

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2017

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 18 September 2017 at 6.00pm in the Commedagh Room,
Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

Chairperson: Councillor Walker

In attendance: **(Councillors)**
Councillor Andrews Councillor Brown
Councillor Burns Councillor Enright
Councillor Fitzpatrick Councillor Harte
Councillor Kimmins Councillor McMurray
Councillor Quinn Councillor Taylor
Councillor Trainor

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

AHC/135/2017: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran, Loughran and Ó Muíri.

- The Chairperson expressed his condolences to the Chairperson of Council, Councillor Mulgrew on the death of her father.
- The Chairperson advised an Invitation had been extended to Members of AHC to attend the NFLA All Ireland Forum Seminar – Brexit and Energy, Irish Renewable Energy Potential and Irish Nuclear Emergency Planning – 22 September 2017 from 10.45 am to 1.00 pm in Navan, Co Meath. Councillor Burns proposed that Councillor Enright attend the seminar. This was seconded by Councillor Trainor who advised he would also be attendance as Vice-Chair of the NFLA.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Trainor that Councillor Enright attend the NFLA All Ireland Forum Seminar.

- The Chairperson advised a letter of congratulations had been received from Dean Wright to all the staff in Newry Leisure Centre Gym for their helpfulness and friendliness following his GP referral.
- The Chairperson stated that as Chair of the Committee he had requested an additional item be included on the agenda – item 19 Memorandum of Understanding between NM&DDC and KYCA.

AHC/136/2017: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/137/2017: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 AUGUST 2017

Read: Action Sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 21 August 2017. **(Copy circulated)**

AHC/100/2017 – Play Strategy Update

Councillor Andrews requested an update on the Play Strategy.

Mr Moore advised the process was being finalised through the DEA Meetings and local consultation would commence with community groups and children in the coming months.

In response to a query from Councillor Kimmins, Mr Moore advised the consultation would begin before Christmas and should be completed shortly after Christmas.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the action sheet.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/138/2017: PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report from Ms J McCabe, Programmes Manager, dated 18 September 2017, regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan (copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to:

- **approve the recommendations of the Peace IV Partnership and proceed to go to tender;**
- **grant delegated authority to submit applications to SEUPB for underspend in line with the identified need and subject to Partnership approval;**
- **note the minutes of June 2017 Partnership Meeting.**

AHC/139/2017: COMMUNITY CENTRE EFFECTIVENESS

Read: Report from Mrs J McCann, Head of Community Services Facilities and Events, dated 18 September 2017, regarding Community Centre Effectiveness (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to accept the findings of Stage III, Community Centre Effectiveness Review and proceed with implementation of Stage IV.

AHC/140/2017: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – CALL 2 UPDATE AND CALL 3 REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

Read: Report from Mrs J McCabe, Programmes Manager, dated 18 September 2017, regarding Financial Assistance – Call 2 Update and Call 3 Request for Approval (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Burns, to note the Call timeline and thresholds for Call 3 of the Financial Assistance process and approve budget of £250,000 for Sports Capital Call 2018/19.

AHC/141/2017: DEA FORA - UPDATE

Read: Report from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement and Ms S Rice, DEA Coordinator (Crotlieve) regarding DEA Fora Update (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to approve the actions outlined in the action sheets from the following DEA Forum meetings:

- **Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting – 20th June 2017**
- **Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting – 29th June 2017**
- **Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting – 1st August 2017**
- **Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting – 3rd August 2017**
- **Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting – 23rd August 2017**

The Chairperson advised he would take item 19 from the agenda at this stage.

AHC/142/2017: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NMDDC & KYCA

Read: Report from Mrs J McCann, Head of Community Services Facilities and Events, dated 18 September 2017, regarding Memorandum of Understanding between NMDDC & KYCA (copy circulated).

The Chairperson advised a draft agreement with regards to a portacabin utilised by Killyleagh Youth and Community Association and located in the grounds of the Bridge Centre, Killyleagh, had previously be created by Down District Council, however had never formally been agreed. The recommendation was to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and KYCA.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick, to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding between Newry, Mourne & Down District Council and Killyleagh Youth & Community Association.**

LEISURE AND SPORTS

AHC/143/2017: NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR BROWN

The following motion was presented to the Committee by Councillor Brown:

“That this Council will make the necessary changes to enable leisure facilities in our main towns (Newcastle, Kilkeel, Downpatrick and Newry) to open from 10am on Sunday mornings as of the 2018/19 year of Council.”

In proposing the motion, Councillor Brown stated leisure centres across Northern Ireland open as early as 9am on a Sunday and he understood that Newry Leisure Centre would soon be opening at 10am but would like to see Downpatrick, Kilkeel and Newcastle follow suit. He stated he believed if the new opening hours were marketing effectively, it could increase income to the Council.

The Chairperson, while not opposing the motion, stated he would be concerned about the cost of opening earlier, and proposed that a fully costed report be brought back to the Committee before any decision could be made. He asked that all leisure facilities, including Ballynahinch and Killyleagh also be included in the costings report.

Councillor Fitzpatrick stated it had previously been agreed that Newry Leisure Centre would open at 10am and when Down Leisure Centre was finished, it too would open early on a Sunday. She asked that officers ensure the upgrading of the technology in order to allow a person to use their swipe card to utilise any leisure facility within the District be kept on the agenda.

Councillor Burns suggested using local DEA knowledge to investigate if there was an appetite for centres to be open on a Sunday.

Councillor Taylor seconded Councillor Walker’s proposal stating costs and the rights of workers would need to be investigated before any decision could be reached.

Councillor Enright asked that bank holiday provision within leisure centres also be investigated as part of the report.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that a report on the costs of opening all**

leisure facilities in the District on a Sunday and bank holidays be investigated and brought back to the Committee.

AHC/144/2017: NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE OPENING SALES PROMOTIONS

Read: Report from Mr K Gordon, Head of Indoor Leisure, dated 18 September 2017 regarding Newry Leisure Centre Opening Sales Promotions (copy circulated).

Mr Moore advised that with the opening of the new Newry Leisure Centre, officers believed there was an opportunity to implement a select number of commercial sales promotions including; a select number of memberships being sold with a discounted joining fee i.e. Join for £1 and the rest of the month free for direct debit customers; option to add a free month to annual paid in advance memberships; select number of free passes made available to new and existing customers to bring friends/families with them for free.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick, to allow officers to proceed to refine and implement commercial sales options as above, with the offers being made available for a specific period of time to help maximise potential commercial income opportunities.

AHC/145/2017: NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE SOFT PLAY OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS

Read: Report from Mr K Gordon, Head of Indoor Leisure, dated 18 September 2017, regarding Newry Leisure Centre Softplay Operating Arrangements (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Kimmins, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to approve the operating arrangements and pricing strategy which will be monitored and reviewed by officers after 6 months to refine arrangements, if required. These refinements would be brought back to the Committee for agreement.

AHC/146/2017: NEWRY LEISURE SPORT VISUALISATION

Read: Report from Mr K Gordon, Head of Indoor Leisure, dated 18 September 2017, regarding Newry Leisure Sport Visualisation (copy circulated)

Mr Moore advised a specialist leisure marketing expert had been working with the Leisure and Sport management team and Council's marketing team to develop a marketing plan. As part of this plan the leisure and sport service and facilities would be shaped by a new look and feel along with marketing messages for all element of leisure provision. He recommended that the Committee accept the proposed leisure look and feel and permit Officers to develop and implement targeted messages within

the leisure and sport section using this approach with close engagement with Council's marketing department.

Mr Moore also outlined the costs for implementing the marketing plan.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Kimmins, to accept the proposed leisure look and feel and permit Officers to develop and implement targeted messages within the leisure and sport section using this approach with close engagement with Council's marketing department.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/147/2017: REQUEST TO MATCH FUND AN INVASIVE SPECIES ERADICATION PROGRAMME IN DAISY HILL WOOD USING EXISTING RESOURCES

Read: Report from Ms S McEldowney, Senior Environmental Health Officer, dated 18 September 2017, regarding request to match fund an invasive species eradication programme in Daisy Hill Wood using existing resources (copy circulated).

Mr Devlin advised a recent survey had been completed on Daisy Hill Wood which was owned by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council with part of it being leased to the Woodland Trust. He stated the survey carried out by Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership had uncovered problem species such as Japanese knotweed, Himalayan knotweed and giant hogweed were growing within the wood.

Mr Devlin stated the Woodland Trust had applied for a grant to help tackle the problem however it would be pointless for them to spray on their leased land without Council spraying and controlling the invasive species on the surrounding Council land. He recommended that Council match fund the invasive species eradication programme using existing resources that had been awarded to Council to carry out environmental work.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick, to agree to match fund an invasive species eradication programme at Daisy Hill wood using existing resources.

AHC/148/2017: REQUEST FROM THE FEDERATION OF CITY FARMS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS (FCFCG) TO BECOME LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS

Read: Report from Ms S McEldowney, Senior Environmental Health Officer, dated 18 September 2017, regarding request from the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG) to become Local Authority Members (copy circulated).

Mr Devlin advised a request had been submitted from FCFCG for NMDDC to become Local Authority Members at a cost of £800 a year which would support the strategic development of the community growing sector in Northern Ireland.

Councillor Enright queried why the pile of scaffolding planks currently in situ at the Down Leisure Centre site could not be given to community interest groups to make raised beds. He stated the £800 it would cost for membership of FCFCG should be given to those community groups who were currently utilising allotments in the area.

Mr Lipsett advised the scaffolding planks belong to the contractor and not Council, therefore Council could not give these to community groups. He also advised that membership of FCFCG would enable Council to assist groups in developing new allotments and community gardens.

Councillor Quinn stated information would be required on the number of community gardens and allotments in the Council area in order to see if membership would be worthwhile and proposed that officers bring a report back on this matter. This was seconded by Councillor Enright.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Enright, that officers prepare a report on the number of community gardens and allotments within the Council area.

FOR NOTING

AHC/148/2017: LEISURE IT APPLICATIONS

Read: Report from Mr K Gordon, Head of Indoor Leisure, dated 18 September 2017, regarding Leisure IT Applications. (copy circulated).

Noted: The report on Leisure IT Applications was noted.

AHC/149/2017: HEALTH & WELLBEING ANNUAL REPORT

Read: Report from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, dated 18 September 2017, regarding Health & Wellbeing Annual Report (copy circulated).

Councillor Enright queried why this report was on the agenda for noting. He stated the figures for littering on the beach were not contained within the report and if he was able to find litter with people's names and addresses then surely the Council workers could do so and prosecute those responsible.

Mr Devlin advised the littering was not part of the Health & Wellbeing Department any longer and the fact that someone's name and address was on a piece of litter was not sufficient evidence to prosecute. He advised there had been 90 fixed penalty notices for littering with the majority of these for dumping.

Noted: **The Health & Wellbeing Annual Report was noted.**

AHC/150/2017: **DOWNPATRICK NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP
AND NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP**

Read: Report from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement; Ms K Hynds, Downpatrick DEA Coordinator and Mr S McKeivitt, Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Officer, dated 18 September 2017, regarding Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. (copy circulated).

Noted: **The report on Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership was noted.**

AHC/151/2017: **SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND - UPDATE**

Read: Report from Ms J McCabe, Programme Manager, dated 18 September 2017, regarding Social Investment Fund - Update. (copy circulated).

Noted: **The update report on Social Investment Fund was noted.**

AHC/152/2017: **ETHNIC MINORITY SUPPORT CENTRE**

Read: Report from Ms J McCabe, Programme Manager, dated 18 September 2017, regarding Ethnic Minority Support Centre. (copy circulated).

Noted: **The report on Ethnic Minority Support Centre was noted.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.45pm.

For consideration at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 2 October 2017.

Signed: Councillor W Walker
Chairperson

Signed: Mr M Lipsett
Director of Active and Healthy Communities