

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council  
held on Thursday 15 October 2020 in the Council Offices, Circular Road,  
Dungannon and by Virtual Means**

**Members Present**

Councillor McNamee

Councillors Ashton, Black\*, Burton, Clarke\*, Corry\*, Cuddy\*,  
Doris, Elattar\*, Kerr\*, Hughes\*, Kearney\*, Molloy\*,  
Monteith\*, Wilson\*

**Officers in  
Attendance**

Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation  
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities  
Mr M Browne, Head of Tourism\*\*  
Mr Gordon, Head of Leisure\*\*  
Mr Hill, Head of Parks\*\*  
Ms Linney, Head of Community Development\*\*  
Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts\*\*  
Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development \*\*  
Mr Brown, ICT Support  
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in  
Attendance**

Councillors Bell and McFlynn

\* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

\*\* Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

**D147/20 Apologies**

None.

**D148/20 Declarations of Interest**

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

*Councillor Kerr declared an interest in Coalisland Food Bank.*

**D149/20 Chair's Business**

Councillor Kerr advised that he had been approached by representatives from the Ladies Gaelic Governing body seeking assistance from Council and he proposed that they be invited to a future meeting to make a presentation and to see what support Council Officers can provide them.

The Chair agreed that an invite be issued to Tyrone Ladies GAA to make a presentation to a future meeting.

Councillor Doris requested an urgent meeting with Council representatives, Roads Service, Planners, Clonoe Community Centre and all the elected representatives in the area in relation to a much needed footpath just outside Community Centre as DfI are expecting the football club to pay for it which is completely unacceptable. She stated that she was aware of the Director of Business & Communities having an onsite meeting with Francie Molloy MP, Councillor Joe O'Neill and the community group where everyone could see for themselves the danger and the necessity for a much needed footpath and felt that things would get worse as there was a proposal to implement a playpark in Clonoe. As well as a meeting with all the stakeholders she requested that a letter be sent to Nichola Mallon, Minister for Infrastructure on the urgent need for a footpath at this site.

Proposed by Councillor Doris

Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that an urgent meeting be organised with Council representatives, Roads Service, Planners, Clonoe Community Centre and all the elected representatives on much needed footpath outside Clonoe Community Centre. Also a letter be issued to Nichola Mallon, Minister for Infrastructure on concerns regarding the footpath and the urgency for it.

Councillor Cuddy referred to recent events and said that his party had raised concerns about remote meetings back in June regarding the lack of good broadband and the Council's ICT not be adequate to deliver and the risk for members and staff being in the meeting room with meetings going on a lot longer than normal. He said that things had reverted back to the beginning of the pandemic with the 15 people max rule now in place, with most members having to access into meetings remotely. He stated that the UUP fully support the 4 week restrictions to act as a circuit breaker to control this terrible virus with ever increasing new infections, but however his party wanted the opportunity to revert back to attending actual meetings as soon as it's safe to do so and felt that staff shouldn't be expected to attend meetings when members were not expected to attend, with Councillors being in a position to provide leadership during this difficult period. He said if Council were going to provide virtual meetings under these new restrictions during this new 4 week circuit breaker that meetings should only be called to deal with matters which are deemed critically important and time sensitive. He concluded by saying that his party were happy with the system for the next 4 weeks and hoped that it would work.

Councillor Doris said that there were a lot of problems with IT at the beginning but felt that this had got a lot better this last few weeks and advised that during this pandemic

members must show leadership and if anyone can virtually remote in that this should be supported.

The Chair agreed with Councillor Doris and said that it had improved.

Councillor Monteith concurred with some of the issues raised by Councillor Cuddy regarding inadequate IT and said that he was late linking in remotely tonight due to these issues. He said that although IT had become better there was still a lot of issues which needed addressing and would be off the opinion if a person can't appear at a meeting in person, then consideration should be given to going back to the situation we had in March and April where the Acting Chief Executive had the authority to make operational decisions as this committee system was not fit for purpose as Covid-19 had exposed this time and time again. He said that the IT was not fast enough and does not give this organisation the speed and flexibility which to act and would be really exposed within the coming days as Officers needed to move fast and would reiterate his opinion that if a member cannot appear in person, then the committee should be suspended as during the lock down and full Council meeting facilitated if there was Corporate Governance needed. He said that Planning would still need to go ahead but other than that, he did not foresee how these committees could function under the current IT systems and would accept the emergency situation tonight but would be in favor of people being unable to appear in person at meetings. He said that he had raised the issue of Dungannon Leisure Centre being utilised as an alternate venue for meetings as people could be spaced out 4 to 5 metres apart if need be as the facilities are there and if other elected chambers can operate with 30 to 40 people present, he could see no reason why we can't have the proper environment also.

*Councillor Bell entered the meeting at 7.07 pm.*

## **Matters for Decision**

### **D150/20 UNESCO World Heritage Site – Davagh & Beaghmore Stone Circles**

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to inform Council about the progress of the Notice of Motion at the Development Committee meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 – “That Mid Ulster District Council resolves to explore the necessary steps to have Davagh Dark Sky Park officially designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site”.

Councillor Clarke advised that he fully supported what was taking place and could see that there was a lot of good work being carried out and wasn't surprised at this as Officers always deliver. He said as a point of clarification, Davagh Dark Skies Park was a definitive area which can be identified over a large area and said that he had the same idea over the years, but while development was ongoing he held back as he didn't want to get into the mix with the designation of the Dark Skies Park. He said that he was fully supportive of what was being done but enquired who the Council anticipated becoming members of the stakeholders group. He said that a person had identified themselves to possibly being of use to the Council in working on the World Heritage Project and was confident that this person would have an intimate knowledge of what's involved. He said that he would be happy to propose to progress as suggested.

Councillor Corry concurred with Councillor Clarke and passed her thanks to Drs Campbell and Burke and the Council team on all the work they have done on the spoken paper. She stated that Councillor Clarke and herself had spoken to a person who previously worked for UNESCO and they suggested that the Council go down the route of Biodiversity and look at the possibility of a Global Geopark under UNESCO. She said that it was also suggested that an attentive list under the Department of Education or a joint bid be looked at, which was previously done under the Marble Arch Caves and asked if this could be taken into consideration and would be happy to second the proposal for the working group.

The Head of Tourism in reply to query about stakeholder group, he said that it was envisaged that the local community would play an important role in the project. He said that another group he would be recommending would be Sperrins Future Search group and was pleased to say that a new manager had been appointed this week and would welcome both suggestions from both Councillor Clarke and Corry in terms of experts or other people who would help out. He stated that both Dr Burke and Dr Campbell would be also very interested in taking the initiative forward.

Councillor Ashton enquired about costs being brought forward for the project and referred to page 12 of the report where it clearly states by UNESCO that Dark Skies cannot be nominated for the World Heritage list within the existing framework and wondered where we were at and how this can be progressed.

The Head of Tourism advised that costs were not known yet and really depended on what way it was to be approached on whether to go for a biosphere or accreditation and this would have to be brought back as a future report.

In response to query regarding the Dark Skies accreditation, he said it wasn't enough to bring this forward but would be a cocktail of many things like natural heritage and the built heritage which would be rich enough to take this forward and would be a combination of 3 items in which he would be proposing.

Councillor Cuddy stated that it was a very interesting exercise and commended Councillor Clarke. He said that Dungannon people were very proud of the Castlehill and the Hill of The O'Neill due to what happened there during the early 1600's and at the time it was European news as it brought both the Gael and Planter together. He agreed with Councillor Ashton's comments about being careful regarding money and felt that the same principles should be applied in line with Castlehill and where it fitted into the scheme. He said that it was a great facility which wasn't being used as well as it could be.

Councillor Wilson advised that his concern had previously been raised by Councillor Ashton but said that another issue he had was that these UNESCO sites take up a lot of ground as was the case with the Giant's Causeway and the golf course which was going to be built there and would err on the side of caution as it was alright going for these kind of things but the ramifications might outstrip that. In referring to Councillor Cuddy's comments about the Hill of The O'Neill, he advised that there were a lot of these sites like Tullyhoge Fort and felt that there was a need to come together to start a programme or some idea of what can be achieved. He referred to previous comments in the past about Councillor Monteith's suggestion of a linkup between the three sites

and rather than rush ahead there was a need to sit down and have a look at what we have and what better chance we have of getting them.

The Chair said that it would be useful if costings could be brought to a future meeting and when the group is developed and put together then emphasis should be on how this can be progressed and brought forward.

The Head of Tourism agreed and stated that the first piece of work would be generic in terms of costs and what it would take to do it which could also be applied to other sites. He said that a report would be brought back to a future meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

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

- i) Proceed and work towards seeking UNESCO World Heritage accreditation.
- ii) Establish a working group including all stakeholders.

#### **D151/20 Autumn Corporate Events Update**

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to provide Members with an update on Autumn Corporate Events and identify savings to be reallocated to the COVID-19 Response Fund. He added that whilst £110,000 savings had been identified from Halloween and Christmas events this year, that £24,000 had already been transferred to assist with Covid19 Business Support Grants, which left an underspend balance of £86,000.

Councillor Doris said that she was happy to propose the recommendations but stated that she was sad to see no Halloween festivities this year in Coalisland as everyone always worked so hard to make it special.

She stated that there had been very advantageous thinking in terms of Neighbourhood Renewal who were looking at innovative ways of interacting with teenagers and young adults without bringing them together over the Halloween period and wanted this noted. She said that the Ogras Youth Club and the Fianna were anticipating running an online FIFA tournament over the 2 weeks before Halloween to keep youth entertained over this crucial time.

In referring to update from the Head of Tourism she stated that some good points were made in terms of tourism and hospitality as it was going to suffer dramatically over this difficult time.

Councillor Ashton said that she would be happy to second the recommendation and in referring to the £110,000 for the Covid Response asked if there were any indications from the businesses which had to close over the 4 weeks and was there any way of targeting these into our Covid fund.

*Councillor Doris left the meeting at 7.22 pm.*

The Head of Tourism advised that no information had been received at present but anticipated that this would be made known over the next few days.

Councillor Wilson stated that there were a number of businesses falling through the cracks i.e. hairdressers, barbers and rent-a-chair and said that these type of businesses would need to be also taken into consideration.

Councillor Cuddy advised that he had been approached by some people with a view to Christmas and concerns around the current circuit breaker. He said that if the number of covid cases can be reduced then there may be some sort of Christmas festivities. He said that these individuals had indicated that they would like to work with the Council on "Save Christmas in Dungannon" campaign with the possibility of having moving advertising displays around areas like Dungannon Park, Castlehill and other places, where people would move around in their cars. These individuals have asked that this be brought forward and now at this current time it's very important compared to last week. He said that it would be beneficial if a meeting could be arranged with the Head of Tourism to explore some ideas as it would be something for the people to look forward to after all the doom and gloom and hopefully if this works there would be something at Christmas which would have a low value and high impact around the town.

*Councillor Doris returned to the meeting at 7.25 pm.*

Councillor Burton said she totally agreed with comments and as Chair of the Tourism Forum she could see a lot of concern in today's latest announcements with a lot of businesses welcoming the clarity that came this evening. She referred to the Nolan Show where it showed that some people were falling through the cracks in terms of furlough as well and premises that may have taken on new staff and not within the boundary of getting any financial support. She would like this money which was being ringfenced for the community's benefit and events to go towards something people would look forward to.

She said that there was an onus on Council to consider widely the whole Covid fund as there was a lot of stress out in the community as there are numerous venues the council support and a lot of business council is linked into getting it very tough at the minute to stay afloat and would be really helpful to have something in place to try and provide support at this difficult time.

The Chair agreed and stated that we were in difficult times with events being cancelled causing a huge disappointment as they brought a lot of smiles and cheer to our communities. He said that the Christmas Lights would still go ahead and was sure that the Head of Tourism would take on board comments raised and Officers take on board concerns around issues relating to community groups etc.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

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

- i) That Council do not organise any formal or planned events that will bring people together in numbers and may potentially encourage none

adherence to the current Government guidance and measures across all towns for both Halloween and Christmas.

- ii) To reallocate the remaining savings of £86,000 from town centre and events budgets to the Council's COVID-19 Response Fund.

Councillor Monteith stated that he would fully support the comments made by Councillor Cuddy regarding Dungannon and if it was a proposal he would have no difficulty seconding it as it was important that the views of the community were taken into account.

## **D152/20      Decade of Anniversaries – Commemorations 2021/22**

The Head of Culture and Arts presented previously circulated report and sought approval for the Decade of Anniversaries Commemoration activities for 2021-2022 financial year, subject to budget approvals and subject to COVID-19 restrictions that may apply.

Councillor Corry asked that events be balanced and considerate of sensitivities when something is being celebrated as to others this could be seen as something immediate and terrible events like the signing of the Anglo Irish Treaty and to many it could be seen as blatant sectarianism and discrimination as of which was used to maintain power.

She proposed that a workshop be set up to discuss any events before any decisions are made on what the events are.

Councillor Monteith in referring to Councillor Corry's concerns enquired if there were any events this year as there were significant centenaries this year, with major centenaries coming up in the coming weeks, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Terence McSweeney, the death of Kevin Barry, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bloody Sunday which is to be remembered at Croke Park in November. He said these were all significant events, especially Kevin Barry who had significant links to the Dungannon area and enquired if there was anything arranged for this year and if not why was this not the case and whether consideration was being given to organising something next year.

Councillor Ashton said that she was disappointed in the tone of where the discussion was going and felt that the paper was very balanced and inclusive but did understand that some people within the community may not want to take part, but they were certainly open and some of the events allowed for discussions and a party colleague had raised that it may allow for other people to engage with. She said that this was about showing respect to each other and actually being able to mark different anniversaries in a mature manner and to demonstrate that this district can be a community for everybody. She felt that in the past members have engaged with the Decade of Anniversaries scheme and were being continuously told by colleagues across the way to bring forward proposals to allow people from her community to mark different events and to mark them in a way which were inclusive for everybody and felt that the paper was fair and balanced on proposals being brought forward and not a big ask and would be happy to propose the paper as it's presented. She asked that people with concerns over the events to read the paper as it was very detailed and to engage

as she had a very much open door policy as things in the paper in front of members were not about rubbing other peoples noses in it and felt the paper presented was for the whole community and if people want to be involved in it, they can, and if they don't, they don't, as there were things passed in years gone by that her community didn't want to be engaged with but these were passed in the Council and this had to be acknowledged. She said that this was an event that her community would want to be a part of and an opportunity for this Council to actually show that they were going to be inclusive for the whole community and not send out a message that we are not going to allow proposals and different events under the Decades of Anniversaries because it was not being likened by certain quarters of the Council and would be happy to propose the paper as it is.

Councillor Doris stated that discussions taken place with the previous speakers had shown the need for a workshop, but didn't agree with Councillor Ashton's comments as the details within the paper were extremely vague and seconded Councillor Corry's proposal.

Councillor Black seconded Councillor Ashton's proposal and would agree wholeheartedly what she had said and felt that there were some people from political parties around the table that talk about inclusivity, respect and tolerance and all of those buzz words sounds fantastic but felt that this was the perfect opportunity to show that they actually mean what they say and whilst they may not agree with the substance of the report and what was being commemorated. If they are true to the words they say, they must create a space for other sections of the community to celebrate part of their culture and their heritage.

Councillor Wilson concurred with comments by his DUP colleagues and was not surprised that Sinn Fein had adopted this attitude as they talk about equality and respect but don't show any at all when it doesn't reflect on their community and felt that this was an opportunity to promote with everybody as there was nothing threatening within the programme that he could see and would support Councillors Ashton and Black's proposal.

Councillor Elattar stated that she would agree with Councillor Corry and Councillor Doris as some of the detail was a bit vague and in order to answer Councillors Ashton, Black and Wilson's question if it was a truly inclusive process, then a workshop would be a good idea as it would make it inclusive for everyone.

Councillor Corry agreed with Councillor Elattar's comments about everyone trying to come together and getting some sort of a programme to suit everyone. She said there were sensitivities around partitions and some people may not see this and members should be mindful of that.

Councillor Monteith suggested rather than voting that both should be done as he had no difficulty with people having discussions and stated that within the 2016 period there were a series of issues resolved maturely by Council and not as he would like to have seen, but felt that it was balanced and only raised the issue of this year because he felt there may have been a miss, but would have no issues with people coming forward with analysis for next year. He suggested adopting the paper and then arrange a workshop for working through on what we may and may not do going forward.



He referred to Councillor Cuddy's comments earlier regarding what the former Dungannon Council achieved in and around 2007, the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Flight of the Earls and the events which took place during and after the event including drama and other things which was included in the paper presented tonight with a lot of people attending events which they may not have thought would be of interest to them. He felt that the Council had got it right and would have confidence in the Officers of this organisation that this can be achieved here. He said that rather than a vote tonight, adopt the paper as it doesn't tie into any specific events at this stage but going forward organise a workshop to allow Councillors to put forward ideas and suggestions on how to proceed.

Councillor Ashton advised that she would have no problem talking to anyone within the Chamber and felt that a workshop should not be organised just for the sake of having one for members just to vote this proposal down. She reiterated her support for the proposal in front of the committee tonight as she felt that it could be inclusive for all sections of the committee who wish to take part in it but felt if it was being put down the line for a vote of a workshop just for the sake of trying to delay her community from marking events which they deem important to them in the district, she stated that her party wouldn't be up for that and didn't think it was a huge ask.

Councillor Molloy agreed with Councillor Monteith's comments about setting up a workshop for oncoming events and especially around events due to take place this year. He said that there were events in terms of discussions with Professors deliberating three or four different issues, but unfortunately these seemed to fall on a Thursday night when there was a Council meeting which excluded Councillors from attending.

In referring to the Decade of Anniversaries, Councillor Molloy said that it was his knowledge that these events run from 1912 to 1922 and felt that discussions were needed around how and what kind of events were going to be run to close out the Decade of Anniversaries. He stated that there was an onus on members to sit down and have discussions on a way forward and he was not denying anybody the right to celebrate their heritage and what was dear to them.

Councillor Kearney advised that he had experience of attending these workshops and found them very useful over the years. He said that he had attended workshops in Benburb, Dungannon and elsewhere and would have no difficulty in celebrating the Decade of Anniversaries and agreed that a workshop would be useful and would ask Councillor Ashton to reconsider her proposal and that his party would be happy to agree the paper but if there was a need to have a workshop that this should be encouraged and would support Councillor Monteith's suggestion.

Councillor Cuddy felt that a good debate had ensued tonight and supported Councillor Monteith's proposal of agreeing to the proposal presented with a workshop being arranged for members in the not too distant future. In referring to the Return of the Earls event in 2007, he said that this showed great maturity amongst the former Dungannon Council members as each community had been shown respect. He said that he wouldn't want to see a vote taking place tonight but rather agree the paper and agree to have a workshop going forward as he wanted this to be seen as a good news story of £72,000 being allocated to celebrate events.

Councillor Doris felt that tonight's debate had been encouraging and stated that on a point of clarification Councillor Corry wasn't against the funding going ahead but asked that a workshop be arranged going forward to have discussions.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that he was providing an Officer view on the paper, content and discussion. He said that the paper was presented as requested in relation to the Decade of Anniversaries and as an Officer team he felt it was fair and accruable and agreed with members that it could be seen as broad based, inoffensive and open to interpretation but nothing fundamentally wrong with it. He stated that there was a proposal not to defer the paper and to convene a workshop, there was an alternative proposal to approve the paper with no workshop and then there was a proposal somewhere in between which was to approve the paper and do a workshop and felt that in terms of a corporate prospective the latter proposal was by far the most appropriate. He said if members were minded in the interests of relations, to adopt what was presented subject to a workshop or anything else or additional issues for other commemorations which can be addressed and developed thereafter.

Councillor Corry said that she just wanted to clarify that she was happy for the funding to go ahead but felt that a workshop would be useful going forward.

The Chair said that there were a few proposals brought forward but there was clearly a demand for a workshop as well as adopting the paper and if members agree then this can be progressed.

Councillor Ashton said that she has an open door policy and would be quite happy to go to a workshop going forward, but would be more than happy for the paper to be adopted here tonight. She stated that she would be happy to engage with any member afterwards but advised that her proposal stands to adopt the paper and if there was a need for a workshop going forward she would be happy to participate in that as long as people were willing to come to the table and have an open discussion. Just to clarify she said that she would like to propose adopting the paper in front of members tonight and have a workshop added on.

The Chair said that it was his understanding to add on the workshop to the recommendation tonight as part of the Decade of Anniversaries.

The Chair advised that there were two proposals being put before the committee tonight.

Councillor Ashton's proposal to proceed with the recommendation.

Councillor Corry's proposal to proceed with the recommendation with a workshop attached to it.

Councillor Ashton said that she wanted to clarify that she would be happy for a workshop to be added on to her proposal if this was being adopted tonight.

All members agreed with that they would be happy with Councillor Ashton's proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the Decade of Anniversary Commemoration 2021-2022 programme as outlined under section 3 of this report and the funding commitment required, across the services detailed, totaling £72,000 from 2021/22 service budget allocations. Also recommended that a workshop be organised for members to discuss options going forward.

## **D153/20 Community Development**

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report to update members on the following:

- Grants – approval sought for rolling good relations grants & small community, arts and heritage grant appeal
- Emergency Support Funding: DFC funding
- Peace IV – to note the Peace IV update
- Community Development – to note the recommendation regarding Good Relations Leadership group and Community Development update

Councillor Elattar referred to information within the report on funding towards community debt management support and mental health support as it really was needed at the minute. She said that there were different amounts set down for the main towns and different organisations listed and sought clarification on whether this referred to STEPS in Draperstown and whether Magherafelt took into Draperstown as STEPS do a lot for mental health within those areas.

The Head of Community Development confirmed that it was STEPS in Draperstown and that Officers had identified social enterprises which was carrying out mental health support and was conscious that not all these organisations may have been identified at the moment but looking into this. She said that no funding had been agreed yet with any community group as no engagement has taken place until it was brought to the attention of members first to get approval but it was anticipated to have conversations on what areas can be provided for and on outcomes and targets on those areas and an indicative has been set for town based on the areas of coverage and population at the moment and then allocation can be made accordingly on who can cover what areas and outcomes achieved across the district.

Councillor Elattar said that she was very encouraged by this and would be happy to support the recommendation. She said that she had been speaking to a board member of STEPS last night who advised that there was a huge demand for counselling in both rural and urban areas and was good to see funding going towards that.

Councillor Molloy referred to the Food Partnership Fund and said it was good to see funding coming into the various food banks as this was very welcome. He enquired if there was any intention to provide any kind of funding for the other community groups who would have distributed parcels on an ad hoc basis as the one he was involved in

are seeing a rise in requests for ad hoc support from a range of people like the young, single parents, elderly and others across the board and enquired if there was any intention to set a fund in place to help community groups to avail of it as Christmas was around the corner and there was going to be a huge demand.

The Head of Community Development advised that £25,000 had been set aside to look at funding for community groups and see how it was best targeted and to try and get an indication of the pressures and engagement with community and best target that. In relation to the food and fuel element this was trying to be done through the food bank and linked into the FareShare and the Trust to maximise the resources and a process to refer people on so it becomes a wider integrated service within emergency support. She said that the community was being investigated at the moment for £25,000 and hoped that something can be brought very quickly.

Councillor Kerr referred to item 3.21 of the report and said that he welcomed the funding for the counselling services as there was going to be an increase in mental health issues relating to the pandemic and was good to see Council Officers being very proactive and supporting the various organisations as he was aware of them carrying out great work in the Coalisland and Mid Ulster area.

Councillor Burton referred to the Food Partnership Fund and said that she was aware of the amount of funding being calculated but enquired if a group could apply or had the group to be part of a partnership to reap the benefits of getting funding. She said that she was aware of a group in the Clogher Valley area, based in Clogher called Hope for You which provides counselling and they have really been proactive in provided mental health support, distribution of food parcels and helping the community during this very difficult time.

She also wanted to raise an issue relating to the community aspect and apologised as she had only received the email after Chair's business had taken place. The matter involved an educational provider within the Clogher Valley area being confused in relation to staff and the furlough scheme which has left the provider in dire straits as this was a fantastic resource for the Clogher Valley area and asked that following this meeting that Council Officers write to the Education Authority around clarity on issues relating to the furlough scheme as the facility cannot proceed without the adequate staff.

The Chair advised that Officers would follow up Councillor Burton's request.

*Councillor Monteith declared and interest in St. Vincent De Paul and the Vineyard Church in Dungannon in relation to doing voluntary work for these groups in the past.*

Proposed by Councillor Burton  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

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

- i) Grant award recommendations for Good Relations & Grant Appeal Award for the small community, arts & heritage grant totaling £1,100.
- ii) Emergency Support Funding – proposed delivery and allocation.

- iii) Peace IV – Peace IV Partnership and Peace IV update.
- iv) Community Development – Discuss the recommendations for a Good Relations Leadership Group and to note the update report.

## **D154/20      Railway Park Action Plan**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report to update and seek approval on planned actions associated to addressing issues in relation to anti-social behavior in Railway Park, Dungannon.

Councillor Molloy said that he was aware of a business on the Ballygawley Road carrying out extensive work in clearing up the debris in their own business and felt there was a need to reinstall the connecting fence between the two to protect the businesses from the constant access between the bushes and shrubbery which needs urgently looked at. He said that although money had been spent on it, this should be part & parcel of the project as an ongoing thing regardless. He referred to the issue of SEUPB funding and was he right in saying that within that project Wardens were to be put on that circuitous route that would be based in the building at Railway Park and enquired why this hasn't happened.

The Head of Community Development advised that this was to be part of the Earl's Project which was under Peace 3 Programme and was identified as part of the maintenance programme as part of a number of revenue conditions for the Park and for the Hill of the O'Neill. She said at that stage we were transitioning into the new Council and two resources were identified and put forward to Policy & Resources Committee, but at the time in a more generic role because of pressures along other routes in terms of the Parks development. There was to be one Warden for the Earls Pathway which included Railway Park element and one more generic at that stage during the time of the legacy Councils coming together.

The Head of Parks said as a result of the investment in Railway Park, under the Earl's Trails there were two new posts developed which were Town Parks staff. These are 2 x 20hr posts which were still operational in providing an inspection service for Railway Park on a daily basis, seven days a week, it's not a full time service and they cover other areas also. He said what Officers would be suggesting complementing what staff was already there as it wasn't enough, as sometimes their whole day was based at Railway Park because of its size and demands. They also had other duties around the Earl's Trails. He stated that these members of staff would be greatly missed if they weren't in post and the Council needed to look at complementing these staff due to the increased work load.

Councillor Monteith concurred with Councillor Molloy and said that he was 100% right, in the meetings running up the Earls Project, it was made clear to the community that there would be wardens in place as the community were giving up a formidable asset and a significant amount of open space. He said that when the building was built and the commitment given, there was a reassurance given to the Community that on the back of that there would be a permanent Council staffing presence on the park and this was made perfectly clear that staff would be based in the new building when Councillors went into the community asking people to back the proposal. He said that there was a need to get back to this point where staff are based at the building at

Railway Park where they go to first thing in the morning and operate from there and if they have other duties they can carry these out from their base and also be given more than an inspection role and more of an authority role to come up with proposals rather than looking after the place. He agreed what Councillor Molloy had previously said about waiting for a fence to collapse, instead look at ways at how this can be fixed or replaced as this was always the attitude shown towards Railway Park, let it fall or break before something is done.

He referred to a number of things within the Action Plan like lighting, where continuous requests for extra lighting at the Lisnahull side had been made and asked that a column be included to have this looked at as Wardens were key to the development of relationships with the community.

Councillor Monteith stressed that Railway Park never recovered after works were carried out in relation to the Gas to the West scheme as the local community went elsewhere that summer and to be fair to the Head of Parks and his team they tried to make it more welcoming by planting wild flower beds etc. He stated that there was a need to get the community to use the park again but felt that ongoing anti-social behaviour was the biggest deterrent and said that what was needed included in the Action Plan was the community back using the park again as this would be the biggest deterrent to anti-social behaviour. He advised that there was a need for encouraging people to utilise the park again through positive activities like walking and running from one park to another.

He said that to get the Earls project over the line there had been DEA meetings with Officers every month/six week basis to get this progressed and felt that this should revert back to this to iron out any issues to deliver the one million pounds project. He suggested having one DEA meeting per month to get into the habit and moving things forward.

He also referred to community concern regarding the open water proposal and felt that this would be a dangerous proposal for Council to be making unless there was a fully resourced presence at the Park with staff being there all of the time and this whole side of the park being looked at to facilitate it into a positive thing in a more structured way. He said that he was aware of a proposal from some of the local community to the Council and felt that a second 4g should be investigated for the town from that area which would encourage people not from that part of the town to come in and use it in a positive manner and agreed that this was an issue for the DEA meetings going forward. He asked that DEA meeting be held once a month and not just crisis meetings but to try and get a quality project over the line so it be something that the Council and the community can be proud of as it had a massive potential for the area.

Councillor Ashton thanked officers for presenting the paper tonight as she had asked that this be progressed at a previous Council meeting and would be happy to second Councillor Molloy's proposal. She asked that a completion column be included to show if targets are being met or not.

Councillor Cuddy concurred with all members comments and said that the Earls Project amounted to £7m, funded 100% for the town and was a terrific project and now the Council's vision was to have a circular park so people can walk around the town in a

circular fashion. He also agreed with Councillors Molloy and Monteith regarding being approached by some business owners raising concerns about anti-social behaviour at Railway Park in the evening and causing a deterrent for community usage and didn't want to see the park turning into a no-go area as it has a lot of potential. He stated that it was important that this be investigated as one whole project as there was a need to address community concerns in relation to walking from one park to another.

The Chair stated that he was glad to see the plan on paper and going forward if would be beneficial if DEA meetings be arranged to progress the matter.

The Head of Parks said that engagement had taken place with local businesses which Councillors had referred to with some costings being drawn up for fencing and was aware of the acute issue at the moment regarding people getting into business properties which they shouldn't be getting into. He was working on that at the moment and getting some costs with regards to incorporating them into the Action Plan.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

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

- i) Proposed actions associated to combating anti-social behavior in Railway Park.
- ii) Report be presented to Policy and Resources Committee to request the additional budget required.
- iii) Organise a series of DEA meetings to further discuss the additional actions that have yet to be fully determined.

#### **D155/20 Relocation of a Changing Cabin**

The Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report and sought approval for the relocation of a changing cabin at Knockloughrim Playing Fields to Pomeroy and establishment of a license agreement with Pomeroy District Sports and Cultural Association.

Proposed by Councillor Black  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve in principle the relocation of the changing cabin currently situated at Knockloughrim Playing Fields to Pomeroy in addition to the approval to proceed with entering into a license agreement with Pomeroy District Sports and Cultural Association.

Councillor Burton thanked officers and contractors on the Aughnacloy relocation which was being very well received by all within the community. She said that she had visited the site and wanted to commend the Contractors on how they have finished of the project with fantastic walkways and railings and a job very much appreciated by all backgrounds within the community.

## **D156/20 Tamnamore Close Play Park Lease Agreement**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval to progress lease proposals in relation to a parcel of land adjacent to 1 and 4 Tamnamore Close, Dungannon from Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

*Councillor Bell left the meeting at 8.24 pm.*

Councillor Doris said that she would be happy to propose the report but wanted to raise a separate issue relating to Stewartstown which has a similar set up to Tamnamore. She said that there was a proposal brought for a playpark at Henderson's Park in Stewartstown but originally the community thought it was on a certain piece of land. She wanted to apologise in advance if she was wrong but she was of the opinion that the Council had messed this up as the community believed that this piece of land was owned by the Council. When the plans and money came through it became apparent that the land was owned by the Housing Executive and not the Council. She asked for a letter to be written and sent to the Housing Executive asking them if the land could be transferred to Council to put the park at the proposed site instead of the second location as it wasn't really suitable. She said that it would be useful to write to the Housing Executive and Contractor to explain the situation, even to exhaust the option to find out for definite if the park cannot go where the community originally believed it was going to go and wished to make that proposal.

*Councillor Bell returned to the meeting at 8.27 pm.*

The Chair enquired if this was part of a legacy Council issue as it was something that could have been discussed with Stewartstown and would ask Officers to follow the issue up.

The Head of Parks advised that to his knowledge there would have been negotiations taken place regarding development at Henderson's Park. As far as he was aware in discussions with colleagues in Communities in relation to funding there was full consultation with the community with regards to the current location at Henderson's Park. He stated that the project at Henderson's Park was at an advanced stage with regard to the funding window and with award of contract and any deviation with the award would mean the project would have to be pulled completely from the funding package that it's part of at the moment. He said that he was unaware of the other piece of land that Councillor Doris had referred to but Henderson's Park does offer a reasonably central location in Ard Stewart and Henderson's Park. Within Stewartstown access to play is quite central which isn't always the case in some areas.

The Chair said that the Stewartstown scheme seemed to be at an advanced stage and any deviation away from that would result in delays or the possibility of not having any play facilities.

Councillor Doris advised that this was the last thing that she would want for the park to not proceed but was only looking to see if there was a possibility to see if the project could go elsewhere after speaking to the community they were of the opinion the playpark was going to be elsewhere and during consultations they had expressed their



desire to have it at the alternative location. She felt if Officers were indicating that this cannot be done then it was fair enough but just wanted to exhaust that option. The Chair said that he was sure that the Head of Parks would follow it up and what the potential threat and delay would be if the scheme was to be pulled at this stage.

The Head of Parks advised that there would be no problem providing more information if Councillor Doris requires it.

Councillor Monteith said that he would be happy to second the recommendation.

Councillor Ashton said that it would be good to get the project of the ground as this issue was going on for quite some time.

Councillor Cuddy agreed with the Head of Parks and said that this was an ideal location as there were a number of new houses developed and central for all and great to see a bit of ground being utilised for good use.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

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

- i) The establishment of Lease Agreement from Northern Ireland Housing Executive in relation to the proposed 25 year lease for the designated land at Tamnamore Close, Dungannon for the provision of public play facilities.
- ii) Upon receipt, all associated LPS valuations and Lease Agreement Documentation to P&R Committee and Council Meeting for approval and Seal.

## **D157/20 Economic Development Report**

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report to provide an update on key activities and sought approval for the following:

### **i) Covid-19 Revitalisation Project (Tranche 2)**

- *Department for Communities (DfC) and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Funding – Covid-19 Business Grant Scheme (Tranche 2) -*

Previously under the Covid-19 Revitalisation Project funding in Tranche 1, Council delivered a Covid-19 Business Grant Scheme to assist urban and rural businesses make adaptations and implement social distancing measures to protect staff and customers in line with government guidance. In Tranche 1, Council received £281,000 funding from DfC and £148,000 from DAERA and Council also redirected £133,000 from its Economic Development budget towards

the scheme. This provided a maximum budget of £562,000 to be split equally between urban and rural areas with £281,000 for each.

A new Tranche 2 application to deliver a further Covid-19 Business Grants Scheme was submitted to DfC on 24 September 2020.

- *Department for Infrastructure (DFI) / Department for Communities (DfC) Funding - Covid-19 Town Centre Works Scheme (Tranche 2)*

Members were briefed at the September 2020 Committee Meeting that DfC advised Council on 2 September 2020, that DfI would provide £464,659 capital funding to Mid Ulster Council in Tranche 2. The focus of their funding must be concentrated on pavement widening to allow for social distancing, active travel, promoting connectivity, access to services, enhancing green/blue spaces, etc. Furthermore, on 30 September 2020, DfC advised they will also provide a further £34,000 revenue funding to Mid Ulster Council.

Councillor Kerr referred to Coalisland Canal Towpath and said he welcomed the excitement for funding which may be available and was aware of previous Councillors before him raising issues relating to recreation and lighting and would welcome the report and would be happy to propose.

Councillor Doris said that she would be happy to second the proposal as it was very welcome funding which demonstrated very exciting projects. She advised that today Councillors O'Neill, M Quinn and herself had an on site meeting at the entrance to the Canal walkway where it was extremely dangerous at the crossings due to it being a very well used site and hoped that this would improve as the project progresses.

She proposed that the Council write another letter to the DfI Minister about making it a priority for access routes and having the matter resolved as quickly as possible as this was an accident waiting to happen.

The Chair advised that Officers would take request on board.

Councillor Kearney said that he wished to acknowledge the good work carried out by Council officials on the Maghera project as it provided safety for people using the Park & Ride facility at night as sometimes people were afraid of going out to the main bus stop on the Glenshane Pass because of the lack of lights and a very special treat for the people of Maghera to get that.

Councillor Monteith referred to significant projects within Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt which were not over the line and asked if there were any specific reasons being given by DfI and asked if it was too late to have a "plan b" as we have separate parties in Dungannon and whether these priorities are able to be moved up and would be interested to know what DfI problem was with them.

The Head of Economic Development advised that DfI/DFC originally outlined a number of criteria that Council's application should focus on. These included supporting active travel, promoting connectivity, access to services, and creating/enhancing green/blue

spaces. DfI provided examples of projects such as development of cycle tracks, cycle parking/charging points, pavement or footway widening to account for social distancing, tree planting, sustainable drainage schemes etc. Further to Council submitting a detailed application to DfI/DfC, further correspondence was issued to all Councils by the Department, asking them to make a second application as additional criteria had been added. She said that whilst the thrust of the scheme remained the same there were new criteria to meet. The Head of Economic Development said Council's application focused on improving connectivity in town centres and by so doing would encourage people to actively travel back into towns to use them during and post Covid19, thus supporting trade in local businesses. She added that the proposals, previously agreed by Council and the Town Centre Forums for the 3 larger towns of Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt as detailed in Appendix 1 include provision of outdoor covered seating/rest areas for the public to use whilst in town shopping, where they could meet with family and friends in a safe environment whilst adhering to social distancing protocols. She said that DfI/DfC have communicated they will have difficulty funding the projects in these 3 towns as in their opinion, they do not adequately meet the 'active travel' agenda.

The Chair enquired if there was any indication when DfI would issue a response.

The Head of Economic Development felt that it would be fairly imminent.

The Director of Business and Communities said to answer Councillor Monteith's query and build upon what the Head of Economic Development had stated, he had a meeting tomorrow at 3.30 pm with a Director from DfC/DfI on concerns regarding not meeting criteria of DfI and he wanted members to know that he agreed entirely with the Head of Economic Development as the Council had considered this in great detail and went to great expense in devising, developing and designing these schemes for civic spaces across our main towns. He added Council was told that this was part of the Covid-19 Recovery Programme and we didn't differ from that for one moment. He said DfI had amended their criteria, and it would seem apparent to Officers that DfI was looking the Council to spend the money on DfI projects which were their responsibility and noted they are likely to fund the Coalisland Canal Scheme and the lighting scheme in Maghera but for some reason the three civic spaces which this Council along with DfC have spent millions of pounds creating cannot be funded to put awnings/tables/chairs etc on to allow people to sit down in our town centres like they do all over the world. He advised members this was how he sees it and that he was being open and honest and this would be his line back to DfC/DfI tomorrow as the Council was very clear in its direction and he didn't see an economic reason to change this. He said that this was the Council's view on the matter and when Council open a grant scheme, we don't change our criteria after the documentation is sent out. He referred to funding being spent on implementing cycle lanes going through towns like Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt and reducing parking spaces to widen footpaths which aren't feasible as the Council doesn't want to engage with traders on these issues.

The Chair asked that the Director of Business and Communities keep members informed on the outcome of tomorrow's meeting with DfC/DfI.

Councillor Burton said that her question was previously answered but advised that through NILGA she found out the Mid Ulster was in the top 10 out of 382 regions in the

UK to do with Covid, we were the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in terms of numbers in Northern Ireland and was confident that the Director of Business and Communities would do his best tomorrow but felt that if they have changed the goalposts, surely this would need to be addressed as we as a Council could not get away with that so as a Department you would think they wouldn't be allowed to get away with it either.

The Director of Business and Communities said that it would be his view that he would meet DFC/Dfl and listen to concerns and if need be he would invite them back to meet the members and as he had pointed out to one of the officials yesterday, he didn't make these decisions and that the Council follow a democratic mandate and when a decision is made, it was followed through and not overturned. He said if need be he would invite Dfl to meet members remotely at the next Development Committee as it was an important issue and genuinely didn't want to lose this funding.

Councillor Black said he wanted to support what Councillor Kearney had said earlier regarding the Maghera project and said that he also welcomed it as it was a worthwhile project especially for people using the Park & Ride facility in the evening which would elevate safety concerns.

Councillor Wilson said that he wanted to add to what the Director of Business and Communities had stated and say that a lot of time and effort had been invested by Officers bringing these projects to fruition and it was concerning that the goalposts have been moved half way through, but these awnings which were to be put up were there to try and encourage people to use town centres and sit outside and that's exactly what that money was supposed to be used for. In referring to proposed cycle lanes, he said that he could not envisage a cycle lane being erected through Cookstown main street with all those traffic islands and just didn't make sense.

Councillor Wilson proposed to invite Dfl representatives to the next meeting of the Development Committee remotely, so members can address concerns around these significant projects being put on hold.

Councillor Corry said that she was happy to second the proposal and concurred with Councillor Kearney and Councillor Black's comments on successful scheme at Maghera and wished to thank the Council as she was aware of how busy staff are.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

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

**1) Covid-19 Revitalisation Project (Tranche 2)**

- i) Delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive and/or Director of Business & Communities to sign and accept any letters of offer/contracts received by Council offering funding for the Covid-19 Revitalisation Project.
- ii) Delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive/Director of Business & Communities to develop and roll out a business grants scheme to urban and rural businesses, as soon as funding is

confirmed to Council by the Department for Communities (for urban businesses) and Department for Agriculture and Rural Affairs (for rural businesses), along with Council funding of £133,000 (previously approved).

- iii) Authority be given to the Chief Executive/Director of Business & Communities to sign off on letters of offer to successful participants on a business grants scheme, with the list of approved projects to be brought to Committee for noting.
- iv) Additional revenue funding from DfC of £34,000 be used to cover key revenue expenditure costs within the Covid-19 Towns Centre Works Scheme, to match fund the DfI capital budget assigned to Mid Ulster Council of £464,659.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that an invite be issued to DfI to attend the next Development Committee remotely to address concerns regarding significant projects being put on hold in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt

## 2) Magherafelt Chamber of Commerce Funding Request

- Funding request from Magherafelt Chamber of Commerce seeking £5,000 support to assist them in the following activities:
  - Promoting the growth of Magherafelt Chamber of Commerce
  - Networking events
  - Promotional content for website and social media channels
  - Training/Workshops for businesses
  - Administration
  - Celebrating achievements of businesses
  - Campaign to promote shopping in Magherafelt

Councillor Burton said that she would like Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce to be included in the Magherafelt Chamber of Commerce meeting and would like to see all the business forums coming together to work on projects and on information on what businesses may be entitled to and ask if this could be a possibility.

The Chair said as Magherafelt Chamber of Commerce request was brought forward tonight that this would have to be dealt with separately but going forward Councillor Burton's request would be considered.

Councillor Black said that he would be happy to propose that Officers meet with Magherafelt Chamber of Commerce as it sounded a sensible way forward as it could be picked up under the Council's programmes.

Proposed by Councillor Black  
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that Council Officers meet with Magherafelt Chamber of Commerce to deliver a presentation on the range of business programmes and marketing activities currently provided by Council and Magherafelt Town Centre Forum that businesses in Magherafelt can avail of to assist their growth and development.

### **3) Social Enterprise NI: Council Membership**

Consideration for Councils to sign up to SENI: Council Membership at a cost of £500 per annum. Benefits for Council for joining the scheme include:

- SENI will promote any Council events for social SENI will promote any Council events for social enterprises in their e-zine and social media
- SENI offer free members to any new social enterprise in the area for the first year if they are not already members of SENI.
- Host joint events with the Council including Pitching Events, Buy Social Events, Entrepreneurship Week support etc
- Free training on topics such as “What is Social Value” with any Council staff or members at any time should you feel that appropriate, or any other relevant training required, in order to better understand the business model.
- Listing as a Corporate Member on SENI’s new website (coming soon)
- Access to discounted events for members including Awards and Conferences
- Access to free bursaries that SENI offers to members

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve that Mid Ulster District Council subscribe to become a member of Social Enterprise NI at an annual cost of £500.

### **4) Committee for the Executive Office – Brexit Stakeholder Event**

Invitation received by Council from the Committee for the Executive Office to attend a Brexit Stakeholder Event on Wednesday 4 November 2020. Two attendees from each Council are invited to attend; one political representative and one senior official. Each Council to have a 30 minute time slot to meet and brief Committee Members and this will be followed by 20 minutes for questions and answers

Proposed by Councillor Doris

That Councillor Mallaghan, Chair of the Council, attend or another representative if he is unable to attend the event.

Seconded by Councillor Ashton

**Resolved** That it be recommend to the Council that Councillor Mallaghan, Chair of the Council attend and in the event he can't attend another representative to take his place.

## **Matters for Information**

### **D158/20 Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 September 2020**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 September 2020.

Councillor Monteith referred to item D118/20 – Social Housing and asked if there was any update on the pilot scheme for social housing and asked if there was any date set yet for the first meeting. He also referred to proposed funding which was agreed at last month's meeting to take forward the action plan which was co-funded by the Housing Executive and asked if there was going to be discussion or a meeting around the scope of the document and how it was going to be brought forward before it's all put together. He said that by speaking to local management within the Housing Executive they were unaware and not on the radar at all, except this relates to area management that would be doing a lot of this, but felt it wasn't a great start when the local Housing Executive management weren't even aware and feels that the blame may lay with an internal issue within the Housing Executive. He said that all he was looking to know was there a date for a first meeting of DEA's and whether the Council were going to be involved in setting the perimeter for the scoping study.

The Head of Community Development advised that the Director of Business and Communities and Officers were due to have a meeting with the Area Planning team on planning out the structure on how it was going to work. She said that one of the things that the Area Planning team were going to bring to the table was in terms of what was the putting together of an average cost to put a spec together, to get the right people and specialists in to support this and as soon as this was received, it's hoped that this would be in place next week or the following week, with the meeting being set up with DEA members, Housing Executive, Officers of Council and the linking in of Planning. She stated that officers were working on spec at the moment to prepare a paper. She concluded by saying that local managers would be involved through the Housing Executive, but they will have to link in, but would be the Area Plan team in Craigavon which would take the lead.

Councillor Doris referred to item D114/20 Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Programme – Cappagh/Altmore Forest and Drumcairn Forest and enquired where they were within the process. She said that she had requested this information months ago and also asked at the last Council meeting that a tidy be done to Drumcairn carpark and to her knowledge this was never done. She stated that she had also made contact with Council regarding signage to the entrance which was disgraceful and felt that these priorities were being overlooked and asked what the situation was regarding this and whether this was going to be addressed.

The Head of Parks said that in regards to the development of Altmore Forest it was agreed by Council to develop a masterplan for three locations and one of those locations was Altmore Forest. He said that currently the Terms of Reference was being

put together. He had been consulting with Forest Service today, and like anything a process has to be followed. He said that a plan was being developed with the intention to present the plan to Forest Service. Consultation would be organised as a result once the Terms of Reference was drafted with the Altmore Community Group for their input. He said that a process had to be followed and this was a process in which the Council had embarked on and would keep members updated as things progress as Forest Service had to approve the masterplan before they consider issuing a recreational license for any of their properties. He stated that he could follow up any works being carried out at Altmore, but because Council don't have a remit, any work has to be carried out by Forest Service but would endeavor to get more information for Councillor Doris to see if this can be brought forward.

Councillor Doris enquired if there was any proposal or consultation with the Cappagh Group or Stewartstown Community Group in relation to the putting together of the masterplan. She also referred to the cleaning up of Drumcairn Forest carpark and said that it was previously carried out at the request of another Councillor but hadn't been done since last month and asked could this be done this month.

The Head of Parks in response to clean up of Drumcairn Forest advised that he would refer the matter on to Forest Service as Council do not have a remit for Drumcairn but would liaise with Forestry Service colleagues to see if something can be done. In relation to consultation with Cappagh Group, he stated that with regard to the Terms of Reference this had not happened yet as it was still in draft form and once it was a drafted consultation and discussions would take place and that would be the process.

Councillor Kerr referred to D128/20 – Youth Engagement and said that unfortunately there were a few cases of anti-social behavior around the Lineside area and pit area of Meenagh Park and referred to the wording from proposal from the previous month and said he would like Council to investigate opportunities along with the Education Authority to co-ordinate and enhance activity and have conversations with youth structure in the area and try to engage with any youths who may be feeling frustrated with the lockdown and the lack of activities and to vent their frustrations into positive progressive actions.

Councillor Burton enquired if there were any other meetings with the Forestry and their input into Lumford's Glen.

The Head of Parks stated that to date there hadn't been any meetings regarding Lumford's Glen. He did meet with Forest Service earlier but it wasn't on the agenda today unfortunately. He said that there stance remains that a clear filling had to take place but would bring Councillor Burton's concerns forward again.

### **D159/20      Mid Ulster District Tourism Development Group**

Members noted minutes of Tourism Development Group meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020 that were approved at Tourism Development meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020.



## **D160/20 Mid Ulster District Tourism Update**

Members noted update on the Mid Ulster Tourism Group and ongoing webinars.

## **D161/20 Economic Development Report**

Members noted updates on the following matters:

- Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes – 7 July 2020
- Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 10 August 2020
- Town Centre Business Videos

## **D161/20 Mid South West (MSW) Region Update**

Members noted progress on the ongoing work in relation to the Mid South West (MSW) region.

Councillor Molloy said that the topic he wished to raise was not in relation to this item but would try and link it in. He said that a good meeting had taken place the other day on bypass issues with Dungannon being incorporated into the discussion and where things should go from here and to get to B you have to start with A. He proposed that Council start looking at a scoping exercise in relation to funding and under the infrastructure as a project within the Growth Deal and that Council investigate whether there was funding available, what kind of costs it may take to get this off the ground to start looking at a preferred route for the Dungannon bypass.

Councillor Monteith said that he would be happy to second Councillor Molloy's proposal.

Councillor Monteith referred to the Growth Deal and issues in proposals in Armagh for the Eastern route through Armagh City and felt that Moy was the glaring gap in all of this and there was a need to keep it on the radar. He said that he was aware of Cookstown being close to getting over the line and Dungannon also but there was no point in continuing with this scheme if Moy wasn't taken into consideration as it was the main route to Dublin from this part of the world and especially if Armagh City was going to get a bypass, then it would be important that Moy be included in the works as it was going to be stuck in the middle between Dungannon and Armagh.

The Chair agreed and said that he understood and also referred to Moneymore which was another area of concern.

Councillor Molloy stated that he would be happy to include Moy within his original proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to start looking at a scoping exercise in relation to funding under the infrastructure as a project within the Growth Deal if available and amount it would take to get the project off the

ground to start looking at a preferred route for the Dungannon bypass.  
Moy to be also investigated under the proposal.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that the Growth Deal was launched a few weeks ago and there were obviously strategic projects but it was made clear to Department officials that these schemes cannot be treated in isolation and was important to get things moving.

*Live broadcast ended at 9.03 pm.*

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

Proposed by Councillor Burton  
Seconded by Councillor Doris 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 D162/20 to D166/20.

#### **Matters for Decision**

D162/20 Southern Health Trust Transfer of Assets  
D163/20 Brookmount to Spring Road Alleged PRow

#### **Matters for Information**

D164/20 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 10  
September 2020  
D165/20 Economic Development Report  
D166/20 Miscellaneous Matters

### **D167/20 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 9.25 pm.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_