

Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 5 December 2022 in Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Members Present

Councillor S McGuigan, Chair

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

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env)
Mr McAdoo, Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES)
Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS)**
Mr McGowan, Waste Facility Service Manager
Mr O'Hagan, ICT Support
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

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

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

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

E277/22 Notice of Recording

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

E278/22 Apologies

Councillors Milne and Totten.

E279/22 Declarations of Interest

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

E280/22 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

E281/22 Dfl Roads Proposal – Traffic Calming, Old Omagh Road, Ballygawley

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report to seek approval from Members in relation to a proposal from Dfl Roads to introduce traffic calming measures at Old Omagh Road, Ballygawley.

Councillor S McAleer welcomed the speed calming in Ballygawley which had been sought after for many years and said that everyone was delighted that they were now going to get it, especially past the primary school on that busy road.

Proposed by Councillor S McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Dfl Roads.

E282/22 Dfl Roads Proposal – No Waiting, Derramore Park, Magherafelt

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report to seek approval from Members in relation to a proposal from Dfl Roads to introduce three stretches of no waiting at any time (loading and unloading permitted) at Derramore Park, Magherafelt.

Proposed by Councillor S McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Dfl Roads.

E283/22 Renaming and Renumbering Existing Streets

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report to seek approval to undertake the surveys of all applicable residents on the street/road in question:

- From: Fairview Park, Drumcoo, Dungannon –
- To: Fairview, Drumcoo, Dungannon

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted to proceed with the Street Renaming Survey of Fairview Park, Drumcoo, Dungannon to all occupiers of each property as listed on the Electoral Register of the road, in accordance with the Policy for Street Naming and Numbering.

E284/22 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report to ask for consideration regarding the naming of new streets within residential Housing Developments within Mid Ulster District Council.

Development 1 – Site Adjacent to Shanmullagh Park, Draperstown

Options submitted for consideration:

- 1) Flax Field View**
- 2) Manor Mills**

Councillor B McGuigan referred to Development 1 – Site Adjacent to Shanmullagh Road, Draperstown and requested that this proposal be deferred. He advised that there were issues relating to this and had spoken to the Agent to advise that the proposed names were not acceptable within the area. He stated that there was no consultation carried out and that there was a very strong historical group and also a heritage group which did not accept the proposal and felt that this cannot proceed. He said that he would liaise with the Agent who is working on behalf of the Developer to try and agree a suitable name.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor N McAleer and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to defer the above application until discussions take place with the Agent of the Developer on a more suitable name relative to the area of the site.

Development 2 – Site Off Coolshinney Road, Magherafelt

Options submitted for consideration:

- 1) Coolshinney Lane**
- 2) Coolshinney Hill**
- 3) Coolshinney Drive**

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Wilson

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name the site off Coolshinney Road, Magherafelt as Coolshinney Lane.

E285/22 Off Street Car Park: Accessible Parking

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report to update Members on accessible parking in Council's Off Street Car Parks and to seek approval to implement feasible parking accessibility improvements.

Councillor Cuthbertson said that he would be happy to propose the recommendation of accessible carparking spaces but was mindful of our own Carparking Strategy being 5 to 6 years overdue. Whilst this was not a large costing to install these spaces he would be wary about spending any more money on our carparks until we figure out what we are doing with them in the long run i.e. are we making provision for paying on foot or implementing a barrier system etc., free carparking via the barrier system. He felt that going forward that rather than bringing small reports back to committee, there was a need to figure out what we were going to do with the Carparking Strategy. He said that it would be also important to be mindful if carparks were staying the way they were in Dungannon for instance, was there an equal split of accessible carparking and disabled bays in both the free and charging sections and felt that this should be kept in mind going forward also.

The AD: Property Services in response to member's comments said that regardless of what future directions we take in terms of the carparks it still didn't remove the need or desire to have adequate accessible parking provision but certainly would take into account on how to proceed going forward on carparking.

Councillor B McGuigan said that he was aware of a bigger piece of work in terms of the overall carparks within our district, but part of the recommendation is for additional spaces on Union Street and felt that this should be proceeded regarding this element part of it. He felt that this was going to take a lot longer to sort out the issues around what direction of travel we are proceeding in relation to parking and whether this is going to be a barrier system etc. which was not going to happen overnight. He said that a test was about to be conducted in one of the carparks in Magherafelt which would provide some data back on how this operates. He said that in terms relating to part of this recommendation, that this should be progressed.

Councillor Wilson agreed with the recommendation and felt it was important to pull together legislation and provide enough carparking spaces for disability and family parking. He said that the issues which need to be raised is that these designated spaces are specifically marked for those people who genuinely need them and if you go to the large supermarkets you witness quite a number of people parking in bays which are designated solely for disabled or family parking only. He said that he would be happy to second the proposal, but when Council was looking at the overall Carparking Strategy, there was a need to look at the provisions for electric charging points also.

Councillor Brown advised that he would be happy to support what members had said but enquired about the central carpark in Magherafelt where wiring was installed and enquired if there was any update on what was happening.

The AD: Property Services concurred with member's comments and advised that civil works had been completed with wiring and data points installed and currently engaging with Contractor to get an installation date. He said that this would be followed up and a report brought back on a more comprehensive update to committee.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the implementation of improved accessible parking across Mid Ulster Off Street Car Parks in the future, including the implementation of up to three additional non-designated family friendly spaces car parking spaces in Union Street Car Park, Magherafelt.

E286/22 Darren Clarke Signage Update

The SD: Environment presented previously circulated report to update members on the signage proposals for the gateway entrance to Dungannon for Darren Clarke. Darren has recently achieved another golfing title in winning the Senior Open Champion in 2022. Members had asked that the current gateway signage be updated to reflect his recent victory.

Councillor Cuthbertson said that he was pleased to see this proposal to recognise Darren Clarke's achievements in Dungannon. He referred to Greiner Packaging supplying the signage the last time and felt that this may be an opportunity for Officers to approach them again, but if not, the budget was in place to put them up ourselves. He said that previously Greiner Packaging had sponsored the signage.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Graham and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the new replacement signage as annotated in Section 3.4 of the report.

E287/22 Bus Shelters Update

The SD: Environment presented previously circulated report to update members on the current bus shelter status.

Councillor N McAleer enquired if there was any update in relation to St Colman's Park on the lease which was to be provided by the Housing Executive.

The SD: Environment advised that this was currently with Legals, but would investigate and provide an update to member.

Councillor B McGuigan said that he wished to raise a separate note in relation to bus shelters. He referred to Dfl road scheme on the A6 Glenshane Pass at Ranaghan Road junction and said that previously there had been a bus shelter which had to be

removed to provide a right-hand turning lane and also was in very poor condition and basically fell apart. He advised that Dfl had approached him in relation to the base measurements which were linked in directly with the Head of Technical Services (HoTS) and he provided the size to Dfl. He said that it was the remit of Council to replace the bus shelter as the previous one was in too poor of a condition. He said that it was important to have this ready to go onsite quickly when need be due to the area where whether conditions are poor especially at this time of the year and the high number of children getting the bus from this location. Ordering of bus shelters can take some time and would be important to move this forward.

The SD: Environment advised that Officers would check in terms of timescales for delivery as she was aware of experiencing delays in relation to certain things, but would investigate if there were any in stock.

Councillor Burton advised that she was happy to see this progress as she had enquired about it at the last meeting regarding Clogher. She also commended staff who worked with the people of Primrose Hill.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor S McAleer and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the progress made on bus shelters within the District and grant approval to progress the shelters listed below:

3.2 – New Shelter Applications

- Lisnaclare Road, Killeen (additional Shelter, increased passengers)
- Primrose Hill, Clogher
- Cullion Road, Desertmartin

3.4 – Request to Move from Stage 5 of the Applications Process

- Cullion Road, Desertmartin

Matters for Information

E288/22 Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 8 November 2022

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 8 November 2022.

E289/22 Environmental Services – Christmas Working Arrangements

Members noted working arrangements in respect of refuse/recycling collection and operation of Recycling Centres during the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

The Chair stated that the only change was that bins due to be lifted on Monday 26th December would now be lifted on Saturday 24th December.

E290/22 Town Centre Footpath Snow/Ice Clearance Agreement

Members noted the rolling annual agreement with DfI in relation to the treatment of footpaths in the main town centres within Mid Ulster District following heavy snowfall or prolonged freezing.

Councillor Burton advised that there was quite a number of our footpaths which were mossy and commended staff which had come out to Caledon and carried out a very good job as there was a lot of moss buried deep down into the base. She said that yesterday she had attended an event at Clogher Cathedral and as people will be aware the footpath around the Cathedral was very narrow solely because the road wasn't wide enough and was gritty and mossy. She asked if this could be flagged up with the team to see if this could be cleaned as the double yellow lines run alongside the very narrow footpath on the side of the Cathedral. She referred to people attending Church services and attending one of our oldest graveyards over special times like Christmas and said that it was important for visitors safety as it was an area of concern in the event of someone falling onto the road.

Councillor Wilson following on from Councillor Burton's comments advised that this was an ongoing issue all the time over who cleans and salts the footpaths. He said that he recalled the legacy Cookstown Council staff going out to clean the footpaths and someone was very close to taking an action against the Council as they believed that they weren't cleaned properly. He asked if it would be possible to set up a meeting with DfI Roads to discuss the entire issue as people assume if they see our staff cleaning, then it is our responsibility when indeed it is not and feels that something needs to be done, not just in Clogher but in other areas also. He felt that it would be important to be holding this meeting sooner rather than later.

Councillor Burton said that it was her understanding that it was not the case that Council cleans the footpaths, but if there is work to be done then DfI Roads replace, resurface or carry out whatever is needed. She felt that it may be more beneficial to seek clarity before proceeding any further as it was her understanding that we clean and they maintain.

The AD: Environmental Services clarified that the Council was responsible for cleaning and removing litter from footpaths, but not responsible for spraying weeds or moss. However, if leaves and loose moss form on the footpath and become what's known as detritus then Council is responsible for removing it. If it was ingrained as the Councillor alluded to in Caledon, this was a degraded service and not a matter for this Council but a matter for DfI.

E291/22 Building Control Workload

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

E292/22 Dual Language Signage Surveys

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

E293/22 Dual Language Signage Requests

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

E294/22 Entertainment Licensing Applications

Members noted update on Entertainment Licensing applications across Mid Ulster District Council.

E295/22 Determination of Fees for Entertainment Licences from 2023/24

Members noted update on the Determination of Fees for Entertainment Licences from 2023/24 following fees easement introduced as a result of Covid 19.

E296/22 Internal Bi-lingual Signage Mid Ulster District Council Facilities

Members noted update on the new bi-lingual signage for Mid Ulster District Council facilities accessed by the public.

Councillor McNamee referred to bi-lingual signage and advised that he had raised this issue at the Regional and Minority Working Group at the beginning of last month. He said that he did not see anywhere on the chart the completion date of the Heaney Centre and enquired if there was a specific date when this was to be completed.

The SD: Environment advised that she didn't have the information in front of her but would come back to the Councillor with an update.

Councillor Graham enquired if there was any real need for all this signage during these financially difficult times. She felt that this was a waste of money as there were illustrations to indicate whether it was a male or female toilet and a waste of resources as half the people cannot read the writing anyway.

Councillor Cuthbertson was he was off the similar view and referred to the cost-of-living crisis. He said that it was agreed earlier in the meeting regarding the implementation of signage in recognition of Darren Clarke, but he also highlighted the fact that there was previously a sponsor to cover the costs associated with that. He felt that it was a total waste of money to add additional signage to tell a person where a toilet or changing room was located, which was absolutely ridiculous.

Live broadcast ended at 7.26 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Brown 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 E297/22 to E307/22.

Matters for Decision

- E297/22 Council Strategic Waste Management Arrangements
- E298/22 Award of Contract for Works at Coolhill Cemetery
- E299/22 Application to Install a Memorial Plaque on Council Property
- E300/22 Tender Report for the Appointment of Vehicle Suppliers
- E301/22 Entertainment Licence – Gribben’s Bar

Matters for Information

- E302/22 Confidential Minutes of Environment Committee held on 8 November 2022
- E303/22 Off Street Car Parking: Quarter 2 2022/2023
- E304/22 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
- E305/22 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
- E306/22 Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update
- E307/22 Biodiversity – Q3 Update – October to December 2022

E308/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 7.55 pm.

The Chair wished everyone a safe and peaceful Christmas.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

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

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

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

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

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda - apologies and then roll call of all other Members in attendance.