

Report on	US Consulate Visit to US Grant Homestead Visit
Date of Meeting	7 June 2018
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Charmain Bell / Genevieve Bell

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform council on the recent visit of the US Consul General to US Grant Homestead on Friday 27 th April 2018.
2.0	Background
2.1	On January 5 th 2018, the USA Consul General sent a letter to Councillor Kim Aston informing the council of his initiative called "Five Presidents in Five Days", and to provide an opportunity for council to get involved during his visit to US Grant Homestead, Dungannon.
2.2	The tour was scheduled for the week beginning Monday 26 th February 2018, ending on Friday 2 nd March 2018 at US Grant Homestead.
2.3	On behalf of Cllr Aston, council's Tourism Development Officers made contact with Peter McKittrick at the US Consulate to make appropriated arrangements for the visit on Friday 2 nd March 2018.
2.4	With the severe weather conditions from the "Beast from the East" the visit on Friday 2 nd March was cancelled at short notice, and re-scheduled for Friday 27 th April 2018, the birth date of US Grant.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The US Consulate visit commenced at Rafterly House and The Hill of The O'Neill at 12.30pm on Friday 27 th April. US Consul General, Mr Danial Lawton and his colleague Peter McKittrick were greeted by Michael Browne, Head of Tourism; Charmain Bell, Tourism Development Officer; Joanne Robinson, Centre Manager at Ranfurly House; and Angela O'Connor, Promotions Officer, Ranfurly House,
3.2	The Consul General had lunch in the Tower Room, with members of the community, organised by the US Consulate.
3.3	Angela O'Connor provided a guided tour of The Hill of The O'Neill, before their departure.

3.4	The US Consul General arrived at US Grant Homestead at 2.30pm, greeted by Cllr. Kim Aston. Attendance at the site included, Michael Browne, Head of Tourism; Mary McKeown, Tourism Manager; Genevieve Bell, Tourism Development Officer; Kate Keys, Marketing & Communications Officer, Ted Sharkey, Site Warden; Jim Kerr, photographer, and representatives from the local Killeeshil & Clonanese historical society and COSTA.
3.5	Ted Sharkey provided a guided tour of the site, showing the new interactive interpretation panels recently installed onsite, before introducing the Consul General to “US Grant” himself (a living history character hired for the occasion).
3.6	As the 27 th April is the birth date of US Grant, a birthday cake was arranged. The event concluded with tea and birthday cake in the newly refurbished audio visual room. The US Consul presented Cllr Kim Aston with an American Seal medal. In return Cllr Kim Aston presented the US Consul with a Mid Ulster District Council corporate gift
3.7	Positive PR included social media posts and editorial in local papers.
3.8	The following email was received from Peter McKittrick on the evening of the 27 th April: “Just a brief but very sincere word of thanks for your professionalism in hosting our Consul General earlier. At every level today, I genuinely felt that I was dealing with Council Officers who are passionate about what they do, and proud of the place in which they serve. Sincere thanks again for making today such a pleasure and for presenting Dungannon and the wider Mid Ulster District in such a positive light.”
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial:
	Human:
	Risk Management:
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	For information
6.0	Documents Attached & References