

At the Council Meeting held on Monday 3 February 2020 the Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting were discussed and it was agreed with regard to page 6 of the Minutes NS/112/2020 – EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO USE OF HERBICIDES CONTAINING GLYPHOSATE FOR CONTROLLING WEEDS AND INVASIVE SPECIES ON COUNCIL PROPERTY – that the following amendment be added:-

- To undertake a 12 month review with a target to phase out completely the use of herbicides containing glyphosate for controlling weeds and invasive species on Council property within 3 years *or as soon as possible*.

### **NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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#### **Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22 January 2020 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

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**Chair:** Councillor K Owen

**Members:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor D Curran
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor T Hearty
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor G Malone
Councillor C Mason	Councillor H McKee
Councillor K McKeivitt	Councillor D Taylor

**Officials in Attendance:** Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services  
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance  
Mr J Ellis, Grounds Maintenance Manager  
Mr M Cherry, NIEA  
Mr I Walker, NIEA  
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

**NS/001/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Tinnelly, Harte and Stokes.

Councillor Owen extended her condolences to Councillor Tinnelly on the sudden death of his cousin.

**NS/002/2020: DECLARATIONS OF “CONFLICTS OF INTEREST”**

No declarations of Conflicts of Interest were made.

**NS/003/2020: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2019**

**Read:** Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 December 2019. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Mason, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the

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**Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 December 2019 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

### Household Recycling Centre in Crossmaglen

**AGREED:** At the request of Councillor Hearty it was agreed Mr R Moore investigate if a direction had been given that the household recycling centre in Crossmaglen was no longer able to accept old mattresses. He expressed his concern that skips within the centre were not being emptied regularly enough and that when people were looking to dispose of items such as mattresses and suites of furniture they were not being accepted, and as a result were being dumped along roads.

**Mr Moore advised he would report directly back to Councillor Hearty on this matter.**

### **FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION**

#### **NS/004/2020: PRESENTATION FROM NIEA ON ILLICIT DUMPING**

Mark Cherry, NIEA, Enforcement Branch and Mr Ian Walker were in attendance for this item.

Mr Cherry gave a presentation on the work of the NIEA including Environmental Crime, detailing incidents dealt with; the approach taken and partnership working. He said there were 35 staff in the agency and therefore resources were limited.

Mr Cherry said staff had increased visits to tyre retailing units with 157 visits taking place last year and this seemed to have paid dividends. He also referred to Partnership Working and in particular the Revised Fly-Tipping Protocol with Councils.

Mr Cherry said the Agency worked primarily under the Waste Contaminated Land Order 1997 Articles 4 and 5 which dealt with illegal waste disposal. Those powers were currently available to the Agency but an amendment was proposed to the Order whereby these powers would transfer to Councils who would then have the same powers as the Agency to deal with environmental waste disposal.

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Mr Cherry said the revised Protocol in draft form was before all 11 Councils and the Agency was looking a commitment from Councils to sign up to this Protocol as it intended to bring forward legislation by the end of March this year.

A question and answer session followed during which Members raised the following issues:-

- Q. Does the figure for tyres include those lifted by the Council?  
A. No
- Q. Issues with the response time of the Agency for lifting cubes of diesel wash. It can take up to 4 days for these to be removed after reporting and in the meantime the cubes were leaking and contaminating land etc.  
A. The contractor employed by the Agency to remove illegal waste had a time limit of 48 hours to lift this waste. If waste was leaking the Agency would contact their Waste Management Unit and get bunds put around it to absorb any leakage until it could be lifted. Mr Cherry said he would investigate the particular issue raised by Councillor Hearty regarding fuel dumped on the Loughaveely Road, Crossmaglen.
- Q. There was a huge cost in removing large scale illegal dumping but there did not seem to be many prosecutions for this type of criminal activity – was there some identified weakness as to why this was the case?  
A. It was difficult to trace the origins of small scale incidents in remote areas and because of the cost of bringing cases to court, the Agency would generally issue fixed penalties for small scale issues. A lot more resources were put into larger scale criminality waste disposal but prosecutions had to be supported by evidence.
- Q. Illegal dumping of tyres was a big issue for the NM&D District – could there not be some type of traceability in terms of serial numbers or a paper trails of how tyres were disposed of, particularly when customers were paying a disposal fee. NIEA should be carrying out inspections.  
A. NIEA carried out 157 inspections last year – the tyre disposal charge is not mandatory and therefore it was difficult to obtain accurate records. Producer responsibility was an issue which DAERA would be looking at but it would be 2/3 years down the line.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Cherry and Mr Walker for attending the meeting.

(Councillor Hearty and Councillor Magennis left the meeting – 6.45 pm)

**NS/005/2020:            NOTICE OF MOTION –  
FOOD WASTE COLLECTION**

At the Council Meeting held on Monday 3 February 2020 the Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting were discussed and it was agreed with regard to page 6 of the Minutes NS/112/2020 – EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO USE OF HERBICIDES CONTAINING GLYPHOSATE FOR CONTROLLING WEEDS AND INVASIVE SPECIES ON COUNCIL PROPERTY – that the following amendment be added:-

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The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor Owen and Councillor Walker:-

**“That this Council will maximise food waste collection contributing to our recycling targets and reduction of our carbon footprint by simplifying it’s biodegradable bag delivery system to residents”.**

Councillor Owen said she had lived in Wales for many years and many of the Councils had a system whereby when someone came to the end of a roll of food recycling bags, they would tie the last bag to the bin and operatives would know to leave another roll. This encouraged people to recycle more and reduced carbon footprint as they did not have to go to a supermarket or Council buildings to get new supplies.

Councillor Owen said the Council was a recycling Council and she would like them to embrace something along these lines.

Councillor Andrews formally seconded the Motion and spoke in support of it

Councillor Taylor and Councillor Clarke also spoke in support of the Motion.

Read: Report dated 22 January 2020 from Mr J Parkes regarding Notice of Motion for maximising food waste collection. **(Copy circulated)**.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion that “this Council will maximise food waste collection contributing to our recycling targets and reduction of our carbon footprint by simplifying it’s biodegradable bag delivery system to residents” and that officers undertake necessary research and report back to the NS Committee presenting options for consideration and approval.**

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

**NS/110/2020: DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COUNCIL TREE STRATEGY**

Read: Report dated 22 January 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: Draft Action Plan for the development of a Council Tree Strategy. **(Copy circulated)**.

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**AGREED:**                **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed to recommend approval for the endorsement of the key concepts within the Draft Action Plan and to agree to further progression of the developing Tree Action Plan and Tree Strategy.**

**NS/111/2020:            PUBLIC CONVENIENCE STRATEGY**

Read:                      Report dated 22 January 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: update on progress in developing the Council's Public Convenience Strategy. *(Copy circulated)*.

**AGREED:**                **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to recommend approval for the endorsement of the key principles outlined in section 2.1 of this report and to approve the commencement of the business case process for the capital works:-**

- **Provision of a new public toilet within the village of Killough**
- **Refurbishment of Castle Park Public Toilet in Newcastle**

**NS/112/2020:            EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO USE OF HERBICIDES CONTAINING GLYPHOSATE FOR CONTROLLING WEEDS AND INVASIVE SPECIES ON COUNCIL PROPERTY**

Read:                      Report dated 22 January 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: evaluation of alternatives to use of herbicides containing glyphosate for controlling weeds and invasive species on Council property. *(Copy circulated)*.

A detailed discussion took place following the presentation of the report during which it was highlighted that the Council had fully supported this Motion when it was discussed at the Council meeting, It had been referred to the Neighbourhood Services Committee for further research and whilst a 25% reduction in the use of the weed killer was not the outcome the Council would have wanted, it was a starting point. However, Members proposed that amendments be added to the report including a review in 12 months time and there would be a time limit target of 3 years after which the Council would no longer use herbicides containing glyphosate for controlling weeds and invasive species on Council property. A further amendment was also proposed that herbicides containing glyphosate should not be used in Council play parks and that the Council write to the relevant Stormont Minister outlining the Council's position on this issue and seek their position for all Government Bodies (NI).

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Councillor Malone asked that it be put on record that he had serious concerns about the use of this weed killer.

It was noted that due to a disturbance in the public gallery the Chairperson asked that the Council Chamber be wholly cleared of members of the public.

(Councillor Taylor left the meeting 7.40 pm).

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of the report dated 22 January 2020 and to approve Option 4 – The Sustainable Herbicide Control Methodology as outlined in section 4 and Appendix 7 with amendments. The proposed methodology would operate within the remit of a:-**

- Phased Pesticide Reduction Plan
- Liaising with APSE & Other Councils
- Current Achievable Council efficiencies of circa 25% reduction in glyphosate annual usage.
- Grounds Maintenance Section continue to research and trial all effective alternatives and provide feedback on results.

**It was agreed the following proposed amendments to the Officer's report:-**

- **To undertake a 12 month review with a target to phase out completely the use of herbicides containing glyphosate for controlling weeds and invasive species on Council property within 3 years.**
- **Officers prevent the use of herbicides containing glyphosate at Council play areas and use alternative methods only for these areas.**
- **Council write to the relevant Stormont Minister stating the Council's position on this issue and seeking the position of all Government Bodies in Northern Ireland.**

(Councillor Andrews left the meeting 7.45 pm).

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## **WASTE MANAGMENT**

### **NS/113/2020: FLEET UPDATE: FLEET POLICY AND OPERATIONAL LICENCE COMPLIANCE**

Read: Report dated 22 January 2020 from Mr J Parkes re: Council Fleet Update – Operator License Compliance – Fleet Policy and Related Procedures. *(Copy circulated)*.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to approve Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Fleet Policy Version 2.0 for immediate implementation.

(Councillor Curran left the meeting – 7.45 pm).

### **NS/114/2020: STUDY VISIT TO REGEN WASTE, NEWRY**

Read: Report dated 22 January 2020 from Mr J Parkes re: study visit to Regen Waste, Waste Processing Facility, Carnbane Industrial Estate, Newry. *(Copy circulated)*.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to recommend:-

- Visit to the Regen Waste Reprocessing Facility at Carnbane Industrial Estate, Newry be set at 19 February 2020 - 3: 00 p.m.
- Attendance at Regen Waste Reprocessing Waste to be Neighbourhood Services Committee and key Waste Team Officers.

## **FOR NOTING**

### **NS/115/2020: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

Read: Historic Actions Tracking Sheet *(Copy circulated)*

**.AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed the Historic Actions Tracking

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**Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee be noted and actions removed as marked.**

**AGREED: At the request of Councillor McKee it was agreed the officer responsible for car parks contact him to discuss an issue regarding the car park in Downpatrick.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.50 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 February 2020.

**Signed: Councillor Owen  
Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee**

**Signed: Mr R Moore  
Director of Neighbourhood Services**