

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on
Monday 8 February 2016 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices,
Monaghan Row, Newry**

Chairperson: Councillor D Curran

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor R Mulgrew

In Attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor R Burgess
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor P Byrne
Councillor S Ennis
Councillor C Enright
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor B Quinn

(Non Members)

Councillor H Reilly

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway Chief Executive
Ms M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration
& Tourism
Mr M Mohan Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager
Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer
Ms E McParland Democratic Services Manager
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

ERT/15/2016: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies.

Councillor Curran Chairperson, thanked Members for their messages of good wishes and he extended thanks to Councillor Mulgrew Vice Chairperson for chairing meetings of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee during his absence.

He also welcomed the newly appointed Councillor Pete Byrne to the meeting and paid tribute to the work carried out by his predecessor, former Councillor Geraldine Donnelly.

ERT/16/2016: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor G Stokes declared an interest in the item regarding the Procurement Seminars as he was employed by Intertrade Ireland.

**ERT/17/2016: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2016**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 January 2016. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Action Sheet

Holiday World 2016 (Belfast and Dublin)

Councillor Andrews referred to the Holiday World events which both he and Councillor Burgess attended and he commended the professionalism of the staff who worked on the Council stand at these events and added that this was a great opportunity for the Council to showcase itself.

Councillor Burgess said the event in Belfast was excellent and very well attended.

Councillor Curran thanked staff for their hard work in promoting the Newry Mourne & Down District at these events.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed Officers prepare a report on feedback following the Council's attendance at the Holiday World events in Belfast and Dublin in January 2016, for tabling at a future meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT AND REGENERATION ITEMS

**ERT/18/2016: KILKEEL HARBOUR DEVELOPMENTS
BUSINESS PLAN & ECONOMIC APPRAISAL**

Read: Report dated 2 February 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise

Regeneration & Tourism regarding Business Plan and Appraisal of Options for development project at Kilkeel Harbour. **(Copy circulated)**

Read: Economic Appraisals for the Development of Kilkeel Harbour. **(Copy circulated)**

Several Members spoke in support of the proposals outlined for Kilkeel Harbour which would have a substantial positive impact in the area.

Councillor Quinn suggested that local Councillors should be invited to attend meetings regarding the plan for the development of Kilkeel Harbour.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to approve in principle, the funding options and request Kilkeel Strategic Partnership to Report back to Council when a project timeline and implementation plan is in place to identify how the Group will lobby for these projects and secure necessary funding, as per Report from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism dated 2 February 2016.

ERT/19/2016: NEWRY CHAMBER BUSINESS LUNCH WITH VIP FROM OFMDFM

Read: Report dated 2 February 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding Newry Chamber Business Lunch. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to appoint the Members of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee to attend the Newry Chamber Business Lunch to be held on 24 February 2016 in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry at a cost of £20 per person.

The following nominations were submitted and agreed:

**Councillor R Burgess
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Andrews
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor B Quinn
Councillor V Harte
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D Curran
Councillor C Casey**

Ms M Ward to forward an email to all Councillors requesting they submit the names of any additional Councillors who wish to attend the Newry Chamber Business Lunch.

ERT/20/2016: DPF RE: REVIEW OF NON-DOMESTIC RATES CONSULTATION

Read: Report dated 8 February 2016 from Mr M Patterson, Enterprise Development Officer. **(Copy circulated)**

Several Members discussed the issue regarding the system of rates levied for Charities and said it was their view charities should only pay the rate for a vacant property rather than the full amount.

Other Members said to levy rates on some charities would result in their closure as some charities would be unable to meet such costs.

It was pointed out by Members however that some charities on the high street were operating as large business enterprises and therefore had a responsibility to contribute to rates as did other businesses.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed Newry, Mourne and Down District Council support the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) response to the Non Domestic Rating Review Consultation, subject to the inclusion of additional comments as outlined in Report dated 8 February 2016 from Mr M Patterson, Enterprise Development Officer.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION – FOR NOTING

ERT/21/2016: PROCUREMENT SEMINARS

Read: Report dated 11 January 2016 from Mr M Forster, Business Support Co Ordinator providing an update on a series of Procurement Seminars which were recently held and hosted by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Intertrade Ireland.

Noted: Following on from the success of the Procurement Seminars, Intertrade Ireland and the Council are promoting further advanced Procurement Workshops to local businesses. This is part of Council **and Intertrade Ireland's current initiative to actively encourage small businesses in the region to engage in Public Procurement throughout the island of Ireland.**

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS ITEMS

ERT/22/2016: TOURISM STRATEGY TASK & FINISH PROJECT BOARD

Read: Report dated 29 January 2016 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer regarding the Tourism Strategy Task & Finish Project Board Meeting held on 13 January 2016. (Copy circulated)

Service Level Agreement – St Patrick’s Centre Downpatrick

Members highlighted the need for arrangements to be put in place to ensure the Service Level Agreement with the St Patrick’s Centre will benefit Council facilities, the town centre and local businesses. They also stressed it was essential the town and local businesses benefited from visiting coach tours, including benefits that can also be brought to the night time economy of the area. They asked for consideration to be given to examine advertising a heritage package which would link in with other tours in regions along the eastern coast and for tour operators to extend visiting times to the area.

Noted: A detailed report regarding the Service Level Agreement with St Patrick’s Centre will be tabled at the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee in March 2016. The Service Level Agreement can be built up to ensure benefit to Council facilities and local businesses.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed as follows: -

- (a) **A paper be tabled at the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting recommending a revised Service Level Agreement with St Patrick’s Centre, for a 3 year term, to be reviewed annually, taking into account comments made by Members regarding potential benefits to the Downpatrick town centre and Council facilities.**
- (b) **To note the theme “Year of Food & Drink”**

ERT/23/2016: SLIEVE GULLION DEA COUNCILLORS MEETING 25 JANUARY 2016

Read: Report dated 1 February 2016 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer enclosing Report of Slieve Gullion DEA Meeting held on 25 January 2016 regarding forward planning for Slieve Gullion. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: All major issues now appear to have been addressed with regard to Slieve Gullion Forest Park, including the issues raised by Tourism NI.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Hearty seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the update provided on legal advices regarding closing of gates, and Officials to contact Mr M Beattie Forest Service regarding a draft Licence for Slieve Gullion, as contained in Report of Slieve Gullion DEA Meeting held on 25 January 2016 regarding forward planning for Slieve Gullion Forest Park.**

ERT/24/2016: TOURISM STRATEGY UPDATE

Read: Report dated February 2016 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer regarding an update on the development of the Tourism Strategy.

Noted: Consultants have now been appointed to undertake the development of a Tourism Strategy for the Council.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note and approve the project plan for the development of a Tourism Strategy for the Council, as per Report dated February 2016 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer.

ERT/25/2016: UPDATE RE: MUSIC FESTIVAL 2016

Read: Report dated 8 February 2016 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding Rhythm Junction Music Collaborative.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to approve in principle, the proposed collaboration between Council and the Music/Festival organisations Blues in the Bay, Fiddlers Green, Soma, Lur Cinn Fleadh, and Feile Camlough.

Noted: Officials have attempted to include the major music propositions across the District and Councillors should advise Ms M Ward of any additional music festivals which have not been included to date. After the Rates process is completed Officers will examine in greater detail the allocation of funding for these events, which will be reported back to Council via the Tourism Task & Finish Group meetings to which all Members are invited to attend.

ERT/26/2016: BEACH OPERATOR AND EU BATHING WATERS DESIGNATION

Read: Report dated 8 February 2016 from Ms C Nolan Strangford Lough & Lecale Partnership regarding application for Beach Operator and EU Bathing Waters Designation for beaches in Lecale, ie, Kilclief, Ballyhornan and Killough. (Copy circulated)

Members said Council should lobby NI Water to ensure adequate measures are put in place to ensure that sewage screening and treatment plants/outlets at beaches are fit for purpose as some of these outlets fail during periods of heavy rainfall.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed as follows:

- (a) The Council formally confirm its role as Beach Operator for beaches at Kilclief, Ballyhornan and Killough in order that applications for EU Bathing Water status at these beaches may be progressed.

NB: The Council already is recognised as the Beach Operator at Kilclief and Killough where it owns not only the car park and controls access, but also owns the beaches. The beach at Ballyhornan is owned by the DOE but the Council effectively manages recreation at the site through provision of the car park, bins, access slip and picnic area. The DOE already maintains that Council is the beach operator for this reason.

- (b) Subject to the outcome of a Health and Safety Beach Assessment by the RNLi and the Council's Risk Assessment, that the Council should submit the applications for EU Bathing Water status at these three beaches.

ERT/27/2016: OVERFLOW CAR PARK, SLIEVE GULLION FOREST PARK

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).

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

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairman reported it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Mulgrew, that further time be allocated to Council officials to seek alternative provision for an overflow car parking facility at Slieve Gullion Forest Park, which will meet the Council criteria for such a facility at this location.

The meeting concluded at 7.10pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 March 2016.

Signed: Councillor D Curran
Chairperson

Signed: Ms M Ward
Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism