

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2016

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 August 2016 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

Chairperson: Councillor M Carr

In attendance: **(Councillors)**
Councillor P Brown Councillor S Burns
Councillor P Byrne Councillor G Fitzpatrick
Councillor V Harte Councillor H Harvey
Councillor L Kimmins Councillor K Loughran
Councillor B Ó'Muiri Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Trainor Councillor W Walker

Non-Committee Members: Councillor T Andrews Councillor C Casey

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 C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/94/2016: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor S Doran.

The Director advised Members he would be inviting them to attend a Play Strategy Workshop in the near future.

AHC/95/2016: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**AHC/96/2016: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE AND HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE
2016**

Read: Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 June 2016. (Copy circulated).

The Director advised Members of the new format to the Action Sheet whereby previous actions would be kept on the action sheet until the Committee were content the actions had been completed.

In response to a query from Councillor Burns, the Director confirmed that Members of each DEA would shortly be invited on a tour around their community centres and leisure centres.

Agreed: The Action Sheet was noted.

AHC/97/2016 DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLAN 2016-2017

The Director took Members through the Directorate Business Plan 2016-2017, drawing Members attention specifically to the areas that the directorate was responsible for and to the directorates' objectives for the year. He further advised the Members of the strategies and development plans that had been completed in the past year and the two policies that were being worked on with other departments.

Noted: The Directorate Business Plan 2016-2017 was noted.

NOTICES OF MOTION

AHC/98/2016 NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR P BROWN

The following Motion had been presented to Council on 1 August 2016, proposed by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Hyland, and subsequently referred to the AHC Committee for consideration:

“This Council is opposed to the discriminatory Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) and the obligation it places upon Council to cruelly end the life of dogs based on their breeding alone. It calls upon DAERA Minister, Michelle McIlveen, to repeal that legislation and replace it with legislation holding owners responsible for the actions of their animals.”

The Chair advised that pages 18 and 35 of The Dogs (NI) Order 1983 (as amended) – Guidance for Council Enforcement Officers had been circulated to Members to inform their consideration of this matter. He said it was his view the Motion would be better to have been debated by all 41 Members but the process being followed was in line with Council's Standing Orders.

Councillor Brown proposed that the Motion be approved. He said it had been inspired by the plight of Hank the dog, who had recently been taken by Belfast City Council from his owners without notice as they had reacted to reports he was a pit bull type dog. He said under BSL legislation, Council Dog Wardens were compelled to seize pit bull type dogs unless they met strict exemption criteria, details of which had been circulated to Members. Hank had been placed on the Council exemption

list due to his good temperament. Councillor Brown said that although Hank had been saved, the failures and inadequacies of the BSL legislation had been exposed.

Councillor Brown said the legislation was a reaction to a fatal dog attack in Bradford which had demonised entire breeds without adequate research into dog attacks. He said attacks were down to individual dogs and closely related to how a dog was treated by its owners. Councillor Brown said his preference was to see owners held responsible for all actions of dogs and for illegal breeds to be rehomed and naturalised in a different environment and this would discourage the breeding and sale of these dogs and it could also result in owners being more responsible.

Councillor Taylor seconded the motion stating his Party had been calling for a review in the BSL legislation.

Councillor Byrne stated he was against the BSL legislation and the wording of the motion concerned him. He said his preference would be for preventative measures to be put in place rather than owners held responsible after a dog attack. He said as a dog owner and someone with first-hand experience of an attack as a child, he believed a dogs' behaviour was down to how it was brought up, and not its breed.

Councillor Byrne went on to say that he was unaware of the behavioural tests dogs went through and there should be more transparency around this. If the motion was worded differently, then it would receive his support, it was not satisfactory that the legislation tackled attacks from certain dogs and held owners responsible. He stated his preference would be to review the legislation rather than repeal it.

Councillor Harvey advised that people's safety was paramount.

Councillor Carr concurred with the last 2 speakers saying the wording of the motion was inaccurate. He said it was not on breeding alone that Council ended the life of dogs', the behavioural tests were an important consideration.

Councillor Carr suggested writing to the Minister to review the legislation rather than repealing it and replacing it. Councillors Brown and Taylor indicated they were content with this amendment.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that this Council write to DAERA Minister McIlveen to review the BSL Legislation taking into account preventative measures being put in place and more transparency around behavioural testing for dogs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/99/2016

DEA FORA UPDATE

Read: Report from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director of Active and Healthy Communities, Community Engagement, dated 15 August 2016 regarding DEA Fora Update (Copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Muiri, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the following be accepted:

- The recommendations outlined in the Action Sheets from the DEA forum meetings held in May and June 2016.
- To note the report of the DEA public meetings held in June 2016.
- The Statutory Partner Service Level Agreement.
- To adopt the amended DEA Terms of Reference.
- The DEA Operating Framework.

AHC/100/2016 UPDATE ON LIBRARIES NI FUNDING

Read: Correspondence from Libraries NI regarding Funding (Copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed to note the correspondence from Libraries NI regarding Funding.

AHC/101/2016 REPORT ON POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Read: Report from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, dated 15 August 2016 regarding Policing and Community Safety Partnership (Copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed to note the Minutes, Reports and Action Plan to PCSP (including the appointment of Community Safety Warden Service following public procurement process).

AHC/102/2016 REPORT ON YOUTH MURAL AT THREE WAYS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Read: Report from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, dated 15 August 2016 regarding Youth Mural at Three Ways Community Centre (Copy circulated).

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed that approval be given to the extension of Youth Arts Programme including a mural on the external wall, in Three Ways Community Centre (following discussion with Council Community Development Officer).

AHC/103/2016 CITIZENS ADVICE NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN MONTHLY STATISTICS

Read: Report from Mr D Brannigan, Community Relations & Development Manager, dated 15 August 2016, regarding the monthly statistics for Citizens Advice Newry, Mourne and Down.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the report regarding the monthly statistics for the Citizens Advice Newry, Mourne and Down.

LEISURE AND SPORTS

AHC/104/2016 SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY UPDATE

Read: Report from Mr R Moore, Assistant Director, Leisure & Sport, dated 15 August 2016 regarding the Sports Facility Strategy Update (Copy circulated).

Mr R Moore advised Members that the Sports Facility Strategy was in draft format and had been taken to the Party Representatives Forum and would now be presented at the DEA Fora's, and then would be brought back to Committee.

Agreed: It was agreed that the Draft Facility Strategy would be sent to the 7 DEAs for consideration and comment, with a further report to AHC Committee as soon as possible thereafter.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

AHC/105/2016 DOWN YOUR STREET/CIVIC PRIDE PROGRAMME

Read: Report from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Well-being, dated 15 August 2016 regarding Down Your Street/Civic Pride Programme (Copy circulated).

Mr Devlin advised Members that the scheme would be rolled out through the Councils Financial Assistance programme to allow groups and schools to apply for amounts of between £500 and £3,000. He added that the existing 'Down Your Street' programme would continue and this programme would include the Schools environmental calendar.

Councillor Walker said the Down Your Street programme had undertaken excellent work, particularly in the Saintfield area and this was money well spent.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Ó'Muiri, that the Down Your Street/Civic Pride Programme would be rolled out across the District.

AHC/106/2016 REPORT ON DRINKING WATER QUALITY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Read: Report from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Well-being, dated 15 August 2016 regarding Drinking Water Quality Report for Northern Ireland (Copy circulated).

Councillor Burns requested a report based on incidents related to iron pipes to include how much iron piping was underground and how much had been replaced by plastic piping.

Agreed: It was agreed that the Drinking Water Quality Report for Northern Ireland be noted.

AHC/107/2016 REPORT ON LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Read: Report from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Well-being, dated 15 August 2016 regarding Local Air Quality Management (Copy circulated).

Mr Devlin advised the DoE had funded this work in previous years, but funding had now come to an end. An application had been made to the Environment fund and officers had been successful in achieving £30,000, although this would only pay for 50% of the two replacement air quality monitoring analysers that were required.

In response to a query from Councillor Burns, Mr Devlin advised that the analysers were regularly calibrated, but the maintenance involved was high as they were worn out.

Councillor Walker expressed concerns, saying the Department was cutting funding and expecting Councils and the ratepayers to pick up the bill. He suggested writing to the Department and passing on these concerns. Mr Devlin said those representations had been made by all Councils at the time of the cuts.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Walker, that 50% of the cost be allocated to purchase two replacement air quality monitoring analysers for use by the Health and Wellbeing Department in the Canal Street, Newry Air Quality Monitoring Station.

AHC/108/2016 HEALTH AND WELL-BEING ANNUAL REPORT

Read: Report from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Well-being, dated 15 August 2016 regarding Health and Well-being Annual Report (Copy circulated).

In response to comments from Councillor Casey regarding smoking enforcement in workplace vans Mr Devlin advised Council's Tobacco Control Officers monitored these incidents. He further advised legislation would shortly be taken through the Assembly regarding smoking in cars carrying children.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the Health and Well-Being Annual Report.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.30pm.

For consideration at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 5 September 2016.

Signed: Councillor M Carr
Chairperson

Signed: Mr M Lipsett
Director of Active and Healthy Communities