

Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 October 2016 were ratified at the Council Meeting held on Monday 7 November 2016, subject to the following amendment below:

ERT/149/2016: PRESENTATION RE: NATIONAL TRUST

Would the National Trust consider becoming involved with provision of a Park & Ride facility from Castleward to Strangford village.

There are a lot of heritage buildings in Downpatrick which attract many visitors. The community collective in Downpatrick are exploring options to purchase the old PSNI site to develop as a community run hotel to address the lack of accommodation in the area – Would the National Trust be willing to engage with the groups and work in conjunction with the Council on such a project?

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 October 2016 at 3.00pm 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 N Bailie
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor B Quinn
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor J Tinnelly

Officials in Attendance: Mr J McGilly Assistant Director ERT
Mr M Mohan Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mr J Clarke National Trust

ERT/146/2016: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apology was received:

Ms M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism

On behalf of the Committee, Councillor Burgess extended best wishes to Ms Marie Ward Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism who was absent from the meeting due to a family illness and he said their thoughts and prayers were with her at this time.

ERT/147/2016: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

**ERT/148/2016: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2016**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 September 2016.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 September 2016.

PRESENTATIONS

**ERT/149/2016: PRESENTATION
RE: NATIONAL TRUST**

Mr Jonathan Clarke, General Manager National Trust gave a presentation to the Committee regarding the work of the National Trust which highlighted a number of National Trust places and properties located within the Newry Mourne & Down District.

Discussion then followed during which several Members commended the National Trust on the work it carried out. A number of issues were raised by Members to which Mr Clarke gave a response.

Issues raised by Members:

Was any provision being included in future planning for National Trust property for people wanting to take part in motor cycle and scrambling activities as activity breaks were becoming extremely popular?

Did the National Trust have any plans to purchase property to develop within the District?

Have the National Trust any plans for places such as Bloody Bridge, Kilkeel and Warrenpoint, Greencastle Castle?

Are the National Trust planning to collaborate with other agencies such as NI Water with regard to improving the visitor experience at Silent Valley?

Are there any plans for the National Trust to work with the voluntary and community sector regarding Castle Ward?

Would the National Trust consider becoming involved with provision of a Park & Ride facility to address traffic congestion in Downpatrick as there are a lot of heritage buildings in Downpatrick which attract visitors?

The community collective in Downpatrick are exploring options to purchase the old PSNI site to develop as a community run hotel to address the lack of accommodation in the area – Would the National Trust be willing to engage with the groups and work in conjunction with the Council on such a project?

Can National Trust address issues regarding the pitch size for tents at Castle Ward as these are smaller than what is provided at other locations, ie, review costs?

Would the National Trust consider supporting the Council if the Council were to lobby the Government for compensation for the Council areas most affected by Sellafield?

NIEA are keen to pursue a collaboration with Council and Transport NI regarding Narrow Water Keep – would National Trust consider becoming involved in such a collaboration?

What plans do the National Trust have regarding the development of Tourism?

Have the National Trust any plan for the provision of activities to enhance the visitor experience at Murlough Beach and address issues regarding coastal erosion?

Opportunity to highlight Christian heritage in the area, ie the story of St Donard.

Look at the possibility of the National Trust working in collaboration with the Council regarding charges at Forest Parks with the view to introducing a single pass for people to

gain admission to forest parks and National Trust properties and provide a full package for the visitor.

National Trust to look at the importance of highlighting local industrial historic heritage

Have National Trust looked at the provision of a vernacular railway or gondola system at Slieve Donard?

Response from Mr J Clarke National Trust:

The National Trust did engage with a broad number of groups but motor cycling/scrambler enthusiasts were not specifically focused upon however the National Trust would take this point on board. The damage caused by scrambling activities did not fit with a nature reserve area.

The National Trust had no immediate plans to purchase additional property however it was working closely with the Department for Communities regarding Audley's Castle and Dundrum Castle.

The National Trust would like to engage with groups like NI Water and Forest NI with regard to the Silent Valley and other areas.

A stakeholder forum meeting was hosted at Castle Ward which involved representatives from community and voluntary sector.

National Trust plan to implement an online booking service for camping/caravan sites and this will continually be kept under review.

The National Trust are linking in with the Council regarding the Mourne Gateway and other initiatives and it appears there will be opportunities for marketing teams in both the Council and the National Trust to work together on these initiatives.

Conservation is a priority at Murlough Beach – boardwalks are provided to keep people off the dunes. There is opportunity to work with the Council to increase the visitor experience at this location, ie, hiring out water sport clothing and equipment.

National Trust are very conscious of coastal erosion and would be keen to work with the Council regarding a coastal erosion strategy.

Noted: Mr Clarke said he would look at a number of the issues raised by Councillors.

Councillor Burgess thanked Mr Clarke for addressing the Committee.

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/150/2016: IN-YEAR DEPARTMENTAL FUNDING RING OF GULLION AONB

Read: Report dated 10 October 2016 from Mr D Rice, Partnership Manager regarding an offer of additional in-year funding from NIEA for Ring of Gullion AONB. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to accept, sign and return the Letter of Offer for funding from NIEA to address objectives as outlined in Report dated 10 October 2016 from Mr D Rice Partnership Manager.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Bailie seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed Council Officials raise issues regarding maintenance at Struell Wells with NIEA, and report back to the ERT Committee in due course.

Noted: Members highlighted the need to address issues regarding the disposal of leftover material from Transport NI and NI Water contracts along rural roads; removal of overgrowth around road signs; cleaning of green moss from road signs; maintenance of heritage sites across the District.

ERT/151/2016: (A) INTERIM NORTHERN IRELAND BUSINESS START PROGRAMME (NIBSP) (B) NORTHERN IRELAND BUSINESS START PROGRAMME (NIBSP) – NEW PROGRAMME 2017 – 2020

Read: Report dated 10 October 2016 from Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding delivery of the interim programme for the specific business plan implementation under Northern Ireland Business Start Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

Read: Report dated 10 October 2106 from Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding a collaborative Council NI Business Start Programme application. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed it was agreed to approve the recommendations contained in Reports dated 10 October 2016 from Mr M Patterson Enterprise Development Officer as follows:

(Interim) Northern Ireland Business Start Programme (NIBSP)
To appoint Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre to deliver the Interim NI Business Start Up Programme (business plan element) for period October 2016 – March 2017 with a possible extension to cover any gap until the new NI Business Start Programme commences.

Northern Ireland Business Start Programme (NIBSP)
(New Programme 2017 – 2020)

The Council proceed with the collaborative Council NI Business Start Programme application on the basis of the preferred Option 1, received from Invest NI on 12 September 2016, subject to clarification on the following points:

- Sensitivity in first year**
- Duration of programme**
- Daily financial rate for delivery**
- Job creation targets and flexibility within the programme**

Noted: This is an 11 Council programme.
Delivery of the Business Plan and Training will be implemented locally via the LEA (Local Enterprise Agency) network in the interim phase.
The new Programme will be tendered in line with EU procurement rules.
Lisburn & Castlereagh Borough Council's role is an administrative co-ordinating role for the procurement and final management on behalf of the 11 Councils.
Updates on targets will be reported back to Council via the ERT Committee.

ERT/152/2016: COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT
LOCAL ENTERPRISE AGENCIES

Read: Report dated 10 October 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding a collaborative Agreement with Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed as follows as per Report dated 10 October 2016 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director of ERT:**

- (i) Newry Mourne & Down District Council enter into a Collaborative Agreement with Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency (NMEA) and Down Business Centre (DBC) jointly when it is in Council's interest to engage both parties for the delivery of LED (Local Economic Development) function.**

(ii) This should be agreed for a one year period and reviewed at the end before any further commitment is entered into.

(iii) Council agree the Collaborative Agreement details subject to final legal advice.

(iv) No specific value to be included in the Agreement but Council to establish value for money rates for key personnel to complete tasks and agree scope of work based on each individual arrangement.

Noted: Any decisions regarding budgets will be brought back to the ERT Committee in the first instance.

**ERT/153/2016: SEMINAR:
REVITALISING SMALL TOWNS ACROSS THE ISLAND OF IRELAND**

Read: Report dated 10 October 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding a seminar on Revitalising Small Towns Across the Island of Ireland on 27 October 2016 in Monaghan at no cost. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to appoint the following Councillors to attend the Seminar on Revitalising Small Towns Across the Island of Ireland on 27 October 2016 in Monaghan, at no cost:**

**Councillor R Burgess (Chair of ERT)
Councillor T Andrews
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor D Curran
1 No. Officer**

Any other interested Councillor to inform Democratic Services if they wish to attend.

It was also agreed to notify the Chambers of Commerce of the above event.

ERT/154/2016: ECONOMIC RESEARCH & MODELLING PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 10 October 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding the development of an Economic Modelling tool that will give detailed analysis on the local economy. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed the Council enter into an Economic Research and Modelling Agreement with University of Ulster at a cost of £10,000 for a one year period initially, with a review in advance of a decision to renew, as per Report dated 10 October 2016 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director of ERT.

TOURISM, CULTURE & EVENTS ITEMS

ERT/155/2016: TENDER ARTS CULTURE HERITAGE STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 10 October 2016 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding tendering for the development of an Integrated Culture, Arts & Heritage Strategy 2017 – 2021 and Action Plan 2017 – 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed the Council tender for the Development of an Integrated Culture Arts & Heritage Strategy 2017–2021 and Action Plan 2017 - 2019 for Newry Mourne & Down District Council, as recommended in Report dated 10 October 2016 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director ERT.

Noted: The Tender will also clearly reflect those facilities which the Council hold a Service Level Agreement with.

ERT/156/2016: MOORING LICENCE – NEWCASTLE HARBOUR

Read: Report dated 10 October 2016 from Ms M McKeown, Assistant Tourism Development Officer regarding the allocation of Mooring at Newcastle Harbour for a 3 year period. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- (a) **Allocation of mooring at Newcastle Harbour will be done on a 3 yearly basis in future.**
- (b) **A report to be submitted to the next Meeting of the ERT Committee meeting regarding the following:**
 - (i) **Options on what process can be used to allocate mooring at Newcastle Harbour.**
 - (ii) **Details of mooring charges for Newcastle Harbour.**
 - (iii) **Provision of moorings, float and pontoon during summer months to facilitate disabled people as per request from Disability Sailing.**

ERT/157/2016: UPDATE: TOURISM STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Read: Report dated 4 October 2016 from Mrs M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer regarding an update on the Tourism Development Strategy.
(Copy circulated)

A number of Councillors referred to workshops they had attended and felt they were poorly run and were not well attended by representatives from the business sector. Other Members who had attended workshops felt they had been well attended although there was a general consensus that more collaboration was needed to energise businesses to become engaged with the Council on tourism development.

AGREED: The Council's Tourism Development Strategy will be completed on the following timeline:

Draft Tourism Development Strategy will be issued in November 2016 via the Tourism Task & Finish Group and any interested Councillors.

Following the inclusion of any necessary revisions, the Draft Tourism Development Strategy to be circulated to key industry bodies for consultation during November/December 2016.

Following Council approval, the final Tourism Development Strategy to be launched early 2017.

Noted: Mr A Patterson Tourism NI will be running a series of workshops to engage businesses on how to put together tourism packages.

ERT/158/2016: YOUTH GOLF COMPETITION

Read: Report dated 10 October 2016 from Tracey Mooney Assistant Tourism Development Officer, regarding a Youth Golf Competition in April 2017.
(Copy enclosed)

Several Members welcomed the forthcoming Youth Golf Competition and questioned if this competition would have the potential to develop into an international event. It was suggested the Council contact local golf clubs to find out if they have players who compete on the professional circuit and ask if these players could be involved in the PR for this event. It was also suggested to include a geographical spread of golf clubs across the District.

Noted: The Youth Golf Competition event will involve local golf clubs and although final costs have not yet been confirmed the Council will be seeking sponsorship for the event.
This will be the first year for this event and will be held over a number of days. The Council will endeavour to spread the event across golf courses in the District as much as possible.

Mr A Patterson Tourism NI will be working with the smaller golf courses regarding golf packages.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Bailie seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to hold a Youth Golf Competition in April 2017 on the championship course at Royal County Down with a qualifier competition to be held at Ardglass Golf Club, as per Report dated 10 October 2016 from Ms T Mooney Assistant Tourism Development Officer.**

**ERT/159/2016: UPDATE: TOURISM STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS
STUDY VISIT – SCOTLAND**

Read: Report dated 10 October 2016 from Mr A Patterson, Tourism NI Regional Manager regarding tourism development opportunities arising from the recent Council led study visit to Inverness, Loch Ness and Speyside.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note contents of Report dated 10 October 2016 from Mr A Patterson Tourism NI and to grant approval to hold a series of targeted workshops to be delivered to the local tourism industry in partnership with Tourism NI.**

ERT/160/2016: LEASE: SLIEVE GULLION FOREST PARK

Read: Report dated 10 October 2016 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer regarding draft Lease for Slieve Gullion Forest Park. **(Copy enclosed)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Bailie seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to approve the lease of Slieve Gullion Forest Park from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to Newry, Mourne & Down District Council, for a 25 year period, subject to the following key issues being addressed, as per Report dated 10 October 2016 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer:

- Lease term to be 25 years
- A nil yearly rental figure – Forest Service are to prepare a Business - Case that determines this rental
- Prior to signing of Lease, Forest Service are to confirm risk areas in the forest for management.
- Forest Service to provide most recent tree survey
- Forest Service to confirm Council obligations in relation to the management of woodland under Forest Service Act (NI) 2010.

FOR NOTING

ERT/161/2016: BREAKFAST SEMINAR

Read: Report dated 10 October 2016 from Mrs M Quinn, Project Development Manager regarding a Breakfast Seminar in Downpatrick on 18 October 2016. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note a Breakfast Business Event will be held on Tuesday 18 October 2016 in the Down Arts Centre Downpatrick, with a similar event to be held in Kilkeel at a later date, as part of ongoing capacity work with local Chambers across the District.

ERT/162/2016: THE 2ND ALL IRELAND PINE MARTIN SYMPOSIUM

Read: Report dated 10 October 2016 from Ms T Hamill, Ring of Gullion AONB Officer regarding the 2nd All Ireland Pine Martin Symposium on 14/15 October 2016. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note Report dated 10 October 2016 from Ms T Hamill Ring of Gulion AONB Officer regarding the 2nd All Ireland Pine Martin Symposium on 14/15 October 2016.

ITEMS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

**ERT/163/2016: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT
KILKEEL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Curran 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 6 October 2016 from Mrs M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer regarding a Service Level Agreement with Kilkeel Development Association for the period of 2016/2017. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: When the Committee come out of closed session the Chairperson reported it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed to approve the Service Level Agreement with Kilkeel Development Association, as per Report dated 6 October 2016 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer.

The Meeting concluded at 5.20pm.

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

Signed: Councillor R Burgess
Chairperson

Signed: Ms M Ward
Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism

