

## NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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### **Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 October 2015 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom District Council Offices Monaghan Row Newry**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor D Curran

**Deputy Chairperson:** Councillor R Mulgrew

**In Attendance:** **(Committee Members)**

Councillor T Andrews  
Councillor W Clarke  
Councillor G Donnelly  
Councillor S Ennis  
Councillor G Hanna  
Councillor V Harte  
Councillor H Harvey  
Councillor T Hearty  
Councillor D McAteer  
Councillor B Quinn  
Councillor M Ruane  
Councillor G Stokes

**(Non Committee Members)**

Councillor P Clarke

**Officials in Attendance:**

Mr L Hannaway	Chief Executive
Ms M Ward	Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
Mr J McGilly	Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
Mr M Mohan	Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager
Ms M Boyle	Tourism Development Officer
Ms E McParland	Democratic Services Manager
Ms L Dillon	Democratic Services Officer

### **ERT/106/2015: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Councillor Curran thanked the Vice Chairperson, Councillor Mulgrew and Councillor D McAteer for chairing the Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meetings in his absence.

He extended congratulations to everyone involved in the Annual Famine Commemoration event.

Councillor Mulgrew referred to an event organised at 5pm in Downshire Civic Centre with the Youth Council as part of Local Democracy Week. She said that due to the 5pm attendance of the Youth Council in Downpatrick, they could not attend the ERT Committee Meeting. Additionally she and other Members would have liked to be able to meet with the young people but this was not possible due to the timings and venue.

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee send a letter to the Newry & Mourne Youth Council and the Down Youth Council apologising for the oversight regarding venue details and to advise the groups that the Committee would be happy to facilitate them attending a future meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

The following apology was received:

- Councillor R Burgess

#### **ERT/107/2015: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Declarations of Interest were received:

#### **ERT/108/2015: ACTION SHEET MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2015**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 September 2015. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 September 2015.

#### **ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT AND REGENERATION ITEMS**

#### **ERT/109/2015: FORKHILL REGENERATION PROJECT**

Read: Report dated 12 October 2015 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism regarding a regeneration project for former Military Site at Forkhill. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Donnelly seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to approve the following recommendations regarding a regeneration project for the

former Military Site at Forkhill, as contained in Report dated 12 October 2015 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism: -

Newry Mourne and Down District Council Officials granted approval to:

- (a) Commence discussions with DSD on Licence Agreement
- (b) Work with DARD to drawn down funds.
- (c) Commence appointment of professional team to progress detailed planning application, costings, etc
- (d) Prepare a Report for Council setting out the way forward for the project detailing licence arrangements, costs, timescales, etc when full financial details are known.

**ERT/110/2015:TERMS OF REREFERENCE  
ECONOMIC FORUM**

Read: Report dated 12 October 2014 from Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism recommending approval of the Terms of Reference for the Economic Forum.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to approve the Terms of Reference of the Economic Forum as recommended in Report dated 12 October 2015 from Ms M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism

**ERT/111/2015:MOURNE GULLION AND LECALÉ  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP**

Read: Report dated 12 October 2015 from Mr J McGilly, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Donnelly it was agreed to approve the recommendations contained in Report dated 12 October 2015 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism regarding Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership as follows: -

- (a) Officers proceed to appoint a Consultant to finalise the Rural Development Strategy for submission to DARD based on consultations and research completed by Officers to date.
- (b) Council sign and return SLA to DARD.

**ERT/112/2015: BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT VOTE**

**Read:** Report dated 12 October 2015 from Ms M Ward, Director of Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism recommending Newry, Mourne and Down District Council vote Yes to the Newry bid regarding a Business Improvement District Project.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to approve the recommendation contained in Report dated 12 October 2015 from Ms M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism that Newry Mourne and Down District Council vote Yes to the Newry Business Improvement District Project.

**ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION – FOR NOTING**

**ERT/113/2015: WARRENPOINT PARK HERITAGE LOTTERY REGENERATION PROJECT**

**Read:** Report dated 28 September 2015 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism regarding Round Two Applications to Heritage Lottery Fund. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** It was agreed to note the recommendations contained in report dated 28 September 2015 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism ie, the Council to submit Round Two Application to Heritage Lottery Fund as per letter of offer from Heritage Lottery Fund, i.e. prior to 16 December 2015.

**ERT/114/2015: DEPARTMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT & LEARNING (DEL) RE: FURTHER EDUCATION STRATEGY**

**Read:** Report dated 12 October 2015 from Mr M Patterson Enterprise Development Officer regarding a response to DEL Consultation on New Further Education Strategy. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** It was agreed to note the consultation response to Department for Employment and Learning regarding the New Further Education Strategy for Northern Ireland document, subject to amending the tick box response in Question 1 of the Consultation Questions, to indicate 'Agree'.

## **ERT/115/2015: ECONOMIC CONFERENCE**

**Read:** Report dated 12 October 2015 from Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding the Economic Conference to be held on Thursday 29 October 2015. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** It was agreed to note the contents of Report dated 12 October 2015 from Ms M Ward regarding the Economic Conference 2015.

## **ERT/116/2015: NEWRY LINKAGES REVITALISATION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - 10 SEPTEMBER 2015)**

**Read:** Report dated 12 October 2015 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism regarding the Newry Linkages Revitalisation Steering Committee Meeting held on 10 September 2015. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** It was agreed to note the following recommendations arising from the Newry Linkages Revitalisation Steering Committee Meeting held on 10 September 2015:

- (a) All traders within the scope area to be invited to final site walk along the Quay before the Action Plan is signed off.
- (b) Issue an Expression of Interest (EOI) form to traders to see how many wish to participate in the Shop-front Scheme and the nature and costs of likely works.
- (c) Arrange a further meeting of the Steering Committee to consider the feedback and sign off the Action Plan before the end of October 2015.

## **TOURISM CULTURE AND EVENTS ITEMS**

### **ERT/117/2015: TRANSFER OF FOREST ASSETS TO COUNCIL**

**Read:** Report dated 12 October 2015 from Mr G McGivern regarding the transfer of forest assets to Council. (Copy circulated)

Members asked for clarification on issues regarding the cost of the global licence, asking if the Council was currently in negotiations, and would the outcome of these negotiations be reported back to the Council.

They also referred to formal partnerships and bringing on board relevant stakeholders such as the community, ie, forming Community Development Trusts. They also asked if ORNI still had a remit to carry out projects, ie, caravans, camping and log cabins.

Ms Ward explained the global licence would ensure the process for the takeover of parts of the forest would be carried out in a staged manner. She said each item would be prioritised and brought forward to Council on a case by case basis.

With regard to caravans and camping she added this would require the presentation of a business case.

Ms Ward said further preliminary work was required on the potential liabilities of forming Community Development Trusts and the assets involved, and to establish if these Trusts are prepared to take on such liabilities. The reason for creating a formal partnership is to ensure all parties meet and the issues involved are kept high on the agenda.

Ms Ward said ORNI would continue to work with Council under a Service Level Agreement.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor W Clarke seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed to approve the recommendations contained in report from Mr G McGivern dated 12 October 2015 regarding the transfer of forest assets to Council, as follows:

**(a) Council enters into a global licence with the Forestry Service. The Licence will specify only those assets and corresponding infrastructure which are transferring to the Council and for which the Council will assume full responsibility. All other lands, including trails not specified in the global license, will remain the responsibility of the Forestry Service.**

**(b) The Council enters into formal discussions with Forestry Service with a view to mutually agree the terms and conditions for the franchising of caravan and camping facilities at Castlewellan, Tollymore and Rostrevor to external operators.**

**(c) The Council considers the transfer of buildings and related facilities at Castlewellan and Tollymore on case by case basis subject to the outcome of an economic appraisal that demonstrates minimal burden on the rates.**

**(d) The Council establish a formal partnership arrangement with Forest Service NI, National Trust, Community and Private Sector. This may be a sub group of the Strategic Tourism Forum/Economic Forum.**

**(e) As projects are brought forward for Council approval on a case by case basis and, subject to a satisfactory and fully funded business case, the corresponding assets including trails, land and buildings will be added to the global licence and transferred to the Council.**

**AGREED: It was also agreed Council Officials investigate establishing Community Development Trusts.**

**ERT/118/2015: ANNALONG HARBOUR STORMGATE**

Read: Report dated 29 September 2015 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer regarding Annalong Harbour Storm gate project. (Copy circulated)

Members asked for details on the approximate timescale to have the storm gate works at Annalong Harbour completed. Concern was expressed that the storm gate at this location failed twice in the past and questions were asked as to why the insurers were only paying in the region of £46,000 in compensation costs. Reference was also made to the fact the seawall at Annalong Harbour was undermined and it would only be a matter of time before it failed.

Members also referred to the historic significance of Annalong Harbour and Newcastle Harbour and their strong links with the granite industry which contributed to tourism in the area and suggested that the historical features of both harbours should be retained and both harbours should be considered together in any funding bids.

Ms Boyle explained Officials would be exploring all possible avenues of funding for the storm gate project and added markers would be installed into the seawall to measure erosion.

Ms Ward said as the structure of Annalong Harbour was a listed building, Council Officials would be working with the Heritage Lottery Fund and the consultants regarding options to retain the historical features of the Harbour.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor W Clarke seconded by Councillor Quinn it was agreed Council Officers proceed to prepare a joint funding bid for funding projects at both Annalong Harbour and Newcastle Harbour.**

**ERT/119/2015: TERMS OF REFERENCE  
RE: STRATEGIC TOURISM INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP**

Read: Report dated 12 October 2015 from Ms M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the Terms of Reference for the Newry Mourne & Down District Strategic Tourism Industry Advisory Group. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed to approve the Terms of Reference for the Newry Mourne & Down District Strategic Tourism Industry Advisory Group as attached in Report dated 12 October 2015 from Ms M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism.**

**ERT/120/2015: CONSUMER PROMOTIONS EVENTS  
(OCTOBER 2015 – MARCH 2016)**

**Read:** Report dated 29 September 2015 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer containing details and costings for forthcoming consumer promotion events to be held between October 2015 and March 2016. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Mulgrew said several Members had previously expressed concern that the Council did not do enough to represent and market itself and the District at shows and events.

She suggested Council Officials attend Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meetings in advance of events and provide Councillors with a brief containing information on the event and how Officers propose to have the Council represented at these events.

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Donnelly it was agreed to include the following two forthcoming shows on the agenda for consideration at the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on Monday 9 November 2015, and relevant Council Officials to prepare a report to be circulated with the agenda, containing information on each event including costs and proposals for having the Council represented should the Council agree to be in attendance at these events:**

- **Belfast Holiday World (15 – 17 January 2016)**
- **Dublin Holiday World (22-24 January 2016)**

**ERT/121/2015: FORWARD PLANNING  
RE: SLIEVE GULLION FOREST PARK**

**Read:** Report dated 30 September 2015 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer regarding forward planning for Slieve Gullion Forest Park . (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Donnelly seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed to proceed as follows regarding forward planning for Slieve Gullion Forest Park as per Report of Slieve Gullion DEA Meeting held on Monday 25 September 2015:**

- (a) A centralised diary system to be put in place so that all partners are aware of organised events.**
- (b) Evaluation of area of land currently owned by Forestry that could potentially be used for extra car parking.**
- (c) Monthly meetings to be set up between NMDDC, Forestry, Clanyre and Grounded.**



**(d) Staffing rota at Slieve Gullion over the 2015 season to be brought back to next monthly meeting.**

**ERT/122/2015:REPORT OF TOURISM STRATEGY TASK AND FINISH  
PROJECT BOARD MEETING  
- WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2015**

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**Read:** Report dated 10 October 2015 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer regarding Report of Tourism Strategy Task and Finish Project Board Meeting held on Wednesday 7 October 2015. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note the following recommendations arising of the Tourism Strategy Task & Finish Project Board Meeting held on Wednesday 7 October 2015:

- (a) Details of the master plan noted and comments by Members to be considered and a further draft to be brought back to Council.**
- (b) Contents of Forest Report noted.**
- (c) Events plan for 2016/2017 as agreed, with further details as plans develop to be brought to Council.**

**ERT/123/2015:INLAND WATERWAYS' DRAFT HERITAGE PLAN  
FOR WATERWAYS IRELAND**

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**Read:** Newry Mourne & Down District Council response to Inland Waterways' draft Heritage Plan for Waterways Ireland. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to approve the Council's response to Inland Waterways' draft Heritage Plan for Waterways Ireland.

**ERT/124/2015:IRISH GLOBAL GEOPARKS ANNUAL SEMINAR  
19 – 21 NOVEMBER 2015**

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**Read:** Email correspondence dated 16 October 2015 containing details on the Irish Global Geoparks Annual Seminar to be held from 19 – 21 November 2015 to be held in the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Global Geopark. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** It was agreed to note the above details for the Irish Global Geoparks Annual Seminar November 2015.

**ERT/125/2015:AOIFE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**26 – 27 FEBRUARY 2016**

**Read:** Correspondence dated 15 October 2015 containing details on the AOIFE Annual Conference to be held from 27 – 27 February 2016 in Ballinasloe. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** **It was agreed to note the above details for the AOIFE Annual Conference to be held from 27 – 27 February 2016 in Ballinasloe.**

The meeting concluded at 7.00pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2 November 2015.

**Signed:** **Ms M Ward**  
**Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism**