

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on
Monday 8 August 2016 at 3.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices,
Monaghan Row, Newry**

Chairperson: Councillor R Burgess

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor D Curran

In Attendance: (Committee Members)

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor P Brown
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor S Ennis
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor J Tinnelly

(Non Committee Members)

Councillor P Clarke
Councillor B Walker

Officials in Attendance: Ms M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
Mr M Mohan Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager
Mr A Patterson Tourism NI Regional Manager (NM&D)
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

ERT/113/2016: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apology was received:

Councillor G Stokes

ERT/114/2016: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received

**ERT/115/2016: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 13 JUNE 2016**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 June 2016.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 June 2016.

Warrenpoint Baths

AGREED: It was agreed a report be tabled at the next Meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on Monday 12 September 2016 regarding progress in relation to Warrenpoint Baths.

PRESENTATIONS

ERT/116/2016: STUDY VISIT - SCOTLAND

Mr A Patterson Tourism NI Regional Manager delivered a presentation on Tourism Business Development Opportunities and a study visit to Inverness/Loch Ness and Speyside in Scotland on 14-16 June 2016.

After Mr Patterson concluded the presentation the following issues were discussed:

- Benefits of digital technology
- Business Webinars and approximate costs
- Council role with regard to collaboration
- Discussions with Tour Operators and hotels/accommodation providers to develop holiday packages
- Air B&B
- Need for rural broadband programme

Mr Patterson explained that in the Scottish Highlands a number of different programmes existed to get tourism to come together ie, familiarization visits and Tourism forums. He said

the development of the Tourism Strategy would provide a basis for some of the collaboration going forward and would look at opportunities to work with Tour Operators.

He said tourists will search for on line packages to find things to do when on holiday. If such packages are available with will increase the opportunity for visitors to stay longer in an area and he said it was important for businesses to work closer together to create these soft packages.

Ms Ward said the Council are a facilitator to initiate collaboration and build the packages and the Tourism Strategy would be looking at these areas. She added that the Council also held events to promote the area but said it was businesses who actually played the major role in keeping tourists in the area.

Mr Patterson explained the process for certification for places of accommodation to be registered on AIR B&B. He said this certification ensured a basic level of quality and standards would be provided, including health and safety and fire safety, and he said there was no evidence that having to have this certification presented a barrier for people getting their places of accommodation registered on AIR B&B. He added that small businesses should make the best use of digital channels to promote their offering.

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION ITEMS

ERT/117/2016: NIBSP PROPOSED INTERIM PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 8 August 2016 from Martin Patterson, Enterprise Development Officer regarding the Northern Ireland Business Start Programme Interim Programme (NIBSP) **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed that Newry Mourne 7 Down District Council implement an Interim Business Start Up Programme commencing on 22 October 2016 for up to a maximum of 12 months at a maximum total cost of £109,440, as per Report dated 8 August 2016 from Mr M Patterson Enterprise Development Officer.

ERT/118/2016: PLATO PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 8 August 2016 from Mr M Patterson, Enterprise Development Officer regarding the PLATO Cross Border Business Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed Newry Mourne and Down District Council provide

funding of up to a total of £16,000 to implement the PLATO Programme in the District as per Report dated 8 August 2016 from Mr M Patterson Enterprise Development Officer.

ERT/119/2016: REGENERATION PROJECT - WARRENPOINT MUNICIPAL PARK HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

Read: Report dated 8 August 2016 from Mrs S Keenan, Project Development Officer regarding the Warrenpoint Municipal Park Heritage Lottery Fund Regeneration Project. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Brown it was agreed as follows, as per Report dated 8 August 2016 from Mrs S Keenan Project Development Officer:

- (a) To note and agree to the letter of offer from Heritage Lottery Fund dated 4 July 2016, and the pre conditions contained therein, with regard to a Regeneration Project at Warrenpoint Municipal Park.**
- (b) To implement the above project as per project application and requirements of funder to include:**
 - Recruit project staff**
 - Appoint consultancy team as per delivery phase of original tender**
 - Prepare tender documentation and procure contractor**
- (c) The Regeneration Project for Warrenpoint Municipal Park will report to the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee via the Project Steering Group which is already in existence.**

ERT/120/2016: FUNDING DERRYMORE HOUSE & ESTATE

Read: Report from Mr C McCarney, Enterprise Development Officer regarding the funding for Derrymore House & Estate. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed as follows as per Report from Mr C McCarney Enterprise Development Officer:

- (a) **The Council prepares two funding applications for EU RDP Programme and Sport NI, for infrastructure investment in Derrymore House & Estate.**
- (b) **The Council re-allocates up to £10,000 from the existing budget of £50,000 reserved as match funding for the unsuccessful Space & Place to secure the technical assistance support required to prepare the two funding applications.**

ERT/121/2016: EU RDP – VILLAGE PLANS

Read: Report dated 27 July 2016 from Mr C McCarney, Enterprise Development Officer regarding application to EU RDP Programme for development of new Village Plans and updating existing Village Plans. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Ward highlighted that if anyone was interested in applying for rural funding it is Mandatory that they attend a workshop.

She said the village plans were very much community driven and the Council would be working with community groups to draw up the plans.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor W Clarke it was agreed in order to progress the development of new and updated Village Plans for at least 20 rural communities across the District, to approve the recommendations contained in Report dated 27 July 2016 from Mr C McCarney Enterprise Development Officer.

NOTED: There would not be sufficient internal resources to draw up village plans 'in house'.

ERT/122/2016: MASTERPLANS

Read: Report dated 8 August 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism regarding Masterplans across the District. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed as follows in relation to DEA Masterplans, as per Report dated 8 August 2016 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism:

- (a) **Action Plans are tabled for discussion at relevant DEA Meeting to which all Councillors will be invited to attend.**

- (b) **Revised Action Plans following DEA consultation to be tabled at Council via Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting in September/October 2016.**
- (c) **Strategic Council Projects arising from the Plans be reported on via Strategic Projects Working Group.**
- (d) **All other projects be reported via Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee with a note of progress against each of the projects at (c) above.**
- (e) **Report to relevant DEAs every 6 months against progress on each of the Plans relevant to DEA.**

Ms Ward explained that in ensuring equal delivery for each DEA, the Councils Corporate Plan would be taken into account and action plans will all report back to Council via the ERT Committee to establish if delivery can be achieved in terms of financial or other resource.

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS ITEMS

ERT/123/2016: CAMLOUGH LAKE REHABILITATION CONTRACT & FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AT CAMLOUGH LAKE

Read: Report dated 1 July 2016 from Mrs M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer regarding Camlough Lake. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed as follows, as per Report dated 1 July 2016 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer, with regard to Camlough Lake Rehabilitation Contract:

- (a) **To consider Governance procedures for the Council and local user groups moving forward and make a recommendation to the ERT Committee.**
- (b) **To review vesting map.**
- (c) **To obtain an update on the timescale of vesting and update at the next meeting.**
- (d) **To consider funding opportunities for any future developments at Camlough Lake.**
- (e) **To determine if the Contractor can remove large boulders along the boardwalk which have emerged when the levels are low.**

ERT/124/2016: LEARNING JOURNEY TO SCOTLAND

Read: Report dated 8 August 2016 from Mr M Patterson, Tourism NI Regional Manager regarding tourism business development opportunities arising from the Council led study visit to Inverness, Loch Ness and Speyside Scotland. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor W Clarke it was agreed to note contents of Report dated 8 August 2016 from Mr A Patterson Tourism NI Regional Manager and that a digital tourism webinar initiative is brought forward for delivery to local tourism businesses in partnership with Tourism NI.

AGREED: It was also agreed Council consider the opportunities of developing a tourism bid.

FOR NOTING

ERT/125/2016: FORWARD PLANNING – SLIEVE GULLION

Read: Report dated 5 July 2016 from Mrs M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer regarding Report of Slieve Gullion DEA Meetings held on 25 January 2016, and 1 August 2016. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the following recommendations agreed arising out of Slieve Gullion DEA Meetings held on 25 January 2016 and 1 August 2016, regarding forward planning at Slieve Gullion:

- (a) To clarify with SMT regarding the appointment of a design team to oversee the new toilet block project.**
- (b) Note update on the `Footsteps in the Forest' event.**
- (c) To erect temporary signs on the Aghadavoyle Road to urge traffic to drive slowly.**
- (d) Agree recommended location proposed by Officials and outline design for toilet block/amenity at Slieve Gullion to facilitate detailed design to be prepared for consideration.**
- (e) To consider minor aesthetic improvements to the attendant hut.**

ERT/126/2016: WARRENPOINT PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

Read: Report dated 8 August 2016 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding Warrenpoint Public Realm Scheme (Church Street /The Square). **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the following recommendations agreed arising from the Task & Finish Public Realm Steering Group Meeting held on 22 June 2016 regarding Warrenpoint Public Realm Scheme (Church Street/The Square):

- (a) Transport NI to erect information signage on the Church Street Puffin Crossing to remind pedestrians of how the new signaling works.
- (b) Transport NI to review the sequencing/timing of the Church Street Puffin Crossing lights and carry out further education through various media sources as to the operation of Puffin Crossings.
- (c) To proceed with the Dock Street Puffin Crossing and work with Transport NI to see how the carriageway lining of the 3 lanes can be adjusted to bring more structure to the flow of traffic on the street.
- (d) Transport NI to continue to monitor traffic flow/parking on Dock Street, post the completion of the Public Realm Scheme.

ERT/127/2016: TRADE ENGAGEMENT TOUR OPERATOR

Read: Report dated 8 August 2016 from Ms W Warburton, Assistant Tourism Development Officer regarding Tour Operator and Industry engagement.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed to note that Tourism Officers continue to conduct Tour Operator and Industry appointments and communications and ensure that outcomes are contained within the Tourism Strategy and Action Plans.

The Meeting concluded at 3.50pm.

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

Signed: **Councillor R Burgess**
Chairperson

Signed: **Ms M Ward**

Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism