

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 08 March 2021 at 6.00pm remotely via Microsoft Teams**

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

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
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer
Ms C McAteer Democratic Services Officer

ERT/044/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies.

ERT/045/20201: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor T Andrews declared an interest in Item No. 9 regarding Service Level

Agreements, as he was a board member of the East Border Region.

Councillor R Burgess declared an interest in Item No. 9 regarding Service Level Agreements, as he was a board member of the East Border Region.

ERT/046/2021: MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed a message of sympathy be sent on behalf of the ERT Committee, to Mr Colum Jackson Assistant Director of Building Control & Regulation, on the death of his father.

PRESENTATIONS

**ERT/047/2021: PRESENTATION
DOWN BUSINESS CENTRE**

Ms Linda Beers Chairperson of Down Business Centre thanked the Council for the opportunity to present to Members raising their profile with Council and establishing an understanding as to the purpose of Down Business Centre and the work they undertake to help businesses in the District.

The presentation highlighted the following points:

- Down Business Centre was established in 1986 as a local enterprise agency for the Down District Council area and their activities are largely focused in the eastern area of the District and working closely with the Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency.
- Down Business Centre is a charity relying on income from their Business Park located on the Belfast Road Downpatrick, and on Government and Council programmes, providing support for the start-up and development of local businesses and supporting people on the journey into self-employment.
- Over the past 10 years Down Business Centre have supported 2,500 new businesses in the area through a range of programmes – helping businesses grow via training programmes, mentoring and masterclasses, thus having a significant input into the local economy.

- In the past year Down Business Centre is almost near capacity - there is an urgent need for additional space at the site and the organisation plan to secure funding for an expansion scheme.
- During the past year support has been given to address the impact Covid has had on small businesses and in particular mental health – this is being addressed by a support programme giving people the chance to meet online.

The Chair thanked the representatives from Down Business Centre for attending the meeting to deliver the presentation and he paid tribute to the work they were doing to provide support and particularly addressing mental health.

Several Members concurred with the Chair in expressing their thanks to Ms Beers and Ms McDonald for their presentation and applauded the work being carried out by Down Business Centre in supporting small businesses, in particular during Covid and addressing mental health.

Members welcomed plans for expansion of the Down Business Centre site which would be supported by Council.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed Officers from Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism and the Planning Departments meet with representatives from Down Business Park regarding progress on expansion plans for the Down Business Centre site.

Down Business Centre forward any supplementary information regarding their work on addressing the mental health impact of Covid, for circulation to Councillors.

**ERT/048/2021: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
- MONDAY 08 FEBRUARY 2021**

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

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

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/049/2021: BREXIT FORUM

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding a Brexit Forum established by Council to deal with preparation for Brexit and issues that have arose during transition period.
(Copy circulated)

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

- 1. To approve the Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Savage and seconded by Councillor Byrne relating to Shared Prosperity Fund as detailed in Report of Brexit Forum Meeting held on 01 March 2021.**
- 2. To not approve the Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor McKee relating to Trade Border in Irish Sea as detailed in Report of Brexit Forum Meeting held on 01 March 2021.**
- 3. To arrange a site visit to BCP Warrenpoint when Covid restrictions allow.**
- 4. To note update from Council Officers as per Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding a Brexit Forum.**
- 5. To convene a further meeting of the Brexit Forum in 6 weeks.**

It was also agreed Officers arrange to convene a meeting of the Brexit Committee earlier than the 6 weeks agreed at the Brexit Forum Meeting, as a result of recent changes by Government to the deadlines.

Noted: Councillor Reilly asked it be noted he had previously requested the development of feasibility studies for the reinstatement of Newry Canal and the development of Kilkeel Harbour as he had made specific reference to these being potential projects Council could be involved with.

ERT/050/2021: MASTERPLANS

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on Masterplans for:
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(Copy circulated)

Members raised the following points:

Section G1 – to read “15 acre park at Albert Basin”.

Section C4 – retain Abbey Park within the Masterplan, and refer back to the Newry DEA for further discussion.

Kilkeel/Annalong - Officers to look at including the development of coastal walks etc. within the South East Coastal plan.

Section 6 – note that Castle Park and Island Park be treated separate as they will not progress at the same rate.

Newcastle - to include the restoration of the old town at Newcastle Harbour and the Rock Pool, within the Masterplan.

Warrenpoint - to include the development of Narrow Water Keep and tourism walks/trails in the Warrenpoint area, within the Masterplan.

Ballynahinch - to include both the expansion of leisure facilities, and the development of facilities at Lough Park, within the Masterplan

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to approve the updated content and actions as outlined in the Priority Action Plans for each of the 4 No. Masterplans for the following areas:

- **Newry City**
- **Ballynahinch**
- **Downpatrick**
- **South East Coast**

It was also agreed to include the following points within the Masterplans, as requested by Members:

- **Section G1 – to read “15 acre park at Albert Basin”.**
- **Section C4 – retain Abbey Park within the Masterplan, and refer back to the Newry DEA for further discussion.**
- **Kilkeel/Annalong - development of coastal walks etc.**
- **Section 6 – Castle Park and Island Park be treated separate as they will not progress at the same rate.**
- **Newcastle - restoration of the old town at Newcastle Harbour and the Rock Pool.**

- **Warrenpoint - development of Narrow Water Keep and tourism walks/trails.**
- **Ballynahinch - both the expansion of leisure facilities, and the development of facilities at Lough Park.**

ERT/051/2021: WARRENPOINT BATHS

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr J McGilly Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Warrenpoint Baths. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ruane proposed and Councillor Mulgrew seconded to approve the Officer recommendations as outlined in Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr J McGilly Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Warrenpoint Baths.

A Recorded Vote was taken as follows:
(Attached)

For	8
Against	4
Abstentions	3

The proposal was declared carried.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed as follows:

- 1. Council continue to ensure that ongoing measures are taken to monitor and address Health and Safety concerns as they arise at the existing Baths Structure.**
- 2. Council officials to continue discussions with potential funders given the development of new funding programmes - Peace Plus; Shared Prosperity Fund; NLHF, Tourism NI, etc, based on the development of the facility as per the planning approval that is currently in place on the site.**
- 3. Council officials proceed with appointment of a consultancy team to prepare a business case / economic appraisal on the existing Council approved scheme based on the Planning approval in place for the Warrenpoint Baths site.**

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Howell 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/052/2021: LICENCE AGREEMENT – DONARD FOREST

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding a Licence Agreement between DAERA and NMDDC regarding improvement and maintenance works to DAERA lands and scoping works at Donard Forest. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/053/2021: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS 2021-2022

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding Service Level Agreements for 2021 – 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/054/2021: TOURISM EVENTS PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the Council's Tourism Events Programme 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to come out of closed session.

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

ERT/052/2021: Licence Agreement – Donard Forest

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to accept the Licence Agreement between DAERA and NMDDC for 5 year period which permits Council to carry out improvements and maintenance works to DAERA lands

and scoping works at Donard Forest , subject to all matters being clarified by Forest Service to the satisfaction of Council.

ERT/053/2021: Service Level Agreements 2021-2022

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to approve the list of Service Level Agreements for 2021 – 2022, as contained in Point 2.1 of Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism

ERT/054/2021: Tourism Events Programme 2021

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to approve the recommendations regarding proposed Tourism Events Programme for 2021/2022, as outlined in Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the Council's Tourism Events Programme 2021

FOR NOTING

ERT/055/2021: 5G AND BROADBAND

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on 5G and Broadband availability within NMDDC area, incorporating an update on Project Stratum.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: To note the update provided regarding 5G and Broadband availability within the Newry Mourne and Down District Council area, particularly:

- Details provided are current as at February 2021 and based on the information available on the respective websites.
- There does not appear to be 5G coverage in the Newry Mourne and Down District Council area.
- Coverage of Superfast and Fibre coverage in the Newry Mourne and Down District Council area is 84.48%.
- Although particular download speeds are available, it is incumbent on consumers to purchase respective

packages suitable to their individual needs.

- The Shared Rural Network will see 4G mobile coverage from all four operators rise to a minimum of 85% throughout Northern Ireland.
- Rural Community Network hosted a workshop regarding 5G New Thinking on 25 February 2021 to discuss improving rural connectivity with 5G.
- NILGA briefing session with Mobile UK on 04 March 2021 was held regarding 5G and Health Campaign - #5G CheckTheFacts.

ERT/056/2021: ARDGLASS AND KILKEEL HARBOUR DEVELOPMENTS

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism regarding NI Fishing and Seafood Development Programme and Ardglass and Kilkeel Harbour Developments. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note the content of Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism regarding NI Fishing and Seafood Development Programme and Ardglass and Kilkeel Harbour Developments, that Officers work with key stakeholders and DAERA in both Ports to bring forward the recommendations contained in the report and bring required updates back to Council in due course.

ERT/057/2021: 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/058/2021: REGIONAL PROPERTY CERTIFICATES

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr J McGilly Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding an increase in fees for Regional Property Certificates with effect from 01 April 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note increased fees for Regional Property Certificates with effect from 01 April 2021.

ERT/059/2021: **IRISH STREET REGENERATION PROJECT**

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the Irish Street Regeneration Project. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note Report of the Irish Street Regeneration Working Group Meeting held on 03 February 2021.

ERT/060/2021: **LOUTH / NMDDC STRATEGIC ALLIANCE**

Read: Report of Louth / NMDDC Strategic Alliance Meeting held on 11 November 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note Report of Louth / NMDDC Strategic Alliance Meeting held on 11 November 2020.

ERT/061/2021: **PLANNING PERFORMANCE**

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

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Planning Performance Figures for February 2021.

ERT/062/2021: **TOURISM NI CO OPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP**

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Tourism NI Co-operative. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Tourism NI Co-operative.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 19.45 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 07 April 2021.

Signed: Councillor A McMurray

Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr C Mallon

Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 08 March 2021

VENUE: Microsoft Teams

MEETING: ERT

SUBJECT OF VOTE:

(Item 7) To accept the following recommendations contained in Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director ERT regarding Warrenpoint Baths:

1. Council continue to ensure that ongoing measures are taken to monitor and address Health and Safety concerns as they arise at the existing Baths Structure.
2. Council officials to continue discussions with potential funders given the development of new funding programmes - Peace Plus; Shared Prosperity Fund; NLHF, Tourism NI, etc, based on the development of the facility as per the planning approval that is currently in place on the site.
3. Council officials proceed with appointment of a consultancy team to prepare a business case / economic appraisal on the existing Council approved scheme based on the Planning approval in place for the Warrenpoint Baths site.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R Burgess			√	
W Clarke	√			
D Curran			√	
G Hanna		√		
V Harte	√			
R Howell	√			
M Larkin	√			
D McAteer		√		
A McMurray			√	
R Mulgrew	√			
H Reilly	√			
M Ruane	√			
M Savage		√		
G Stokes		√		
J Tinnelly	√			
TOTALS	8	4	2	

