

## **NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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### **Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 May 2018 at 3.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor P Byrne

**In Attendance: (Committee Members)**

Councillor R Burgess  
Councillor M Carr  
Councillor C Casey  
Councillor W Clarke  
Councillor D Curran  
Councillor G Hanna  
Councillor H Harvey  
Councillor T Hearty  
Councillor D Hyland  
Councillor D McAteer  
Councillor O McMahon  
Councillor B Quinn  
Councillor M Ruane  
Councillor G Stokes

**Officials**

**in Attendance:**

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive  
Ms M Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr J McGilly, Asst. Director, Enterprise, Employment &  
Regeneration  
Mr A Patterson, Asst. Director, Tourism Culture & Events  
Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

**Also in Attendance:** Mr E Magennis, UUJ

In advance of committee business, the Chairperson acknowledged this was his last ERT Committee Meeting as Chairperson and he thanked the ERT Directorate for their help and support throughout the year.

**ERT/082/2018: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

No apologies were received.

**ERT/083/2018: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION**

**ERT/084/2018: ACTION SHEET MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 16 APRIL 2018**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 April 2018. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 April 2018.**

**PRESENTATIONS**

**ERT/085/2018: PRESENTATION BY EOIN MAGENNIS - UUJ**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Magennis from UUJ and invited him to deliver his presentation on the Local Economy. **(Copy attached)**

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session and the following points were raised:

- The rates of pay in ROI within the construction industry were significantly higher than in NI and there was concern this could lead to another economic downturn.
- There was a distinct lack of investment in infrastructure across Northern Ireland with the majority being private investment.
- Farming had seen a shift from full time occupation to part time as it was no

- longer a sustainable source of full time employment.
- Although there had been considerable investment in dairy farming it was very difficult to get workers in this industry because of the low wages.
  - The manufacturing industry tended to ebb and flow but was generally more buoyant with good export markets and future investments.
  - Local companies such as First Derivatives and Sports Stats provided employment for large numbers of skilled staff and promoted confidence in the area.
  - There was uncertainty with regard to the future for migrant labour across the district.
  - Large companies may not be as adversely affected by Brexit as small companies as they had more capacity to make the necessary changes required.
  - Automation in the agri food and manufacturing areas could open up opportunities in the ICT / Software sector, additionally, jobs could be created as a result of the manufacturing of the machinery required, however automation could result in an inequality of jobs in the long term.
  - Although there was a high concentration of job opportunities in Belfast, a lot of people chose to commute rather than live there and access to the city was very difficult in terms of heavy commuter traffic; this potential threat to Belfast could be seen as an opportunity for other areas.
  - Currency exchange fluctuations impacted on increased car fuel and home heating oil costs.
  - The average wage in Northern Ireland was £25,500 p.a., this had not significantly increased from ten years ago and should interest rates increase, this could have a considerable knock on effect.
  - Styles had changed with regard to apprenticeships and whilst bigger businesses were taking on non-traditional apprenticeships, smaller businesses were tending not to take on apprenticeships.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Magennis for his very informative presentation and he left the meeting.

## **ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION**

### **ERT/086/2018: DIVERSION AT ADDERS LOANIN**

Read: Report dated 14 May 2018 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding requested diversion of Adders Loanin, Ballyward. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Hanna the following was agreed: Approval to make a Diversion Order under the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983 for a section of the public right of way known as Adders Loanin, Ballyward, Castlewellan.**

**ERT/087/2018: ATLANTIC AREA PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 14 May 2018 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Ring of Gullion AONB and Mourne AONB: NPA Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hyland seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to:**

- 1. Submit application to Atlantic Area, NMDDC as Lead Partner.**
- 2. Forward for consideration for rates estimate subject to satisfactory submission**

**ERT/088/2018: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Read: Report dated 14 May 2018 from Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding the International Relations. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Stokes said Newry City Football Club had recently been promoted to premier division and there were now currently two local teams in the premier league. He asked if discussions could be opened up to include Newry City Football Club in future International Relations programmes.

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hyland it was agreed that Members note the contents of the report, give consideration and agree to:**

- 1. Approve the facilitation through St Paul's High School of a host visit from School No 7 to Newry, Mourne and Down District and to develop a wider connection across the area. Any future visits should give consideration to the school calendar.**
- 2. Approve further development of potential links with Post Primary Schools in relation to International Relations considered through the skills forum and recognition of the opportunities that exist through music.**
- 3. Development of links with SERC and SRC in International Relations with consideration of participation in the upcoming Changchung visit.**
- 4. To develop our Junior Competitions as part of the USA Kids Golf**
- 5. To consider alternative accommodation exchanges to promote and encourage visits from both areas to visit**

- from both areas to visit reciprocally.
6. To target golfing societies attached to our Golf Clubs to visit each other's areas as part of exchange (Ryder Cup approach).
  7. To audit, inform and promote craft and niche products in each other's Council areas, Visit Centres etc.
  8. To make Chamber connections and assist in encouraging ideas for collaboration.
  9. To consider the possibility of an international link with Newry City Football Club

## **TOURISM CULTURE AND EVENTS**

### **ERT/089/2018: BALLYKINLER HUT PROJECT**

Read: Report dated 14 May 2018 from Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism. **(Copy circulated).**

Discussion took place regarding the recreation of an Armstrong hut from Ballykinler Camp at Down County Museum. Councillor Clarke said the timeline should not be up to present day as, whilst the project was a very positive one, the recent conflict would require measured consideration.

Councillor Clarke's comments were noted.

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to consider and approve the Business Case for the project, specifically the preferred Option 3, in order to enable the project to progress to procurement with the support of the EU PEACE IV programme and Central Procurement Directorate, as required.**

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **ERT/090/2018 COUNCIL TO SUPPORT ST PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL**

Read: To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor G Sharvin re Council Support St Patrick's Day Festivities:

**“Call on this Council to lead, support and enhance the Saint Patrick’s Day festivities in the home of Saint Patrick, and in order to encourage greater connectivity with businesses and local communities to establish an inter – community and business forum for local people to contribute to the festival planning jointly with the Council”**

During discussion on this Notice of Motion, Councillor Curran said that local businesses and community groups would be keen to work more closely with Council in the planning of future Saint Patrick’s Day festivals.

Councillor McAteer said in an effort to make the festival more international and put Downpatrick on the map, an invitation could be extended to leading mayors in cities the USA or Canada inviting them to lead the parades.

Councillor Quinn said that community groups from smaller towns should be encouraged to get involved and have their own parades.

Ms Ward said these comments would be noted but reminded the Committee that the Council and Tourism NI had spent significant amounts of money over the past three years on internationalising the Saint Patrick’s Day events including putting on a series of additional events to enhance the festivals, however she said those funds were no longer available and Council would be concentrating solely on the parades in both Newry and Downpatrick moving forward.

Mr Patterson said feedback indicated that despite the inclement weather this year, similar numbers attended the parades in 2018 as in 2017.

There was general agreement that the parades needed to be re – energised, Councillor Hyland stated that underage drinking was a cause for concern that would need to be addressed.

In response to comments that not all Saint Patrick’s Day sub-committee members regularly attended the scheduled meetings, Councillor Curran said issues such as these should be improved upon, moving forward.

Mr Patterson said that planning for the 2019 Saint Patrick’s Day festivals would commence from Summer 2018 onwards and all meeting dates would be circulated to Councillors in advance. Additionally he said he would circulate the Terms of Reference of the Saint Patrick’s Day Sub Committee to all ERT Committee Members.

In response to a query from Councillor Hanna regarding the policy on the flying of flags at the Saint Patrick’s Day parade, Ms Ward replied that she did not have the policy to hand but she would ensure it was circulated to members.

Councillor Hyland said the Council should be commended for the completion of the Greenway from Newry to Carlingford, however improvements were needed at the Newry end. ‘Noted’.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Quinn the following was agreed:

1. Council lead, support and enhance the Saint Patrick's Day festivities in the home of Saint Patrick, and in order to encourage greater connectivity with businesses and local communities to establish an inter – community and business forum for local people to contribute to the festival planning jointly with the Council.
2. Terms of Reference of the Saint Patrick's Day Sub Committee to be circulated to ERT Committee Members.
3. The policy regarding the flying of flags at Saint Patrick's Day festivals to be circulated to ERT Committee Members.
4. Dates of the Saint Patrick's Day Sub Committee meetings to be circulated to ERT Committee Members in due course.

#### **FOR NOTING**

##### **ERT/091/2018 BREXIT RESEARCH**

Read: Report re. Understanding the spatial impacts of changing border arrangements: Brexit and coastal communities in the UK (BOAT)

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the Brexit Research report re. Understanding the spatial impacts of changing border arrangements: Brexit and coastal communities in the UK (BOAT)

##### **ERT/091/2018: AECOM – SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD**

Read: Report dated 14 May 2018 from Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive regarding Newry Southern Relief Road: Stage 2 Environmental Assessment. **(Copy circulated)**

During discussion Ms Ward advised members this stage of the development was to consider the proposed route options and not the design detail.

Councillor McAteer said he had expressed concern previously regarding linkage on

the Old Warrenpoint Road and a possible effect on the gaelic playing fields and in particular a junction on the road that had been the site of several accidents over the past 10 years. Ms Ward said all previous comments made at public and council consultations had already been noted and would have been captured by TNI.

It was noted the email address for receipt of comments was illegible on the letter from AECOM and it was agreed the email address would be circulated to members should they wish to make individual comments.

**Agreed:**                    **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the contents of the report regarding Newry Southern Relief Road: Stage 2 Environmental Assessment.**

**The AECOM email address for receipt of comments to be circulated to Committee Members.**

**ERT/092/2018    LOUTH / NEWRY JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Read:                        Report dated 31 January 2018 of Joint Louth / Newry Committee. **(Copy circulated).**

**Agreed:**                    **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Hyland it was agreed to note the Louth / Newry Joint Committee Report.**

**ERT/093/2018    NI BUSINESS START UP PROGRAMME - UPDATE**

Read:                        Report dated 14 May 2018 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding NI Business Start Up Programme - Update. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                    **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed to note the NI Business Start Up Programme.**

**ERT/094/2018:    CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK TASK AND FINISH REPORT**

Read:                        Report dated 14 May 2018 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Castlewellan Forest Park Task and Finish Project Board. **(Copy circulated)**



Councillor Clarke asked that the report of the Castlewellan Task and Finish Steering Committee meeting on Friday 20 April 2018 be amended to reflect his attendance.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor McMahon it was agreed to note the Castlewellan Forest Park Task and Finish Report.

**Councillor Clarke's name be added to the list of attendees at the Castlewellan Forest Park, Task and Finish Steering Committee meeting held on 20 April 2018.**

**ERT/095/2018: WARRENPOINT PARK TASK AND FINISH REPORT**

**Read:** Report dated 16 April 2018 from Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Warrenpoint Municipal Park Task and Finish Project Board. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor McMahon it was agreed to note the Warrenpoint Park Task and Finish Report.

**ERT/096/2018: SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

**Read:** Scheme of Delegation report (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the Scheme of Delegation report

**ERT/097/2018: ACTION TRACKER UPDATE SHEET**

**Read:** Action Tracker Update . (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed the Action Tracker Update Sheet be noted.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 4.30pm.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Councillor P Byrne**  
**Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

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