

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2021

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 October 2021 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Estate and via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor K McKevitt (Chamber)

In attendance in Chamber: Councillor A Finnegan Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor A McMurray Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor G Sharvin

In attendance via Teams: Councillor C Casey Councillor V Harte
Councillor G Malone Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor J Tinnelly Councillor W Walker

**Also in attendance
via Teams:** Councillor T Andrews Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor O Hanlon Councillor D McAteer

**Officials in attendance
In Chamber:** Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in attendance
Via Teams:** Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/188/2021: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Gallagher and Trainor.

The Chairperson requested letters of congratulations be sent to Downpatrick RGU who beat Kilcoo GAC in the Ladies Intermediate A Championship final and to Burren GAA who beat Teconnaught GAC in the Ladies Intermediate B Championship final at the weekend.

The Chairperson acknowledged the efforts of local GAA clubs in lighting up their clubs for Baby Loss Awareness Week.

The Chairperson advised she had the honour of attending a reception at the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle on 17 October 2021 for the launch of the County Down Golf Classic.

Members were asked to help share and promote the wellbeing and support events being run by Council on social media.

AHC/189/2021:

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairperson declared an interest in item 14: Nuclear Free Local Authorities Membership Fee 2021/22.

AHC/190/2021:

**ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 September 2021. **(Copy circulated).**

AHC/206/2019: Adoption of Suicide down to Zero

Mr Devlin took the opportunity to remind and encourage Members to attend a Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Virtual Workshop scheduled to take place on 19 October 2021.

AHC/176/2021: Notice of Motion, Wheelchair Beach Access

Mr Lipsett advised discussions were ongoing with Outdoor Recreation NI in relation to the possibility of an audit of beaches in line with disablement guidance with the May Murray Foundation and others, and that he hoped to be in the position to provide a report at the Committee Meeting in November.

AHC/120/2019: New Model Farm Community Centre Proposal, Downpatrick

Councillor Sharvin enquired about the planning application for the Flying Horse Trojan Project and when the funding application would be submitted.

Mrs Hillen confirmed the planning application had not yet been submitted and officers were in discussions with funders and local groups about the proposals and an update report would be provided at the next Committee Meeting.

AHC/120/2021: Upgrade Works to Ballynahinch Community Centre and Market House, Ballynahinch

Councillors Walker and Andrews welcomed the news that the upgrade works were progressing and thanked Mr Lipsett and Mrs Hillen for all their work.

AHC/099/2021: Fairtrade Signage

In response for an update from Councillor Andrews in relation to Fairtrade Signage, Mr Devlin confirmed he would contact him directly and bring an update report to Committee in November.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 September 2021.

AHC/191/2021

NOTICE OF MOTION – RIGHTS OF NATURE

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Notice of Motion relating to Rights of Nature **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Gibbons thanked officers for the report and recommendations stating he welcomed the motion being tabled at the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum and looked forward to issues within the motion being debated at the Forum.

Councillor McMurray thanked Cllr Gibbons for the collaborative approach taken regarding the motion and spoke at length about points raised to him from young people within the District, including local naturalist Dara McAnulty and Lily McMurray. Councillor McMurray stated he was happy to support the motion and keen to see how it could progress and be integrated into Council's system thinking.

Councillor Ó Muirí spoke in support of the motion and the importance it had in heightening awareness on a very important issue.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Finnegan for the following:**
1. Councillor Gibbons be invited to table the motion at the next meeting of the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum in December 2021.
2. The Sustainability and Climate Change Forum consider the actions and propose an action plan.
3. That the 'Rights of Nature' be reflected in the ongoing development of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/192/2021

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Financial Assistance **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Sharvin commented that as a Council it should be proud at the number of themes made available to the community and enquired about Sports Capital Grants and the ability to apply in this call even if a grant had already been awarded for this financial year.

Mrs Hillen confirmed there should not be an overlap in applications in any way, and any group that was awarded funding within this financial year would be safe and separate to this call. Mrs Hillen further explained the reason financial assistance calls were released early was to allow groups to have prior notification of what money they could spend in the next financial year.

Mrs Hillen advised that should groups have any issues that they let officers know and that Members should encourage groups to attend training sessions to assist in the applications process.

In response to a query by Councillor O'Hare regarding available funding for dual language signage within the Crotlieve area, Mrs Hillen confirmed she would have to examine the eligibility criteria within certain themes and would discuss the matter with the team and report

back to Councillor O'Hare. Councillor Ó Muirí suggested that officers tie in with Irish Language Strategy Working Group.

Councillor Ó Muirí praised the Financial Assistance Call, however expressed concern at how some quality projects that required funding don't received it due to not having the skill set for filling out applications and confirmed he would be encouraging groups to partake in the training.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to approve the recommendations as outlined in Section 1.1. and to note the issues in Section 2.1 of the officer's report and undertake the recommendations associated with each.**

AHC/193/2021 DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muirí expressed his disappointment at the absence of reports from the Slieve Gullion DEA meetings being presented at the Active and Healthy Communities Committee. Mrs Hillen confirmed she would investigate the matter and report back to Councillor Ó Muirí directly.

In response to Councillor McEvoy who enquired about the completion of works and outstanding equipment for the Ballymartin Play Park, Mr Tamati confirmed he would report back directly.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached to the officer's report for:**

- **Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 21 September 2021.**
- **Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 29 September 2021.**

AHC/194/2021 WOMENS AID ARMAGH DOWN

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Women's Aid Armagh Down. **(Copy circulated)**

In proposing the officer's recommendation Councillor McEvoy stated it was imperative to help Women's Aid get all the help and support they needed to ensure that the work they do was sustainable for the future.

Councillor McEvoy informed Members that the newly formed Councils Women's Working Group had invited Women's Aid to come and make a presentation and suggested that this be opened to all Councillors to raise awareness of the services they provide.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, to endorse the Women's Aid Armagh Down ELEOS Project and confirm same in writing for the purposes of funding applications.

AHC/195/2021 **COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB**

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Community Coordination Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to note the report and agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 29 September 2021.

AHC/196/2021 **RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS**

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding the Recruitment of Independent Members to District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillors Ó Muirí, Finnegan and Casey spoke of the importance of having community representatives on the DEA Forums and how this would encourage people to get enthusiastic.

Councillor Finnegan asked that community associations become involved.

Councillor Sharvin spoke of the challenges from members having been there since the DEA Forums were formed and also challenges in relation to the capital element of it and work to deliver something on the ground within DEAs as opposed to programmes.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, to note the report and approve the following recommendations:

- Recommendation 1 - The Strategic Stakeholder Forum (SSF) provide a Reference Group from amongst the SSF members to advise on applications for Independent Membership of the DEA Forums as per the amended District Electoral Area (DEA) Fora Revised Terms of Reference & Operating Protocol in Appendix 1 (amendment shown in red at the bottom of page 2).
- Recommendation 2
With the agreement of SEUPB, the proposed PEACE IV funded Training Programme for DEA Forum Members be amended to provide a Capacity Building Programme for potential DEA Forum Independent Member Applicants for the 2022-2026 term as set out in Appendix 2.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/197/2021 LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL HOME FIRE SAFETY FACILITY (REFERRED FROM COUNCIL MEETING)

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mr E Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing regarding a request for a letter of support for a Regional Home Fire Safety Facility. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Walker agree to send letter of support to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council regarding a Regional Home Fire Safety Facility.**

AHC/198/2021 CONSULTATION ON THE FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY'S (FSA) PROPOSAL TO ALLOW FLOUR MILLERS TO PLACE UNFORTIFIED FLOUR ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND MARKET

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mr E Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing regarding a consultation on the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) proposal to allow Flour Millers to place unfortified flour on the Northern Ireland Market.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to return the consultation response attached to the officer's report.**

AHC/199/2021 SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM – ACTION SHEET FOR MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing regarding the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to approve the actions in Sustainability and Climate Change Forum the attached Action Sheet.**

AHC/200/2021 NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN ACTIVE TRAVEL MASTERPLAN

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding the Newry Mourne and Down Active Travel Masterplan. **(Copy circulated)**

In proposing the adoption of the Newry Mourne and Down Active Travel Masterplan, the Chairperson referred to Minister Mallon's comment regarding a cycling and walking commitment for Newry to Narrow Water Programme which was within the Masterplan.

Councillor Ó Muirí welcomed and seconded the Masterplan highlighting the need to promote safe routes for schools and children.

During discussion, Councillor Sharvin referred to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee proposal for Council to apply to the Complementary Fund as part of the Belfast City Region Deal and enquired if the Masterplan would feed into that fund. He also expressed concern at the element to undertake a trial closure of Downpatrick's retail core and that businesses may not be content with that but also welcomed the many great projects contained within it.

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin regarding funding, Mr Devlin advised it had not been considered within the complementary fund however confirmed that DFI were much more engaged with Council.

Cllr McMurray referred to his area of Slieve Croob and welcomed the Masterplan in allowing a direction of travel and asked that Members be involved.

Councillor Casey spoke at length about the Towpath in Newry and the need for more investment from the Department for Communities for cycle lanes, road marking etc.

In welcoming the Masterplan Councillor McAteer asked officers to note the following:

- There was no linkage at Ballyholland Courtney Hill and Temple Hill Roads
- There was an omission in recognising the road past Narrow Water Castle to the old Castle and Sustrans should be asked to note that
- The need for emphasis on linking the Narrow Water Bridge with Carlingford to Newry Greenway.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to approve the adoption of the Newry, Mourne and Down Active Travel Masterplan.

Having previously declared an interest in the following item, the Chairperson vacated the Chair. Councillor Casey, as Vice-Chairperson assumed the Chair – 7.04pm

AHC/201/2021 NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITIES' MEMBERSHIP FEE 2021/2022

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Nuclear Free Local Authorities' Membership Fee 2021/22. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to approve paying the annual subscription for membership of the NFLA to the value of £1283.00.

The Chairperson resumed the Chair – 7.05pm

AHC/202/2021 SEAFLAG FUNDING APPLICATION

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Seaflag Funding Application. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin, Mr Devlin confirmed local groups would be

provided with litter pickers as requested.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McMurray, to proceed with the application to SeaFlag Marine and Coastal Plastic Anti-Litter ('MACPAL') Programme and to provide the match funding should the application be approved.

AHC/203/2021 **CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT THIRD CYCLE RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021-2027**

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a consultation on the Draft Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan 2021-27. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to concerns raised by Councillor McMurray regarding blue green algae on Castlewellan and Camlough Lakes and from Councillor Casey regarding Newry Canal, Mr Devlin agreed to incorporate that to the consultation response.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, to approve the Consultation response as attached to the officer's report. The response would be returned by the required date (10th October) on the proviso that it was subject to Council Approval.

AHC/204/2021 **CANCER STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND 2021-31**

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a Cancer Strategy for Northern Ireland 2021-31. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to approve the submission of the completed consultation questionnaire as attached to the officer's report.

AHC/205/2021 **LEISURE PUBLIC HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2021/22**

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding Leisure Public Holiday Arrangements 2021/22. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Harte, to approve the leisure public holiday arrangements for 2021/2022 period as per appendix 1 of the officer's report.

AHC/206/2021

COMMUNITY PLANNING REVIEW

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding the Community Planning Review. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, that a third party be employed to facilitate workshops engaging the key stakeholders identified in section 2.2 and 2.3 of the officer's report, and to produce a draft review of the community plan.

AHC/207/2021

REQUEST TO COUNCILLOR BROWN FROM THE MID DOWN INTEGRATED COLLEGE STEERING GROUP TO PRESENT TO COUNCIL

Read/: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding a request to Councillor Brown from the Mid Down Integrated College Steering Group to present to Council. **(Copy circulated)**

A lengthy discussion ensued during which Councillor Walker proposed to agree to the officer's report and recommendation. This was seconded by Councillor McMurray.

Councillor Ó Muirí proposed that the following amendment be made:
To hold an information/education workshop to receive deputation from the Mid Down Integrated College Steering Group and invite other sectors of education along with two Councillors from each Political Party to attend also. This was seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

Councillor Walker agreed to the amendment. The amendment was not accepted by the seconder, Councillor McMurray.

Councillor Sharvin pointed out this was a group requesting to meet and urged caution at setting a precedent stating that previously officers would have met with groups such as this and presented a report to Committee.

Mr Lipsett advised that Active and Healthy Community officers met with CCMS, Department of Education, Education Authority, Board of Governors etc regularly and suggested officers could have the group present to them and report back to Committee.

Following discussion, the Chairperson put the proposed amendment from Councillor Ó Muirí to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	10
AGAINST:	1
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The proposal was CARRIED.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to hold an information/education workshop to receive deputation

from the Mid Down Integrated College Steering Group and invite other sectors of education along with two Councillors from each Political Party to attend also.

AHC/208/2021 POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP)

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement regarding Minutes from the Policing and Community Safety Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to note the report and the Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 20 July 2021, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on Thursday 30 September 2021.

AHC/209/2021 DOWNPATRICK NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement regarding Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to note the report and action Sheet of Downpatrick NRP Meeting held on Tuesday 11 May 2021, approved at Downpatrick NRP Meeting held on Tuesday 14 September 2021.

AHC/210/2021 NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 18 October 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement regarding Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to note the report and the Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 30 June 2021, approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 29 September 2021.

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

AHC/211/2021 LEASING OF LAND AT DARRAGH CROSS GAC AND TECONNAUGHT GAC – COUNCIL PLAY STRATEGY

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Harte, 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 18 October 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding the leasing of land at Darragh Cross GAC and Teconnaught GAC, Council Play Strategy. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin seconded by Councillor McEvoy, subject to all statutory approvals being in place, to enter into a 25-year lease with Darragh Cross GAC and Teconnaught GAC as outlined in appendix 1 and 2 of the officer's report to facilitate the establishment of play parks in these areas as per Councils play strategy.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.46pm.

Signed: Councillor K McKevitt
Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett
Director Active and Healthy Communities