

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2019

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 16 September 2019 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic
Centre, Downpatrick**

Chairperson: Councillor L Kimmins

In attendance: (Councillors)

Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor G Malone	Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor G O'Hare	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor M Savage
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Trainor

Also In Attendance: Councillor T Andrews Councillor P Brown
Councillor P Byrne Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Hanna

Officials in attendance: Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport
Mrs M Flynn, Safer Communities and Good Relations Manager
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/139/2019: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran, McEvoy and Walker.

The Chairperson congratulated Annalong Canoe and Kayak Club on winning a Bronze medal at the Irish International Junior Canoe Polo Competition.

AHC/140/2019: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/141/2019: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 AUGUST 2019

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 August 2019 (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **The action sheet was noted on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Trainor.**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/142/2019 DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FOR A UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 16 September 2019 from Mrs Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding updates on District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums. (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Ruane to note the report and agree to approve the actions from the following DEA Forum Private Meetings:**

- Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 4 June 2019.
- Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 5 June 2019.
- Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 11 June 2019.
- Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 27 June 2019.
- Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 13 August 2019.
- Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 14 August 2019.
- Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 20 August 2019.
- Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 29 August 2019.

AHC/143/2019 INSTALLATION OF RAPID BIN AT NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE

Read: Report dated 16 September 2019 from Mrs Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding the installation of a RAPID bin at Newry Leisure Centre. (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ruane to agree to proceed with the installation of a RAPID Bin at Newry Leisure Centre.**

AHC/144/2019

CASTLEWELLAN LEASE & 3G PITCH CONDITION SURVEY

Read: Report dated 16 September 2019 from Mrs Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding 3g Pitch Castlewellan Community Centre remedial work prior to handover to Community Group. **(Copy circulated)**

In welcoming the report and recommendations Councillor Ruane requested on behalf of Councillor Howell that should capital funding become available later in the financial year that it be utilised for fencing improvements etc around the 3g pitch at Castlewellan Community Centre.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to note and agree to approve the following:

- The Council to pay a contribution of 50% towards the replacement of the synthetic carpet in 5 years' time.
- The Council to forward the fencing improvements for consideration in 20/21 rate estimates.
- Improvement works to bring the 3G pitch up to necessary standards to be completed by Neighbourhood Services department using existing maintenance budgets.
- Council to provide replacement goals from existing budgets.

AHC/145/2019

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY FACILITY STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 16 September 2019 from Mrs Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, providing an update on a Community Facilities Strategy. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Savage to accept and agree the following:

- The revised definition of a community facility.
- The vision, outcomes and themes for the community facilities strategy.
- Revised timeline for delivery.

At the request of Councillor Trainor, it was agreed to provide details of the original definition of a community facility.

AHC/146/2019

CROSSGAR COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Andrews thanked the Chairperson for the opportunity to bring this matter before the Active and Healthy Communities Committee. He advised the Trustees of the Crossgar Community Centre had recently placed the building on the market for sale and asked that Council step in and purchase the facility, so it could remain at the heart of the village.

Councillor Andrews appealed for support and proposed Newry Mourne and Down District Council proceed immediately to commence procedures to purchase the Crossgar Community Centre to enhance, improve and maintain the facility for the community to use.

Mr Lipsett confirmed the Crossgar Community Centre was not included within the Councils Capital Programme and therefore there was no budget or business case, and if Council wished to proceed it would have to be considered as part of the rates process.

During discussion Councillor Trainor referred to the Community Facility Strategy and partnership working and suggested if there was a constituted group, external funding could be sought.

Councillor Ruane stated he recognised why Councillor Andrews had brought this matter forward however there were many other areas seeking facilities and therefore it would not be right for Council to commit at this time.

Mr Lipsett referred to the Community Facilities Strategy and suggested a report be brought back to Committee identifying needs and outlining options in all areas including Crossgar.

Councillor McKeivitt suggested Council contact the Department for Communities regarding funding assistance.

Agreed: A report to be brought back to Active & Healthy Communities Committee in relation to identifying needs and outlining options following on from the Community Facility Strategy.

Seek potential funding from the Department for Communities.

LEISURE AND SPORT

AHC/147/2019

LEISURE FACILITIES PARTIAL CLOSURE – STAFF TRAINING

Read: Report dated 16 September 2019 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director of Leisure and Sport, regarding Leisure Facilities Partial Closure for staff training **(Copy circulated)**

During discussion Councillor Ruane asked that where possible closure times be lessened.

Mr Tamati advised the department had designated closure at that time as it was deemed to be the least busiest time of year. He further advised that although approval was being sought for a full closure day, depending on staff availability it may be possible to open for a period that day.

Mr Tamati confirmed that once approved by Council details of closures would be communicated to staff and members of the public as soon as possible.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Savage to accept the recommendation to approve Councils Leisure and Sports Facilities to implement a partial closure up to 5pm on Friday 20 December 2019 to facilitate staff training for employees.

AHC/148/2019 **HEALTH VENDING MACHINES IN LEISURE CENTRES**

Read: Report dated 16 September 2019 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director of Leisure and Sport, regarding Healthy Vending Machines in Leisure Centres **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note that when clear guidance on minimum nutritional standards (MNS) for Council Catering Outlets and Vending is established, a future report will be brought back to Active and Healthy Communities Committee regarding the potential implementation of these standards.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/149/2019: **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT IN RELATION TO AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME**

Read: Report dated 16 September 2019 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Service Level Agreement in relation to the Affordable Warmth Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, that the Committee approve the signing of the Service Level Agreement with the Department for Communities in relation to the provision of the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

AHC/150/2019: **CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO THE FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY (FSA) ON A RISK BASED APPROACH FOR THE BIOTOXIN MONITORING PROGRAMME IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

Read: Report dated 16 September 2019 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding the consultation response to the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on risk based approach for the biotoxin monitoring programme in Northern Ireland. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Devlin advised that due to a short timeframe to respond to the consultation a response had already been sent, however the response could be withdrawn if the Committee was not in agreement.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, that the Committee agree to the response being provided in relation to the FSA's consultation on a Risk Based Approach for the Biotoxin Monitoring programme in Northern Ireland.

AHC/151/2019: NOTICE OF MOTION - CARERS ALLOWANCE (REFERRED FROM COUNCIL MEETING 2 SEPTEMBER 2019)

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Brown:

“Council’s Active and Healthy Communities Department will immediately recognise Carers Allowance as a means tested benefit enabling recipients of that benefit to qualify for concessionary rates at leisure facilities across the District.”

Councillor Brown presented the motion and raised the following points:

- There were over 200,000 carers in Northern Ireland (12% of total population).
- The value of carers to the economy in Northern Ireland was estimated by the Carers Trust as being in the region of £4.4 billion per year.
- Carers could be pushed to the limit balancing work, family life and caring responsibilities.
- The ability to work whilst in receipt of Carers Allowance was limited (as of April 2019 a carer could earn up to £123 per week).

Councillor Brown proposed carers be able to avail of the same concessionary rate for Leisure facilities across the District as those in receipt of other benefits such as PIP, ESA, Universal Credit and that this change be made effective immediately.

Mr Lipsett confirmed a report was to be presented at the next Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting regarding this matter.

Councillor Trainor asked that the impact of other schemes such as the Buddy Scheme be included within the report.

ACTION: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Kimmins that officers investigate concessionary rates for recipients of carers allowance at leisure facilities across the District.

A report on concessions for recipients of carers allowance at Leisure Centres to be presented to Active & Health Communities Committee in October 2019.

AHC/152/2019: NOTICE OF MOTION – DISABILITY ACCESS ON TO NEWCASTLE BEACH (REFERRED FROM COUNCIL MEETING 2 SEPTEMBER 2019)

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Clarke:

“This Council provides disability access on to Newcastle beach to enable the facility to be inclusive, which will enhance the visitor experience for all, this initiative will build upon the successful partnership between the Mae Murray Foundation and Council in providing an inclusive destination at Cranfield beach”.

Councillor Clarke presented the motion and raised the following points:

- There was a real need to improve disability access onto all beaches.
- Newcastle was a popular resort and Council officers should examine best practise with regards disability access onto Newcastle beach.
- There were a number of initiatives ongoing regarding the provision of inclusive beaches such as Cranfield beach.
- Beaches were often difficult to access due to storm damage and debris at access points and this needed to be given consideration.
- Solutions such as all-terrain wheelchairs, buggies, matting and boardwalks to be investigated.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí.

Councillors Gallagher, Taylor and Trainor spoke in favour of the motion.

Mr Lipsett advised that this Notice of Motion crossed a number of Council departments and that a meeting would be arranged with Neighbourhood Services department, Enterprise, Regenerations & Tourism department and Corporate Services department to bring this matter forward.

Mr Lipsett commented that it was likely to go to the Enterprise, Regenerations & Tourism Committee for further consideration however he was happy to report back to the Active & Health Communities Committee to keep up to date.

ACTION: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí that officers investigate the provision of disability access on to Newcastle beach to enable the facility to be inclusive, which will enhance the visitor experience for all.

An update report to be provided to the Active & Health Communities Committee following on from a meeting of Neighbourhood Services department, Enterprise, Regenerations & Tourism department and Corporate Services departments.

FOR NOTING – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/153/2019: PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 16 September 2019 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the contents of the report and minutes.**

FOR NOTING – HEALTH & WELLBEING

AHC/154/2019: AIR QUALITY UPDATING AND SCREENING ASSESSMENT FOR NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Read: Report dated 16 September 2019 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment for Newry Mourne and Down District Council.

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the Air Quality assessment report for Newry Mourne and Down District Council which has been accepted by DAERA NI.**

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

AHC/155/2019 YOUR SCHOOL YOUR CLUB FUNDING

Read: Report dated 16 September 2019 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport regarding Sport NI Your School Your Club Funding **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

