

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2026

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 27 April 2026 at 6.00pm in the Council Chambers, Downshire Civic Centre

Chairperson: Councillor C Bowsie

**In attendance in
Chamber:**

Councillor C Galbraith	Councillor J Jackson
Councillor A King	Councillor Lee-Surginor
Councillor A Mathers	Councillor K Murphy

**Committee Members in
attendance via Teams:**

Councillor J Brennan	Councillor D Finn
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor N Lawlor
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor J Truesdale

Officials in Chamber:

Mr A Patterson, Director, Active and Healthy Communities
Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy Living
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development
Ms D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
Mr C Smyth, Democratic Services Officer

Non-Committee Members

in Chamber: Councillor T Andrews

AHC/025/2026: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Howell and D Murphy.

On behalf of himself and Councillor Galbraith, the Chairperson extended congratulations to Leo Laverty from Star of the Sea Boxing Club, Killough on becoming a two-time All-Ireland Champion and commended him on an incredible achievement.

AHC/026/2026: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/027/2026: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2026

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 March 2026. **(Copy circulated)**.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 March 2026.**

AHC/028/2026: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUM UPDATE

Read: Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development, regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Truesdale requested an update on works for Donard Park. She also enquired that given a recent incident if additional security was to be examined for the gates in and out of Donard Park and asked for an update on opening hours.

Mr Haughey advised that regarding works to bollards in Donard Park, as agreed with local residents and the commercial businesses, this was currently progressing through the procurement process and it was hoped that this would be concluded in the coming weeks.

In referring to the recent incident Mr Haughey confirmed officers were examining the vandalism that took place and what repairs were required. He added there would be no change to the opening and closing times as per the consultation with the public.

Councillor Truesdale thanked the officer for the update.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor A King, it was agreed to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for:**

- **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**

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

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following items, which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (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.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor A King, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:

AHC/029/2026: 2026/27 COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Read: Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director of Community Development, regarding the Community Support Programme for 2026/27. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to proceed with the Community Support Programme as set out within the officer's report.

FOR NOTING

AHC/030/2026: POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP) & NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) UPDATES

Read: Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Community Development, regarding Policing and Community Safety Partnership and Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Mathers, it was agreed to note the contents of the report and to note the following:

- 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.

AHC/031/2026: SOCIAL INCLUSION UPDATE

Read: Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Community Development, regarding an update on Social Inclusion. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Mathers, it was agreed to note the officer's report.

Mrs Robb took the opportunity to advise Members the Financial Assistance Call 2 was currently open for Sports Facility and Community Capital (Major and Minor).

Members were asked to encourage groups to apply and attend the relevant workshops and if there were any issues to directly contact Mrs Robb and Mr Haughey's teams.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.13pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 5 May 2026.

Signed: _____
Councillor C Bowsie
Chairperson

Signed: _____
Andrew Patterson
Director Active and Healthy Communities