

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RTS/M

Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 24 January 2018 at 6.00 pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chairperson: Councillor J Trainor

Members:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor S Burns
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor G Craig
Councillor D Curran	Councillor G Fitzpatrick
Councillor V Harte	Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor J Macauley	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor J Tinnelly	

Non Committee Members: Councillor Larkin

Officials in Attendance: Mr A Wilkinson, Interim Director Regulatory & Technical Services
Mr L Dinsmore, Head of Waste Processing, Enforcement and Business Support
Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director of Building Control and Regulations
Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

RTS/001/2018: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Casey.

RTS/002/2018: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

It was noted there were no declarations of interest.

RTS/003/2018: ACTION SHEET OF THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2017

Read: Action Sheet of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19 December 2017. *(Circulated)*.

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the Action Sheet.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION - PLANNING

RTS/004/2018: DECEMBER 2017 - PLANNING COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT

Read: Report on Planning Committee Performance for December 2017 *(Circulated)*.

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

RTS/005/2018: UPDATE ON IMPROVING PLANNING APPLICATION PROCESSING TIMES

Read: Report dated 24 January 2018 from Mr A McKay outlining the overall performance of the Council's Planning Department, reporting on progress towards meeting statutory targets in relation to development management and enforcement and reporting on measures to achieve statutory targets. *(Circulated)*.

Mr McKay advised an update on the overall performance of the Planning Department would be tabled on a monthly basis at this Committee Meeting.

Councillor Ruane said it was essential that when the Council went into a new term in 2019 that the overall performance of the Council's Planning Department would be at an acceptable level, and in particular the processing of applications which had been in the system for a long period of time. He said if it was necessary a further period of overtime to progress applications to decision should be considered.

Mr McKay said that there had been a significant reduction in the number of older applications in the system.

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

RTS/006/2018: RECORD OF MEETINGS BETWEEN PLANNING OFFICERS AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES 2017-2018

Read: Report of meetings between Planning Officers and Public Representatives. *(Circulated)*.

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

RTS/007/2018: CURRENT APPEALS – DECEMBER 2017

Read: Report of current appeals in December 2017 *(Circulated)*.

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

Councillor Clarke welcomed the publication of the recent report on current Appeals and said the decisions taken by the Council's Planning Officers had been backed up by the PAC.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION
– FACILITIES MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

RTS/008/2018: BUS SHELTER AT CLOUGHREAGH PARK, BESSBROOK

Read: Report dated 24 January 2018 from Mr K Scullion regarding the proposed bus shelter at Cloughreagh Park, Bessbrook and the outcome of a Slieve Gullion DEA Councillors meeting held on Monday 15 January 2018. ***(Circulated)***. The report recommended:-

- The bus shelter be retained in its current location and be completed with the installation of the back panels to the shelter.
- Local residents living in close proximity to the shelter are written to advising of Council's intention and providing an agreed contact within the Council with whom they can report any concerns which may arise for recording and action.
- An agreement is reached with Translink where they provide information (sample surveys) on the number of customers who seek shelter in the structure so that the Council can be assured that the structure was providing a valuable service to local residents.
- On a three monthly basis for the first 12 months (or further if agreed) following completion of the structure a report be provided to the RTS Committee confirming usage data and reports of any concern raised and action taken so that it may consider future retention of the structure at this location.

Councillor Ruane proposed and Councillor Clarke seconded that the above recommendations be accepted on the basis that there was no evidence of anti-social behaviour at this location and there was an onus on the Council as a Public Body to provide good quality infrastructure and access to shelters for its citizens. Within the recommendations there were safeguards which would give comfort to those who were objecting to the proposed bus shelter.

The proposal was put to a vote by a show of hands and voting was as follows:-

FOR:	6
AGAINST:	7
ABSTENTIONS:	1

The proposal was declared lost.

Councillor Stokes proposed and Councillor Taylor seconded that the officer recommendations should not be progressed and that an alternative location be identified for the bus shelter at Cloughreagh Park, Bessbrook.

Councillor Taylor advised he was seconding this proposal on the basis that there were medical issues affecting those who were objecting to the current location of the bus shelter and it was not just about issues of anti-social behaviour.

The proposal was put to a vote by a show of hands and voting was as follows:-

FOR:	7
AGAINST:	5
ABSTENTIONS:	2

The proposal was declared carried.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed not to accept the Officer recommendations as outlined in the report dated 24th January 2018 but that an alternative location be identified for the bus shelter at Cloughreagh Park, Bessbrook.**

Councillor Burns said if there was a bus shelter or any other Council facility which was being used for anti-social behaviour would a Councillor be entitled to ask that it be removed, if the above recommendation was approved by Council.

Mr Scullion said legal advice would need to be sought and Mr Wilkinson advised that recommendations being considered by the Council would have to be considered and a decision made on the basis of any evidence gathered.

RTS/009/2018: UPDATE ON REQUESTS FOR BUS SHELTERS

Read: Report dated 24 January 2018 from Mr K Scullion providing an update on requests for bus shelters. ***(Circulated)***. The report recommended approval of the recommendations as detailed in Appendix 1 outlined below:-

Appendix 1 – Summary of response for bus shelters considered by Translink and recommendation

Location	Response from Translink	Officer Recommendation
Glassdrumman Road, Annalong – new bus shelter x 2	Translink confirm that this request meets their catchment area accessibility criteria and will progress to next stage of process incorporating a site survey	Await outcome of full Translink assessment
Killough Road, Coney Island	Translink confirm that this request meets their catchment area accessibility criteria and will progress to next stage of process incorporating a site survey	Await outcome of full Translink assessment
Hilltown Road (Opp Spelga Park) Hilltown	Translink confirm that this request meets their catchment area accessibility criteria and will progress to next stage of process incorporating a site survey	Await outcome of full Translink assessment
Bryansford Road, Newcastle	Translink confirm that this request meets their catchment area accessibility criteria and will progress to next stage of process incorporating a site survey	Await outcome of full Translink assessment

Main Street, Hilltown	Translink confirm that this request meets their catchment area accessibility criteria and will progress to next stage of process incorporating a site survey	Await outcome of full Translink assessment
Belfast Road, Newry close to Park n Share car park at Sheepbridge. Bus shelter on side of road carrying passengers to Belfast	Translink indicate that this request has not fulfilled Translink's current or projected usage criteria and will not progress to the next stage	Consider request under Council Policy
Belfast Road, Newry close to Park n Share car park at Sheepbridge. Bus shelter on side of road carrying passengers to Newry	Translink indicate that this request has not fulfilled Translink's current or projected usage criteria and will not progress to the next stage	Consider request under Council Policy
Junction of Gosford Road and Drummond Road, Newry	Translink indicate that this request has not fulfilled Translink's current or projected usage criteria and will not progress to the next stage	Consider request under Council Policy
Killard Road/Killard Avenue, Ballyhornan	Translink indicate that this request has not fulfilled Translink's current or projected usage criteria and will not progress to the next stage	Consider request under Council Policy
Main Street, Ballyhornan	Translink indicate that this request has not fulfilled Translink's current or projected usage criteria and will not progress to the next stage	Consider request under Council Policy
Longstone Road, Ballymartin	Translink indicate that this request has not fulfilled Translink's current or projected usage criteria and will not progress to the next stage	Consider request under Council Policy
Killough Road, Ardglass	Translink indicate that this request has not fulfilled Translink's current or projected usage criteria and will not progress to the next stage	Consider request under Council Policy
Killard Road/Rock Road Junction, Ballyhornan	Translink indicate that this request has not fulfilled Translink's current or projected usage criteria and will not progress to the next stage	Consider request under Council Policy

Upper Strangford Road (St Michaels Park) Ardglass	Translink indicate that this request has not fulfilled Translink's current or projected usage criteria and will not progress to the next stage	Consider request under Council Policy
Junction at Carnary Road, Mayobridge	Translink indicate that this request has not fulfilled Translink's current or projected usage criteria and will not progress to the next stage	Consider request under Council Policy
Ballyculter Crossroad, Castle Ward, Strangford	Translink indicate that this request has not fulfilled Translink's current or projected usage criteria and will not progress to the next stage	Consider request under Council Policy
Newry Road, Forkhill	Translink indicate that this request has not fulfilled Translink's current or projected usage criteria and will not progress to the next stage	Consider request under Council Policy
McGough's Silverbridge Road, Mullaghbawn	Translink indicate that this request has not fulfilled Translink's current or projected usage criteria and will not progress to the next stage	Consider request under Council Policy

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to approve the above report and recommendations.**

Agreed: **At the request of Councillor Andrews it was agreed Officers investigate replacing the current bus shelter on the Downpatrick Road, Killyleagh with a new modern perspex type to deter anti-social behaviour. Noted Mr Scullion advised that there was a need to provide evidence of anti-social behaviour and residents should advise the PSNI of any incidents.**

In response to comments from Councillors Fitzpatrick and Councillor Tinnelly regarding the need for a bus shelter at Sheepbridge, where it was estimated that over 500 people used this service daily, Mr Scullion said Translink had their own policy on bus shelter requests and it seemed that the majority of passengers were using the services of a private operator at this location and not Translink. He advised that this location would now be considered under Council policy.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION – WASTE MANAGEMENT

RTS/010/2018: DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF 'THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES PROPOSAL'

Read: Report dated 24 January 2018 from Mr L Dinsmore outlining The Neighbourhood Service Proposal that would see services such as refuse collection, street cleansing, public conveniences, grass cutting graffiti, and fly post removal, dog fouling, cleansing of Newry Canal, enforcement and arrangement for assisted collections all joined up, contactable through one telephone number, one web-page, one service, via the `Neighbourhood Service' brand with a target to achieve full implementation by 1 September 2018. *(Circulated)*.

The report recommended that:-

- That the Council adopt the principles of the Neighbourhood Services Proposal, with all Directorates to participate and sign up to the principles to be developed, once agreed.
- The Anti-Litter Working Group to be renamed The Neighbourhood Services Working Group, with meetings to be held at sufficient frequency to ensure the delivery of the project within timeframe.

Members welcomed the launch of this new proposal which they said would provide for positive engagement with the public.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to approve the above report and recommendations and also that the Anti-Litter and Dog Fouling Strategies be launched as soon as possible.**

Councillor Stokes said he had been asked by Councillor Murnin to raise the issue of the condition of grass verges at the entrances to towns. He noted it was a responsibility of Roads Service but asked if the Council could ensure the maintenance of these verges was being carried out.

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed that this matter be added to the Agenda for the next meeting of the Community Planning Partnership.**

FOR NOTING

RTS/011/2018: ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES – 26 OCTOBER 2017

Read: Minutes of ARC 21 Joint Committee Meeting held on Thursday 26 October 2017. *(Circulated)*.

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

RTS/012/2018: HISTORIC ACTION SHEET

Read: Historic Action Sheet (*Circulated*).

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the Historic Action Sheet.**

Agreed: **Councillor Harte referred to Minute RTS/124/2015 – Bus Shelter requests – where it had been agreed that the bus shelter on the Old Warrenpoint Road, Newry be moved as it as being used for anti-social behaviour.**

Councillor Harte requested that this be actioned as soon as possible.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.00 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 5 February 2018

Signed: **Councillor John Trainor**
Chairperson of Regulatory & Technical Services Committee

Signed: **Mr A Wilkinson**
Interim Director Regulatory & Technical Services