

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RTS/M

Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2017 at 6.00 pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chairperson: Councillor J Trainor

Vice Chairperson: Councillor V Harte

Members:

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

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mr A Wilkinson, Interim Director Regulatory & Technical Services
Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer
Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director of Building Control and Regulations
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

RTS/102/2017: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Casey and Burns.

The Chairperson expressed condolences to Councillor Roisin Mulgrew, Chairperson of the Council on the death of her father, Vincent Evans, and it was agreed to send a letter of sympathy on behalf of the Committee.

RTS/103/2017: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

RTS/104/2017: ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – CARNEGAT, NEWRY

Agreed: **At the request of Councillor Harte it was agreed officials investigate a request for a one-off major clean-up to be undertaken to the rear of Carnegat, Newry and also that a DEA meeting be arranged with Newry Councillors and**

the Community Association to discuss the possibility of getting some lighting at the kick-about.

RTS/105/2017: ACTION SHEET OF THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 AUGUST 2017

Read: Action Sheet of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 August 2017. *(Copy circulated).*

Matters arising – provision of compostable liners for brown bin waste

Agreed: In response to queries from Councillors Craig and Taylor regarding the provision of compostable liners for use by householders and businesses, Mr Wilkinson confirmed a Brown Bin Review Revaluation Paper would be brought to the October RTS Committee Meeting which would include options on the use of compostable liners for brown bin waste.

Agreed: At the request of Councillor Andrews it was agreed Mr Wilkinson provide an update to him on the outcome of a trail of solar powered bins in Newcastle.

Agreed: At the request of Councillor Andrews it was agreed a letter of good wishes be sent on behalf of the Committee to Mr Joe Parkes, wishing him a speedy recovery to good health.

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

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION – BUILDING CONTROL

RTS/106/2017: ISSUES SURROUNDING MOTOR HOME/CAMPER VAN USAGE OF COUNCIL CAR PARKS IN NEWCASTLE, CO. DOWN

Read: Report dated 20 September 2017 from Mr Colum Jackson, Assistant Director, Regulatory and Technical Services, re: issues surrounding motor home/camper van usage of Council Car Parks in Newcastle, Co Down *(Copy circulated).*

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Craig it was agreed to approve the following, on the basis that officials identify an alternative designated zone for camper vans at the top overflow of

Donard Car Park (Shanslieve Drive entrance) before any further action was taken:-

1. RTS committee authorise permission to install Height Restriction Barriers at Downs Road and Glen River car parks. **The Committee agreed that these barriers should be appropriately designed so as not to detract from the attractive seafront character of Newcastle.**
2. Update the existing bye-laws, in relation to "permitted vehicles". Motor homes/camper vans would require to be included in this category for Donard car park and the Rock pool, with caravans excluded from Downs Road and Glen River, as they would be unable to access these sites due to the HRB's.
3. Introduce the option for Enforcement of bye law contravention to be dealt with by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice for offenders parked in excess of the permitted 12 hour period.
4. In addition, refer this report to the DEA Coordinator for the Newcastle area to communicate to the local DEA Councillors.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION - PLANNING

RTS/107/2017: AUGUST 2017 - PLANNING COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT

Read: Report on Planning Committee Performance for August 2017
(Copy circulated).

Mr McKay gave an update on the report and said the number of decisions issued per month had fallen but this was due to holiday leave and he now expected these numbers to return to previous levels.

With reference to the information on Appeals, Mr McKay said the format of this information would be revised to make it more meaningful to the Committee. However the table showed that the PAC had issued 19 decisions on NMDD applications since the start of June and out of these, 90% of these appeals had been dismissed. He said this should give some re-assurance to Members on the decisions that were being taken.

Agreed: **The Planning Committee Performance Report was noted.**

RTS/108/2017: RECORD OF MEETINGS BETWEEN PLANNING OFFICERS AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

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

Noted: Mr McKay said there was under reporting on this list as there had been substantially more meetings held than was recorded but the format would be looked at by Officials.

Agreed: **The report of meetings between Planning Officers and Public Representatives was noted.**

RTS/109/2017: CURRENT APPEALS – JULY 2017

Read: Report of current appeals in July 2017 (*Copy circulated*).

Noted: Mr McKay advised Planning officials would look at a revised formula for presenting information on appeals to make it more user friendly.

In response to queries from Councillor Stokes, Mr McKay said the number of enforcement cases was on the rise – there were a number of reasons for this including more reporting on unauthorised works since the Planning service was now based in the area and also some staffing difficulties. He said it took a great deal of time to pursue these applications to resolution, including court work, and there was a lot of good work being done by the enforcement section.

Mr McKay said they had added significantly to the number of enforcement officers and as they made in-roads into the live applications, it would free up resources for enforcement.

Agreed: **The report of current appeals in July 2017 was noted.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION – FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

RTS/110/2017: ATTENDANCE AT BRITIAN IN BLOOM RHS AWARDS

Read: Report dated 20 September 2017 from Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance, re: attendance at Britain in Bloom BHS Awards presentation on Friday 27 October in Llandundno, Wales. (*Copy circulated*).

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed Council takes up all five invitations with two Councillor representatives, two Officer representatives (to include one manager and one representative from working squad and to offer the last place for a representatives from one of the three local groups at an estimated cost of £1255).**

It was agreed the two Council representatives would be the Chairperson of Council and the Chairperson of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee.

RTS/111/2017: ToR FOR COUNCILLORS' CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS/CELEBRATIONS GROUP

Read: Report dated 20 September 2017 from Mr K Scullion re: Terms of Reference for Councillors' Christmas Illuminations/Celebrations Group. *(Copy circulated)*.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to approve the Terms of Reference for the Councillors Christmas Illuminations/Celebrations Group as circulated, to include the following membership:-**

- **Council Chairperson**
- **Council Deputy Chairperson**
- **One Councillor nominated from each of the following parties – Sinn Fein, SDLP, DUP, UUP, Alliance and 1 Independent Member.**
- **Further nominees, as required, from the two largest political parties in line with their entitlement to hold a maximum of two membership positions.**

Agreed: **The Parties made the following nominations:-**

- **Sinn Fein - Councillor Ruane and Clarke**
- **SDLP – Councillor Fitzpatrick and Trainor**
- **UUP - Councillor Macauley**
- **DUP - to give the name of their representative**
- **Independents to give the name of their representative**
- **Alliance - to give the name of their representative**

(6.45 pm – Councillor Ruane left the meeting)

FOR NOTING

RTS/112/2017: 6 MONTHLY REPORT FROM BUILDING CONTROL

Read: 6 Monthly Report from Building Control *(Copy circulated)*.

Noted: In response to queries from Councillor Tinnelly, Mr Jackson said the number of Building Regulation Applications received had fallen due to a reduction in the number of affordable warmth applications. However fees received remained largely the same as there were more housing development applications and one off dwellings which attracted a higher fee.

Mr Jackson also gave an update on Energy Performance of Buildings (EPB) Checks and said that officers would be visiting each Estate Agent in the District to ensure they were complying with these checks which involved each property having an energy performance certificate attached to their advert. He also said it was their intention to invite Estate Agents to a seminar so that they were aware of their obligations.

Noted: It was agreed to note the 6 monthly report from Building Control.

(7.00 pm – Councillor Macauley left the meeting).

RTS/113/2017: LICENSING REPORT

Read: Licensing Report (*Copy circulated*).

Noted: It was agreed to note the Licensing Report.

RTS/114/2017: ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN 31 AUGUST 2017

Read: Arc 21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin 31 August 2017 (*Copy circulated*)

Noted: It was agreed to note the Arc 21 Joint Committee Members' Bulletin dated 31 August 2017.

RTS/115/2017: ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 JULY 2017

Read: Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday 27 July 2017 (*Copy circulated*)

Noted: It was agreed to note the Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday 27 July 2017.

RTS/116/2017: HISTORIC ACTION SHEET

Read: Historic Action Sheet (*Copy circulated*).

Matters arising – Bus Shelters

Agreed: Mr Scullion gave an update on requests for bus shelters at Sheepbridge and in particular the role Transport NI may have in the provision of these shelters and agreed to send an e mail to Councillor Taylor confirming the current position.

Agreed: It was also agreed Mr Scullion continue to pursue the provision of 2 No. bus shelters at Sheepbridge with Transport NI to ascertain if they were willing to provide these shelters, given that the bus stops were heavily used by their customers. Mr Scullion to advise that the Council were seeking a response from Transport NI within one month and thereafter a further report would be brought back to the RTS Committee with recommendations on how to proceed.

Noted: It was noted that Transport NI were meeting with the Council in October 2017 and Councillors could raise this issue at the meeting.

(7.10 pm – Councillor Craig left the meeting)

Matters arising – Toilet Review

Agreed: Mr Wilkinson said a review had been carried out and officials were now working up options and costings for particular public conveniences, including those in Newcastle. He confirmed a comprehensive review would be presented prior to the budget setting process.

Noted: It was agreed to note the historic action sheet.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.15 pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2 October 2017.

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

Signed: Mr A Wilkinson
Interim Director Regulatory & Technical Services