

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Ref: AHC/2021

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**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on  
Monday 19 April 2021 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor L McEvoy

**In attendance:** **(Councillors)**  
Councillor T Andrews                      Councillor C Casey  
Councillor A Finnegan                      Councillor M Gibbons  
Councillor C Mason                          Councillor McKeivitt  
Councillor McMurray                        Councillor B Ó Muirí  
Councillor D Taylor                         Councillor W Walker

**Officials in attendance:** Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
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/065/2021:                      **APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS****

Apologies were received from Councillors Malone and Trainor.

The Chairperson thanked Councillor O'Hare for chairing the Active and Healthy Committee Meetings whilst she had been off and thanked Members for their kind wishes following the birth of her son.

**AHC/066/2021:                      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST****

Councillor McKeivitt declared an interest in item 21, Ballyholland GAC Lease.

**AHC/067/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15 MARCH 2021**

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

*AHC/049/2021: Installation of RAPID bins on Council sites*

In response for an update from Councillor Andrews regarding the possibility of installing a RAPID bin at the Bridge Centre Killyleagh, Mrs Hillen confirmed she had spoken with Members about their requests for additional bins and had asked PCSP to keep those areas in consideration for any future RAPID Bins going into the District.

*AHC/047/2021: Play Strategy Update*

At the request of Councillors Mason and Andrews, Mr Tamati agreed to report back directly to them regarding an update on new builds and consolidations including Teconnaught, Hillfoot 1 and 2, Ballynahinch and Darragh Cross.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Mason to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 March 2021.**

**AHC/068/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION: COVID 19, MENTAL HEALTH**

Read: Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding a Notice of Motion on Covid 19, Mental Health. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Mason spoke on behalf of Councillor Howell and welcomed the report in a time when there was a mental health crisis resulting from the Covid pandemic.

Councillor Mason commented that Councillor Howell wished to ensure there was a new emphasis put on mental health and a budget allocated as a matter of priority to give young people the tools to build resilience over the months and years to come.

Mrs Hillen pointed out the report provided a snapshot of activity ongoing in relation to mental health within the DEAs and that there were a host of initiatives also being undertaken by Health and Wellbeing and Leisure and Sport departments.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor O'Hare to note the report and approve the following proposed actions for the DEA Forums and DEA Coordinators in response to the Notion of Motion:**

- 1. Mental Health and Wellbeing to be placed as an agenda item for the next scheduled meeting of each DEA Forum.**
- 2. DEA Coordinators to continue to engage groups and services to effectively promote support available for Mental Health and Wellbeing.**
- 3. Agreement to be sought from the Council's Community Coordination Hub (CCH) to provide the DEA Forums with a programme budget (through the DfC COVID-19 response & recovery funding that is**

administered by the CCH with AHC Committee approval) to support local Mental Health and Wellbeing initiatives and programmes and provide a coordinated response with key partners.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### AHC/069/2021      PEACE PLUS CONSULTATION

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding consultation on PEACE PLUS Programme 2021-2027. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Casey, to submit the draft consultation response to meet SEUPB deadlines and subsequently present to AHC & Council for consideration and final approval. Council to consider resources required to assist with the development of the Peace Plus District Plan.**

### AHC/070/2021      COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding an update on the Community Coordination Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor McKevitt regarding funding and if it was only open to groups who had applied in the first round, Mrs Hillen confirmed there were still opportunities for groups to get involved.

Councillor Ó Muirí commended the work of the Community Coordination Hub and spoke about its importance in identifying those areas within the community most at risk and in need and how if anything was ever to happen again Council would be quick to respond and know exactly where to target.

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached within the report for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 24 March 2021.**

**Mr Lipsett joined the meeting at this stage – 6.15pm**

AHC/071/2021

**DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding DEA Forums Update Report. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillors McMurray, Mason and Andrews welcomed the proposal for the provision of plaques to those groups who had assisted DEAs with the Food Parcel Delivery Scheme.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Mason, to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 31 March 2021 and approve the proposal that the Council through the DEAs provides plaques to those groups who assisted the DEAs with the COVID-19 Food Parcel Delivery Scheme between April and July 2020 to thank them for their assistance to the DEAs during the scheme and their service to their local communities.

AHC/072/2021

**DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – COVID FOOD & ESSENTIAL ITEMS TRANSITION FUND**

Read: Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding a draft Memorandum of understanding, Covid Food and Essential Items Transition Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muirí welcomed the funding from DfC as a huge boost to strategically plan for recovery and the future. Councillors Andrews and McKevitt also spoke in support of the funding.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Andrews to note the report and give approval to the Council's COVID-19 Community Coordination Hub (CCH) to distribute, allocate or award the £143,729.12 of COVID-19 Food & Essential Supplies Transition Funding provided by the Department for Communities (DfC), in keeping with the purposes of and conditions of the funding.

AHC/073/2021

**COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS AT MEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Read: Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding community allotments at Meigh Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillors Finnegan, McMurray and Ó Muirí spoke in support of the community allotments.

Mrs Hillen confirmed approaches from community groups to set up initiatives such as this were welcomed.

Mr Devlin advised there was a financial assistance call out for community growing schemes and the sustainability section worked with City Farms Organisation to promote allotments and grow your own across the District.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor McMurray to permit Meigh Community Association to use vacant land beside the playpark at Meigh Community Centre and that this proposal is built into the groups Facilities Management Agreement with Council.

**AHC/074/2021**      **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – CALL 1**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Financial Assistance, Call 1, 2021-22. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- The attached appendices for revenue and capital projects within the report.
- Disaggregate the Minor Items from the Sports Development Summer programmes. Incorporating a cap of £2500 for Sports Development Summer programmes.
- Undertake a mid-year review of capital budgets to identify any potential shortfall to support successful Sports Development Minor Capital applicants.
- Pre-letter of offer conditions met prior to issue of full letter of offer.

**LEISURE AND SPORTS**

**AHC/075/2021**      **CYCLE HUB – DOWN LEISURE CENTRE/DUNLEATH PARK**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sports, regarding a Cycle Hub, Down Leisure Centre/Dunleath Park.

In welcoming the report, Councillor McMurray suggested officers reach out to Sustrans and also investigate the possibility of a pump track similar to the facility at Killinchy Community Centre.

Councillor Mason spoke in support of the scheme and welcomed making good use of the vast area at Dunleath Park with a bike park, skateboard park facility.

Mr Tamati confirmed that following on from a notice of motion to Council, officers were working closely with Downpatrick DEA members on developing proposals for Dunleath Park and he would raise the proposed idea of a pump track with that grouping.

In response to a request from Councillor Gallagher, Mr Tamati agreed to speak with Mr Patterson, Assistant Director, Tourism, Culture and Events regarding an upgrade of Castlewellan Pump Park as part of the Walking Trail Development.

In response to Councillor O'Hare's request for an update on Hilltown/Ardmore Area pump track, Mr Tamati confirmed it was being developed through the Community Trail Plans, which would be determined by funding and a report would be presented at a later time.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Mason for the following:**

- 1. To establish a cycle hub at Downpatrick Leisure Centre/Dunleath Park in partnership with Cycling Ireland.**
- 2. That Council enter into a license agreement and memorandum of understanding with Cycling Ireland and officers agree the detail of this in conjunction with Councils legal team.**

**AHC/076/2021** **COUNCIL PITCHES BEING USED FOR TRAINING PURPOSE AT THE REQUEST OF COUNCILLOR Ó MUIRÍ**

Councillor Ó Muirí advised he had requested the item be considered by the Committee as a lot of communication had been received in relation to the matter pertaining specifically to the South Down area.

Councillor Mason spoke at length about calls being received from local football clubs and whilst acknowledging there were grounds maintenance issues, there was a need to put arrangements in place to open areas to enable juveniles to train in these unprecedented times.

Councillor Mason also referred to issues relating to Council Policy that the pitches were not for training but for matches only, and the need to consider the unforeseen circumstances and prioritise young adults and children ability to train for their mental health and wellbeing. She pointed out that this further highlighted the underdeveloped and underinvested sports facilities, particularly for soccer specifically in and around the Downpatrick area and there was a need to discuss the sustainability of local youth leagues and plans for meeting the needs for the future of these clubs.

Councillor Mason proposed Council contact the local sports clubs affected to make arrangements for the use of these pitches and examine the Council policy to have it updated to allow training can be allowed. Councillor Ó Muirí seconded the proposal.

Councillor McMurray and Hanlon spoke in support of the proposal.

Mr Tamati confirmed there had been discussions and collaborative working with the Neighbourhood Services department regarding the protocol for training on grass pitches, especially with the announcement that matches were to recommence on 23 April 2021.

Mr Tamati confirmed he would work with the clubs and try and designate some grass pitches across the District, particularly in Downpatrick with a caveat for the preparation for matches.

Mr Lipsett added that officers would begin immediate joint-working with the Neighbourhood Services and Grounds Maintenance departments as there were a number of pitches that



**AHC/078/2021**

**SUSTAINABLE NI ANNUAL SUPPORT**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Sustainable NI Annual Support. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, to provide funding of £5000 to Sustainable NI for 2021-22 year and signing of an SLA with SNI.

**AHC/079/2021**

**FUNDING SUPPORT FOR HSENI PARTNERSHIP LIAISON OFFICER**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding contribution to the provision of a Partnership Liaison Officer between the 11 Councils and the Health and Safety Executive N. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to provide funding to support the HSENI Partnership Liaison Officer post.

**AHC/080/2021**

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE CONSULTATION –  
DECARBONISING ROAD TRANSPORT IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Committee of Infrastructure Consultation on Decarbonising Road Transport in Northern Ireland. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to approve the attached response to the Infrastructure Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly which had been returned by the requested date of 14 April 2021, with the caveat that it would need to receive Council approval.

**FOR NOTING**

**AHC/081/2021**

**2021/22 DfC AREAS AT RISK FUNDING FOR BESSBROOK AND CROSSMAGLEN**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding 2021/22 DfC Areas at Risk Funding for Bessbrook and Crossmaglen. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note the report and that Council secured £24,000 per location to run educational programmes for

residents from the Crossmaglen and Bessbrook areas, through DFC Areas at Risk funding.

**AHC/082/2021**

**POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP)**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Police and Community Safety Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** **It was agreed to note the report and the Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 19 January 2021, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on Tuesday 30 March 2021.**

**AHC/083/2021**

**NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** **It was agreed to note the report and the Minutes of Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on Wednesday 20 January 2021, approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 24 March 2021.**

**AHC/084/2021**

**SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Social Investment Fund Update. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** **It was agreed to note the report and the Minutes of the Social Investment Fund Capital Project Board Meeting held on Monday 18 January 2021.**

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

AHC/085/2021

**BALLYHOLLAND GAC LEASE – CONSENT TO DEVELOP LAND**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, 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 19 April 2021 from Mr P Tamati Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Ballyholland GAC Lease, Consent to Develop Land. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to consent to Ballyholland Harps GAC developing Council owned land currently leased to the club, as per the terms of the lease and subject to planning permission being granted for the proposed development.

AHC/086/2021

**LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND AND FACILITIES – EXPRESSIONS ON INTEREST**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, 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 19 April 2021 from Mr P Tamati Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Leasing of Council Land, Expressions of Interest. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to note the contents of the report and that Expressions of Interest for the following land and facilities will progress to stage 2 of the Sport and Leasing Policy 2016.

1. **Moorehill Quarry:** Adjacent to Newry recycling Centre, Newry.
2. **Derryleckagh Field/Land:** Adjacent to Derryleckagh playing fields, Newry.
3. **Generator House:** Adjacent to the yacht club, Newcastle.
4. **Burren Village Green Field/land:** Adjacent Play park and community centre, Burren.
5. **Drumaness Cricket Pitch:** Adjacent to Dan Rice Memorial Hall, Drumaness.
6. **Drumaness Soccer Pitch:** Adjacent to Dan Rice Memorial Hall, Drumaness.

**AHC/087/2021**

**FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR BATTERY STORAGE PILOT**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, 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 19 April 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding a Feasibility Study for Battery Storage Pilot. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Gallagher for Officers procuring a feasibility study to assess the suitability of Council community buildings with PV for battery storage pilot.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.38pm.

Signed: Councillor L McEvoy  
Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett  
Director Active and Healthy Communities