

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RTS/M

Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 21 October at 6.00 pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chairperson: Councillor T Andrews

In Attendance:

Councillor C Casey	Councillor S Ennis
Councillor G Fitzpatrick	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor V Harte	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor H McKee
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor Ó Gribin
Councillor H Reilly	

Non Committee Members (all Councillors were invited to attend for discussion on item 7)

Councillor B Walker Councillor B Quinn

Officials in Attendance

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services
Mr A McKay, Area Planning Manager
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director of Facilities, Management and Maintenance
Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director of Building Control and Regulations
Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director of Waste Management
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

RTS/102/2015: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Sharvin and Councillor Doran.

Councillor Andrews expressed his deepest sympathy to the family of Chris Rice who had been tragically killed in a road accident.

It was agreed to send a letter of sympathy to the family of the late Chris Rice.

Councillor Andrews said he had attended a Ceremony at the Guild Hall, Derry on Tuesday 20 October 2015 hosted by the Northern Ireland Amenity Council and was delighted to inform Members that Newcastle had won the Runner Up Award in the 2015 Best Kept Small Town

Category. He congratulated staff who were involved in maintaining Newcastle to such a high standard and asked that the Chief Executive investigate if the £150 cheque which was presented as part of the Award could be used as a contribution towards an event for the grounds maintenance staff.

It was agreed the Chief Executive investigate this request and report back to Councillor Andrews.

Councillor Andrews said the Council had received 8 complimentary tickets (2 of which were sent to the Chair of council or her delegated nominee, 2 of which were sent to the CEO or his delegated nominee and the remaining 4 were issued to facilitate attendance by groups who are actively participating in the competition, i.e. "Men's Shed, Downpatrick") to attend the "IPB Pride of Place Competition in association with Co-Operation Ireland" Awards Ceremony to be held on Saturday 14 November 2015 in Ennis Co. Clare.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Hanna, that the Council meet accommodation costs, in the sum of €492, to facilitate the attendance of:

- **Councillor N Bailie, Chairperson of Council (x 2)**
- **Mr C O'Rourke, Director (x 2)**
- **4 representatives from Mens Shed (x 2)**

at IPB Pride of Place Competition Awards Ceremony

RTS/103/2015: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted there were no declarations of interest.

RTS/104/2015: ACTION SHEET OF THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2015

Read: Action Sheet of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 September 2015. **(Circulated)**

Agreed: **The Action Sheet was noted.**

RTS/105/2015: REPORT ON COUNCIL'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Read: Bi-Annual Report on Council's Scheme of Delegation. **(Circulated)**. The report detailed the following decisions which were taken by the RTS Department under Category 6 of the Scheme of Delegation:-

- Replacement of picnic tables at the amenity site in Dundrum.
- Building Control:-

– **road naming** – Saul Meadows; Herons Close; Tudor Court; Bucks Loanin; Carrickbracken Close; Glack Road; Upper Ballinran Road; Woodlands, Newry; request for dual-language street nameplate – Edentrumly Road, Mayobridge;

- **alignment of Marriage Licensing Fees**

Type of License	Application Fee (Non refundable)	License Fee (Including Application Fee)
3 Year Place for Civil Marriages/Civil Partnerships (per application)	£75	£300
Administration Fee when a venue is applying for approval for both Marriage and Civil Partnerships at the same time.	£50	£50
Temporary Place Approval for Civil Marriage/Civil Partnerships	£75	£155

- **Relaxation of Building (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012**; enforcement of unauthorised works at Shop Fit Out, Camlough Road, Newry (the Council’s Solicitor to initiate legal proceedings against the applicant of the above application for their failure to comply with the requirements of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012).

- List of entertainment licences and petroleum/street trading licences recommended for approval in accordance with delegated authority.

Agreed: It was agreed at the request of Councillor Casey that in future the Scheme of Delegation Report should give a full history of the Entertainment Licences which have been approved under delegated authority and that the list presented to the meeting should be represented next month, with the details included.

Noted: A discussion took place on the spelling of townland names on road name signs during which Councillor O’Gribin advised that the correct spelling of the townland, as used by locals and based on historical evidence, was “Gargory” rather than “Gargarry” which was mentioned in the report under an item relating to the road naming of Bucks Loanin. He said each case should be considered on its own merits and where there was clear historical evidence that the spelling of a townland name was different to that in the 1902 maps, then consideration should be given to using that spelling.

A number of other Councillors also mentioned the names of townlands where there were different spellings of the name.

Mr Jackson, Assistant Director of Building Control and Regulations advised that the Council had previously made a decision to go by the wording on the 1902 Ordnance Survey maps and this information had been fed through to Pointer Systems and to the Emergency Services and Statutory Agencies.

Agreed: **At the conclusion of the debate it was agreed that Officers consider all the points made at the meeting in relation to the spelling of townland names, and bring a report to the November Regulatory and Technical Services Meeting.**

WASTE MANAGEMENT

RTS/106/2015: arc21 RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Mr Ricky Burnett, Policy and Operations Director, arc21 then gave an update on the proposed arc21 residual waste treatment project and specifically the progress in relation to the planning application for the infrastructure at Hightown Quarry. He said arc21 wanted to build the facility to deal with black bin waste from the six super Council areas and at the same time the project would promote economic growth and development and would provide a secure energy supply.

Mr Burnett said the six super Councils had approved the project; over 30 consultees had raised no objections and the Planners had submitted a Management Report to the Minister recommending approval. However the Minister had issued a Notice of Opinion to refuse planning permission.

Mr Burnett said arc21 had sought legal advice from Senior Counsel and at a recent Joint Committee Meeting, attended by representatives from the 6 constituent Councils, a decision had been made to request that the Department of the Environment refer the planning notification to the Planning Appeals Commission for consideration. He said it would be 4/5 months before any significant activity would take place on behalf of the PAC with a Commissioner being appointed. It would be at the discretion of the Commissioner as to how the hearing would be held.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Is there a plan B if planning permission was not granted for the facility?
- What were the current arrangements for the disposal of blue bin waste?
- Are there plans for Bombardier in Belfast to build their own incinerator facility?
- Does incinerating waste go towards meeting Northern Ireland's renewable targets?

In response Mr Burnett said that the current arrangements for dealing with blue bin waste in the District was that blue bin waste collected in the former Newry and Mourne Council area was processed by Regen whilst the blue bin waste in the former Down Council area was processed by Bryson. They process the waste and sell it on to the various markets.

Plan B, if the facility did not get planning permission, was to undertake a market engagement approach. It was likely that such an approach would result in shorter term contracts in the interim and there would be no infrastructure development.

In relation to Bombardier (Full Circle) Mr Burnett said that they currently had planning permission for energy from waste plant close to their facility which provided them with an element of heat and power, subject to some regulatory scrutiny. Currently they had permission to process 120,000 tonnes of waste which had to be pre-treated elsewhere. They were seeking planning permission for an 180,000 capacity tonne waste processing facility. Mr Burnett said that their waste was generated from commercial and industrial sources, unlike the proposed arc21 facility which would process household waste. He said both facilities were needed.

In conclusion Mr Burnett said he believed the proposed arc21 facility would help Northern Ireland to meet its renewable energy targets.

RTS/107/2015: DETERMINATION OF REVISED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Read: Report dated 21 October 2015 from Mr C O'Rourke seeking agreement for the determination of the Waste Management Plan. **(Circulated)**.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Murnin, to approve the determination of the arc21 Waste Management Plan.**

RTS/108/2015: COUNCIL'S COMMERCIAL RATE CHARGE ON SCHOOL BLUE BIN RECYCLING

Read: Report from Canice O'Rourke regarding the Council's Commercial rate charge on school blue bin recycling. **(Circulated)**.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that there should be no reduction in the present charges for school blue bin recycling.**

RTS/109/2015: REPORT RE: EXTENSION OF LEASE FOR CLOONAGH ROAD CIVIC AMENITY SITE

Read: Report from Canice O'Rourke dated 21 October 2015 regarding Extension of Lease at Cloonagh Road Civic Amenity Site, Downpatrick.

(Circulated). The report sought approval to extend the current lease for Cloonagh Road Civic Amenity Site, Downpatrick, for a period of 18 months with an option for the Council to extend for a further six month period if required (maximum of 24 months). If approved there would be a minimal increase in the current rental from £382.82 to £394.30 per week.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murnin, seconded by Councillor Hanna, to extend the current lease for Cloonagh Road Civic Amenity Site, Downpatrick, for a period of 18 months with an option for the Council to extend for a further six month period if required (maximum of 24 months).

RTS/110/2015: **PROPOSED CONSULTATION RESPONSE – CLOSURE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND RENEWABLES OBLIGATION TO NEW ONSHORE WIND IN 2016**

Read: Letter dated 2 October 2015 from Mr Angus Kerr, Department of the Environment regarding DETI Consultation on the closure of the Northern Ireland renewables obligation to new onshore wind in 2016. **(Circulated).**

Read: Draft response from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council on the above consultation. **(Circulated).**

Councillor Casey proposed and Councillor Murnin seconded that the draft response as circulated be submitted to the Department, subject to a comment being added that the Renewables Obligation to New Onshore Wind had been introduced into Northern Ireland a year later than elsewhere and should therefore have been given an extra year before closure.

Councillor Reilly asked for a recorded vote on the proposal.

The proposal was put to a recorded vote and voting was as follows:- **(Attached)**

FOR:	10
AGAINST:	2

Agreed: The proposal was declared carried and it was agreed that the draft response to the Consultation of the Closure of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation to new onshore wind in 2016, as circulated, be submitted to the Department, subject to a comment being added that the Renewables Obligation to New Onshore Wind had been introduced into Northern Ireland a year later than elsewhere and should therefore have been given an extra year before closure.

RTS/111/2015: PLANNING DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Read: Details of Planning Department Performance Indicators. **(Circulated).**

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the above report.**

Mr Hannaway referred to recent negative press coverage regarding the performance of the Council's Planning Department. He said the figures showed that the Planning Department were now performing better than it had been since transferring and the Council was committed to making this a fit for purpose service.

RTS/112/2015: PERFORMANCE STATISTICS FOR PLANNING DECISIONS FROM 1 JULY TO 20 SEPTEMBER 2015

Read: Details of performance statistics in relation to calls received via the dedicated Councillors' telephone number, from 1 July to 20 September 2015. **(Circulated).**

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the above report.**

Noted: Members noted that some of the titles attributed to callers were incorrect and Mr McKay said he would draw this to the attention of staff.

Councillor Reilly and Councillor Taylor expressed their concerns in relation to the processing of a planning application for a gun club in the Mourne area.

Mr McKay said he would update Councillors Reilly, Taylor and Quinn on this application after the meeting.

RTS/113/2015: PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A LARGE DISPLAY SCREEN IN HILL STREET, NEWRY AS PART OF 2015/2016 CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS BUDGET

Read: Report from Mr Eddie Curtis re: approval for expenditure to install a large Display Screen in Hill Street, Newry as part of 2015/15 Christmas Illuminations Budgets. **(Circulated).** The report sought agreement to the budget for contract works for the erection of Christmas Illuminations throughout the Newry and Mourne Area, to include the design, build and installation of a large display screen in the event space in Hill Street, Newry. This screen then to be utilised at Switch on Event and other future Council advertised Events. (Approximately £23,000 spend on the Scheme (Christmas Illuminations Contract Budget within 2015/2016 financial year for this Council).

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Murnin to approve that the budget for contract works for the erection of Christmas Illuminations throughout the Newry and Mourne Area, to include the design, build and installation of a large display screen in the event space in Hill Street, Newry. This screen then to be utilised at Switch on Event and other future Council advertised Events. (Approximately £23,000 spend on the Scheme (Christmas Illuminations Contract Budget within 2015/2016 financial year for this Council)).
- Agreed:** It was agreed at the request of Councillor Casey that Mr O'Rourke investigate if any significant archaeological artefacts had been uncovered when the foundations were being excavated for the large screen.
- Agreed:** It was agreed at the request of Councillor Murnin that Mr O'Rourke investigate if there would be any revenue generated by use of the screen.
- Noted:** Mr McKay, Planning, noted that the screen only had temporary planning permission and he would need to check on this issue, given that the screen was to be erected in a conservation area.
- RTS/114/2015:** **Arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN – 1 OCTOBER 2015**
- Read:** Members Monthly Bulletin for October 2015. **(Circulated)**.
- Agreed:** It was agreed to note the above correspondence.
- RTS/115/2015:** **Arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2015**
- Read:** arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 September 2015. **(Circulated)**.
- Agreed:** It was agreed to note the above Minutes.

FOR NOTING

Reminder – the date of the RTS Meeting in December 2015 has been changed from Thursday 17 December 2015 to Wednesday 9 December 2015 @ 6.00pm

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2 November 2015.

**Signed: Councillor Terry Andrews
(Chairperson)**

**Signed: Mr Canice O'Rourke
(Director of Regulatory and Technical Services)**

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 21-10-2015 **VENUE:** Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry **MEETING:** Regulatory and Technical Services

SUBJECT OF VOTE: On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Murnin, that the draft response to the Consultation of the Closure of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation to new onshore wind in 2016, as circulated, be submitted to the Department, subject to a comment being added that the Renewables Obligation to New Onshore Wind had been introduced into Northern Ireland a year later than elsewhere and should therefore have been given an extra year before closure.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	X			
P Brown				
C Casey	X			
S Doran				
S Ennis	X			
G Fitzpatrick	X			
G Hanna		X		
V Harte	X			
H McKee	X			
M Murnin	X			
P O’Gribin	X			
H Reilly		X		
G Sharvin				
G Stokes	X			
D Taylor	X			
TOTALS	10	2		