discussed.

The AD:HLW said he had only recently received the remit for parks. He explained that to date 28 projects had been completed at an estimated £1.7m, that three projects totalling approximately £175m were in progress and a further 20 projects were scheduled for the next 12 months. He advised that the report was an overview and did not provide a full breakdown of the five year play strategy. He reminded Members at the end of year three remaining projects would be prioritised and that annual play inspections continued to be carried out. In response to Councillor Quinn's question regarding Ardboe he explained that he was becoming more familiar with the areas and to date the focus had been year one together with progressing year two to tender.

The SD:Env said that it was parallel with outdoor recreation strategy and parks such as Altmore were part of a bigger project which was being progressed to development stage.

Councillor Burton reflected on work done at President Grants and remarked on the increase of people visiting the site. She said she had received requests for play equipment for older children at President Grants and for gym equipment at Round Lake. Councillor Burton suggested that perhaps gym equipment from other sites could be relocated.

Councillor Elattar asked when Moykeeran in Draperstown and Moorside Villas in Longfield where there was only a few swings would be looked at. In response the AD:HLW said at a glance they are included in the five year strategy possibly at year three and ongoing inspection reports would assist in bringing forward proposals as to how best they can be progressed.

Live broadcast ended at 8.20 pm

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 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 D069/22 to D071/22.

Matters for Decision

D069/22 Health, Leisure & Wellbeing 2022/23 revised operating model
D070/22 Environmental Health Information and Management Systems

Matters for Information

D071/22 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 10 March 2022.

D072/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 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 please raise your hand in the normal way and keep raised until advised to lower it
- 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.