

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 November 2016 at 5.00pm in the Boardroom District Council Offices Monaghan Row Newry

Chairperson: Councillor R Burgess

Vice Chairperson: Councillor D Curran

In Attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor H Harvey

Councillor D McAteer

Councillor B Quinn

Councillor G Stokes

Councillor J Tinnelly

Councillor S Ennis

Councillor T Hearty

Councillor M Ruane

Officials in Attendance:

Ms M Ward	Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
Mr J McGilly	Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
Mr M Mohan	Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager
Mr A Patterson	Tourism NI
Ms L Dillon	Democratic Services Officer

ERT/164/2016: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apology was received:

- Councillor N Bailie
- Councillor P Brown

ERT/165/2016: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received:

**ERT/166/2016: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 10 OCTOBER 2016**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 October 2016.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 October 2016.

The following issue was raised:

Seminar: Revitalising Small Towns

Councillor Andrews said he attended the Seminar on Revitalising Small Towns which was held on 27 October 2016 in Monaghan and said it was a very good event which provided an excellent opportunity to showcase our region and assist in the regeneration of small towns and villages.

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

**ERT/167/2016: NEWRY CATHEDRAL CORRIDOR
PUBLIC REALM SCHEME**

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding the Newry Cathedral Corridor Public Realm Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed as follows, as per Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism, regarding the Newry Cathedral Corridor Public Realm Scheme:

- (a) Transport NI to ensure that all relevant media sources are used in regards to communicating their forthcoming Road Resurfacing Programme for Hill Street Newry.**
- (b) The Task & Finish Committee set up for delivery of the Public Realm Scheme – Newry Cathedral Corridor, will not be renewed with new trader Representatives in order that it can oversee delivery of the Newry Cathedral Corridor Revitalisation Programme.**

ERT/168/2016: WARRENPOINT PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding Warrenpoint Public Realm Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Ennis it was agreed as follows as per Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding Warrenpoint Public Realm Scheme:

- (a) Contractor to ensure that all relevant media sources, including WBR Chamber of Commerce contacts are used in regards communicating their forthcoming Road Resurfacing Programme for Dock Street Warrenpoint.**
- (b) The Task & Finish Committee set up for delivery of the Public Realm Scheme at Warrenpoint, will be renewed early in the new year in order that it can oversee the delivery of the Warrenpoint Revitalisation Programme.**
- (c) Council and WBR Chamber of Commerce asked that the thoughts of both organisations are relayed to the family and contractor/employee colleagues of the young man who tragically lost his life carrying out site works as part of the scheme.**
- (d) An apology be recorded for Councillor D McAteer for the Task & Finish Public Realm Steering Group Meeting held on 24 October 2016.**

ERT/169/2016: DERRYMORE ESTATE PARTNERSHIP

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding Derrymore Estate Partnership for the Regeneration of Derrymore Estate. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed as follows, as per Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism and arising from the Derrymore Partnership Meeting held on 1 November 2016:

- (a) Council Officials to continue to progress the delivery of projects that seek to develop the recreational potential of Derrymore Estate.**

- (b) **Council to submit an application for Trail facility development to Sport NI before the deadline of February 2017, and if successful, to make available the required match funding towards this project of approximately £140,000 in 2017/18.**
- (c) **Council Officials to commence work on preparation and submission of a planning application for above project to ensure project delivery is not delayed if a Letter of Offer for funding is awarded.**

ERT/170/2016: BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding Business Engagement Programmes. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to queries from Members regarding the methods used to contact businesses, Mr McGilly said a database was used in conjunction with social media and press coverage to encourage businesses to come forward. He also added there would be an even spread of events held across the District.

Concern was expressed regarding the issue of high rates in small rural towns and it was believed this would be an issue that would continue to be highlighted at the Business Engagement Programme events.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed to deliver future business engagement activity which has as its focus, the up-skilling of employees / entrepreneurs, and knowledge transfer activity that will encourage business sustainability and growth, as per Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism.

ERT/171/2016: NEWRY RIVER CLEAN UP DFC FUNDING

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding transfer of DFC Department for Communities funding to Rivers regarding the clean-up of Clanrye River. **(Copy circulated)**

Discussion took place regarding the various public agencies who had responsibility for works to clean up rivers and Members felt that a joined approach was needed to address the issue of rivers.

Particular reference was made to Kilkeel River and Coyle River which were in urgent need of clean up works and questions were raised as to how the Clanrye River

would be monitored after the clean-up works would be completed. Reference was also made to the need to clean out the holding pond for Annalong Mill.

Members suggested a meeting should be convened with Rivers Agency and the other appropriate agencies who had responsibility for waterways to discuss clean-up of rivers.

Mr McGilly explained that clean up works to the Clanyre River would be a one off programme rather than an on-going programme of works as there was no grant available to maintain the river on an on-going basis.

Ms Ward explained that the issue of cleaning up rivers was not within the remit of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee but would be discussed by the Thematic Working Groups

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed that £25,000 of the funding received by Department for Communities towards the Clean-up of the Clanyre River, be transferred to Rivers Agency as the responsible government agency to carry out an element of the works.

On the proposal of Councillor Quinn seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed that the issue of the clean-up of rivers in the District be referred to the Thematic Working Groups.

It was agreed Ms M Ward Director of ERT to report back to Councillor G Hanna regarding a clean-up of the pond at Annalong Mill.

ERT/172/2016: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Ms S Keenan, Project Development Officer regarding consultation Workshops, events and Road Shows at Castlewellan Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed as follows, as per Report from Ms S Keenan Project Development Officer regarding Castlewellan Forest Park:

- (a) To procure and pay facilitators for the purposes of consultation workshops, events and road-shows.**
- (b) To plan and hold a number of consultation workshops, events and road shows.**

ERT/173/2016: MEMBERSHIP – CONNECT PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding Membership of Connect Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to engage with Catalyst Inc via the Connect Programme, on a 12 month silver membership programme at a cost of £2,000 pa, as per Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director of ERT.

ERT/174/2016: SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding the Social Enterprise Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to fund the extension of the Social Enterprise Programme (Phase II) for a period of 6 months from November 2016 until April 2017, to be delivered throughout the Council District by Newry & Mourne Co-Operative and Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre.

ERT/175/2016: DOWNPATRICK PSNI STATION

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding the potential of a community asset transfer of the former Downpatrick PSNI Station. **(Copy circulated)**

Reference was made to a strategy for hotel provision in Downpatrick.

Ms Ward said Officials had received a draft report regarding accommodation which reinforced the need for hotel provision in Downpatrick. She said this report would be tabled at the ERT Committee Meeting in December 2016.

Members welcomed the proposal for the former Downpatrick PSNI Station building and felt it would attract interest from both the community and voluntary sector and that this building could accommodate both a private sector hotel along with other components.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed the Council support Downpatrick Community Collective Group in their efforts to secure the site via Community Asset Transfer and Council to offer advice and support to the Group to develop the initiative, as per Report dated 14 November

2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism.

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS

**ERT/176/2016: SEAN HOLLYWOOD ARTS CENTRE
CAFÉ FRANCHISE**

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Ms J Turley, Facilities Administrator regarding the Café Franchise at Sean Hollywood Arts Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed as follows, as per Report dated 14 November 2016 from Ms J Turley, Facilities Administrator regarding the Café Franchise at Sean Hollywood Arts Centre:

- (a) The Council to not proceed on the basis as outlined in Point 2.0 for the reasons as outlined in Point 3.0 in Report dated 14 November 2016 from Ms J Turley Facilities Administrator.
- (b) Council Officials to enter back into negotiations regarding the Café franchise at Sean Hollywood Arts Centre.

**ERT/177/2016: NIRDP RURAL TOURISM SCHEME
SLIEVE GULLION FOREST PARK**

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr D Rice, Ring of Gullion Partnership Manager regarding an Expression of Interest submitted to NIRDP for Slieve Gullion Forest Park. **(Copy enclosed)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor Ennis it was agreed as follows as per Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr D Rice, Ring of Gullion Partnership Manager regarding an Expression of Interest submitted to NIRDP for Slieve Gullion Forest Park:

- (a) Submit an application for the funding deficit to potential funders, ie, Heritage Lottery Fund, when the Slieve Gullion Forest Park Economic Appraisal is complete.
- (b) Invite to tender to prepare a planning application for the project, assess tenders, appoint supplier using the MEAT process.
- (c) Submit planning application for project.
- (d) Proceed to tender the proposed Augmented Reality Project.

- (e) **Submit the round two application to NIRDP 2014-2020 Priority 6 Rural Tourism Scheme.**

ERT/178/2016: CARAVAN & CAMPSITE MANAGEMENT

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer regarding a transfer of Forest Assets to Council.
(Copy enclosed)

Discussion took place regarding the proposal for management and operation of Council caravan and camping provision during which some Members strongly felt that Kilbroney Park should be removed from this process.

Ms Ward explained the proposal was to carry out an initial study regarding the management and operation of the Council's caravan and camping sites after which the Council could then take a decision as to whether or not they wished to operate these facilities privately. She also added that the study would also be looking at other elements of provision such as activity/adventure provision and not solely caravan and camping aspects.

Councillor Tinnelly proposed and Councillor McAteer seconded that Kilbroney Forest Park be removed from the proposed business rationale seeking providers for the management and operation of all 3 of the Council caravan and camping parks and that this business rationale be sought for Tollymore and Castlewellan parks only.

Councillor Hanna proposed and Councillor Harvey seconded to proceed as follows, as per Report dated 14 November 2016 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer regarding caravan and campsite parks:

- (a) To agree a joint process between Council and Forest Service to appoint external expertise to prepare the Business Rationale and Specification to seek competent providers for the management of Tollymore Castlewellan and Kilbroney Park Caravan/Camping provision with the option to consider some additional tourism recreational services which would enhance the tourism offering.
- (b) To revert to Council with the completed Business Rationale and Specification prior to progressing to seek Expression of Interest.

The proposal above was put to a vote by way of a show of hands and voting was as follows:

For: 8
Against: 5
Abstentions: 0

The proposal was declared carried.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Harvey, it was agreed to proceed as follows, as per Report dated 14 November 2016 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer regarding caravan and campsite parks:

- (a) To agree a joint process between Council and Forest Service to appoint external expertise to prepare the Business Rationale and Specification to seek competent providers for the management of Tollymore Castlewellan and Kilbroney Park Caravan/Camping provision with the option to consider some additional tourism recreational services which would enhance the tourism offering.
- (b) To revert to Council with the completed Business Rationale and Specification prior to progressing to seek Expression of Interest.

ERT/179/2016: SLIEVE CROOB WALKING TRAILS

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Ms H Wilson, Countryside Access Officer regarding Community Trails Plan to examine potential trails within Slieve Croob and Mourne DEA. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed that both of the Council's Countryside Access Officers will have input into the study being carried out by Outdoor Recreation NI regarding a Community Trails Plan to examine potential trails within the Slieve Croob and Mourne District Electoral Area, as per Report dated 14 November 2016 from Ms H Wilson, Countryside Access Officer regarding Community Trails Plan to examine potential trails within Slieve Croob and Mourne DEA.

ERT/180/2016: 2017 EVENTS

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Ms M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the provision and development of Tourism Events for the period 2017 to 2018. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to approve the following, as per Report dated 14 November 2016 from Ms M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism:

- (a) To approve the schedule of Council tourism events and dates which will enable the official launch of the events to be held in January 2017 which will provide time for the

effective organisation and development of the events and allow the businesses in the District the opportunity to build packages around these core events.

(b) To approve the schedule of Signature and Major Events to be supported through the events budget 2017.

Members raised issues regarding the following:

- Funding for major festivals such as Blues on the Bay and Fiddlers Green should not be included under an umbrella budget but should be considered individually in terms of allocating the necessary amount of funding these major events require.
- Officials to re-examine live bands playing at night.
- Inadequate funding for festivals and events held in south of the Mournes.
- More funding needs to be allocated towards food festivals.
- Council Officials need to meet with the organising Committee of the Maiden of the Mournes Festival regarding plans for the festival and identify how the Council can provide assistance.

Ms Ward said Council Officials intend to work with the DEA Councillors on how festivals are ran and she added that a paper would be tabled at the ERT Committee regarding the Summer Music Festival.

Members recognised the effort of Council staff to deliver successful festivals and events throughout the District but highlighted the need for continued Council support for these events.

(6.05pm – Councillor H Harvey left the meeting)

AGREED: Council Officials to arrange a meeting with the organising Committee of the Maiden of the Mournes Festival to discuss plans for the festival and identify how the Council can provide assistance.

Noted: Applications are open for Voluntary Contributions. This process is not managed by the ERT Department.

EXEMPT ITEMS

ERT/181/2016: DELAMONT RAILWAYS TEAROOMS

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor McAteer 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 dated 14 November 2016 from Mr S Boyle Delamont Country Park Manager regarding Delamont Miniature Railway Tearoom.
(Copy circulated)

ERT/182/2016: UPDATE RE: RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Ms M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism, gave a verbal update regarding the recruitment process for the Assistant Director of Tourism, Arts and Culture.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported as follows:

Delamont Railways Tearooms

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed the Council approve the proposal to construct Tea Rooms at Delamont Railways, but not extend the current Lease, as recommended in Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr S Boyle Delamont Country Park Manager.

The above decision be subject to:

- (1) Council's Valuer reviewing the Rent to take into account additional investment and extended facilities on offer at Delamont.
- (2) The completion of legal formalities.

Update – Recruitment Process

AGREED: To note update provided by Ms M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the recruitment process for post of Assistant Director of Tourism, Arts and Culture.

FOR NOTING

ERT/183/2016: KILLEAVEY CASTLE

Ms Ward provided a verbal update regarding Killeavy Castle and said it had been confirmed by email that the hotel project at Killeavey Castle would proceed with

anticipated completion in December 2018.

ERT/184/2016: MAINTENANCE – STRUELL WELLS

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Ms Heather Wilson Countryside Access Officer regarding Maintenance at Struell Wells.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed to note Report dated 14 November 2016 from Ms Heather Wilson Countryside Access Officer regarding Maintenance at Struell Wells and this issue would be reported back to the ERT Committee following completion of discussions between Historic Environment Division and Council.

ERT/185/2016: UPDATE: RDP VILLAGE PLANS

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism providing an update regarding RDP Village Plans. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the process undertaken to date in preparation for submitting an application for funding to the Mourne Gullion Lecale Rural Development Partnership for new and updated Village Plans, as outlined in Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism.

ERT/186/2016: ADVENTURE TOURISM PROJECT

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr M Patterson Enterprise Development Officer regarding (GATE) Growth for Adventure Tourism Entrepreneurs project. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note that Newry Mourne & Down District Council, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, will submit the Growth for Adventure Tourism Entrepreneurs application to the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme by the closing date of Friday 30 November 2016, as outlined in Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr M Patterson Enterprise Development Officer.

CONFERENCES/EVENTS

ERT/187/2016: NEWRY CHAMBER CHRISTMAS DINNER

Read: Report dated 14 November 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding Newry Chamber of

Commerce 17th Christmas Charity Dinner on Thursday 1 December 2016 at 5.30pm in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed the Council purchase a table of 10 at a cost of £500, at the Newry Chamber of Commerce 17th Christmas Charity Dinner on Thursday 1 December 2016 at 5.30pm in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry.

It was also agreed any Councillor wishing to attend this event should advise Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer.

The meeting concluded at 6.20pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 5 December 2016.

Signed: Councillor R Burgess
Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Ms M Ward
Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee