

**Adult Safeguarding Unit
Department of Health**

From:

Sent: 30 September 2020 12:11

Subject: Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy

Local Council,

I am involved in the implementation of the 'Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy' which is a joint Strategy led by the Department of Health and Department of Justice on behalf of the Northern Ireland Executive. We are conscious of the impact Covid-19 may have on victims of domestic abuse (including domestic violence) and their greater vulnerability, given restrictions on staying at home and self-isolation. It is important that those suffering from abuse, violence or a threat of violence in their home reach out and seek help.

Earlier this year, the Department of Justice and Department of Health published guidance for those who are affected by domestic abuse, setting out the services that are available for help and support. This guidance can be found at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-support-victims-domestic-abuse> and may also be helpful to those who are concerned about someone else (such as a friend, family member or a neighbour) that may be suffering from domestic abuse. Those affected by domestic abuse are not alone, support is available.

We would like to promote the support that is available to victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse and we are wondering if it would be possible for your Council to promote this guidance on your website or social media platforms? Or if you have any other suggestions on how to promote this area in your council.

Kind regards

 | **Adult Safeguarding Unit
Department of Health**

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

22nd September 2020
Our Ref: NS/182/2020
By email & post

Mr Anthony Tohill CEO
Mid Ulster District Council
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

Email: chief.executive@midulstercouncil.org

Dear Mr Tohill,

I have been asked to write to you on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

At the Council's Neighbourhood Services (NS) Committee in August, Elected Members requested for Dog Fouling Legislation to be updated. The main focus is to request the maximum amount payable under a Fixed Penalty Notice in respect of littering and dog fouling offences be increased from the current limit of £80 to £250. The Council also asked that consideration is given to the possibility of devolving powers for setting Fixed Penalty rates to Councils.

As part of this, I was requested to write to the DAERA Minister requesting the above proposals. See Letter attached, for your information.

In addition, I was also asked to write to the other ten Local Councils seeking support on this proposal and request they write to the Minister. I am sure you are experiencing the same problems and complaints caused by dog fouling and littering within your Council area. The proposed increase in fines would help promote the 'polluter pay' principle.

It would be helpful, if you could indicate your Council's support to the above proposals and if your Council intends to write to the DAREA Minister, as requested.

Thank you in anticipation.

Your sincerely,

Roland Moore

Director of Neighbourhood Services

cc Copy of Letter sent to Minister Poots MLA (DAERA)

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

19th September 2020
Our Ref: NS/182/2020
By email & post

Edwin Poots MLA
Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Parliament Buildings Room 309
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Email: Edwin.poots@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

Dear Minister Poots MLA,

I have been asked to write to you on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

At the Council's Neighbourhood Services (NS) Committee in August, Elected Members requested for Dog Fouling Legislation to be reviewed. This is in relation to the maximum amount payable under a Fixed Penalty Notice in respect of littering and dog fouling offences, where fines should be increased from the current limit of £80 to £250. As part of this review, consideration could also be given to the possibility of devolving powers for setting Fixed Penalty rates to Councils for these offences.

The Council would appreciate if you could give this matter consideration, due to littering and dog fouling being a major issue within our District and Northern Ireland as a whole. Increasing the Fixed Penalty may also assist in achieving a 'polluter pays' principle.

It would be helpful as part of the reply for the Department (DAERA) to indicate likely/proposed timescales for any changes.

Thank you in anticipation.

Your sincerely,

Roland Moore

Director of Neighbourhood Services

- 9 OCT 2020

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Hello Members, sadly we find ourselves in a similar position to the last time you received the Newsletter. It has been a most difficult time for all charities, museums and visitor attractions. So, we are not alone. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members who have continued to support our work and have paid their annual membership. It has been vital to our survival. In May, we received the good news that a grant application to the Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister (TBUC) had been successful. This meant Claire was able to be brought of furlough to start work on the new project. We are now in the development stage as the original project has to be adapted to reflect COVID restrictions. I would like to reassure you that we are still working hard on our plans for the future of the Somme Association. Stay safe – **Carol Walker MBE, Director.**

On the 1st July it was with much relief, that our annual Service of Remembrance was held at the Ulster Tower and Guillemont. The British Ambassador, the Defence Attaché and senior French officials along with a few members of the public attended a shorter than usual service while maintaining social distancing. It also gave me the opportunity to officially welcome Anne & Nigel Davies, who had arrived at the Tower in early June, a few months later than expected. The Tower has been open from June but visitors to the area are few.



As we look forward to next year, I would like to remind Members that the Ulster Tower will celebrate its 100th anniversary. A commemorative event will take place on **19th November 2021** in the grounds of the Ulster Memorial Tower (time to be confirmed). To assist with logistics and safety we would ask anyone interested in attending to complete an Expression of Interest Form by **27th November 2020.**

To receive a form please email
sommeassociation@btconnect.com

During Lockdown members of the public have continued to donate relevant artefacts to our collection and Austin has kindly volunteered to accept and accession them, while ensuring social distancing and COVID restrictions are adhered too.

Claire continues to complete monthly checks on the environmental conditions of the Museum's collection, to ensure that standards are maintained while we remain closed.



The use of social media has significantly increased over this period and we have doubled our efforts to reach the public in their own homes through various platforms. We have maintained our Facebook and Twitter accounts as well as establishing a YouTube & Instagram page. Please take the time to visit them if you haven't already done so.

Follow us on Social Media:

Face Book – The Somme Association and Somme Museum

Twitter - @SommeAssoc

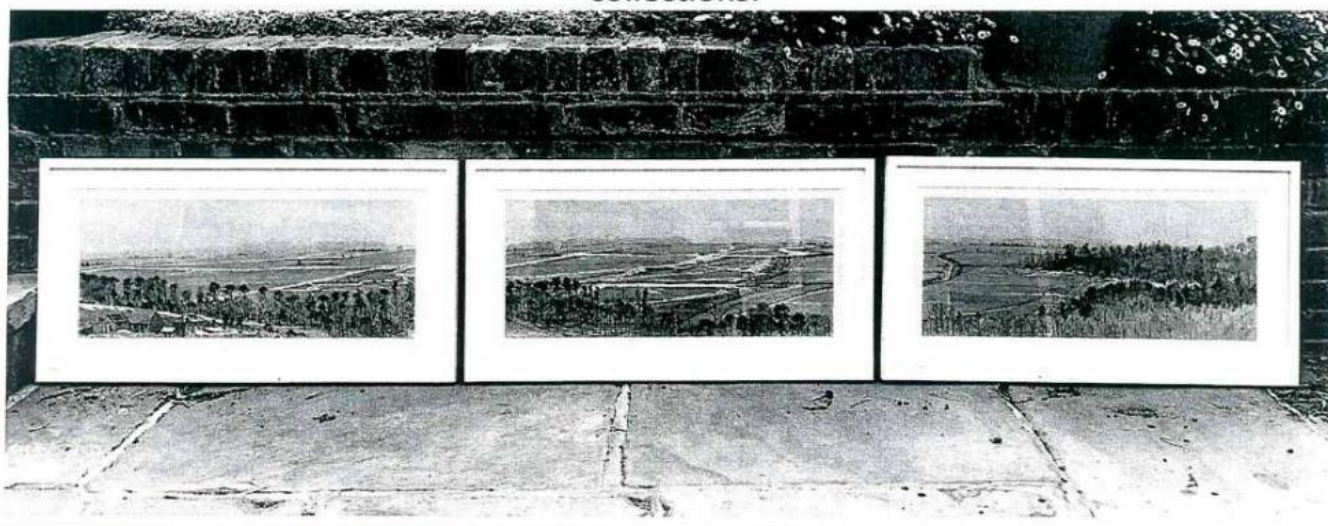
YouTube – The Somme Association & Somme Museum

Instagram – sommeassociation

With the help of a GEM course provided by the Northern Ireland Museum Council we have been able to rethink and adapt our very popular WW1 & WW2 Loan Boxes for schools and made 'COVID Friendly Loan Boxes.'



In July we were successful with a £1000 funding application to the 'Collecting for the Future' grant fund. This fund is administered through The Northern Ireland Museum Council and supported by the Esme Mitchell Trust. It enabled us to purchase a triptych painting entitled "Across the Ancre to Thiepval, five weeks before the 1st July 1916" by artist Paul Banning RI RSMA, father of historian Jeremy. The triptych was originally painted for and exhibited in the Armed Forces Art Society Exhibition of 2014 at The Mall Galleries, London and will make an excellent addition to our First World War Collection. In September we received more good news. We had been successful in securing a small grant from the NI Museums Council "Recovery Fund." This grant will enable us to purchase the software and training required to produce further in house videos of our collections.



Contacting us:

Carol: sommeassociation@btconnect.com

Claire: claire@sommeassociation.com