

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Tuesday 12 February 2019 in Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

Members Present	Councillor Wilson, Chair Councillors Buchanan, Colvin, Cuthbertson, Gillespie, Glasgow, Kearney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McNamee, O'Neill, M Quinn, Totten
Officers in Attendance	Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services Mr McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services Mrs McClements, Head of Environmental Health Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services Mr Wilkinson, Head of Building Control Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer
Others in Attendance	<u>Agenda Item 4 – Empower Project</u> Ms McCloy – Northern Regional College Ms McGuckin - Dyslexia and Dyspraxia Support (DADS)

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

E032/19 Apologies

Councillor Burton.

E033/19 Declarations of Interest

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

E034/19 Chair's Business

None.

E035/19 Deputation – Empower Project

Ms McCloy made presentation to Members on the work of the Empower Project which is a Big Lottery Funded Initiative that commenced in September 2015 until 2020. The Project is funded to carry out activity in Mid Ulster and Antrim and Newtownabbey areas and provides support to children under 12 with Autism, Dyslexia and Dyspraxia, their parents and the wider family circle to enhance confidence and learn together to develop skills to support their children. The Project also works with wider stakeholders including health and educational professionals and schools.

Ms McGuckin highlighted that there was no possibility of a referral until a child reached the age of 9 and that the Empower Project was focused on providing support to children under 12 and their families.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated he was aware of the Empower Project and commended the representatives on the ongoing excellent work.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked if the Empower Project extended into the Southern Trust area.

Ms McCloy advised that the bid for Big Lottery funding was submitted prior to the amalgamation of Councils but that some work had been done in Dungannon and Donaghmore and that the Project would like to extend to all areas.

Councillor B McGuigan referred to the statistic within presentation that the rate of mental health is estimated to be 25% higher in Northern Ireland than other parts of the UK and asked if there was a reason for this.

Ms McCloy stated there were a number of reasons and that there was a lot of ongoing research but that the conflict in Northern Ireland was a major contributing factor. Ms McCloy also highlighted the pressures created by social media.

In response to question from Councillor B McGuigan Ms McCloy stated that the Empower Project work with a number of schools and try to do as much with the funding that they have. Ms McCloy welcomed working with schools which were proactive.

Councillor B McGuigan commented that some schools still think there is a stigma associated with Autism and other conditions.

Councillor Kearney stated that he had experience of teaching and that situations within schools now were very different to years past. The Councillor also spoke of difficulties in referral and intervention and asked if the Empower Project accepted direct referrals.

Ms McCloy stated that the Empower Project will work with whoever approaches them, that work with families is usually through word of mouth and that work with schools would be via the school approaching the Project with an identified need.

Councillor Kearney highlighted the Council Education and Skills Sub Committee which forms ongoing Community Plan work and welcomed input from the Empower Project to feed into this Committee.

Councillor McFlynn stated that she was aware first hand of the difficulties families with Autism experience. The Councillor referred to recent Council meeting with Education Boards and discussion regarding more resources being put into getting tests done more quickly. Councillor McFlynn also spoke in relation to Council visit to Kilronan School and the difficulties pupils experienced in getting activities to go to outside of School, the Councillor stated that those children are entitled to their social time as well.

Councillor McGinley declared an interest and stated that he worked for Start360 and that he had managed the Edges Project which had just finished in the Newtownabbey area. The Councillor stated that this project had saw a considerable rise in referral rate for ASD and that there seemed to be an overall geographical increase in ASD and similar conditions.

In response to question from Councillor McGinley, Ms McCloy advised that the Empower Project was being run with three members of staff.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson thanked Ms McCloy and Ms McGuckin for their presentation and that Members were supportive of the work of the Empower Project. Councillor Wilson referred to funding for project which will be coming to an end in 2020 and asked the representatives to keep Council informed.

Ms McCloy and Ms McGuckin left the meeting at 7.27 pm.

Matters for Decision

E036/19 Proposed Provision of a Disabled Persons' Parking Bay at Dunlea Vale, Dungannon

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Department for Infrastructure Roads with regard to proposed provision of Disabled Persons' Parking Bays at Dunlea Vale, Dungannon.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed provision of Disabled Persons' Parking Bay at Dunlea Vale, Dungannon.

E037/19 Proposed No Waiting at Any Time – Market Square, Dungannon

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Department for Infrastructure Roads with regard to proposed No Waiting at Any Time at Market Square, Dungannon.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed No Waiting at Any Time at Market Square, Dungannon.

E038/19 Proposed Description Change – Limited Waiting – Rainey Street, Magherafelt

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Department for Infrastructure Roads with regard to proposed description change regarding Limited Waiting at Rainey Street, Magherafelt.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed description change regarding Limited Waiting at Rainey Street, Magherafelt.

E039/19 Dual Language Signage Survey

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which advised on the results of surveys undertaken on all applicable residents on the streets/roads in response to Dual Language Signage nameplate requests.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree the application of Dual Language Nameplates in Irish for Hawthorne Crescent, Dungannon.

E040/19 Dual Language Signage Requests

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which advised of requests for Dual Language Signage from residents on streets/roads in the District.

Councillor McNamee proposed the report recommendations.

Councillor S McGuigan seconded Councillor McNamee's proposal.

Councillor Cuthbertson proposed that Council do not proceed to survey residents on streets/roads where a request has been made.

Councillor Buchanan seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal.

Members voted on Councillor McNamee's proposal –

For – 10
Against – 4

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to proceed to survey the following streets/roads on which a request for Dual Language Signage has been received –

- Bellebrook Mews, Magherafelt
- Union Road, Magherafelt
- Lester Gardens, Magherafelt
- The Paddock, Magherafelt

Councillor McNamee referred to discussions at recent workshop to get over situation of counter proposal being brought every month.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that it was hoped to bring a report to the next Committee meeting on the matter.

E041/19 Potential options for dealing with flyposting across Mid Ulster District Council area

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which advised on options in respect of flyposting and to determine a consistent approach across Mid Ulster.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated that there was a situation in that flyposting in the Cookstown area is removed after one week but that there were no similar arrangements within the former Dungannon or Magherafelt areas.

Councillor Colvin asked if there was legal advice on what can and cannot be done in relation to removal of flyposting.

The Head of Environmental Health directed Members to the report which outlined enforcement options in relation to removal of flyposting.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that some flyposting can be difficult to remove and that damage can be done in removing same.

Councillor McNamee felt that a consistent approach was needed in relation to removal of flyposting.

Councillor Cuthbertson also stated the need to move forward in one direction in relation to this matter.

Councillor Glasgow stated he would be supportive of flyposting being removed after one week and that the same policy should be applied across the District. The Councillor also referred to Planning and that enforcement cases can be taken in relation to unauthorised signage/advertising/flyposting. Councillor Glasgow also referred to previous discussions in relation to graffiti and that it was decided to take an informal approach in this regard.

Councillor McNamee stated that Councils should be supportive of clean and tidy towns and proposed that Council adopt the former Cookstown model in relation to flyposting which was removal after one week.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated it would be important to get a definition of what flyposting is.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson suggested that report be brought back to Committee outlining an equitable approach across the District for removal of flyposting and costings in relation to same.

Councillor B McGuigan that education in relation to flyposting was also needed.

Councillor Kearney stated there was also a discussion to be had with Planning in relation to enforcement of unauthorised signage.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to bring a report back to Environment Committee providing a clear definition of flyposting and what it covers and outline a consistent approach to the removal of

flyposting across the District with costings to be provided in relation to same. Officers to discuss enforcement options regarding unauthorised signage with Planning Department and how this may fit in with removal of flyposting.

E042/19 National Radon Action Plan

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which drew attention to the National Radon Action Plan.

In response to Councillor B McGuigan's question the Head of Environmental Health advised that there were interactive Radon maps available to view online and if individuals felt they were within a high risk area they can order a home measurement pack which consists of two detectors. After three months the detectors can be returned for analysis and the individual will be informed of the results. The officer advised that there was a cost associated with this service.

In response to question from Councillor S McGuigan the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that the information in relation to Radon and the interactive maps will be placed on the Council website.

Councillor Colvin felt that Council should consider and put pressure on relevant bodies to have Radon testing included as part of the conveyancing process when selling/buying a house.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the National Radon Action Plan published by Public Health England in December 2018.

Matters for Information

E043/19 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 8 January 2019

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 8 January 2019.

E044/19 Recycling Education and Environmental Awareness Activities

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the Recycling for Schools Education Programme and other Environmental Awareness initiatives carried out over the previous six month period.

E045/19 Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management (LACMW) Report for July to September 2018

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Council's performance in relation to recycling and landfill diversion targets as outlined in the NIEA Northern Ireland Local Authority Waste Management Statistics Report for Quarter 2 of 2018/19 from July to September 2018.

E046/19 Street/Road Nameplate Costs

Members noted previously circulated report which provided detail in relation to costs associated with the supply and installation of new and replacement Council street/road name plates.

Councillor Glasgow raised the following –

- Are the 32 signs previously installed included within the 108 signs now on order or was this additional?
- Why the cost of mono signage had increased?
- Has the reuse of signage legs been considered?
- Signage funded through Arts and Culture budget – does this go to Development Committee?
- How many signs did third party erect?

The Head of Property Services advised that the 108 signs on order included the 32 signs previously erected in the old format. The officer also advised that due to the change in design of signage new quotations were sought which reflected the change in cost. It was highlighted that the new signs were deeper and that as a result it was not possible to reuse the signage legs. The Head of Property Services confirmed that the cost of signage was funded from the Arts and Culture budget. The Head of Property Services advised that the number of signs to be erected by a third party could be provided when confirmed.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked what officer costs were associated with Building Control and Technical Services in relation to erection of signage. The Councillor also referred to previous discussions in that staff were not insured to cut grass along the roadside and asked if staff were insured to erect signage.

The Head of Property Services advised that the purpose of the report was to advise of costs in relation to supply and installation of signage and that no officer costs were included.

In response to this, Councillor Cuthbertson stated that a further report would be required in relation to Building Control and Technical Services costs for erection of signage.

The Head of Property Services advised that staff working on a public carriageways was included within Council insurances, the officer advised that staff do cut grass along the roadside and that the particular activity of erecting signage was not any different to that of erecting a bus shelter.

Councillor McNamee stated that there was a Council policy adopted in relation to erection of Dual Language signage and that some Members were not as vocal when signs were damaged.

Councillor Cuthbertson advised that he had forwarded a list of vandalised signs to the Director of Environment and Property.

In response to question from Councillor Colvin the Head of Property Services advised that the £13k for dual language signage included the removal of any old signage.

Councillor Colvin stated that the report only considered the hardware costs for signage and that there would be other costs associated which had not been seen by Members.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated that a report would be brought back to Committee regarding Building Control/Technical Services/Officer costs associated with erection of signage.

E047/19 Building Control Workload

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

E048/19 Entertainment Licensing Applications

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Entertainment Licensing Applications across the Mid Ulster District.

E049/19 Fuel Stamp Scheme promotional video for social media

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of a promotional video for social media to raise awareness of Mid Ulster District Council Fuel Stamp Saving Scheme. Members also viewed the promotional video.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated that the video featured older people and that the Fuel Stamp Scheme was open to everyone.

The Head of Environmental Health stated that a young woman also featured in the video.

Councillor Colvin stated that the Fuel Stamp Scheme was excellent and asked if oil suppliers were measured for competitiveness.

The Head of Environmental Health stated that the majority of oil suppliers within the District were on board with the Scheme and that individuals were free to contact any of these suppliers in order to get best price.

E050/19 Live Here Love Here Programme Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on key programme activities of the Live Here Love Here campaign from April 2018 to date.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor M Quinn 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 E051/19 to E056/19.

Matters for Decision

E051/19 Entertainment Licensing – Tropicana Inns
E052/19 Tenders for collection and recycling/recovery of road sweepings
E053/19 Waste Related Professional Services Contract

Matters for Information

E054/19 Confidential Minutes of Environment Committee held on 8 January 2019
E055/19 Off Street Car Parking: Quarter 3 2018/2019
E056/19 Capital Projects Update

E057/19 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.26 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____