

May 18th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 18th May 2026** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre.**

Committee Membership 2025-26

Councillor C Bowsie **Chairperson**

Councillor M Gibbons **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor J Brennan

Councillor D Finn

Councillor C Galbraith

Councillor R Howell

Councillor J Jackson

Councillor A King

Councillor N Lawlor

Councillor D Lee-Surginor

Councillor O Magennis

Councillor A Mathers

Councillor D Murphy

Councillor K Murphy

Councillor J Truesdale

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 27 April 2026

For Information

📄 *Action Sheet from AHC 2026-04-27.pdf*

Page 1

For Discussion/Decision - Open Session

4.0 District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report

For Decision

📄 *AHC Report - DEA Report 18 May 2026.pdf*

Page 3

📄 *Appx - DEA Forums Action Sheets April 2026.pdf*

Page 6

5.0 Officer Report on Notice of Motion - Cold Water Swimming Facilities

📄 *AHC Report - NoM Cold Water Swimming Facilities .pdf*

Page 32

6.0 Officer Report on Notice of Motion - Dog Exercise Area at Dunleath Park

📄 *AHC Report - NoM Dog Exercise Area at Dunleath Park.pdf*

Page 36

7.0 Officer Report on Notice of Motion - Unauthorised Use of Off Road Vehicles

For Decision

📄 *AHC Report - NoM Report Unauthorised Use of Off Road Vehicles.pdf*

Page 39

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews
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Cllr Callum Bowsie
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Fionnuala Branagh
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Cllr Jim Brennan
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Cllr Pete Byrne
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Cllr Philip Campbell
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Cllr William Clarke
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Cllr Laura Devlin
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Cllr Cadogan Enright
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Cllr Killian Feehan
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Cllr Doire Finn
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Martina Flynn
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Cllr Conor Galbraith
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Cllr Mark Gibbons
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Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
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Cllr Glyn Hanna
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Cllr Valerie Harte
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Mr Conor Haughey
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Cllr Martin Hearty
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Cllr Roisin Howell
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Cllr Tierna Howie
.....
Cllr Jonathan Jackson
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Joanne Johnston
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Cllr Geraldine Kearns
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Miss Veronica Keegan
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Mrs Sheila Kieran
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Cllr Aurla King
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Cllr Cathal King
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Ms Elaine Kirk
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Cllr Mickey Larkin
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Cllr Niall Lawlor
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Cllr David Lee-Surginor
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Cllr Alan Lewis
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Cllr Oonagh Magennis
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Cllr Aidan Mathers
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Cllr Declan McAteer
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Ms Kerri McConnell
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Áine Quinn
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Ms Alison Robb
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Ms Maria Rogan
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Conor Smyth
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Donna Starkey
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Mr David Telford
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
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Cllr Helena Young
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ACTIONS ARISING FROM ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 27 APRIL 2026

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/027/2026	Action sheet from AHC Meeting held 16/03/26	It was agreed to note the action sheet.	A Patterson	Noted	Y
AHC/028/2026	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Update	It was agreed to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slieve Gullion Forum Meeting held on 3 March 2026 • Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 19 March 2026 • Mournes DEA Forum Meeting held on 24 March 2026 	A Robb	Noted and relevant actions being progressed	Y
AHC/029/2026	Community Support Programme for 2026/27	It was agreed to proceed with the Community Support Programme as set out within the report.	A Robb	Actioned	Y
AHC/030/2026	Policing and Community Safety Partnership and Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership	It was agreed to note the contents of the report and to note the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meeting held on 18 February 2026 and approved at the NRP Meeting on 25 March 2026. • Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 3 February 2026, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 31 March 2026. 	A Robb	Noted	Y

AHC/031/2026	Social Inclusion Update	It was agreed to note the officer's report.	A Robb	Noted	Y
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Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 18 May 2026
Subject:	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Alison Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Martina Flynn, Head of Engagement

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either: -

	For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background			
1.1	Purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the report. • To consider and agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached from the DEA Forum Private Meetings listed in 3.1 below. 			
2.0	Key issues			
2.1	None.			
3.0	Recommendations			
3.1	That the Committee: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Note the report. ➤ Agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 April 2026 - Rowallane DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 April 2026 - Crotlieve DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 April 2026 - Slieve Croob DEA Forum Meeting held on 21 April 2026 - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 23 April 2026 			
4.0	Resource implications			
4.1	Support and assistance from partners to deliver actions in the DEA Action Plans.			
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)			

5.1	<p>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p>Proposal initiating consultation</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
7.1	<p>Appendix 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 April 2026 - Rowallane DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 April 2026 - Crotlieve DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 April 2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Slieve Croob DEA Forum Meeting held on 21 April 2026- Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 23 April 2026
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Action Sheet of Downpatrick District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on 14 April 2026 at 10.00am via Teams**

Chairperson:	Councillor Oonagh Hanlon
In Attendance:	Councillor Cadogan Enright
Independent Members:	Jenny Lavery, NI Housing Executive Housing Community Network Daniella McCarry, County Down Rural Community Network Dan McEvoy, Downpatrick Housing Community Network Macartan Digney, Downpatrick Community Collective
Statutory Partners:	
Council Officials:	Katrina Hynds, Downpatrick DEA Co-Ordinator Catherine Hughes, Acting Head of Performance and Improvement
Others in Attendance:	
Apologies:	Jim Masson, Down Business Connect, Down Community Health Committee Councillors Aurla King, Philip Campbell and Conor Galbraith

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/DPK/26/01	Apologies	As recorded above.	Noted.
DEA/DPK/26/02	Declarations of Interest	None were declared.	Noted
DEA/DPK/26/03	Action Sheet of Meeting held 3 February 2026	The Action Sheet was noted.	Noted
DEA/DPK/26/03	Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2026/27	The Head of Performance & Improvement provided an update on the Council's draft Performance & Improvement Objectives providing information in relation to updates and amendments since the previous year's review. Members were advised that the draft PIO are currently out for public consultation and requested that members participate in the consultation which concludes on 17 April 2026.	Noted
DEA/DPK/26/06	DEA Co-Ordinators Update	<p>The DEA Co-Ordinator presented her report to members, including detail on activities including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EVAWG Bystander Event was held in the Ballymote Centre, Downpatrick. Information and advice were provided by Women's Aid, PCSP and PSNI • EVAWG Play performed at Lecale Grammar School 	Noted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Our Diverse Community' 4-week cultural programme in St Brigid's Primary School • 6-week Building Resilience Programme in St Joseph's Primary School, Legamaddy • Mini Medics programme in St Joseph's Primary School, Strangford • 4-week Dance Programme in St Patrick's Primary School, Saul • 4-week Self Defence Programme for women from our newcomer families <p>Upcoming Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Action Cancer Bus, Killough on 17 April 2026 (in partnership with CDRCN) • Volunteer Recognition Event – 27 May 2026, Killough (in partnership with Down Senior Forum) • Men's Health Event – 11 June 2026, Castlewellan Forest Park (in partnership with CDRCN) • Domestic Violence One Stop Shop, Down Arts Centre – 28 April 2026 (in partnership with PCSP) • Activity with local Nursing Homes during Dementia Awareness Week – 18-24 May 2026 	
DEA/DPK/26/08	Date of Next Meeting	The DEA Co-Ordinator advised members that the next meeting, which is the AGM, has been scheduled for Tuesday 9 June at 5.30pm	DEA Co-Ordinator

The meeting ended at: 10.50 am

**Action Sheet of Rowallane District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on 14 April 2026 @ 1pm in Ballynahinch Community Centre**

Chairperson:	Councillor Callum Bowsie
In Attendance:	Councillor Terry Andrews Councillor Jonny Jackson
Independent Members:	Kathy Black – County Down Rural Community Network
Statutory Partners:	Suzanne Cochrane – PSNI Noel Maguire – EA Claire Crainey - NIHE
Council Officials:	Nicola Whyte, DEA Coordinator Rowallane Kerri Morrow, Community Engagement Manager Theresa McLaverty, Peace Plus Officer Catherine Hughes, Head of Performance & Improvement
Others in Attendance:	Cahir Clancy, SERC Catherine Shipman, SERC
Apologies:	Councillor Tierna Howie Councillor David Lee-Surginor Raymond Cochrane, Frontier Support Network Robert Burgess, Rowallane & Slieve Croob Community Twinning Group, Saintfield Horse Show, Saintfield Community Estates

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/ROW/11/2026	Welcome and Apologies	Councillor Bowsie welcomed Members and noted apologies. Councillor Bowsie asked all attendees to do a brief introduction.	COMPLETED
DEA/ROW/12/2026	Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations of interest given.	COMPLETED
DEA/ROW/13/2026	Action sheet from previous meeting on 17.02.26	Action Sheet was proposed by Councillor Andrews and seconded by Councillor Jackson.	NOTED
DEA/ROW/14/2026	Education Authority Youth Service Update	Update provided by Noel Maguire in relation to Youth Service Provision across the Rowallane areas. A mapping exercise has been completed and Killyleagh has been identified as area of need. Friday Night Provision – Crossgar, 60-65 YP in attendance. Monday Night Provision – Saintfield, welcome cross promotion to increase attendance, transition age 11+ Tuesday Night – Ballynahinch, Voluntary Sector Provision well managed and EA are considering a twilight provision afterschool in this area. Summer provision in development.	NOTED
DEA/ROW/15/2026	Update from PSNI Sergeant Suzanne Cochrane	Sergeant Cochrane provided an update on new Sergeant appointment for the area. Engagement has been limited due to staffing, and they anticipate a greater provision in Quarter 2 and 3. Neighbourhood Team have been working in post primary schools to deliver drugs awareness workshops along with Teresa Burke and PCSP. Working with local voluntary youth group The Edge in relation to online safety and social media impacts and risks.	NOTED

DEA/ROW/16/2026	Peace Plus Update - NMDDC	Teresa McLaverty provided an update on Peace Plus projects including Ballynahinch Ukes, Mental Health First Aid Level 2. A number of other District wide initiatives are now being recruited to which are detailed in the Peace Plus Newsletter which will be circulated. Reimaging programme geographical areas have been determined for the Rowallane area and MAYWE have been appointed as facilitator and will be in touch with members in due course.	Newsletter to be circulated for onward sharing.
DEA/ROW/17/2026	Peace Plus Update - SERC	Cahir Clancy provided an update on the 11 programmes SERC have been contracted to deliver as the education partner of the PEACE Plus plan. Requested that members signpost and raise awareness of the programmes.	Information to be circulated for onward sharing.
DEA/ROW/18/2026	Update from CDRCN	Kathy provided an update that she has now been appointed by CDRCN to be the community development health worker for the Rowallane area.	Members welcomed Kathy to the Forum
DEA/ROW/19/2026	NI Housing Executive	Claire provided an update on the demand and turnover for housing in the Rowallane area. Claire advised there is continued engagement opportunities with GRO, Stephen McAvinchy.	NOTED
DEA/ROW/20/2026	DEA Coordinators Report	<p>DEA Coordinator delivered the Coordinator's Report including:</p> <p>Update on projects since last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Support Hub – Down Leisure Centre –18.02.26 • Spanner in the Works EVAWG Play – Assumption Ballynahinch 18.02.26 – 65 students attended. St Colman's 6 Form 18.02.26 – 200 students attended. • Neuro Café SERC Downpatrick for parents and carers – Autism and ADHD on 27.02.26 • Irish Language & Music Workshop – celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge in Hans Sloane Centre, Killyleagh on 05.03.26 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pottery Workshop for International Womens Day on 11.03.26 with Precher House Pottery in Killough - attendees from Saintfield, Killyleagh & Ballynahinch • Chamber of Commerce event - fully booked • Saintfield MDT Team Men’s Health Event on 24.03.26 in Saintfield High School • EAWG information session in Ballymote, Downpatrick with 3 DEA’s on 26.03.26 • Crossgar Walking Group Trip to Warrenpoint with Crotlieve DEA on Saturday 28.03.26 • Killyleagh Gathering Sunday 12.04.26 Bridge Centre 300 visitors with PCSP also in attendance. <p>Upcoming Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Cancer Bus – Killyleagh with CDRCN – Booked through CDRCN • Chest Heart & Stroke Health Checks – Bridge Centre, Killyleagh 28.05 • Newry Community Support Hub, Leisure Centre 21.04 • PB Funding Celebration Event – 19.05 6-9pm, venue Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle • Men’s Health Week 15-21 June – Events TBC with MDT Teams throughout Rowallane • Carers Event with 3 DEA’s on 10.06.26 in Preacher House Pottery, Killough • Men’s Health Event with 4 DEA’s & CDRCN on 11.06.26 5-8pm in Castlewellan Park <p>Schools Update Saint Joseph’s Primary School, CROSSGAR – 4 Week Diversity Programme started.</p> <p>Cedar Integrated Primary School, CROSSGAR – Building Resilience Programme started.</p> <p>Drumlins Integrated Primary School, BALLYNAHINCH - Building Resilience Programme started.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>NOTED</p> <p>NOTED</p>
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DEA/ROW/21/2026	Performance Improvement Consultation	The Head of Performance & Improvement provided an update on the Council's draft Performance & Improvement Objectives providing information in relation to updates and amendments since the previous year's review. Members were advised that the draft PIO are currently out for public consultation and requested that members participate in the consultation which concludes on 17 April 2026.	NOTED
DEA/ROW/21/2026	Action Plan for 2026/27	Nicola presented the draft Action Plan for Rowallane DEA for consideration and review.	NOTED
DEA/ROW/22/2026	Date of Next Meeting	The next meeting date: 16 June in Ballynahinch Community Centre at 6pm.	NOTED

The meeting ended at: 2.50pm

**Action Sheet of Crotlieve District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on Tuesday 14 April 2026 at 18.00 pm via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson:	Councillor Kate Murphy
In Attendance:	Councillor Micky Ruane Councillor Selina Murphy
Independent Members:	Martina Byrne- Hilltown Community Association/Clonduff Development Enterprise/Women of Clonduff Cathy McMahon - Confederation of Community Groups Claire Shiels- County Down Rural Community Network Colleen Tinnelly Dowdall- WBR Chamber of Commerce
Statutory Partners:	Annie Clarke – Promoting Wellbeing Team SHSCT Carie Crawford – Education Authority Sargeant Scott Mc Bride PSNI
Council Officials:	Shirley Keenan-Hughes – DEA Co-ordinator Crotlieve Catherine Hughes – Performance & Improvement Officer
Apologies:	Councillor Declan McAteer Ciara Burns – Community Services Manager Edel McGeeney – Peace Plus Officer Connaire McGreevy, Greater Newry Chamber of Commerce Keith Parke- Ardarragh Accordion Band/ Lisnamullion Rural Association/ Drumlough & Ballygorian RDA

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/C/11/2026	Welcome and Apologies.	Councillor Kate Murphy welcomed Members and noted apologies.	COMPLETED.
DEA/C/12/2026	Declarations of Interest.	There were no declarations of interest declared.	COMPLETED.
DEA/C/13/2026	Matters arising from Action Sheet from meeting held 10 th February 2026.	Action sheet confirmed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr K Murphy and Seconded by Cllr S Murphy.	COMPLETED.
DEA/C/14/2026	DEA Co-ordinators Report.	Update from DEA Co-ordinator Mrs S Keenan-Hughes on projects, events and programmes organised and supported by Crotlieve DEA Forum that have taken place from the date of the last meeting. Schools GR Movie 2 nd March 2026, Carrick Primary School Cultural Programme, Ballyholland Primary School International Women's Day, 5 th March 2026 The first event of Rural Women Programme March -April 2026 Spring Tea Dance, 24 th March 2026 Women's Walking Tour Warrenpoint, 28 th March 2026	NOTED.

		<p>Members were also updated on planned events including:</p> <p>Autism Reality Experience at St Marks School 16th April 2026 Senior Summer Scheme planned for June- July 2026 Shed Fest 10th June 2026 Ballyholland Sunshine Club Seniors Social Day Trip Men's Bereavement Project Plans for Child Safety Week</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr M Ruane and seconded by Cllr S Murphy that the planned events should be supported from the DEA Budget.</p>	
DEA/C/15/2026	Action Plan.	<p>The Crotlieve DEA Forum Action Plan for 2026-2027 had been circulated by email in advance of the meeting. The plan was approved with associated budget required to deliver same. Proposed by Cllr M Ruane and seconded by Cllr K Murphy.</p> <p>Members were invited to work with Co-ordinator in respect of plan delivery and feedback has been welcomed.</p> <p>Members were advised the plan is a live document and subject to change.</p>	COMPLETED
DEA/C/16/2026	PEACEPLUS Update.	<p>In the absence of Ms E McGeeney, a written update was provided to the DEA Co-ordinator in respect of the delivery of the PEACEPLUS plan and this was read to the Forum.</p> <p>Update provided in respect of Capital Projects, Transformation and Re-imaging, Capacity Building, Cultural Programmes, Community Action Programmes, Events and Festivals, Intergenerational projects and Civic Pride Bloom and Branch.</p>	COMPLETED.

DEA/C/17/2026	Performance Improvement Plan.	Mrs C Hughes encouraged members to provide feedback and complete the Performance Improvement Plan survey on Council Website.	COMPLETED.
DEA/C/18/2026	Education Authority Update.	Mrs C Crawford updated members in respect of the ongoing delivery of youth work within the Crotlieve area. She advised members that the EA are rolling out a new approach to the delivery of youth work, focusing on universal provision as opposed to targeted intervention. She will mainly be operating in Warrenpoint but asked members contact her directly with any pressing concerns about the wider Crotlieve area.	COMPLETED.
DEA/C/19/2026	Action Cancer.	Ms C Shiels from CDRCN advised that she had contacted Action Cancer and there is a huge waiting list for the Bus. The Forum previously agreed that 2 buses would be funded in the new financial year.	CDRCN to revert to Forum.
DEA/C/20/2026	Christmas Lights Hilltown.	A report from Mr A Mallon Head of Service, Maintenance Department was read to the members. The report confirmed electrical works would be undertaken in Hilltown ahead of next years Christmas Switch on. In addition the Forum agreed that the DEA Co-ordinator would convene a meeting with Hilltown CA, the PSNI and PCSP to discuss ASB.	DEA Co-ordinator to organise meeting for early Autumn with Hilltown CA, PCSP and PSNI.

DEA/C/21/2026	Financial Assistance.	<p>Ms M Byrne reported to the Forum that she had submitted an FOI to the Grants and Funding department seeking information in respect of Call 1 Financial Assistance. More discussion followed.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr M Ruane and seconded by Cllr S Murphy that a member of the Grants and Funding department attend the next DEA Forum meeting to discuss the matter.</p>	DEA Co-ordinator to contact Grants and Funding Department and request a member attend the next DEA Forum meeting.
DEA/C/22/2026	Date of Next Meeting.	<p>The next meeting date:</p> <p>Tuesday 9th June 2026 at 6pm in Warrenpoint Town Hall.</p>	DEA Co-ordinator to forward agenda and papers in advance.

The meeting ended at: 18:45 pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Action Sheet of Slieve Croob District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on Tuesday 21st April 2026 4.30pm via Microsoft Teams**

19

Chairperson:	Councillor Alan Lewis
In Attendance:	Councillor Helena Young Councillor Siobhán O'Hare
Independent Members:	Heather Holland, County Down Rural Community Network (CDRCN)
Council Officials:	Elaine Carr, PEACEPLUS Officer Priscilla McAlinden, Slieve Croob DEA Coordinator Jacqueline Urey, PCSP Officer
Apologies:	Kenny Baxter, Frontier Support Network Councillor Jim Brennan Councillor Roisin Howell Kerri Morrow, Engagement & Development Manager Richie Shilliday, Dundrum Village Association, Dundrum Cricket Club, RIOT Community Hub

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/SC/2/2026	Chairperson's Remarks	Forum extends deepest sympathies and condolences to Councillor Jarlath Tinnelly and his family on the sad passing of his daughter.	Noted.
DEA/SC/3/2026	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.	Noted.
DEA/SC/4/2025	Action Sheet of meeting held on Tuesday 24 th February 2026	Action Sheet of Slieve Croob meeting held on Tuesday 24 th February 2026 was adopted as a true record.	Noted.
DEA/SC/5/2026	PEACEPLUS Update	<p>Theme 1 - Local Community Regeneration and transformation</p> <p>Three areas identified for Transformation and Re-Imaging programme in Slieve Croob are Annsborough, Drumaness and Drumaroad. Next stage is to develop action plans for these areas.</p> <p>Theme 2 – Thriving and Peaceful Communities</p> <p>Groups participating in Capacity building include Castlewellan Allotments, Leitrim Men's Shed, and Ballykinler and Tyrella Cross Community Association.</p> <p>A shared Culture Summer Scheme has been developed and facilitator to be appointed.</p> <p>Clanrye Group have been appointed to deliver to community-led Health and Wellbeing programmes.</p> <p>Bloom and Branch Facilitator has been appointed.</p>	Noted.

		<p>CDRCN has been appointed to deliver Cross Community Festivals theme. Martin Waddell Project is developed and will be commencing soon.</p> <p>Forum members to forward groups that would be interested in participating in the PEACEPLUS programmes.</p>	Forum members.
DEA/SC/6/2026	PCSP Update	<p>PCSP Officer updated on Summer Safety Programme happening across 4 DEAS in July. Partners include PCSP, NIFRS, DEAs, PSNI, EA and ASCERT.</p> <p>One Stop Shop has been rolling out in Downpatrick to support victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Partners present at confidential session include Women's Aid, PSNI, NIHE, Jobs and Benefits, Community Advice and Legal representative. This provides full and immediate wrap around support and information for attendees.</p> <p>Sessions are open to individuals concerned about anyone they know or suspect that are subject to domestic abuse.</p> <p>Information on Domestic Violence and Abuse Disclosure Schemes provided by PSNI at sessions.</p> <p>Dates of sessions to be circulated to members for circulation.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>DEA Coordinator.</p>
DEA/SC/7/2026	Action Plan Update 2025-2026	<p>Forum members unanimously approved Action Plan programmes 2025/2026 and associated budget.</p> <p>Programmes completed since previous meeting include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-week Cultural Dance Programme in St Mathew's Primary School 	DEA Coordinator.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Down Senior Tea Dance • Boccia Tournament with seniors • EVAWG Performance in St Malachy's High School • Building Resilience 6-week programme in St Macartan's Primary School and St Josephs Primary School • Mini Medics in Sacred Heart, St Marys' and St Michael's Primary Schools • Makaton sessions in Castlewellan, Drumaroad and Drumaness • Neurodiversity Café • Young Carers Event • 4-week Cultural programme in Holy Family Primary School • Bystander Event 	
DEA/SC/8/2026	Action Plan 2026-2027	<p>Forum members unanimously approved proposed Action Plan programmes 2026/2027 and associated budget.</p> <p>Upcoming programmes from May to end June include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Cancer Bus in Leitrim • Volunteer Recognition Event • Carer's Festival • Men's Health Event in Castlewellan Castle 	DEA Coordinator.
DEA/SC/10/2026	Date and time of next meeting	Next DEA Forum meeting scheduled to take place on Tuesday 23 rd June 2026 at 4.30pm.	DEA Coordinator.

The meeting ended at 5.35pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Action Sheet of Newry District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on Thursday 23rd April at 1.30pm in Newry Leisure Centre**

Chairperson:	Councillor Aidan Mathers
In Attendance:	Councillor Valerie Harte
Independent Members:	Raymond Jackson, Confederation of Community Groups Allison Slater, Bolster Community Victoria Murphy, Bolster Community Colin Hanna, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency Eamonn Connolly, Newry BID
Statutory Partners:	Inspector Paul Moore, PSNI Chief Inspector Adam Ruston, PSNI Aisling Pryers, Housing Executive Barry Traynor, Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Council Officials:	Padraig Harte, Newry DEA Coordinator Edel McGeeney, Peace Officer
Apologies:	Councillor Cathal King

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
DEA/N/2026/2	Declarations of Interest	None.	
DEA/N/2026/3	Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of Newry DEA Forum	<p>Selection of Chair – Cllr Mathers, proposed by Cllr Harte, seconded by E Connolly</p> <p>Selection of Vice Chair – Cllr Harte, proposed by Cllr Mathers, Seconded by E Connolly</p> <p>Both Cllr Mathers and Cllr Harte agreed.</p>	Approved
DEA/N/2026/4	Matters arising from Action Sheet	Action sheet confirmed as a true and accurate record.	Approved
DEA/N/2026/5	Peace Plus	<p>The new PeacePlus newsletter will be forwarded to members following the meeting.</p> <p>Strand 1</p> <p>1.1 Reimaging - All areas have now confirmed their identified sites/areas. Action plans are to be confirmed by September.</p> <p>1.2 Capital Projects – Altnaveigh House and St Monica’s Boxing Club projects are progressing.</p> <p>Strand 2</p> <p>2.1 Gateway Programme - The Gateway Programme has commenced with 32 participants enrolled.</p> <p>Events Training Programme is currently live for procurement, closing on 11 May, with delivery anticipated during the Summer period.</p>	Noted and Coordinator to progress

A new capacity-building initiative focused on graphic design training for community members is being explored jointly by PeacePlus and the DEA.

Social Housing Programme - The programme is progressing well, with 25 participants due to complete.

2.3 Project Review - The project may require review due to a lack of tender submissions.

2.4 Bloom and Branch - Significant interest has been expressed in the programme. The Killeen/Meigh area has now been referred to the facilitator. CSV Sensory Garden for Newry is progressing.

2.5 Shared History Project - The project is progressing well and has received positive feedback. Completion is anticipated by June.

2.6 Inter-generational Programme - Two projects are currently progressing to procurement stage.

Strand 3

3.7 Shared History Programme - Programme commencement scheduled for 14 May and will run over an eight-week period.

Newry Canal and Our Engineering Heritage - This heritage-focused project will engage participants from Newry, Mourne and Down through workshops, talks, and site visits exploring the region's canal history and engineering. Participants will learn about canal construction and key engineers, document features through photography, and contribute reflections to a project webpage hosted by the NMD Museum. 20 participants and 15 hours of engagement

Current Open Tenders

There are currently nine tenders open, including:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cross Community Festival in Rowallane - Events Training Programme - Reimaging of Mental Health Care History in Down - Cultural Programme in Rowallane - Market Ready Project - Minority Community Support Programme - Cultural Exchange Programme - Crossing Paths in Crotlieve - Exploring the Past and Future for Irish Language and Ulster Scots 	
<p>DEA/N//2026/6</p>	<p>Community Services</p>	<p>Members were provided with a verbal update on the relevant facilities.</p> <p>Three Ways Community Centre Arrangements are currently being made for the installation of a replacement boiler, which will provide a long-term resolution to the ongoing heating issues at the facility.</p> <p>Drumalane Community Centre During routine maintenance works, extensive issues were identified within the floor and core structure of the building. As a result, a Structural Engineer has been appointed and is scheduled to attend the site. A detailed report will be provided following completion of the assessment.</p> <p>Derrybeg Community Centre Internal inspections are required to investigate suspected water leaks within the building. Following completion of these checks, NI Water will be requested to undertake further investigations if deemed necessary. Urinals and drainage systems have been successfully unblocked. Repairs to slabs at the front entrance, along with window repairs, have been logged on the maintenance portal and are currently progressing.</p> <p>Barcroft Community Centre Internal painting works are nearing completion. Upgrades to building</p>	<p>Community Services to update.</p>

		<p>facilities also remain ongoing, including improvements to toilets, tiling, and associated areas.</p> <p>Councillors request a full update on Drumlane/Quayside Close Community Centre as community services representatives weren't in attendance.</p>	
DEA/N//2026/7	DEA Co-ordinator's Report.	<p>Shared Education Programme - The most recent session was held on 26 March at Newtownhamilton High School, with a key focus on addressing racism. The programme also included workshop input from the PSNI. As part of the session, Newry DEA supported the "Racism in Sport" element by facilitating the involvement of the Irish FA, who delivered three separate workshops, ensuring full participation from all attendees.</p> <p>Glow Girls - A six-week Glow Girls programme is being delivered to a young women's group at Bosco Youth Centre. The programme focuses on exploring healthy relationships, self-image, and self-esteem, and includes a dedicated component on EVAWG.</p> <p>Women's Safety Workshop - Following a request from local community members, Newry DEA, in partnership with PCSP, delivered a women's personal safety event at Meigh Community Centre on 1 April. A total of 19 women attended and received advice and guidance, including a presentation from the PSNI's Neighbourhood Policing Team on personal safety. Participants were also provided with personal safety equipment to support their ongoing safety and confidence.</p> <p>Maternal Mental Health Day - Newry DEA, in partnership with Newry BID's Health in the City initiative, is hosting a Maternal Mental Health Day at Seasons Studio, Hill Street. The event will feature an informative talk, a breathwork workshop, and a range of information stalls.</p> <p>EmpowerHER Auto Nights - Delivered on 15 April at The Buttercrane Shopping Centre, this workshop was facilitated by the Road Ahead Committee and organised by Newry DEA in partnership with PCSP.</p>	Noted and Coordinator to progress.

		<p>Mosaic Workshops- Completed, 70 plus individuals participated over the 2 workshops.</p> <p>Communities Leading Change Celebration Event - Supporting the Community Planning Team with the organisation of the Communities Leading Change celebration event, scheduled to take place in May.</p> <p>Good Relations Primary School Programme - St Malachy's Primary School participated in a 4-week programme.</p> <p>The following additional engagement and support activities were undertaken during the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attendance at the Pride of Place Liaison Officer meeting in Newtownabbey - Meetings with Peace Plus Officer and contract providers to engagement community and participants - Meeting with groups regarding funding opportunities and event planning including MELA, breast mates - Planning for Seniors Summer Scheme and Child Safety Week 	
DEA/N/2026/8	Pride of Place	Members were unanimous in the decision to select the Road Ahead NMD Committee for this year's Pride of Place awards 2027 in Dublin.	Coordinator to progress.
DEA/N/2026/9	<p>Independent Members and Statutory Partners Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Health and Wellbeing (b) Environmental (c) Economic Development (d) Safety and Good Relations 	<p><i>Health and Wellbeing Update</i></p> <p><i>Promoting Wellbeing Team:</i></p> <p>A range of workshops are currently being delivered, including self-compassion, "Bend Don't Break," autism awareness in partnership with the Education Authority, and sessions focused on masculinity traits. Concerns were raised regarding increasing levels of anxiety and isolation across all age groups. It was emphasised that loneliness and isolation should remain a standing agenda item moving forward.</p> <p>TILT Campaign - Campaign banners will be promoted across the city. Videos are being released to help break stigma and increase awareness</p>	Noted

of available support services.

Bolster:

An update was provided on the Family Support Hub, which operates as a partnership of 14 agencies. Members were advised that the referral form has been designed to be as straightforward and accessible as possible. The main presenting issues at present are school refusal and bereavement.

Older People – Loneliness Initiative - The fourth “Discover and Connect” event is scheduled to take place on 21 May, with venue confirmation pending. Approximately 25 agencies are expected to attend, with attendance figures anticipated between 100–120 people.

Speed Networking Initiative - A speed networking event is being organised to bring agencies together and strengthen partnership working and collaboration.

CCG Update:

Concerns were raised regarding the absence of Letters of Offer for the Community and Voluntary Sector. Members were advised that funding for the Good Morning Programme has been withdrawn. Approximately 1,500 calls are currently being made across the area as part of ongoing outreach and support efforts. Drumalane/Quayside Close has continued to receive support, and a new committee has now been elected.

Concerns were also raised in relation to Ballybot Community Association. Members were advised that consultations in relation to the Charity Commission are currently ongoing.

Environmental Update:

NIHE:

Members were advised that staffing arrangements in Newry have changed. The GRO role has also changed, with a new staff member now working alongside community groups. Works are currently being carried out in the Meadow area; however, concerns have been raised by local community members. A request was made for Stephen to meet

with Councillor Mathers regarding these concerns. Housing data will be provided by the Housing Executive to the DEA Coordinator and subsequently circulated to members.

Economic Update:

NMEA

An update was provided on the Go Succeed programme, with members advised that 24 participants have successfully completed the programme to date, eight participants are currently engaged in the foundation stage, and four participants are progressing through the growth programme.

An update was also provided on the Labour Market Partnership (LMP), with the target of 20 participants by the end of March successfully achieved. The programme was described as very positive and well received. In relation to property matters, it was noted that there continues to be strong demand, with no issues currently identified.

Newry BID

An update was provided by Newry BID, during which concerns were raised regarding the use of e-scooters on Monaghan Street, as well as issues relating to herbal deliveries being distributed through the post.

Community Safety Update:

Concerns were raised regarding flags placed outside Ardmore PSNI Station, scrambler activity across the wider area, and recent attacks on Translink buses in the Camlough Road/Derrybeg area.

PSNI:

Members advised that they are currently working with DFI to address the issue relating to the flags outside the station. Members were informed that the increasing use of e-scooters and scramblers has become an emerging issue, with the PSNI highlighting that legislative change is required to help prevent the sale of such vehicles and that further refinement of police powers is also needed. The importance of

NIHE to provide – Coordinator to progress

		<p>education and engagement with parents was emphasised, alongside efforts to identify premises associated with these activities. Plans are also being developed for enforcement initiatives, including dedicated days of action in Newry and Downpatrick.</p> <p><i>Environmental Update</i></p> <p>Dublin Road Junction – Update provided that Cllr King and members of the community recently undertook a community cleanup to remove rubbish and debris from the area.</p> <p>Carriageway Works – Phase 1 has commenced and will include the construction of a footpath from Cole Court to the service garage. Phase 2 will subsequently commence on the carriageway and will involve a full road closure.</p> <p>Derrybeg Road Surface – A full road closure is currently in place. Translink has advised that services to the area may cease; however, Councillor Mathers is engaging with Translink to seek a resolution.</p> <p>Bridge at The Mall – Concerns were raised regarding the accumulation of rubbish and debris in the water area. Newry BID has committed to supporting the clean-up of the area, with consent currently awaited.</p> <p>At the requests of members - Justification for changing meeting times to 4:00pm to be circulated to members by the DEA Coordinator following the meeting.</p>	<p>Amended and Approved.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Coordinator to progress</p>
DEA/N/2026/11	Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 21 st May @ 4:00pm	

The meeting ended at: 3:20pm

Report to:	Active & Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 May 2026
Subject:	Notice of Motion – Cold Water Swimming Facilities at Beaches
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey, Assistant Director – Healthy living
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey, Assistant Director –Healthy Living

For decision	x	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>Purpose The purpose of this report is for the Active & Healthy Communities Committee to consider the Notice of Motion received from Councillor Lewis at the Council Meeting on 13 April 2026.</p> <p>Background At the Council Meeting on 13 April 2026 Councillor Lewis tabled the following Notice of Motion: <i>"This Council notes the growing popularity of cold-water swimming across the district, including at Tyrella Beach, which provides a picturesque and accessible natural setting for such activity. Council further notes the recognised physical and mental health benefits associated with cold water swimming, including improved circulation, reduced stress levels, enhanced mood, and its increasing use as a complementary activity promoted through health initiatives. This Council acknowledges that a number of organised groups and individuals make regular use of Tyrella Beach throughout the year, including during the winter months, often without access to appropriate facilities.</i></p> <p><i>Accordingly, this Council agrees to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Engage with local cold water swimming groups to assess current usage and demand</i> - <i>Engage with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust to explore any existing or potential health-led initiatives involving cold water swimming</i> - <i>Assess the feasibility of opening existing shower and changing facilities at Tyrella Beach during the winter period</i> - <i>Consider the introduction of a pilot scheme to provide such facilities, with a view to gauging demand, usage, and overall benefit</i>

	<p><i>This Council further agrees that any such pilot should be reviewed following its implementation to inform future provision."</i></p> <p>The Notice of Motion was referred to the Active & Healthy Communities Committee on 18 May 2026.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>In 2022/23, Council entered into a Service Level Agreement with Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) to progress strategic work relating to community trails, beach accessibility and sea swimming provision, including the completion of the NMDCC Beach Access Framework and a Review of Sea Swimming at Newcastle Harbour.</p> <p>The Beach Access Framework, completed in January 2023, identified Tyrella Beach, Newcastle Beach and Warrenpoint Beach as priority locations for further accessibility and inclusive infrastructure improvements, including accessible parking, changing facilities and improved beach access arrangements.</p> <p>Council has also supported inclusive beach access initiatives at Cranfield Beach through partnership working with the Mae Murray Foundation, Sport NI and DAERA, including provision of beach wheelchairs, changing facilities and inclusive participation opportunities.</p> <p>In addition, Council has supported cold-water swimming and coastal access initiatives in recent years, including infrastructure and access improvements at Sandy Bottom, Warrenpoint, alongside ongoing engagement through the Newcastle Harbour Steering Group regarding coastal usage and access considerations.</p> <p>The Notice of Motion highlights the growing popularity of cold-water swimming across the district and the associated physical and mental health benefits. It also notes the increasing use of Tyrella Beach throughout the year, including during winter months, without access to supporting facilities.</p> <p>Initial officer mapping has identified a growing number of formal clubs, informal groups and community-led cold water swimming activity taking place across the district.</p> <p>The Motion calls for engagement with stakeholders, assessment of demand, exploration of health-led initiatives, and consideration of facility provision, including a potential pilot scheme. Initial engagement has been identified with Swim Ulster, Outscape NI, and Sport NI, with potential links to The Outdoor Partnership and health-led initiatives.</p> <p>Officers have identified a range of existing groups operating across the district, including triathlon clubs, organised sea swimming groups and informal community participation groups. Initial contact routes have also been established to support future engagement and consultation activity.</p>

<p>3.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>Approval for officers to progress the actions as detailed in the Notice of Motion as set out in this report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage with local cold water swimming groups to assess current usage and demand 2. Engage with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust to explore any existing or potential health-led initiatives involving cold water swimming 3. Assess the feasibility of opening existing shower and changing facilities at Tyrella Beach during the winter period 4. Consider the introduction of a pilot scheme to provide such facilities, with a view to gauging demand, usage, and overall benefit
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Resource implications</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Officer time will be required to progress engagement and feasibility work. There may be operational and maintenance costs associated with any future provision, with opportunities to explore external funding through partners.</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.2</p>	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.3</p>	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation – N/a</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	N/a
8.0	Background Documents
	N/a

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 May 2026
Subject:	Notice of Motion – Feasibility of a Dedicated Dog Exercise Area at Dunleath Park, Downpatrick
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey – Assistant Director of Healthy Living
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey – Assistant Director of Healthy Living

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0			Purpose and Background
1.1			<p>Purpose The purpose of this report is for members to consider the Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Galbraith regarding the potential creation of a dedicated dog exercise area within Dunleath Park, Downpatrick.</p> <p>Background At the Council Meeting on October 2025 Councillor Galbraith tabled the following Notice of Motion: <i>"This Council acknowledges growing concerns from members of the public regarding dog fouling and incidents involving off-lead dogs at Dunleath Playing Fields. In response, this Council agrees to explore the feasibility of creating a secure, fenced area within Dunleath Playing Fields where dog owners can safely exercise their dogs off lead."</i></p> <p>The Notice of Motion was referred to the Active & Healthy Communities Committee for consideration.</p>
2.0			Key issues
2.1			<p>At present, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council operates a large, dedicated dog exercise park over several acres of land at Delamont Country Park and has Committee approval for spaces at the Council's Forest Parks in Kilbroney and Castlewellan.</p> <p>Initial discussions with regards similar provision for dogs at Dunleath referenced the potential creation of a low-cost fenced facility using agricultural-style fencing on approximately one acre of land, including possible segregation for smaller and larger dogs.</p> <p>Dunleath Park functions as an important supporting recreational venue and flexible open space within the Downpatrick area. The proposal for a dedicated dog park at Dunleath references concerns raised regarding dog fouling and uncontrolled dogs</p>

	<p>within the facility. A further assessment of the following points would be required in order to potentially consider/progress the site as an appropriate location for a dedicated dog exercise facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future recreational and development requirements in Dunleath • Increased cleansing requirements • Potential surface deterioration and drainage challenges • Ongoing maintenance and inspection requirements • Dog control and enforcement requirements • Planning requirements • Equality and accessibility considerations • Health and safety requirements • Insurance and legal review • Consultation with DEA Members, residents, and park users • Capital allocation for the development site
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Members agree that consideration of a dedicated dog exercise facility should form part of a wider future development review for Dunleath Park and include engagement with Downpatrick DEA Members.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Any future proposal would require further financial assessment and consideration through the Council's capital and revenue budget processes.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation -N/a</i>	
	Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Rationale:</i>	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service	
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices	
	N/a	
8.0	Background Documents	
	N/a	

Report to:	Active & Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 18 May 2026
Subject:	Notice of Motion C/062/2026 – Unauthorised use of off-road vehicles on Council-owned land
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Alison Robb, Assistant Director Community Development
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Alison Robb, Assistant Director Community Development Martina Flynn, Head of Engagement

For decision	x	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>Purpose The purpose of this report is for the Active & Healthy Communities Committee to consider the Notice of Motion received from Councillor Mathers at the Council Meeting on 13 April 2026.</p> <p>Background At the Council Meeting on 13 April 2026 Councillor Mathers tabled the following Notice of Motion:</p> <p><i>"That this Council notes the ongoing and widespread community concern regarding the dangerous and unauthorised use of scramblers, quad bikes and other off road vehicles on Council owned land, open spaces, parks and public pathways; that our parks and public spaces are vital resources for the people of Newry, Mourne and Down, and should be protected, enhanced and kept safe for people; the increased risk these vehicles post to members of the public, including children, older people, dog walkers and other users of shared public spaces; the sometimes considerable damage casued to green spaces and sports pitches by repeated off road vehicle activity and the negative effect this has on biodiversity and our local environment; that existing legislation which restricts the use of mechanically propelled vehicles on land without the landowner's permission.</i></p> <p><i>This Council will actively engage with policy and the community to enforce this policy; audit all parks that are currently being used by these vehicles to ensure that entrance and exit points are properly secured and access to these sites are safe and pedestrian friendly.</i></p> <p><i>Calls on the Council to develop and enforce an implementation plan in collaboration with the PSNI and local stakeholders, including:</i></p>

	<p><i>* Regular joint operations and patrols in hotspot areas</i> <i>*Clear reporting pathways for the public</i> <i>*Use of signage and all other appropriate deterrent measures.”</i></p> <p>The Notice of Motion was referred to the Active & Healthy Communities Committee on 18 May 2026.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Under current legislation the use of off-road vehicles is not permitted on public roads, pavements or public spaces. The only legal place to use these vehicles is on private land, with the permission of the landowner. Enforcement of the legislation sits with PSNI. PSNI has indicated that there are challenges around enforcing the law in this regard for a variety of reasons including complexity of the legislation, resource constraints, operational risks – difficulties in apprehending riders without compromising public safety, competing priorities and resistance to engagement in some areas. Council has several legislative tools which may be considered to manage nuisance off-road vehicles including noise abatement notices and Public Space Protection Orders.</p> <p>Anyone who witnesses off-road scramblers being used in public areas, especially when causing distress or alarm are advised to contact the police immediately on 999 in an emergency or 101 in a non-emergency. This activity can also be reported to Council where it is on Council land with the possibility of investigation as to noise nuisance or damage to public property.</p> <p>Whilst Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP does engage Community Safety Wardens they do not possess formal enforcement powers and act primarily in an advisory and reporting capacity. The Wardens have recently given increased attention to areas where concerns have been reported regarding off-road vehicles (including around Martin’s Lane in Newry and Dunleath Skate Park in Downpatrick).</p> <p>The Healthy Living Department has confirmed that it regularly contacts PSNI with regards to the unauthorised use of off-road vehicles on Council land. Further the Department has a list of sites across the District where there is no authorised access for specified types of vehicles eg. e-scooters, scramblers, quad bikes.</p> <p>This issue is discussed regularly at DEA Meetings and the PCSP Anti-Social Behaviour Subgroup and has been agreed as a priority area.</p> <p>Council has previously, through the PCSP, issued Guidelines for Scrambler & Off-Road Vehicle Use in the District.</p>

2.2	<p>It is important to note that this unauthorised activity is not confined to young people and adults are very often involved also. A meeting was held with staff from the Respect Project and Council Officers on 5 May 2026 regarding this issue and they advised that their experience on the ground in Newry (including Derrybeg, Martin's Lane and The Meadow) was that more adults than young people are using scramblers, with e-scooter use more common with some of the young people they engage/work with. The Respect Project will be delivering their annual summer programme across Newry City for the PCSP/Council which could be used to highlight this issue.</p> <p>Contact has been made with a number of other Councils as to how they have sought to address this issue which is a province wide challenge. A range of initiatives have been considered/developed including intervention programmes, legal sites for scramblers, motorcycle awareness programmes and community funding to address improved community safety and tackle anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Given the negative impact the dangerous and unauthorised use of scramblers, quad bikes and other off road vehicle activity can cause to both communities and the environment a number of steps looking at prevention, education and enforcement are suggested to tackle this issue:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Officers in Community Development to hold an inter-agency meeting to agree an approach to address the problem of dangerous and unauthorised use of off-road vehicles focusing initially on current hotspot areas and agreeing an approach which can be used across the District as required;2. Relevant AHC Officers will identify hotspot sites used for illegal off-road vehicle activity and ensure clear signage is installed. This signage enables the PSNI to exercise their enforcement powers, including the seizure of vehicles;3. Community Development Officers to develop a District wide awareness campaign for off-road vehicles. Many users may not fully understand the legality or risk involved and a campaign will empower residents with the knowledge of how to report incidents correctly;4. Community Development Officers to engage with colleagues in the Youth Service and other providers around the development of educational workshops/diversionary activities in hotspot areas;5. Community Engagement to continue the provision of a small grants scheme through PCSP for local community groups to develop their own localised solutions for community safety/anti-social behaviour issues to address this problem;
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	<p>6. PSNI to be requested to increase patrols in known hotspot areas and focus on enforcement;</p> <p>7. The Respect Project to include the risks associated with off-road vehicles as part of their summer diversionary programme delivered on behalf of the PCSP/Council in summer 2026.</p> <p>8. Issue to be kept under review via relevant DEA Forums and the PCSP Anti-Social Behaviour Subgroup and a progress report brought back to Committee in due course.</p>
3.0	Recommendation
3.1	Members agree the steps set out in section 2.2 above to address the issue of unauthorised off-road vehicles on Council land.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	None identified currently.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>

5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation – N/a</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>None.</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>None.</p>