

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2021

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 September 2021 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Estate and via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor K McKevitt (Chamber)

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor C Casey	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor V Harte	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor K McKevitt
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor W Walker	

In attendance via Teams:

Councillor G Malone	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor J Tinnelly	

**Also in attendance
via Teams:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
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**Officials in attendance
In Chamber:**

Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer
Ms 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
Ms S McEldowney, Head of Sustainability
Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement

AHC/173/2021: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no apologies received.

The Chairperson portrayed her congratulations to Bethany Firth on her wonderful achievement of six Paralympic Games gold medals in Tokyo.

The Chairperson also commended the DEA Co-ordinators who organised the recent Walk for Life, Suicide Prevention Campaign.

Mr Lipsett advised the attachment for item 7 on the agenda had been omitted and was now available and should Members have any comments between this Committee Meeting and the next Council Meeting they could be forwarded if required.

AHC/174/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/175/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16 AUGUST 2021

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 August 2021. **(Copy circulated).**

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

In response for an update from Councillor Andrews regarding the upgrade works Mr Lipsett confirmed he would report back to him in the next week.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 August 2021.

AHC/176/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION – WHEELCHAIR BEACH ACCESS

Read: Report dated 20 September 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Notice of Motion referred from Council Meeting held on 2 August 2021 regarding accessibility onto beaches.

Councillor Brown presented his motion as follows:

"This Council supports accessibility for all our residents and notes the lack of accessibility onto beaches for those in wheelchairs in the Newry, Mourne and Down area. Therefore, Council will trial the provision of beach wheelchairs, 'floating' wheelchairs and beach access matting on Newcastle beach, with the intention of expanding to other beach areas in due course."

Councillor Lewis seconded the motion.

In presenting his motion, Councillor Brown welcomed the update provided and advised he would await the outcome of the report at the next Committee Meeting.

Councillor Harte voiced support for the motion and asked that thought be given to people with no mobility whatsoever. She referred to an ongoing consultation on Changing Places and asked that before Council implement a wheelchair beach access scheme, that a Changing Places trial take place, wherever provision was to be made.

Councillor Tinnelly spoke in support of the Motion and proposed that the pilot project should include the two blue flag beaches at Tyrella and Cranfield and Warrenpoint thereafter if it was a success.

Councillor Brown supported the comments made by Councillor Tinnelly and stated he was aware there had been previous work in relation to Cranfield Beach and that he was keen to see the report before speaking to it.

Councillor Sharvin spoke of challenges he faced getting onto beaches with mobility issues and whilst he would welcome the inclusion of Tyrella and Cranfield he highlighted other beaches at Kilclief, Killough, Rossglass and Minerstown. He advised he would like to see within the report how long the pilot was likely to take, and if successful, what beaches would be included within phase 2 and how access would be provided.

In speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Trainor referred to a motion brought forward previously in 2019 in relation to access onto Newcastle beach and commented about the need to ensure reports were brought back to Committee timely. He also referred to the ERT department and queried if it was the more fitting department to be leading on the matter.

Mr Lipsett advised he chaired a cross departmental working group involving three departments with the AHC Committee having responsibility for Community beaches, ERT Committee having responsibility for Blue Flag beaches and other issues such as Changing Places facilities and toilet provision being the responsibility of NHS Committee. Mr Lipsett provided an overview of the issues being faced across the board and advised a detailed report would be presented at the next Committee meeting.

Councillor Ó Muirí commented that it was vital for the pilot project for access onto beaches to be run side by side with the Changing Places Scheme.

Councillor Ó Muirí proposed an amendment to motion to read:

"This Council supports accessibility for all our residents and notes the lack of accessibility onto beaches for those in wheelchairs in the Newry, Mourne and Down area. Therefore, Council will trial the provision of beach wheelchairs, 'floating' wheelchairs and beach access matting on Newcastle beach, in conjunction with the rolling out of the Toilet Strategy and Changing Places Scheme and work with officers to make it happen at the same time as quickly as possible with the intention of expanding to other beach areas in due course."

This amendment was seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

Councillor Brown accepted the amendment and for officers to examine this as part of the report.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to amend the motion as follows:

"This Council supports accessibility for all our residents and notes the lack of accessibility onto beaches for those in wheelchairs in the Newry, Mourne and Down area. Therefore, Council will trial the provision of beach wheelchairs, 'floating' wheelchairs and beach access matting on Newcastle beach, in conjunction with the rolling out of the Toilet Strategy and Changing Places Scheme and work with officers to make it happen at the same time as quickly as possible with the intention of expanding to other beach areas in due course."

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/177/2021

DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 20 September 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report **(Copy circulated)**

DEA/N/2021/1 Kickabout Killeavy Road

In response to Councillor Casey, Mrs Hillen confirmed an update would be reported back to him as soon as possible.

DEA/N/2021/4 Extension at Monkshill Graveyard

Councillor Harte voiced concern at the need to install proper fencing between the Graveyard and the housing estate. Mr Lipsett confirmed he would pass this on to the Neighbourhood Services Department.

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

- Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 10 August 2021.
- Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 10 August 2021.
- Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 19 August 2021.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/178/2021

SUPPORT FOR GLASGOW DECLARATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Read: Report dated 20 September 2021 from Mr E Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing and presented by Ms Sheena McEldowney, Head of Sustainability regarding a request for the Council to support and sign the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí that Council signs the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration ahead of COP26 and joins the commitment and call to action for a food-systems approach to tackling the climate and nature emergency.

AHC/179/2021

CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

Read: Report dated 20 September 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing and presented by Ms Sheena McEldowney, Head of Sustainability regarding a call for a plan to eliminate plastic pollution. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McMurray enquired if there was something that could be done to cut down on waste from fast food provision. Mr Lipsett confirmed work was ongoing through the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum.

Ms McEldowney also advised the Council had a Single Use Plastics Group and the matter could be raised there, and officers could examine what other Councils and areas were doing to address this.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Lewis to return the attached Consultation response. The response would be submitted by the required date (1st October) on the proviso that it would be subject to Council Approval.**

AHC/180/2021

CONSULTATION ON PEATLAND STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 20 September 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy 2021-2040 Consultation Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy 2021-2040 Consultation. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McMurray, that the Committee agree to return the attached Consultation response. The response will be submitted by the required date (1st September) on the proviso that it will be subject to Council approval.**

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

AHC/181/2021

ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES SCHEME OF DELEGATION REPORT

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 20 September 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Active and Healthy Communities Scheme of Delegation Schedules for February to September 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Lipsett agreed following the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt to look into the potential to replace rough playing surface at McParland Park.

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to note the report and attachments.

AHC/182/2021

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT SAINTFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND WINDMILL FIELD

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 20 September 2021, from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Saintfield Community Centre and Windmill Field. **(Copy circulated)**

It was noted there would be no direct financial implications arising from the report and that the group had asked Council to supplement if there was a shortfall in matched funding however this request was not agreed, and the group would instead be referred to the

Council Financial Assistance Programme.

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to support their application to the Heritage Lottery Scheme and for the project generally and that the Council refer the group to the Council's Financial Assistance Programme.

AHC/183/2021

MARINE LITTER CAPITAL GRANT SCHEME

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy 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 20 September 2021, from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing and presented by Ms Sheena McEldowney, Head of Sustainability regarding Marine Litter Capital Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Council apply to the Marine Litter Capital Grant Programme for the programmes as detailed within the report.

AHC/184/2021

LEISURE COVID 19 REOPENING PLAN

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 20 September 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Covid 19 Indoor Leisure Reopening Plan **(Copy circulated)**

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

Councillor Trainor referred to the Ballymote Centre being used for Lateral Flow Testing and whether a marquee facility within the grounds could be used to allow more capacity within the building. Mr Lipsett confirmed he would revert the point made to Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services who was working with the South Eastern Trust and Public Health Agency on the matter.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Walker, to approve the recommendations of the report and all Indoor Leisure Facilities to reopen as per the COVID-19 Leisure reopening Plan as outlined in appendix 1.

Councillor Trainor left the meeting at this point – 7.06pm.

AHC/185/2021 No 16, the Square, Rostrevor

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 20 September 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update on Capital Works for No 16, the Square, Rostrevor **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to note the report and approve an additional £75,400 to be added to the Capital Programme to deliver the project.

AHC/186/2021

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – SAINTFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE
TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 20 September 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Expressions of Interest, Saintfield Community Centre **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor McMurray to approve the recommendations as set out in section 2.4 of the report.

AHC/187/2021

PEACE IV

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 20 September 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Casey to approve the recommendations of the PEACE IV Partnership as set out in section 2.3 of the report.

Mr Lipsett made the following statement on behalf of the Chief Executive:

“Due to the current legislative uncertainty around remote meetings and the restrictions on indoor gatherings, the Chief Executive also agrees to exercise her delegated authority under Standing Orders to implement the resolution of the Committee once ratified by Council, subject to any conflict of interest or legal advice that the decision is unlawful.”

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.22pm.

Signed: Councillor K McKevitt
Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett
Director Active and Healthy Communities