

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 9 October 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row, and remotely via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor M Ruane (Chamber)

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor G Kearns (Chamber)

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
Councillor T Andrews (Teams)
Councillor C Bowsie (Chamber)
Councillor P Campbell (Chamber)
Councillor W Clarke (Chamber)
Councillor G Hanna (Chamber)
Councillor D Lee-Surginor (Teams)
Councillor S Murphy (Chamber)
Councillor A Quinn (Teams)
Councillor M Savage (Chamber)
Councillor J Truesdale (Teams)

(Non Committee Members)
Councillor J Brennan (Teams)
Councillor D McAteer (Chamber)
Councillor A Lewis (Teams)

Officials in attendance: Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer

ERT/128/2023: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apologies were received:

Councillors Galbraith, King and Tinnelly.

ERT/129/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Campbell declared an interest in agenda item 8 regarding St Patrick's Day Parade 2024.

ERT/130/2023: ACTION SHEET ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2023

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 September 2023.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 September 2023.**

ERT/131/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION RE: WARRENPOINT BATHS – C/174/2023

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Notice of Motion re: Warrenpoint Baths – C/174/2023.
(Copy circulated)

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor Ruane and Councillor K Murphy:

"That this Council regrets that Warrenpoint Baths continues to fall into a state of disrepair and has now become an eyesore on what is one of the most scenic views in Ireland.

Welcomes the effort made by Council and local Councillors, who worked hard to ensure planning permission for the redevelopment of Warrenpoint Baths was retained in 2022.

Expresses its disappointment that a recent funding application to the British Government's Levelling Up Fund to redevelop the Baths site was unsuccessful.

Recognises the construction of Narrow Water Bridge is due to commence in early Summer 2024, and with it will come increased tourism and economic opportunities for the wider Warrenpoint and South Down region.

Further agrees that a viable and innovative project like Warrenpoint Baths will complement the much-anticipated Narrow Water Bridge. This will help to increase tourist numbers to Warrenpoint and drive the local economy.

Agrees that Newry Mourne and Down Council should make the redevelopment of Warrenpoint Baths a flagship Council project in the new term.

Commits to actively seeking alternative funding for the project through avenues such as the Irish Government's Shared Island Fund."

Councillor Ruane said the issue of Warrenpoint Baths had been on Council agenda since it's closure in 1996 and since then no progress has been made. He said the building was in a dilapidated state and remained an eyesore on Warrenpoint's front shore which has recently been dramatically improved following environmental improvement scheme works.

He referred to the Narrow Water Bridge project due to commence in summer 2024 and given the increase in visitors and tourism this will bring to the area, he therefore urged the Council to redouble it's efforts to bring the development of the Warrenpoint Baths to a conclusion.

Councillor Savage agreed with the sentiments expressed by Councillor Ruane stressing the importance of continuing to seek funding and in the interim consider measures to improve the appearance of the building and adding he was happy to support the Motion.

Councillor Hanna indicated that the DUP party grouping on the Council would neither be

supporting nor objecting to the Motion and would therefore be abstaining.

Councillor Ruane proposed to agree that the redevelopment of Warrenpoint Baths is considered in the Shared Island funded Feasibility Study on developing Carlingford Lough as a premier outdoor tourism destination, as one of the key projects identified for future capital investment. Councillor Clarke seconded the proposal.

The proposal was put to a vote and voting was as follows:

For	9
Against	0
Abstentions	2

The proposal was declared carried.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed that the redevelopment of Warrenpoint Baths is considered in the Shared Island funded Feasibility Study on developing Carlingford Lough as a premier outdoor tourism destination, as one of the key projects identified for future capital investment.**

REGENERATION

ERT/132/2023: **ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE: QUINNS BAR, NEWCASTLE**

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director: Regeneration, regarding Entertainment Licence, Quinns Bar, Newcastle. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: **It was noted Officers to provide clarification to Councillor Bowsie with regard to arrangements for the noise testing that was carried out at the premises.**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed that under legislation the licence can only be granted for a maximum period of 12months. As the Licence has been issued for a period of 3 months the licence can only be granted for a further period of 9 months.**

As the special conditions have been adhered to, it is recommended to extend the Entertainment Licence for Quinn's Bar, 62-64 Main Street, Newcastle, BT33 0AE for a further period of 9 months.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matters 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 Savage, seconded by Councillor Bowsie, it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed while in closed session.

RESTRICTED – FOR DECISION

ERT/133/2023: DUBLIN BELFAST ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (DEBC) PROCUREMENTS

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr C Mallon, Director: Economy, Regeneration and Tourism, regarding Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor Procurements. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed:

- 1) To approve the attached business case for the procurement of a communications and engagement partner for the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor.**
- 2) To approve that Council, appoint delivery agents to progress a research project which will seek to build intelligence and make recommendations for actions to meet needs for labour supply and demand of the corridor.**

ERT/134/2023: WARRENPOINT FRONT SHORE REVITALISATION SCHEME

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Warrenpoint Front Shore Revitalisation Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed to approve the implementation of the Warrenpoint revitalisation project as set out in the agreed Action Plan, and the allocation of the required match funding from the 2023/24 EI Schemes revenue budget and to proceed with the required procurement exercises and appointment of suppliers to deliver the Warrenpoint Revitalisation Project

RESTRICTED – FOR NOTING

(6.30pm - Councillor Campbell left the meeting)

ERT/135/2023: ST PATRICKS DAY PARADE

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding St Patricks Day Parade. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Bowsie, it was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report.

(6.40pm - Councillor Campbell re-joined the meeting)

FOR NOTING

ERT/136/2023: UPDATE RE: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FLEXIBLE FUND (DTFF)

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding an update regarding Digital Transformation Flexible Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed note the contents of the report and to request that elected members promote the project to their constituents where possible.

ERT/137/2023: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed to note the Historic Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

ERT/138/2023: NI ENTERPRISE SUPPORT SERVICES

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding NI Enterprise Support Services. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed to note the update provided on the proposed implementation of NI Enterprise Support Services.

ERT/139/2023: PEACE PLUS THEME 1.1

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Peace Plus Theme 1.1.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report.**

ERT/140/2023: LICENSING REPORT

Read: Licensing Report, October 2023.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed to note the Licensing Report for October 2023.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.40pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 November 2023.

Signed: **Councillor M Ruane**
Chairperson
Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

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