

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Ref: AHC/2017

---

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on  
Monday 20 March 2017 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room,  
Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

---

**Chairperson:** Councillor M Carr

**In attendance:** **(Councillors)**  
Councillor T Andrews Councillor S Burns  
Councillor P Byrne Councillor S Doran  
Councillor G Fitzpatrick Councillor V Harte  
Councillor H Harvey Councillor K Loughran  
Councillor A McMurray Councillor B Ó'Muirí  
Councillor D Taylor Councillor W Walker

Also in attendance: Councillor C Enright Councillor M Murnin

**Officials in attendance:** Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active & Healthy Communities  
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director of Active & Healthy Communities (Health & Wellbeing)  
Ms J Hillen, Assistant Director of Community Engagement  
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Ms F Milne, Product Development Officer, Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI)

**AHC/36/2017: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Kimmins, Trainor and Mr R Moore, Assistant Director of Active and Healthy Communities (Leisure and Sport).

The Chairman said an email had been received from Mr Harris on behalf of the NI Schools Gymnastics Association to thank staff in the Newry Sports Centre who had been marvellous in every aspect during the recent competition. Mr Harris had been attending these competitions for almost 20 years and the one held in Newry Sports Centre had been one of the best days he had in all those years.

The Chairman advised that the Health and Wellbeing department had organised a very successful event for schools as part of Fairtrade week and had assisted in Council's application for Fairtrade District status.

Pupils and teachers from 12 schools across the District had attended and heard from a representative of a Co-operative in Nicaragua as well as speakers from Fairtrade Ireland, Tesco and local school children. The Chairman acknowledged the efforts of Sheena McEldowney and Patrick McShane.

The Chairman advised that the NFLA Ireland Forum would take place on 24 March 2017 from 10:30 – 13:15 in Newry.

The Chairman congratulated local boxer, Dylan Duffy who had just missed out on a medal in the recent European U22 Championships in the Ukraine, where he had been beaten in the quarter final.

**AHC/37/2017:        DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**PRESENTATION**

**AHC/38/2017        PRESENTATION – ORNI**

The Chairperson welcomed Ms F Milne, Product Development Officer, ORNI to the meeting and invited her to make her presentation on the draft trail plans for the Mourne and Slieve Croob.

The Chairperson thanked Ms Milne for her informative presentation and invited questions from the Members were answered as follows:

- There were currently no plans trails for the Rowallane area.
- There was no brochure illustrating the draft trails, which had been an issue for people attending the workshops. A big map displayed at local facilities would help this.
- The path to the summit of Slieve Croob was listed as a permissive path.
- The maps were not an comprehensive picture of all paths that existed.
- Castlewellan Forest Park and Tollymore Forest Park were linked on the strategic map.
- The link between Dundrum and Ballykinler via the mass path had been looked at, but it was felt visitors could not use the pathway as a community trail as it was not a permanent path and due to tides, it could cause serious injury or risk to life.
- The townlands of Clonvarghan and Drumaroad were linked, but predominately by public road.

Councillors congratulated Ms Milne on the excellent presentation.

Councillors O’Muir and Byrne gave their support to a similar initiative being undertaken in the Slieve Gullion DEA, saying that the linking of the small villages in south Armagh would provide a huge rural boost to the area.

Councillor Enright said there had been a long standing campaign in the Downpatrick DEA area to establish a network of community trails and was very supportive of the initiative.

In response to Councillor Murnin's comments, Ms Milne undertook to check the records on the pathway to the top of Slieve Croob and also other rights of way and paths that were not displayed on the map in the Slieve Croob DEA.

**Ms Milne departed from the meeting at 7:00pm**

**AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Burns, that a report be brought back to the April AHC Committee regarding the Community Trails.**

### **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**AHC/39/2017      NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PREPARATORY STUDIES PAPER 10: OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND LEISURE**

Read: Report from Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer, dated 20 March 2017, regarding Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Paper 10: Open Space, Recreation and Leisure (copy circulated).

Councillor Byrne re-iterated his concerns, which he had previously stated at the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee on 16 March 2017, regarding the deficit in areas of active recreation.

**AGREED: It was agreed to note the content of the report.**

**AHC/38/2017:      ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2017**

Read: Action Sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 February 2017. **(Copy circulated)**

### **AHC/33/2017 – Fairtrade Steering Group – Nominees**

Mr Lipsett advised that 2 nominations to the NMD Fairtrade Steering Group would be provided at the Party Representatives Forum.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**AHC/39/2017      DEA UPDATE**

Read: Report from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement and Ms S Rice, DEA Co-ordinator (Crotlieve), dated 20 March 2017, regarding DEA Foru Update (copy circulated).

Councillor Burns extended his praise to the Slieve Croob DEA Co-ordinator and the Rowallane Co-ordinator who had worked together on a cross-DEA piece of work.

**AGREED:** It was approved on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Doran, the actions outlined in the following DEA Forum private meeting action sheets:

- Newry DEA Forum private meeting held on 9 February 2017
- Rowallane DEA Forum private meeting held on 15 February 2017
- The Mourne DEA Forum private meeting held on 22 February 2017

**AHC/40/2017**      **NEWRY STREET UNITE UPDATE**

Read: Report from Ms J McCann, Head of Community Services, Facilities and Events, dated 20 February 2017, regarding the update report on the Community Centre Development with Newry Street Unite (copy circulated).

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

**AHC/41/2017**      **DRUMALANE UPDATE**

Read: Report from Ms J McCann, Head of Community Services, Facilities and Events, dated 20 February 2017, regarding the update report on Drumalane/Quayside Close Community Centre Development (copy circulated).

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

**AHC/42/2017**      **POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

Read: Report from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement and Mrs S Fearon, PCSP Manager, dated 20 March 2017, regarding Policing & Community Safety Partnership (copy circulated).

In response to Councillor Byrne's concerns regarding the 10% cut in the budget, Mrs Hillen undertook to find out if NIHE had expressed whether their funding would be used in the first quarter and respond to Councillor Byrne individually.

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that approval be given to PCSP spend at risk in identified community safety projects, until a Letter of Offer is received from the Joint Committee.

**LEISURE AND SPORTS**

**AHC/43/2017**      **STAFF, ELECTED MEMBERS (COUNCILLORS) AND AGENCY WORKERS OF NMDDC ACCESS TO LEISURE FACILITIES**

Read:                      Report from Mr K Gordon, Head of Indoor Leisure, dated 20 March 2017, regarding Staff, Elected Members and Agency Workers of NMDDC Access to Leisure Facilities (copy circulated).

**AGREED:**              **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Harvey, to adopt the procedure for NMDDC Staff, Elected Members (Councillors) and Agency Workers that meet the criteria.**

**AHC/44/2017**      **BRIDGE STREET PLAY PARK, DOWNPATRICK**

Read:                      Report from Mr C Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure, dated 20 March 2017, regarding Funding Upgrade of Bridge Street Playpark, Downpatrick (copy circulated).

Councillor Walker welcomed the funding for the development of the Bridge Street Play park, but asked that Council maintain it on a regular basis.

In response to queries from Councillor Byrne, Mr Lipsett advised that the consultation would be discussed at the local DEA in the first instance. He said it was a Year 3 project, so there would be plenty of opportunity for Council to consider their priorities each year during the rates setting process and there would be chances to re-prioritise the money.

Councillor Burns urged caution, saying the message should be that Council was incentivising our communities to draw down external funding, which Councillors would help them to achieve.

**AGREED:**              **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the development of Bridge Street Play Park proceed due to receipt of external funding.**

**AHC/45/2017**      **THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI USE GAMES AREAS**

Read:                      Report from Mr C Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure, dated 20 March 2017, regarding the development of Multi Use Games Areas (copy circulated).

Councillor Byrne expressed concerns over the methodology used in the provision of MUGA's, saying the same criteria to provide a MUGA was used in the rural areas as in urban areas and the rural areas, being more sparsely populated areas, were missing out. He said he and Councillor Hearty had asked for the radius to be extended in rural areas.

In response to Councillor Fitzpatrick's concerns regarding the tier 5 staff not yet in place, Mr Lipsett explained there were a number of factors holding back the appointment of the tier 5 staff, one of which was the Trade Unions refusing to engage with the job matching process, although the Chief Executive had agreed to meet with the Trade Unions in order to get the process moving again.

Mr Lipsett also advised a consultant was being sought to help carry out community consultation which was part of the delivery of the Play Strategy, and when the consultant was in place, the work would move on in the absence of the tier 5 staff.

Councillor Murnin concurred with Councillor Byrne's comments regarding the calculation of MUGA provision in the rural areas.

In response, Mr Lipsett said that issues with MUGA provision and the extension of the radius could be discussed at the DEA Fora and comments brought back to AHC Committee.

Councillor O'Muire said he had previously asked for a common sense approach to provision of MUGA's in the rural areas, and concurred with Councillor Byrne's comments, saying there should be special circumstances given to the small villages in the Slieve Gullion DEA, which were missing out on sports provision and he asked that officers undertake public engagement with the communities to ascertain their needs.

Mr Lipsett referred to the MUGA currently being constructed in Ballynahinch, which was not sporting or play related, but a community project, and that there were options to develop MUGAs and play areas aside from the Sports Facilities and Play Strategies.

**AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that the development of MUGAs be discussed at the DEA Fora meetings and comments brought back to Committee.**

**AHC/46/2017 COMMONWEALTH GAMES**

Read: Report from Mr R Moore, Assistant Director, Leisure & Sport, dated 20 March 2017, regarding correspondence received from NI Commonwealth Games Committee (NICGC) (copy circulated).

**AGREED: It was agreed to note the correspondence from the NICGC and that the AHC Committee consider funding options in the future once the actual level of support was known.**

**AHC/47/2017 REQUEST TO ACQUIRE LAND AT WINDMILL HILL, BALLYNAHINCH BY DRUMLINS INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Read: Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration) and Mr C Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure, dated 20 March 2017, regarding the request to acquire land at Windmill Hill, Ballynahinch by Drumlins Integrated Primary School (copy attached).

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Harvey, that Council surrender the portion of ground hatched in brown on the map (previously circulated at Appendix 1) to the NIHE for the purpose of facilitating a transfer of said land to Drumlins Integrated Primary School for open green space as part of the overall school development.

**AGREED:** It was further agreed that access to the nature reserve from the town side should not be lost.

**AHC/48/2017**      **RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT (HIGH PERFORMANCE LEVEL) PROCEDURES**

Read: Report from Mr C Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure, dated 20 March 2017, regarding the Recognition of Achievement (High Performance Level) Procedures (copy circulated).

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Burns, that the Sports Development Recognition of Achievement (High Performance Level) Procedures, be approved.

**HEALTH & WELLBEING**

**AHC/49/2017**      **PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR IN NI PROPSAL FOR CHANGE – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

Read: Report from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director of Active & Healthy Communities (Health & Wellbeing), dated 20 March 2017, regarding Private Rented Sector in NI Proposals for Change Consultation Document (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor O’Muir, to note the content of the report and approve the return of the response to the Department for Communities.

**AHC/50/2017**      **MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM MEETING – 20 FEBRUARY 2017**

Read: Minutes of the Sustainable Development & Climate Change Forum held on 20 February 2017 (copy circulated).

**AGREED:** The Minutes of the Sustainable Development & Climate Change Forum held on 20 February 2017 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Harvey.

**FOR NOTING**

**AHC/51/2017**      **LETTER FROM PETER WEIR – 2<sup>ND</sup> REQUEST TO MEET DECLINED**

Read: Correspondence received from Peter Weir, Minister of Education, dated 24 February 2017, regarding 2<sup>nd</sup> request to meet declined (copy circulated).

Councillor Walker proposed correspondence be sent to the new Minister for Education, requesting them to meet with Council on a range of topics including Outdoor Education Centres. This was seconded by Councillor Harvey.

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Harvey, that correspondence be sent to the new Minister for Education, requesting them to meet with Council on a range of topics including Outdoor Education Centres

**FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION**

**AHC/52/2017**      **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME 2016/17 – KILCOO GAC**

Read: Report from Mr P Green, Head of Compliance, dated 20 March 2017, regarding Capital Assistance Programme 2016/17 – Kilcoo GAC (copy circulated).

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Doran, to:

- Consent to a partial release of a Deed of Charge dated 5 May 2011 between the Trustees of Kilcoo GAC and Legacy Down District Council.
- That Council enter into a Grant of Easement with the Trustees of Kilcoo GAC and other Charge holders (AIB (UK) PLC and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs) to facilitate the construction and upkeep of an access roadway to the proposed community hall.
- Consent to the Trustees of Kilcoo GAC that they can enter into a telecoms Lease with Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited for a term of fifteen years.



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

**SPR/53/2017**

**UPDATE ON FOOTGOLF**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information).

**Read:** Report from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, dated 20 March 2017 regarding Footgolf facilities, island Park, Newcastle – review of operations and rental agreement (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor Burns, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

**Agreed:** When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Andrews to approve to note the content of the Officer's Report and to approve the following recommendations:

1. To approve a revised licence fee for the Footgolf Facilities of Island Park, Newcastle.
2. The project promoter to submit a new Business Case to Council for consideration within 2 months.
3. The project promoter to submit a repayment plan for current debts and future payments.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.03pm.

For consideration at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 3 April 2017.

**Signed:** Councillor M Carr  
Chairperson

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