

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RTS/M

Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 May 2016 at 3.00 pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chairperson: Councillor T Andrews

Vice Chairperson: Councillor S Ennis

Members:

Councillor P Brown	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey	Councillor S Doran
Councillor G Fitzpatrick	Councillor V Harte
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor P O’Gribin
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor D Taylor	

Non Committee Members: Councillor P Clarke

Officials in Attendance: Mr C O’Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services
Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director of Waste Management
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director of Building Control and Regulations
Mr A McKay, Head of Planning
Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

RTS/70/2016: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor G Hanna.

Councillor Andrews extended his sympathy to Mr Mickey Brady, MLA for Newry and Armagh on the recent death of his mother, Sarah.

Councillor Andrews also extended his sympathy to the family of Daryl Shaw who had recently been killed in a tragic road accident.

Councillor Andrews extended his congratulations to former Councillors Harold McKee and Colin McGrath on their election as MLAs. He asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to the MLAs from this Council area who had been successful in the recent Stormont elections.

RTS/71/2016: DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor Casey declared an interest in an item on the Action Sheet – “Capital Expenditure Projects” as he was on the Board of Governors of Bunscoil an Iuir.

RTS/72/2016: ACTION SHEET OF THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 2016

Read: Action Sheet of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 April 2016. ***(Circulated)***.

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

Noted: In response to a query from Councillor Ennis, Mr O’Rourke advised home compactor units costing £5 were now available and would be given out on a collection only basis.

RTS/73/2016: REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN

Read: Regulatory and Technical Services Business Plan. ***(Circulated)***.

Noted: Mr O’Rourke referred to item A36 – Fleet Management – and said that in the 2015/2016 Capital Plan, finance had been set aside for the purchase of 4 new replacement refuse vehicles. However there had been some technical issues with the specification for the vehicles and as a result the order for the 4 vehicles had not been placed. Mr O’Rourke advised it was now the intention to carry forward the capital for the purchase of these 4 vehicles to the current financial year and purchase a total of 8 No. replacement refuse vehicles.

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the Regulatory and Technical Services Business Plan as circulated and also the update from Mr C O’Rourke that 8 No. replacement refuse vehicles would be purchased in the 2016/2017 financial year.**

Councillor Taylor and Councillor O’Gribin joined the meeting – 3.10 pm.

PLANNING

RTS/74/2016: PLANNING DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – APRIL 2016

Read: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Planning Department Performance Indicators – April 2016. ***(Circulated)***.

Noted: Mr McKay gave an update on the performance of the Planning Department. He said in the latter part of 2015 the Department hit a peak of 1600 live applications in the system but this figure was now down to below 1400. He said steady progress was being made in reducing the backlog and this was helped by the fact that all additional staff which they had been given authority to recruit were now in post.

Mr McKay also referred to the almost double increase in decisions issued per month and said this level of performance was being maintained and surpassed within the Department.

He noted that the number of live enforcement cases was still quite high but said that this was an inevitable consequence of resources being directed to development management.

Councillor Murnin welcomed the reduction in the average number of live applications being given to each Case Officer and said this would lead to a more manageable workload. He also expressed concerns at the impact of the higher number of refusals which were being issued as a result of dealing with the backlog of applications, would have on the workload of the Planning Committee.

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the Planning Department Performance Indicators report.**

RTS/75/2016: **RECORD OF MEETINGS BETWEEN PLANNING OFFICERS AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES**

Read: Record of Meetings between Planning Officers and Public Representatives for April 2016. ***(Circulated)***.

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

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

RTS/76/2016: **CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF TREES AT KILBRONEY MUNICIPAL CEMETERY, ROSTREVOR**

Read: Report dated 18 May 2016 from Mr K Scullion seeking approval to decline a request for the removal of 10 silver birch trees, which lie along the boundary line between Kilbroney Old Cemetery and the Council's Municipal Cemetery. ***(Circulated)***.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed to refuse with regret a request for the removal of 10 silver birch trees which lie along the boundary line between Kilbroney Old Cemetery and the Council's Municipal Cemetery.

RTS/77/2016: **TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL OFF ROAD CAR PARKING AT KILBRONEY MUNICIPAL CEMETERY, ROSTREVOR**

Read: Report dated 18 May 2016 from Mr K Scullion seeking approval to undertake a feasibility study into whether additional off street car parking is required at Kilbroney Municipal Cemetery, Rostrevor, and if so the impact of accommodating this within the Council's approved cemetery development (arising from a Crotlieve DEA Meeting). *(Circulated)*.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed officers undertake a feasibility study into a request to provide additional off street car parking at Kilbroney Municipal Cemetery, Rostrevor, and as part of the study to consider the best use of the piece of ground identified for possible parking as opposed to using the greenfield site.

RTS/78/2016: **COUNCIL PUBLIC AMENITY SPACE NEAR THE COUNCIL PUBLIC TOILETS AND CASTLEWELLAN MARKET HOUSE LIBRARY (AT THE REQUEST OF COUNCILLOR P CLARKE)**

Noted: Councillor P Clarke said that the former Down District Council had granted permission for contractors who were carrying out works, to use a small section of Council amenity space near the Council public toilets and Castlewellan Market House Library. He said this work was near completion and he would ask that the Council now review the use of this space.

Councillor Clarke said the space was being used for ball sports and this was damaging the walls of the toilets and leading to complaints from the nearby library. Residents were also complaining about noise nuisance. He asked if the Council would consider erecting collapsible, lockable bollards or some other measures which would prevent use of the area for ball games but would still facilitate traders who used the space during market days.

Mr O'Rourke advised that officers had investigated this issue and any damage to property had been negligible and no noise complaints had been made to date. He said the erection of bollards

would have quite significant cost implications and they would have to be taken down at regular intervals to accommodate the market.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Council O’Gribin, seconded by Councillor Ennis, it was agreed officers investigate options for securing the amenity space near the Council public toilets in Castlewellan and report back to the Committee.**

At the request of Councillor O’Gribin it was also agreed officers investigate what happened to the bangor blue slates which had been on the roof of the building recently renovated and report back to the Committee.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

RTS/79/2016: Arc21 UPDATED STANDING ORDERS

Read: arc21 Updated Standing Orders. (*Circulated*).

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murnin, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to adopt the arc21 updated Standing Orders as circulated.**

FOR NOTING

RTS/80/2016: LICENSING REPORT

Read: Licencing report giving details of the dog kennelling contract; tender process for dog holding facility and street nameplates and the delay in supply of street nameplates. (*Circulated*).

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

RTS/81/2016: CURRENT PLANNING APPEALS

Read: Report giving details of current planning appeals. (*Circulated*).

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

RTS/82/2016: COLOUR LIGHT REQUEST FOR NEWRY CITY HALL

Read: Request dated 03 May 2016 on behalf of the Alzheimer’s Society seeking approval to light up Newry Town Hall blue for Dementia Awareness week 15-21 May 2016. (*Circulated*).

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to approve the above request.**

- RTS/83/2016: NMD arc21 MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS**
- Read:** Report detailing Newry, Mourne and Down District Council arc21 Membership contributions. *(Circulated)*.
- Agreed:** It was unanimously agreed to note the above report.
- RTS/84/2016: LETTER FROM DARD DATED 18 APRIL 2016 – WATER AND SEWERAGE ACT (NI) 2016**
- Read:** Letter from DARD dated 18 April 2016 advising that the *Water and Sewerage Act (NI) 2016* has now come into operation. *(Circulated)*.
- Agreed:** It was unanimously agreed to note the above correspondence.
- RTS/85/2016: CONSULTATION ON PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS**
- Read:** Letter dated 6 May 2016 from DoE Planning Policy Division re: consultation received on Permitted Development Rights. *(Circulated)*.
- Agreed:** It was unanimously agreed to note the above correspondence.
- RTS/86/2016: MINUTES OF ANTI-LITTER MEETING HELD ON 8 APRIL 2016**
- Read:** Minutes of arc21 Steering Group Meeting held on Tuesday 22 March 2016. *(Circulated)*.
- Agreed:** It was unanimously agreed to approve the above Minutes and recommendations.
- RTS/87/2016: MINUTES OF arc21 STEERING GROUP MEETING – 22 MARCH 2016**
- Read:** Minutes of arc21 Steering Group Meeting held on Tuesday 22 March 2016. *(Circulated)*.
- Agreed:** It was unanimously agreed to note the above Minutes.
- RTS/88/2016: MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN:**
- Noted:** Councillor Andrews said he would like to take this opportunity to thank his party for nominating him as the Chairman of the R&TS Committee. He thanked Councillor Ennis for her help and support;

his fellow Committee Members and Canice O'Rourke and all the staff for their excellent help and support throughout the year.

The Members of the Committee thanked Councillor Andrews for his Chairmanship of the Committee over the past year.

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2016

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Murnin, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matters which related to exempt information under 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).

RTS/89/2016: **REQUEST TO TENDER FOR FINAL CAPPING AT DRUMANAKELY LANDFILL SITE**

Read: Report dated 18 May 2016 from Mr J Parkes seeking approval to tender for the final capping at Drumanakelly Landfill Site. *(Circulated)*.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Murnin, it was agreed to come out of closed session.

Agreed: When the Committee was out of closed session, the Chairman reported it had been agreed to grant permission to tender for the final capping at Drumanakelly Landfill Site.

RTS/90/2016: **DOG FOULING BINS AND STREET CLEANSING SCHEDULE**

Agreed: At the request of Councillor Murnin it was agreed officials investigate the provision of additional dog fouling bins at Carlisle Park/Piney Hill Ballynahinch.

At the request of Councillor Murnin it was agreed officials investigate increasing the street cleansing at Riverside Walk Ballynahinch to a weekly cleanse, given that anti-social behaviour was taking place at this location, resulting in a lot of broken glass.

It was also agreed officials contact Clanmil Housing Association who were developing housing at this location, to make them aware of the anti-social behaviour which was occurring and to see if they would consider installing CCTV on their premises in an attempt to stop these activities.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 3.40 pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 June 2016.

**Signed: Councillor Terry Andrews
Chairperson of Regulatory & Technical Services Committee**

**Signed: Mr C O Rourke
Director Regulatory & Technical Services**