

## NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting  
held on Monday 12 April 2021 at 6.00pm remotely via Microsoft Teams**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor A McMurray

**In attendance:** **(Committee Members)**

Councillor R Burgess

Councillor D Curran

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor V Harte

Councillor R Howell

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor D McAteer

Councillor R Mulgrew

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor M Savage

Councillor G Stokes

Councillor J Tinnelly

**Non Members:** Councillor T Andrews

Councillor O Hanlon

Councillor L Devlin

Councillor D Taylor

**Officials in attendance:** Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism

Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture &  
Events

Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment &  
Regeneration

Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer

Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control &  
Regulations

Ms S Taggart Democratic Services Manager

Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

Ms P McKeever Democratic Services Officer

**Also in attendance:** Mr Colin Neill CEO Hospitality Ulster

Mr Stephen Magorrian Horatio Group

Ms Angela Reavey Independent Economic Assessor

**ERT/063/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

The Chairperson expressed his condolences to the Queen and her family on the passing of the late Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh. He said Prince Philip was a husband, a father, a grandfather and a great grandfather and he understood this was a difficult time for the family. He said Prince Philip was one of the last surviving veterans of World War II having served in the Royal Navy which would be of poignance to many people who had relatives who fought in this war and to whom have been paid homage to in the District by way of presentation of silver poppies. He spoke of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme which he himself had taken part in setting him on a trajectory to the career he now had in outdoor pursuits through which he can see the benefit and value the scheme has for young people.

The Chairperson extended thanks to the Chair of Council for opening an online Book of Condolences.

An apology was received from Councillor W Clarke.

**ERT/064/20201: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor R Burgess declared an interest in Item No. 8 regarding All Ireland Smart Cities, as he was a board member of the East Border Region.

Councillor T Andrews declared an interest in Item No. 8 regarding All Ireland Smart Cities, as he was a board member of the East Border Region.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**ERT/065/2021: PRESENTATION  
HOSPITALITY SECTOR COLLABORATION**

**Note:** Members from the Council's Covid Recovery Working Group were invited to be in attendance for this item.

Mr Colin Neill Chief Executive Hospitality Ulster thanked the Council for the opportunity to present to Members, and began his presentation together with Mr Stephen Magorrian Horatio Group.

The presentation included the following points which focused on an introduction to Hospitality Ulster and on the Hospitality Ulster Recovery Plan:

- Hospitality Ulster was created circa 1872 and it's membership today covers a base of pubs, restaurants, hotels, coffee shops, visitor attractions and airports with hospitality offerings.
- Provides the hospitality industry with an extensive range of resources and support, including one to one support, plus lobbying for the industry which is mainly made up of micro businesses.
- Hospitality within the Newry Mourne and Down District accounts for 25% of all private sector employment and is the fourth largest employer of private sector employment in Northern Ireland.
- Pre Covid the industry generated an annual turnover of £2billion, sustained 72,000 jobs, bought one third of Northern Ireland agri-food and accounted for two thirds of tourism spend.
- The Hospitality Ulster Recovery Plan took approximately 3 months to develop with the assistance of economists, strategists' and the establishment of a strategy group within the Hospitality Ulster Board.
- The plan takes a very strategic and long term approach to recovery - consumer habits and trends have changed and the plan takes into account the role of the hospitality industry going forward in a changed environment; the circular economy will be key to ensure businesses support local suppliers and important that business know who local suppliers are.
- Endeavour to work with Council to identify opportunities to build together in terms of hospitality and tourism.
- The closure of hospitality has shown the knock on effect this has had on other industries.
- Hospitality is an industry that young people can join without the need for a lot of qualifications, learn skills, run their own business with little investment and provide many opportunities including travelling the world.
- There is a concern that many Hospitality Ulster members, which are small businesses, will be returning to higher costs; supplier costs will increase due to Covid and Brexit and there will be a role for Hospitality Ulster and the Council going forward as it will be vitally important people are prepared in the right way for the changes ahead.

- The Recovery Paper is about rebuilding, revitalising and re-imagining what the future might be post Covid and help people rethink their businesses.
- A Webinar will open on 20 April 2021, in partnership with Hospitality Ulster and Council which will be open to any hospitality business, whether member or non member. The Webinar will help people to revisit their business model and look at what will need to be addressed as businesses prepare to reopen.

Discussion followed during which the following points and responses were raised:

- How can pubs and hospitality business with little space be supported.
- Pub is the Hub – very important in rural communities and we should lobby Department for Communities to put proper legislation in place to allow community hubs.
- Did businesses benefit from Eat Out to Help Out initiative and hotel vat reductions, and will the introduction of 5% vat on high streets be beneficial?
- Creation of ambience in town centres for people to eat and socialise outdoors – bringing people into city centres requires looking at the European model where people are back living in city centres, congregating and socialising. Need to look at re-zoning areas within cities to create plaza square developments and create communities within cities again.
- Importance of pubs, post offices, shops etc in local villages to the rural community.
- Hospitality Ulster are campaigning the Government to continue with support grant for the smaller venues who cannot open in the Covid environment to sustain them until such times as it is safe for them to open.
- Outdoor space will be important going forward therefore a radical approach is needed in towns to look at how to create this space.
- VAT (and rates) reduction for hospitality was beneficial and it is essentially important VAT is kept low.
- Eat Out to Help Out was very successful and contributed to helping businesses build up reserves.

- Hospitality will have a key role in attracting people to towns and cities. The key challenge is the lack of public space needed to create family friendly space where locals want to spend time, and this will require a radical approach.
- Although the level of grant aid provided for businesses has been higher in Northern Ireland than in the rest of the UK it is however costing £1m per day to keep the hospitality industry closed.

The Chair thanked Mr Neill and Mr Magorrian for attending the meeting.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed:**

- 1. Council send a letter to the Department for Communities requesting the Minister consider altering regulations to Licensing laws to support introduction of Pub is the Hub model for Northern Ireland and revitalise rural communities.**
- 2. The Hospitality Ulster Recovery Plan be circulated to all Councillors for information.**

### **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 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).**

**ERT/066/2021: PRESENTATION  
RE: ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF WATER BASED  
ACTIVITIES**

**Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism, regarding findings of the independent economic assessment on potential future economic benefit a lifting bridge would bring to Newry City, as part of the Southern Relief Road proposals. (Copy circulated)**

**ERT/067/2021: ICONIC PLAY STRUCTURE: TOLLYMORE FOREST PARK**

Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding an updated Licence Agreement for the Iconic Play Structure at Tollymore Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

**ERT/068/2021: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS  
ST PATRICK'S VISITOR CENTRE  
RE: NETWORKED VISITOR SERVICING**

Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the provision of the networked visitor information service by the St Patrick's Visitor Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Burges it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.**

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following decisions:

**ERT/066/2021: Economic Assessment of Water Based Activities**

Councillor Mulgrew proposed to accept the officer's recommendation, this was seconded by Councillor Ruane. The Chairperson put the matter to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 5  
AGAINST: 8  
ABSTENTIONS: 1

The proposal was LOST

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to defer consideration of Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the economic assessment of water based activities to the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on Monday 10 May 2021. Councillor Hanna seconded the proposal.**

**ERT/067/2021: Iconic Play Structure: Tollymore Forest Park**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to approve the updated Licence Agreement for the play structure at Tollymore Forest Park.

**ERT/068/2021: Service Level Agreements – St Patrick’s Visitor Centre - Re: Networked Visitor Servicing**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to approve funding support to St Patrick’s Visitor Centre to operate the visitor information services and provide the necessary standards to meet Networked Status. The value of this support is £3,000 to be added to SPVC Service Level Agreement for 2021/22FY.

**FOR AGREEMENT**

**ERT/069/2021: ACTION SHEET  
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &  
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING  
- MONDAY 08 MARCH 2021**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 08 March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 08 March 2021.

**ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION**

**ERT/070/2021: ALL IRELAND SMART CITIES FORUM**

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding an update on the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed:

1. To approve the cost of renewal of membership of €4,809 per annum. This cost includes facilitation support of Maynooth University Business School, the bi-monthly meetings and the Annual All Ireland Smart Cities Conference.
2. To note Newry Mourne and Down District Council continue to avail of the expertise from the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum. An ERT Officer and representative from East Border Region will continue to attend the meetings and disseminate the information to relevant stakeholders.

**ERT/071/2021:** **CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK**

Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Castlewellan Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed:

- To note the extension to DAERA Letter of Offer to 31 August 2021.
- To accept the award from National Lottery Heritage Fund and proceed with the
- implementation of “Re-rooting Our Past in the Future: Castlewellan Historic
- Demense” project as per award offer via Task and Finish Board.
- To note the continuation of Integrated Design Team.
- To note the submission of the Planning Application for Castlewellan Forest
- Park.
- To note the action report from the Task and Finish Board meetings held on 12 March 2021.



**ERT/072/2021: FREEPORTS**

Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding Freeports.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed as follows:**

- 1. Council remain involved in the Invest NI lead working group and participate in the research work as per the term of reference summarised as per Report.**
- 2. Council provide information on the top sectors within the District that would need to be included in any proposal going forward.**
- 3. Council seek clarity on the proposed governance and decision making structures in relation to a Freeport in Northern Ireland and what, within this, would be the role and expectations of Councils, including any resources required.**

**ERT/073/2021: SHARED HISTORY FUND**

Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Service Level Agreements for delivery of Shared History Fund – AONB and Geopark. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Larkin it was agreed:**

- To sign Service Level Agreement with Ms Una Walsh Lead Facilitator, for the period April 2021 to March 2022, for the total £15,000.**
- To sign Service Level Agreement with Queen's University Belfast, for the period April 2021 to March 2022, for the total £7,500.**

## **BUILDING CONTROL AND LICENSING**

**ERT/074/2021:      RESIDENTS SURVEY  
RENAMING NEW PHASE: FOREST HILLS DEVELOPMENT**

Read:                      Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director ERT Building Control regarding postal numbers for a new phase development at Forest Hills Newry.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:                On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed that given the exceptional circumstances in this case, Council set aside policy and undertake a Residents' Survey for a proposal to name the phase of new sites at Nos 23A to 23Q Forest Hills Newry, as Forest Hills View, and thereafter renumber this new phase.**

**ERT/075/2021:      ON STREET CARPARKING - NEWRY**

Read:                      Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director ERT Building Control regarding a review of on street car parking in Newry. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:                On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed the Council write to the Minister for Infrastructure seeking a review of the legislation associated with On Street Car Parking in Newry City Centre and to include the Council, Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade and Newry BID as key stakeholders in the design of any alternatives.**

## **FOR NOTING**

**ERT/076/2021:      BID REVOTE**

Read:                      Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the BID revote. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:                To note that the Newry BID ballot was passed and activity will continue for the next 5 years as per the agreed strategy**

and action plan.

**ERT/077/2021: BREXIT FORUM MEETING  
TUESDAY 23 MARCH 2021**

Read: Action Sheet arising from the Brexit Forum Meeting held on Tuesday 23 March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: To note the Action Sheet arising from the Brexit Forum Meeting held on Tuesday 23 March 2021.**

**ERT/078/2021: COVID 19 REVITALISATION PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding and update on delivery of Covid 19 Recovery Revitalisation funding. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: To note the update contained in Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding progress of delivering the Covid 19 Recovery Revitalisation funding.**

**ERT/079/2021: WARRENPOINT MUNICIPAL PARK**

Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr J McGilly Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding Warrenpoint Municipal Park. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: To note the Action Reports from Steering Group Meetings held on 17 December 2020 and 25 February 2021.**

**ERT/080/2021: LICENSING 6 MONTHLY REPORT**

Read: Licensing Report for 6 month period from 01 September 2020 to 28 February 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: To note the Licensing Report for 6 month period from 01 September 2020 to 28 February 2021.**

**ERT/081/2021: BUILDING CONTROL 6 MONTHLY REPORT**

Read: Building Control Report for 6 month period from 01 September 2020 to 28 February 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: To note the Licensing Report for 6 month period from 01 September 2020 to 28 February 2021.**

**ERT/082/2021: SEA FLAG 2**

Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr G McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on the delivery of Union Priority 4 of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: To note Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr G McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on the delivery of Union Priority 4 of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.**

**ERT/083/2021: SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

Read: Scheme of Delegation – 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: To note the Scheme of Delegation 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.**

**ERT/084/2021: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER**

Read: Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: To note the Historic Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.**

**ERT/085/2021: PLANNING PERFORMANCE**

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: To note the Planning Performance Figures for February 2021.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.10pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 04 May 2021.

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**Signed: Councillor A McMurray**  
**Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

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**Signed: Mr C Mallon**  
**Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**