

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Ref: AHC/2016

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**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on  
Monday 22 February 2016 at 6.00pm in the Commedagh Room,  
Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor L Kimmins

**In attendance:** **(Councillors)**  
Councillor S Burns Councillor M Carr  
Councillor L Devlin Councillor G Fitzpatrick  
Councillor V Harte Councillor H Harvey  
Councillor K Loughran Councillor B Ó'Muirí  
Councillor D Taylor Councillor G Sharvin  
Councillor W Walker

**Non-Committee Members:** Councillor P Clarke

**Officials in attendance:** Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities  
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director of Active and Healthy Communities (Health and Wellbeing)  
Mr R Moore, Assistant Director of Active and Healthy Communities (Leisure and Sport)  
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director for Community Engagement  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

**Also in attendance:** Ms C Brennan, Stepping Stones

**AHC/14/2016: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran and Enright.

The Chairperson advised a letter had been received from Carnbane Football League stating that the Murdock Park Soccer Football Field in Forkhill should remain as a soccer pitch for the foreseeable future.

The Chairperson advised a letter had been received from the Special EU Programmes Body regarding Council's application to INTERREG VA Programme on Environment, Habitats and Species to advise that the stage one Steering Committee date for applications has been rescheduled to 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 and successful applicant will have to submit the stage two business plan by 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

The Chairperson advised the open call for Financial Assistance opened today with a closing date of Friday 11 March 2016 at 4pm.

**AHC/15/2016:                    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**AHC/16/2016:            ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE AND HEALTHY  
COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18  
JANUARY 2016**

**Read:**            Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 December 2015. (Copy circulated).

**Noted:**            **The Action Sheet was NOTED.**

**PRESENTATIONS**

**AHC/17/2016            STEPPING STONES NI**

The Chairperson welcomed Ms Ciara Brennan from Stepping Stones and invited her to make her presentation to the Committee.

Ms Brennan thanked the Chairperson for the invitation to present to the Committee. (A copy of the presentation is appended to these minutes).

Ms Brennan stated that Stepping Stones NI was established in 1996 to support people with a learning disability or learning difficulty to realise their potential for a better future. She advised it began with a pilot project of 15 service users and 5 staff and is now an award winning charity with 6 social enterprises, 250+ service users and 60+ staff.

Ms Brennan advised the Garden Café which was based in St Patricks Centre, Downpatrick was their newest venture and was proving very successful.

The Chairperson thanked Ms Brennan for her presentation and invited questions from Members.

Members raised the following issues:

- Unaware of the service and would like to promote it further through the Slieve Gullion area.
- How would Council be able to assist Stepping Stones?
- How was training provided to service users, through colleges and schools?
- Many groups within Downpatrick area who provide care for people with a learning disability may be able to access the services of Stepping Stones.

Ms Brennan responded to the queries as follows:

- The Council could assist in allowing Stepping Stones to provide catering at meetings and events.
- Job coaches and employment officers are in place with service users being supported on a one-to-one tailored basis.
- If Members would like to contact Stepping Stones directly to refer groups to the service that would be most welcome.

Following further discussion once Ms Brennan had left the meeting, Councillor Walker proposed that Council investigate the possibility of the Garden Café providing refreshments to some of the Committee Meetings over the course of the year. This was seconded by Councillor Taylor.

Councillor Sharvin asked that Ms Brennan's contact details be passed to all Members of the Committee for referral purposes.

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Taylor that Council investigate the possibility of the Garden Café providing refreshments to some of the Committee Meetings over the course of the year.**

**It was agreed that Ms Brennan's contact details be passed to all Members of the Committee for referral purposes.**

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**AHC/18/2016**

### **DEA FORA UPDATE REPORT**

Read:                      Report from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director for Community Engagement regarding DEA Fora Update Report (Copy circulated)

Mrs Hillen advised the first public meeting of the DEA Fora was to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 with the remaining six taking place in succession. She stated that the majority of recommendations had been agreed at DEA level however some need considered by the Committee.

Councillor Ó'Muirí raised an issue about statutory agencies not attending the meetings as requested and asked if the Director could ensure they attend when requested.

Councillor Fitzpatrick raised an issue regarding Rivers Agency officials being told not to attend a DEA Meeting as they would be attending a full Council meeting. She stated DEA meetings should be the correct place for these officials to attend in order that local issues can be rectified.

Councillor Burns proposed that a refresher workshop on DEA working should be organised for Members as soon as possible. This was seconded by Councillor Devlin.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Devlin that a capacity building workshop on DEA working should be organised for Members as soon as possible.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Ó'Muirí to note the contents of the report and accept the recommendations contained within.

**AHC/19/2016      DEA PUBLIC MEETINGS AND CONSULTATION ON  
NOMINATION PROCESS FOR MEMBERS**

**Read:** Report from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director for Community Engagement regarding DEA Public Meetings and Consultation on Nomination Process for Members. (Copy circulated)

Ms Hillen advised the launch of the DEA Nomination Process was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016 (subject to positive feedback from the community following consultation).

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Ó'Muirí to accept the officer's recommendation.

**LEISURE AND SPORTS**

**It was agreed to take the following items together at this stage:**

**AHC/20/2016      LEASE OF CARNBANE PLAYING FIELDS**

**Read:** Report from Mr R Moore, Assistant Director for Leisure and Sports, regarding Proposed Lease of Carnbane Playing Fields to the Carnbane League (copy circulated).

**AHC/21/2016      BANN ROAD, CASTLEWELLAN**

**Read:** Report from Mr R Moore, Assistant Director for Leisure and Sports regarding Proposed Lease of Carnbane Playing Fields to the Carnbane League (copy circulated).

**AHC/22/2016**

**COUNCIL POLICY ON LEASING SPORTS FACILITIES TO SPORTING ORGANISATIONS**

Read: Report from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Council policy on leasing sports facilities to sporting organisations (copy circulated).

**AHC/23/2016**

**POLICY ON USE OF COUNCIL LAND FOR SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS**

Read: Report from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director of Health and Wellbeing, regarding policy on use of Council land for sustainability projects (copy circulated).

Mr Lipsett advised the matter of leasing of Council land was discussed at the February Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee and the minute states a policy on the leasing of Council land would be brought to the March Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting.

Councillor Walker proposed that these matters be held until the policy is drawn up and presented at the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee as any other course of action may lead to legal challenges. This was seconded by Councillor Taylor who asked what the timeframe of the policy would be as the Carnbane issue had been ongoing for some years.

Mr Lipsett advised the minute states the policy would be presented to the March Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting.

Following lengthy discussion, Councillor Devlin proposed that consultation be undertaken with all interested parties in relation to the pitch at Bann Road, Castlewellan and that a report on this consultation be brought to the March Active and Healthy Communities Committee for decision. This was seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

The Chairperson advised that Councillor Walker had already made a similar proposal and asked if Councillor Walker was happy to accept Councillor Devlin's proposal as an amendment to his. Councillors Walker and Taylor were content to accept the amendment.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Taylor that the matter be held until the policy is drawn up and presented at the March SPR Committee Meeting and that consultation be undertaken with all interested parties in relation to the pitch at Bann Road, Castlewellan and a report be brought to the March AHC Committee Meeting for decision.**

**AHC/24/2106**

**LEISURE PRICING**

**Read:** Report from Mr R Moore, Assistant Director for Leisure and Sports, regarding Leisure Pricing (copy circulated).

Mr Moore advised through the rates estimates process, Members agreed to a 3% increase in charges for leisure services for 2016/17 and the report and appendices outline the detail of the resultant increase in charges.

**Noted:** **It was agreed to note the report.**

**AHC/25/2016**

**DCAL RESPONSE**

**Read:** Report from Mr R Moore, Assistant Director for Leisure and Sports, regarding DCAL Sub-Regional Stadia Programme for Soccer (copy circulated).

Mr Moore advised the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure are consulting on their sub-regional stadia programme for soccer and the consultation response was attached for comment and agreement.

Councillor Carr expressed his concerns that the fund would not be spread among smaller clubs who have been waiting on this funding.

Mr Lipsett advised Members with any concerns to contact Mr Moore and these could be inputted into the response.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Burns to accept the response to the consultation, along with any other concerns Members may wish to input.**

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**AHC/26/2016**

**ROLE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE**

**Read:** Report from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director of Health and Wellbeing, regarding consultation from NILGA on the role of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (copy circulated).

Mr Devlin advised NILGA have asked Councils to consider the role of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and particularly whether it should return to its previous role as builder of Social Housing.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Harte to accept the recommendation that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive role as a builder of social housing be reinstated.**

**AHC/27/2016**

**LIFE FUNDING – PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

**Read:** Report from Ms S McEldowney & Mr J Campbell regarding LIFE Funding – Proposed Green Infrastructure Project (copy circulated).

Mr Devlin advised that Council Officials are working with officers of the East Border Region and other East Border Region Council Officials in the preparation and submission of an application for LIFE Funding for a green infrastructure project which includes Bessbrook and Castlewellan.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Harvey to accept the officer's recommendation.

**AHC/28/2016**

**SAVE A SELFIE CAMPAIGN**

**Read:** Report from Ms A Rennick regarding Save a Selfie Campaign (copy circulated).

Mr Devlin advised the Save a Selfie campaign had been developed by volunteers to promote knowledge among the public of the locations of defibrillators and other lifesaving devices. The group had developed a smart phone app which allows members of the public to upload photographs of themselves with such equipment and the location will then be automatically plotted on a map via GPS.

Mr Devlin explained the group had asked Council to agree to be listed as a partner organisation and provide relevant promotion for the project via the Council's website, social media and through community and business networks.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Harte that Council be listed as a partner organisation and provide relevant promotion for the project via the Council's website, social media and through community and business networks.

**AHC/29/2016**

**HERITAGE LOTTERY FUNDED 'BEE-LICIOUS PROJECT'**

**Read:** Report from Ms D Begley regarding Heritage Lottery Funded 'Bee-licious Project'. (copy circulated).

Mr Devlin advised a project entitled 'Bee-licious' has been applied for to improve sites across Northern Ireland for pollinators, train staff and community groups on habitat restoration and management as well as raise awareness of the importance of pollinators.

**Noted:** The report on the 'Bee-licious Project' was noted.

**AHC/30/2016      COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE DOE'S DISCUSSION  
DOCUMENT ON BETTER MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL  
OF BONFIRES**

**Read:**            Report on comments in relation to the Department of Environment's Discussion Document on options to develop the better management and control of Bonfires. (copy circulated).

**Noted:**            **The report was noted.**

**AHC/31/2016      COUNCIL'S SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT**

**Read:**            Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report October-December 2015. (copy circulated).

**Noted:**            **The report was noted.**

**CORRESPONDENCE AND CONFERENCES**

**AHC/32/2016      CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM BANBRIDGE AREA  
ELECTORAL OFFICE RE: CLOUGHREAGH COMMUNITY  
CENTRE**

**Read:**            Correspondence received from Banbridge Area Electoral Office regarding Cloughreagh Community Centre – availability of premises (copy circulated).

**Noted:**            **The correspondence was noted.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.30pm.

For consideration at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 7 March 2016.

**Signed:**            Councillor L Kimmins  
Chairperson

**Signed:**            Mr M Lipsett  
Director of Active and Healthy Communities