

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on
Monday 14 September 2015 at 3.00pm in the Boardroom District Council
Offices Monaghan Row Newry**

Chairperson: Councillor D McAteer

In Attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor R Burgess
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Donnelly
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty
Councillor B Quinn
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

Also in Attendance: Mr M Williamson ASM

ERT/88/2015:- APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to appoint Councillor D McAteer to chair the Meeting in the absence of the Committee's Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

ERT/89/2015:- APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apologies were received:

Councillor D Curran (Chairperson Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee)
Councillor R Mulgrew (Vice Chairperson Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee)
Councillor S Ennis
Councillor T Andrews
Councillor M Ruane

ERT/90/2015:- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest was received:

Councillor R Burgess declared an interest in the item regarding the Museum Engagement Programme 2015 as he is Vice Chairperson of the NI Museum Council.

**ERT/91/2015:- ACTION SHEET
- MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING
- MONDAY 10 AUGUST 2015**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 August 2015.
(Copy circulated)

The following matters were raised arising out of the above Action Sheet:

ESF Programme – Match Funding

Councillor Stokes asked for an update regarding proposals in respect of 1 No. applicant for the ESF Programme.

Noted: It was noted Council Officials have held discussions regarding the ESF Programme and this matter will be report back to the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting in October 2015.

Events Budget 2015/16 – Ballynahinch Harvest & Country Living Fair

Councillor Hearty said he wanted to register that he totally disagreed with the decision to increase the allocation for Ballynahinch Harvest & Country Living Fair from £10,000 to £15,000 as this was disadvantaging events in other areas, in particular the Crossmaglen area as none of the events budget monies had been allocated to the South Armagh area. He added he was totally opposed to borrowing monies for festivals.

Public Realm Scheme - Warrenpoint

Councillor McAteer asked for progress on the Public Realm Scheme Warrenpoint.

Noted: The Public Realm Scheme for Warrenpoint was currently out to tender and was on schedule as agreed.

Co-location of Tourism NI Staff

Councillor Hearty asked for an update regarding the possible co-location of Tourism NI staff and where this staff member would be located within the District.

Noted: The Council have written to the Chief Executive of Tourism NI on how the co-location of Tourism NI staff to the District can be progressed. This will be progressed and reported back to Council as part of the organisation structure. Any co-location of Tourism NI staff will have to be carried out in consultation with the relevant Trade Unions.

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 August 2015.**

ERT/92/2015:- MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS

AGREED: Councillor Stokes requested a message of congratulations be sent to the organisers of the Iur Cinn Fleadh Music Festival.

AGREED: Councillor Stokes requested a message of congratulations be sent to Cormac Sharvin on his performance as part of team Great Britain and Ireland at the Walker Cup 2015 golf event.

AGREED: Councillor Quinn requested a message of congratulations be sent to Mourne Mountain Brewery on their recent opening launch event held at Kilbroney Park Rostrevor.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT AND REGENERATION ITEMS

ERT/93/2015:- MAKE IT LOCAL INITIATIVE

Read: Report dated 14 September 2015 from Ms M Quinn Project Development Manager recommending an action plan for the Make it Local Initiative. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Donnelly it was agreed to approve the action plan for the development of the Make It Local Initiative as contained in Report dated 14 September 2015 from Ms M Quinn Project Development Manager.**

Several Councillors welcomed the action plan for the Make it Local Initiative which they said would be very beneficial for the business and tourism sector, in particular food producers and restaurants. They pointed out that this initiative should also focus on fish producers and the farming community to promote local produce.

Noted: It was noted the Council planned to engage with restaurants and businesses at a local level and it was hoped people would be encouraged to come forward and buy into the initiative. Liaison with restaurants can be done via the Tourism Strategy Task & Finish Project to obtain their views. Training Workshops will be arranged for local businesses regarding the Council's eProcurement.

**ERT/94/2015:- DARD CONSULTATION
RE: FUNDING FOR RACECOURSES**

Read: Report dated 14 September 2015 from Mr M Mohan Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager recommending the Council submit a response to DARD on the Public Consultation on the Horse Racing (Charges on Bookmakers) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015. (Copy circulated)

Briefing Paper re: Downpatrick Racecourse.
(Copy available to view by Members via Minute Pad)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor W Clarke it was agreed to approve the recommendations contained in report dated 14 September 2015 from Mr M Mohan Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager for the Council to submit a response to DARD regarding the public consultation on the Horse Racing (Charges on Bookmakers) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 requesting:**

- (a) No change to the rate of funding collected from on-course bookmakers.**
- (b) Option 3 as set out in the DARD consultation document (and report from Downpatrick Racecourse), is considered as the only viable option.**
- (c) That DARD consider the significant positive economic impact that Downpatrick Racecourse has within the Council area.**

**ERT/95/2015: FRIENDS OF DERRYMORE PARTNERSHIP MEETING
- FRIDAY 21 AUGUST 2015**

Read: Report dated 14 September 2015 from Ms A Smyth Enterprise Development Officer recommending the Council note the contents of the Report of a Friends of Derrymore Meeting held on Friday 21 August 2015 and approve the recommendations contained therein. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Donnelly seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to approve the recommendations contained in the Report of the Friends of Derrymore Meeting held on 21 August 2015, as follows:**

- (a) **Newry Mourne & Down District Council to confirm that the Derrymore Application is the Space and Place criteria Council application as per Space and Place criteria for one application per Council per funding call.**
- (b) **Ms A Smyth Enterprise Development Officer to prepare for the next meeting, sample areas for discussion/questions which the Partnership can use to prepare for a Space and Place site visit, if the application reaches this stage.**
- (c) **Partnership members to continue to compile the agreed evidence that will be used during a site visit.**

It was also further agreed to refer the Space and Place Application to the Active & Healthy Communities Committee to seek agreement that the Play Park Application would be better placed under the Rural Development Programme.

TOURISM CULTURE AND EVENTS ITEMS

ERT/96/2015: ACCOMMODATION NEEDS ANALYSIS

Read: Report dated 14 September 2015 from Mr M Mohan Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager recommending the implementation of the Accommodation Needs Analysis study. (Copy circulated)

Presentation re: Tourist Accommodation Scoping Study
(*Copy available to view by Members via Minute Pad*)

Tourism Accommodation Scoping Study Final Report dated 2 September 2015.
(*Copy available to view by Members via Minute Pad*)

Mr M Williamson ASM gave an overview of the Tourist Accommodation Scoping Study on Destination Mourne Mountains, Ring of Gullion and Strangford Lough.

During discussion Councillors spoke of the need to streamline planning processes to allow economic opportunities and ventures to proceed. They said it was important to identify with the accommodation needs analysis to identify where gaps exist in terms of accommodation provision and to assist, where possible, in order to provide the right conditions for people to set up businesses in terms of planning, locations, job creation, rates, and incentives to encourage people to invest in the area. Reference was made to the need to target guest houses which have reduced in number, in particular in the Newcastle area.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to approve the recommendations contained in report dated 14 September 2015 from Mr M Mohan

Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding Accommodation Needs Analysis, as follows:

(a) To approve the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Accommodation Needs Analysis Study in terms of accommodation needs for the area.

(b) The Council proceed with the actions as outlined in Report from Mr M Mohan Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager dated 14 September 2015.

(c) The Council use the findings in the Accommodation Needs Analysis Study to respond to DETI's consultative document "Review of Tourism Accommodation Policy 2015-2020".

ERT/97/2015: TOURISM STRATEGY TASK & FINISH PROJECT BOARD MEETING - TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2015

Read: Report dated 4 September 2015 from M Boyle Tourism Development Officer regarding the Tourism Strategy Task and Finish Project Board Meeting held on Tuesday 1 September 2015. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the recommendations contained in report dated 4 September from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer as follows:**

(a) To accept the recommendations agreed by the Tourism Strategy Task and Finish Project Board Meeting held on Tuesday 1 September 2015

(b) Budget allocation to be considered by Council in 2016/17 for the preparation of Development Plans as per the recommendation locations in the Accommodation Needs Analysis.

ERT/98/2015: TOURISM MARKETING & COMMUNICATION PLAN

Read: Report dated 4 September 2015 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer regarding the Tourism Marketing and Communications plan from September 2015 – March 2016. (Copy circulated)

Discussion took place during which Councillors stressed the importance of having the Council represented at various events to promote the District. It was also pointed out the Council needed to focus on improving its marketing and communications in terms of using social media.

Noted: Marketing and communications via social media will be examined as part of the Tourism Strategy.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to approve the Tourism Marketing and Communications Plan September 2015 – March 2016 with relevant additional activities as opportunities arise particularly associated with events, as per Report dated 4 September 2015 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer.

It was unanimously agreed to appoint the following Members to attend the National Ploughing Championships in Co Laois at which the Council will take a tourism stand which will be held from 22 – 24 September 2015.

- Councillor D Curran Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee
- Councillor R Mulgrew Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee
- 1 No Councillor

It was further unanimously agreed a paper be brought back to the next meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting in October 2015 containing details and costing of any forthcoming exhibitions.

ERT/99/2015: CAMLOUGH DAM REHABILITATION

Read: Report dated 1 September 2015 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer regarding Camlough Dam Rehabilitation.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Donnelly seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed to approve the recommendations contained in report dated 1 September 2015 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer regarding Camlough Dam Rehabilitation as follows:

- (a) Camlough Lake Sub Committee continue to meet during the contract duration and to consider future development of the lake.
- (b) Council to write to the secretary of Camlough Lake Water Festival to arrange removal of pontoon from restricted zone.

Noted: It was noted Council Officials would be working closely with users of Camlough Lake throughout the duration of the proposed works.

TOURISM CULTURE AND EVENTS ITEMS – FOR NOTING

ERT/100/2015: MUSEUM ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 4 September 2015 from Ms N Cunningham Curator Newry & Mourne Museum regarding the Museum Engagement Programme 2015. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed to note the offer in the sum of £4,000 grant aid from Northern Ireland Museums Council for a Museum Engagement Programme with 10 No. schools and 5 No. community groups – funding offer will be subject to DECAL budgets.

ERT/101/2015: TENDERING FOR TRADING PITCHES - SLIEVE GULLION FOREST PARK

Read: Report dated 4 September 2015 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer regarding tendering for service providers for 2 No. trading pitches at Slieve Gullion Forest Park. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Donnelly seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed the Council proceed with the tendering for service providers for 2 No. Trading Pitches at the Upper Car Park (beside Play Area) at Slieve Gullion Forest Park Newry, as per recommendation contained in report dated 4 September 2015 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer.

It was also unanimously agreed to invite Slieve Gullion Councillors, the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee to attend the Greater Newry Business Awards event in view of the fact Slieve Gullion Forest Park has been shortlisted for an award.

CONFERENCES / EVENTS

ERT/102/2015: 3RD NATURE & SPORTS EUROMEET CONFERENCE - 30 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER 2015

Read: Report dated 7 September 2015 from Mr M Mohan Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding the Nature & Sports Euro'meet Conference to be held on 30 September – 2 October 2015 in the Slieve Donard Hotel Newcastle at a cost of £240 per delegate. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor W Clarke seconded by Councillor Quinn it was agreed to appoint the following Councillors to attend the Nature & Sports Euro'meet Conference to be held on

30 September – 2 October 2015 in the Slieve Donard Hotel
Newcastle at a cost of £240 per delegate:

Councillor G Hanna
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor R Burgess

If any other Councillors wish to attend this event they should
contact the Democratic Services Officers.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

ERT/103/2015:- TENDER REPORT

RE: REGIONAL START INITIATIVE

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Donnelly seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this 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).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairman reported that on the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Donnelly it had been agreed to approve the recommendations contained in Report dated 14 September 2015 regarding tendering for the Regional Start Initiative.

ERT/104/2015:- TENDER REPORT

RE: RING OF GULLION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Donnelly seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this 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).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burges seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairman reported that on the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor Stokes it had been agreed to approve the

recommendations contained in Report dated 14 August 2015 from Mr D Rice RoG Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager as follows:

(a) If within budget following tender close and assessment, the Council proceed to appoint the most economically advantageous contractor for the projects which are part of the Ring of Gullion Landscape Conservation Action Plan.

(b) Built Heritage Surveys – To appoint the successful tenderer of the competitive process in respect of the project. The tender quote is within agreed LCAP budget.

(c) Bessbrook HLF Our Heritage Application – To submit application and Council to act as lead partner and sign and return Letter of Offer if funding application is successful.

**ERT/105/2015:- SLIEVE GULLION BRIEFING MEETING
RE: PARK & RIDE FACILITY
- WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2015**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Donnelly seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this 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).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairman reported that on the proposal of Councillor Donnelly seconded by Councillor Hearty it had been agreed to note the Slieve Gullion DEA Briefing Meeting held on Wednesday 19 August 2015 regarding the provision of a Park & Ride facility at Slieve Gullion Forest Park Newry.

The meeting concluded at 4.15 pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 5 October 2015.

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