

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Ref: AHC/2020

---

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on  
Monday 16 November 2020 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams**

---

**Chairperson:** Councillor L McEvoy

**In attendance:** **(Councillors)**  
Councillor T Andrews Councillor C Casey  
Councillor A Finnegan Councillor H Gallagher  
Councillor M Gibbons Councillor G Malone  
Councillor C Mason Councillor K McKeivitt  
Councillor McMurray Councillor G O'Hare  
Councillor B Ó Muirí Councillor D Taylor  
Councillor J Trainor Councillor W Walker

**Also in attendance:** Councillor C Enright

**Officials in attendance:** Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing  
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement  
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport  
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer  
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

**AHC/133/2020: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

An apology was received from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities.

**AHC/134/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Casey declared an interest in relation to item AHC/053/2020 on the action sheet regarding lease of lands at Barcroft Community Centre as a member of Newry Felons.

At the request of the Chairperson it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Trainor to take item 10: Notice of Motion, Impact of Coronavirus on those living with Dementia at this point of the meeting.

**Councillor B Ó Muirí joined the meeting during the following item – 6.12pm.**

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

### **AHC/135/2020      NOTICE OF MOTION – IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS ON THOSE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor McEvoy:

**“This Council notes with concern figures showing that over a quarter (27.5%) of those who died from covid-19 were people living with dementia and this is the most common underlying health condition associated with deaths from the virus.**

**This Council welcomes the Minister for Health’s stated commitment to reforming Adult Social Care and urges his Department to heed Alzheimer’s Society’s “The Fog of Support: An inquiry into the provision of respite care and carers assessments for people affected by dementia” to ensure those living with dementia are better protected now and into the future, specifically allowing loved ones of care home residents to be given key worker status.**

**This Council will commit to build on the work of Alzheimer’s Society of creating Dementia Friendly Communities by hosting a virtual ‘Dementia Friendly Workshop’ which will increase the awareness and confidence of our staff to better relate to, support and communicate with people with dementia to help tackle stigma, establish best practice and reduce barriers for our ageing population within our Council area.”**

Councillor O’Hare seconded the motion.

In presenting the motion Councillor McEvoy advised that working within the Older People Sector, she had seen first-hand the impact COVID had had on those individuals who suffer from Alzheimer’s and dementia which was devastating, not only for the individual, but their family as well.

Councillor McEvoy pointed out the effects of the outbreak could not be undone, but urgent action could be taken to better protect people ahead of the winter, and in the future and that government needed to address the reality of lockdown for people affected by dementia. From the high death rate in care homes, to the significant cognitive decline for those who live in the community, to the rising mental health challenges for unpaid carers, the pandemic had had a severe impact, while exposing the fragmented social care system.

Councillor McEvoy asked that Council write to the Health Minister welcoming his commitment to reforming Adult Social Care and urge his department to heed Alzheimer’s Society ‘The Fog of Support’ to ensure those living with dementia were better protected now and into the future, allowing loved ones of care home residents to be given key worker status.

In summing up Councillor McEvoy requested that Council commit to building on the work of the Alzheimer’s Society of creating Dementia Friendly Communities by hosting virtual ‘Dementia Friendly Workshop’ which would increase awareness and confidence of staff to

better relate to, support and communicate with people with dementia to help tackle stigma, establish best practice and reduce barriers for our aging population within our Council area. Councillors Gallagher, Taylor, Walker, Ó Muirí and McMurray each spoke in support of the motion.

**Read:** Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a notice of motion on the impact of Coronavirus on those living with dementia. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor O'Hare that "This Council notes with concern figures showing that over a quarter (27.5%) of those who died from covid-19 were people living with dementia and this is the most common underlying health condition associated with deaths from the virus. This Council welcomes the Minister for Health's stated commitment to reforming Adult Social Care and urges his Department to heed Alzheimer's Society's "The Fog of Support: An inquiry into the provision of respite care and carers assessments for people affected by dementia" to ensure those living with dementia are better protected now and into the future, specifically allowing loved ones of care home residents to be given key worker status. This Council will commit to build on the work of Alzheimer's Society of creating Dementia Friendly Communities by hosting a virtual 'Dementia Friendly Workshop' which will increase the awareness and confidence of our staff to better relate to, support and communicate with people with dementia to help tackle stigma, establish best practice and reduce barriers for our ageing population within our Council area."**

**Agreed:** **It was further agreed that the Health and Wellbeing department continued the ongoing work in relation to the issue of Dementia and seek to procure a Virtual Dementia Workshop for elected members and employees.**

**AHC/136/2020: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2020**

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 October 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

*AHC/206/2019: Suicide Down to Zero*

In response to a request from Councillor Mason for an update on the working group with the Southern and South Eastern Trusts, Mr E Devlin advised that due to the escalation of the Covid situation, it had not progressed any further at this stage however he would contact the Health Trusts.

**Agreed: Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing to contact Southern and South Eastern Health Trusts to progress the Suicide Down to Zero Working Group.**

**Agreed: It was agreed by all to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 October 2020.**

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**AHC/137/2020 DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding the District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums update. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to note the report provided and approve the actions in the actions sheets for:**

- **Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 20 October 2020**
- **Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 22 October 2020**
- **Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 27 October 2020.**
- **Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 27 October 2020.**

**AHC/138/2020 PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN**

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to approve the following**

**recommendations which were agreed by the Peace IV Partnership on 5 November 2020:**

- **Procure and appoint relevant facilitator to deliver 1 BME Engagement Mechanism with the Syrian Community. Estimated cost: £9000.00 (subject to SEUPB approval).**
- **When designs and costs have been finalised and approved by CPD/SEUPB, delegated authority to proceed with the implementation of the BMX Track project in line with agreed timeframe and associated costs.**
- **When costs are agreed, approval to progress the Tom Dunn project in line with agreed timeline and associated costs (subject to SEUPB approval).**

## **LEISURE AND SPORTS**

**AHC/139/2020**

### **TROPICANA UPGRADE WORKS**

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding upgrade work required for Tropicana.  
**(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Walker advised he would not be supporting the report and recommendations on upgrade work for the Tropicana, as he did not believe it was value for money with the current economic climate due to Covid.

Mr Tamati pointed out the upgrade works would ensure the Tropicana would be usable for a further 3-5 years and that in its current state, the Tropicana facility would be unable to open. He added that should Covid restrictions be lifted and works not undertaken, the Tropicana facility would not open next season, July and August 2021.

In response to a query from Councillor Trainor, Mr Tamati confirmed that during the months of July and August for the 2019/20 period there had been just over 11,000 users of the facility.

A discussion ensued during which Councillors McMurray, Gallagher, Mason and Trainor supported the officers report and recommendation regarding upgrade works for the Tropicana.

Councillor Gibbons proposed to accept the officers report and recommendation, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.

The Chairperson put Councillor Gibbons proposal to a vote and asked for a show of hands, the results of which were as follows:

For: 14  
Against: 1

The proposal was carried.

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, to approve the following:
- An additional £150k to be committed to Councils Capital programme split across the 2020/21 and 2021/22 for upgrade works at Tropicana.
  - To progress with the Appoint of a consultant to develop specification and design for mechanical plant upgrade works.
  - To appoint contractors to undertake the proposed repair and upgrade works.

**AHC/140/2020**      **NEWCASTLE CENTRE – REPAIRS TO STRUCTURAL STEELWORK OF NEWCASTLE CENTRE AUDITORIUM EXTENSION**

**Read:** Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding Newcastle Centre, repairs to structural steelwork of Newcastle Centre Auditorium extension. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to points raised by Councillors Mason and Trainor, Mr Tamati clarified that by appointing a consultant, options could be identified to help resolve the issues relating to the structural steelwork and that it was hoped that this would be done within a 12-month period.

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to approve the following:
- Immediate erection of scaffolding to the elevations of the steelwork at the Newcastle Centre auditorium extension to secure the area at an estimated cost of 40k per annum.
  - Appoint consultants to explore options for additional support for the structure or any other possible alternatives along with associated costs at an estimated cost of 10k.

**AHC/141/2020**      **ROCKPOOL UPDATE**

**Read:** Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding an update on the Rockpool. **(Copy circulated)**

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt to approve the following:
- Appoint specialist consultants to undertake exploratory works at Rockpool and ensure associated cost estimates of £50k are included in Councils Capital Programme for 2020/21 to facilitate this.
  - Immediately appoint a contractor to remove the upper viewing platform at Rockpool.

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding Christmas and New Year opening hours for leisure. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Trainor in relation to how opening hours were determined, Mr Tamati advised opening hours had been reduced historically with low usage over the holiday period and were agreed when the Councils merged.

Councillor Trainor queried why particular hours were being chosen and whether users were consulted with regarding the opening times during this period. Mr Tamati advised he was happy to examine usage during this year's Christmas and New Year holiday period to inform next year.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Trainor subject to COVID-19 Restrictions to approve the following opening arrangements for leisure facilities over the 2020/21 Christmas and New Year period:  
**Newry, Downpatrick and Kilkeel Leisure Centres**

- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Closed
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Closed
- Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Closed
- Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Open Reduced Hours 10am – 4pm
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Open Reduced Hours 9:30am – 4pm
- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Open Reduced Hours 9:30am – 4pm
- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Open Reduced Hours 9:30am – 4pm
- Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 Open Reduced Hours 9:30am – 4pm
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 Closed
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 Open Normal Hours

**Ballymote and Newcastle Centre**  
Closed Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 (inclusive), excludes statutory essential bookings which will be accommodated if required.

**St Colman's and Outdoor Leisure Facilities**

- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Closed
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Closed
- Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Closed, excludes grass pitches by approval for league matches if required.
- Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Open as per booking demand
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Open as per booking demand
- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Open as per booking demand

- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Open as per booking demand
- Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 Open as per booking demand
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 Closed
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 Open Normal Hours

**Agreed:** It was agreed to examine the usage within leisure for 2020 Christmas and New Year period to inform decisions on opening hours for future years.

Councillor Trainor left the meeting at this point – 7pm.

**AHC/143/2020**      **CONSULTATION OF THE FOOD HYGIENE RATING ACT (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS (NI) 2020**

**Read:** Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a consultation response to the Food Standards Agency on the proposed guidance on the Food Hygiene Rating Act (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Mason, to approve the submission of the consultation response as outlined within the officer’s report to the Food Standards Agency on the proposed guidance on the Food Hygiene Rating Act (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2020.

**AHC/144/2020**      **CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF THE GUIDANCE ON THE SAFETY AND SHELF-LIFE OF VACUUM AND MODIFIED ATMOSPHERE PACKED CHILLED FOOD WITH RESPECT TO NON-PROTEOLYTIC AND CLOSTRIDIUM BOTULLNUM – CHILLED FRESH BEEF, LAMB AND PORK**

**Read:** Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a consultation response to the Food Standards Agency on the review of the Guidance on the safety and shelf-life of vacuum and modified atmosphere packed chilled food with respect to non-proteolytic *Clostridium botulinum* – chilled fresh beef, lamb and pork. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Walker, to approve the submission of the consultation response as outlined within the officer’s report to the Food Standards Agency on the review of the Guidance on the safety and shelf-life of vacuum and modified atmosphere packed chilled food with respect to non-proteolytic *Clostridium botulinum* – chilled fresh beef, lamb and pork.



**AHC/145/2020            UPDATE ON LIVE HERE LOVE HERE**

**Read:**                            Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding an update on Live Here Love Here **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                        **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to continue to support Live Here Love Here for the 2020-2021 period at a cost of £26000, subject to approval within the estimates process.**

**FOR NOTING – HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**AHC/146/2020            UPDATE ON WALKING AND CYCLING STRATEGY**

**Read:**                            Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding an update on proposals for the Walking and Cycling Strategy **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                        **It was agreed to note the contents of the update report on Active Travel work.**

**AHC/147/2020            ALL PARTY GROUP ON REDUCING HARM RELATED TO GAMBLING – INQUIRY CALL FOR EVIDENCE**

**Read:**                            Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding an all Party Group on reducing harm related to gambling – Inquiry Call for Evidence. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                        **It was agreed to note the comments outlined within the report and as returned to the All-party Group and the Terms of Reference.**

**ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014**

**AHC/148/2020            SINGLE TENDER ACTION – INDOOR LEISURE**

**Agreed:**                        **On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the**

**public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr Paul Tamati Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding single tender action for indoor leisure. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: Mr Tamati advised point 9 of the recommendation contained within the report should read Facility Alarms (and not Fire Alarms)

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, to approve the single tender actions to be completed as outlined within the officer's report for the following:**

- 1. Pool Plant Servicing, Repairs and Maintenance**
- 2. Pool Chemicals**
- 3. Air Conditioning and Ventilation**
- 4. Building Management Systems**
- 5. Pool Moving Floor Servicing**
- 6. Gas Supply's**
- 7. Royal Lifesaving Society NPLQ**
- 8. Music Licensing PRS PLL**
- 9. Facility Alarms**

**AHC/149/2020**

**EMERGENCY BUSINESS PLAN OCTOBER 2020 – MARCH 2021**

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Michael Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding the Active and Healthy Communities Departmental Emergency Business Plans for October 2020 – March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to approve the Active and**

**Healthy Communities Departmental Emergency Business Plans October 2020 - March 2021.**

Councillor Finnegan left the meeting at this point – 7.15pm

**AHC/150/2020**

**MOORHILL QUARRY – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

**Read:** Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr Paul Tamati Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding an expression of interest relating to Moorhill Quarry. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gibbons, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, to approve the business case submission from Mountaineering Ireland for Moorhill Quarry which had been evaluated and met the minimum threshold under the Sports & Community Facility Management & Leasing Policy (2016) and that Moorhill Quarry progress to a public EOI process in line with the Sports & Community Facility Management & Leasing Policy (2016).

Councillor Casey paid tribute to former Bolton City Council Mayoress, Gay Wharton who had been tragically killed. Councillor Casey advised he had had the pleasure of meeting Mrs Wharton when a delegation from the legacy Newry and Mourne Council had visited Bolton City Council in the past and proposed a letter of sympathy be sent to her family from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal.

**Agreed**

**It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Andrews to send a letter of sympathy to the family of former Bolton City Council Mayoress, Mrs Gay Wharton.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.30pm.

Signed: Councillor L McEvoy  
Chairperson

Signed: Janine Hillen  
Assistant Director Community Engagement