

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 13 February 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan
Row, and remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor R Burgess (Chamber)

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor D Curran (Chamber)

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)
Councillor C Enright (Teams)
Councillor G Hanna (Teams)
Councillor V Harte (Chamber)
Councillor R Howell (Teams)
Councillor M Larkin (Teams)
Councillor D Lee-Surginor (Teams)
Councillor H Reilly (Teams)
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)
Councillor G Stokes (Teams)

Non Members: Councillor G Sharvin (Teams)
Councillor J Tinnelly (Teams)

Officials in Attendance: Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment Regeneration
Ms S Taggart Democratic Services Manager
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer
Ms C McAteer Democratic Services Officer
Ms T McLoughlin PA Director ERT

ERT/022/2023: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The Chairperson requested if all Members could be present in the Chamber for the last meeting of the ERT Committee for this term of Council.

The following apologies were received:

- Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
- Councillor G Kearns

ERT/023/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Enright declared an interest in Item 6 regarding the Artisan Markets and withdrew from discussions.

**ERT/024/2023: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2023**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 January 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 January 2023.

NOTICE OF MOTION

**ERT/025/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: FORMER DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL BUILDING**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor G Sharvin:-

" Newry Mourne and Down District Council recognises the significant history that the former Down District Council building has to this area and through this Motion, will carry out full research into the history of the Workhouse, resulting in an interpretive panel being erected at the site for visitors and residents, and a temporary exhibition at Down County Museum to be arranged."

Councillor Sharvin presented the Notice of Motion. He said the Downpatrick Union

Workhouse admitted its first inmates on 17 September 1842 which was designed to house up to 1,000 inmates across what was an 11 acre site. He referred to the history of the Downpatrick Workhouse and those who worked in it as an important part of our heritage and said the story and lives of those who worked in it must be remembered. He spoke of the Workhouse's connection to not only Downpatrick but to the wider Lecale and surrounding area and he added that it is recorded that committees in Killough and Saul had soup kitchens in 1847 and held famine relief meetings in Dunsford, Ballee and Inch. He said the Public Records in Northern Ireland hold full admissions and discharge registers from 1842 to 1948 and that the Workhouse regime ended in July 1948 when the National Health Service and the Welfare State began and the Workhouse became the Quoile Hospital.

In explaining why the history of the Workhouse was so important to Downpatrick, he referred recent development works for the new Down High School which uncovered the ground-breaking archaeological discovery of an Irish famine graveyard and one of the largest prehistoric settlements ever discovered on the island of Ireland, including a 2000BC urn, 950 burials from the workhouse and 19th Century bronze age.

He said in 2012 the Down Recorder published an article on Bernard Piper who was placed in the Workhouse in 1940 and who after 18 months escaped, and shared details on the conditions and the hardship experienced by inmates.

The projects proposed by Council officers shows how important we as a Council recognise the Workhouse to our heritage and history.

He also spoke of an opportunity to work with the Down High School and the archaeologists who complete the dig, when the 950 bodies are re-interred as part of a planned commemorative event.

He said it will be of most importance to know the history of the people of the Workhouse and that their names be known and their history told.

He expressed thanks to the Council Officers in their consideration of the Motion and the submission of a detailed project for Committee approval which shows the importance that we recognise the people that lived and worked in the Workhouse.

Councillor Curran he would like to propose the heritage project on the history of the Downpatrick Workhouse, as detailed in the officer report, adding it was a very interesting situation as the building was the former Down District Council Offices and therefore a significant history to play. He said the building was opened in 1841 as a workhouse run by a board of guardians with a limited amount of money with conditions harsh and it was important to carry out research to establish the history of this place.

Councillor Trainor formally seconded the proposal by Councillor Curran and supported the sentiments expressed by Councillor Sharvin and Councillor Curran on the importance of bringing this Notice of Motion forward and spoke of the significance of our Museums displaying exhibits relating back to our rich shared heritage of our ancestors.

The Chairperson expressed his support for the Motion.

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding a Notice of Motion on the former Down District Council building. **(Circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Trainor it was agreed to approve the proposed heritage project on the history and development of Downpatrick Workhouse as detailed in this report.

**ERT/026/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor C Enright and Councillor A McMurray:-

“This Council recognises the important role that Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) can play in promoting regeneration, leading economic development, and providing a collective voice for local businesses. It also recognises the excellent work already being done by Newry BID, and that this can serve as an exemplar for BIDs across the District. Council will use its human or other resources to enthusiastically welcome and support plans to establish new BIDs across the District, particularly in our main towns.”

Councillor Enright formally proposed the Notice of Motion which was seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor.

Whilst he agreed in principle, with the officer recommendation, Councillor Enright said Council should be encouraging BIDs in order to send a clear message that we will support them subject to a viable business case, rather than considering them when the proposals arrive, as suggested in the officer recommendation.

He felt a BID was an excellent way for businesses to pool resources and leverage with a collective voice to draw down further funding as is the case with Newry as the BID enables businesses to get ground work done that Council may struggle to deliver in a cost effective manner therefore BIDs can deliver additional services along with Council

when drawing in additional funds.

He referred to the lack of support for a Downpatrick Town Centre Manager and felt that BID would be an excellent way to provide a Town Centre Manager without funding from Council.

He said the Newry BID was very successful and he referred to the Newry BID Manager who is supportive of proposals to create a BID for Downpatrick, given the ongoing effort by the regeneration group who are working towards the future of Downpatrick. He also referred to a recent public meeting at which it was felt BID would be a good idea and would be tabled for discussion at the next Downpatrick Regeneration Meeting.

He highlighted the fact businesses needed support for bids to be successful referring to Belfast, Coleraine, Strabane, Enniskillen and Ballymena who all have benefited from either Department for Communities, or Council support with bids.

Councillor Enright agreed with the officer recommendation but suggested it include the Council write to the Department for Communities to ascertain if there is any intention to bring back funding to help BIDs in towns who don't already have them.

Mr McGilly said the question could be asked of the Department. He explained the process included a levy on the rates for the businesses therefore emphasising the need for businesses being willing to come on board with this as opposed to Council leading the way in terms of creating a BID. He said the report reflected that Council would support BIDs coming forward with a viable action plan ensuring alignment to Council strategy, and Council will play its role in the ballot if eligible to vote, based on property owned in the defined area.

Councillor Stokes endorsed comments made by Councillor Enright adding the Council were instrumental with regard to the setting up of Newry BID.

Councillor Trainor said clarity was needed to ascertain whether businesses were supportive of a Downpatrick BID and added Council should support those who wished to establish BIDs.

Mr McGilly said the issue of a Town Centre Manger for Downpatrick had not been ruled out but focus of the DRWG was on the need to establish priorities around what businesses and the wider community wanted for the area. From that a method to deliver would be agreed considering all the resources currently available etc.

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration, regarding a Notice of Motion on Support for Business Improvement Districts. **(Circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Enright seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed:

- 1) To note the Council will consider the merits of, and whether to support a BID proposal, as and when one is submitted, and in doing so will assess the proposed business plan to ensure there is no duplication of service and that the plan aligns to Council strategy.**
- 2) Council write to the Department for Communities to ascertain if there is any intention to bring back funding to help support the setting up of BIDs in the future.**

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/027/2023: UPDATE RE: ARTISAN MARKETS

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding an update on Artisan Markets in Downpatrick, Newcastle, Newry and Warrenpoint.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed:

- 1. To pilot a reduction in the stall fee at the Artisan Markets from £35.00 to £30.00 for 23/24. This will assist traders to offset increasing operating costs and attract other artisan producers.**
- 2. To commence an Expression of Interest process to appoint a delivery agent for Newcastle Market whilst investigating alternative location and storage.**

Councillor Hanna indicated he was not in favour of the above decision.

ERT/028/2023: KILLYLEAGH REVITALISATION MURAL PROJECT

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Killyleagh Revitalisation Mural Project. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve a Service Level Agreement with the Killyleagh Development Association valued at £6,750 plus VAT to implement a mural in Plantation Street Killyleagh, as agreed in the Killyleagh Small Settlement Scheme Action Plan.

ERT/029/2023: REGIONAL FUTURE BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Entrepreneurship Support Service/Future Business Support Working Group. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1) To note the update provided on the Entrepreneurship Support Service, including:**
 - Council Officers will ensure the provision of the required support to move the Entrepreneurship Support Service through to procurement and contract awards**
 - Council Officers will contribute to the completion and submission of an application for funding for the delivery of the Entrepreneurship Support Service until March 2025.**
 - An update on progress will be brought back to a future committee.**

- 2) Council to provide a funding declaration form confirming Council's match funding to the Entrepreneurship Support Service for 2023/24 and 2024/25. (2024/25 approved in principle, subject to confirmation of future rate estimates)**

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Curran 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 Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

ERT/030/2023: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS / LETTERS OF OFFER 2023/2024

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Service Level Agreements / Letters of Offer 2023/2024. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve the list of Service Level Agreements for 2023/2024, as detailed in Point 2.1 within the above report.

ERT/031/2023: CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the Carlingford Lough Greenway. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed Members approve the Business Case for the Carlingford Lough Greenway Site Investigation and the appointment of a supplier through a Pan Government Collaborative framework agreement to complete the works.

ERT/032/2023: FOR NOTING: TOURISM NI LEARNING JOURNEY

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events, regarding AONB and Geopark – Tourism NI Learning Journey, Sustainable Tourism.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to note the contents of this paper.

ERT/033/2023: FOR NOTING: TOURISM NI MARKET LED PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2022/2023

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Tourism NI Market Led Product Development Programme 2022/2023.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to note the contents of this paper.

FOR NOTING

ERT/034/2023: UPDATE RE: COVID RECOVERY REVITALISATION PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding DFC/DAERA/DFI Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the final update report provided on delivery of the Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme.

ERT/035/2023: CROSSGAR INTERPRETATIVE PANELS

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism Culture and Events regarding Crossgar Interpretative Panels. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the contents of the report.

ERT/036/2023: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

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

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

ERT/037/2023: NEW LISTED BUILDINGS – LISTED SCHEDULES NMD

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding additions to the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest in the Newry Mourne and Down District Council area. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the contents of the Report.

ERT/038/2023: NMD BUSINESS GROWTH

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration, regarding NMD Business Growth – additional support. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note that additional business support to be delivered under the NMD Business Growth programme will be up to 40 days of `one to one' mentoring to 20 participating businesses (with a minimum target of 12

participant businesses receiving mentoring) by 31 March 2023.

ERT/039/2023: PARKING CONTROL MEASURES INCEPTION PROCESS

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr C Mallon Director of Enterprise, Regeneration Tourism regarding Parking Control Measures Inception Process. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the contents of the Report.

The Chairperson requested if Members could attend the next ERT Committee Meeting in the Council Chamber.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.55pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 March 2023.

**Signed: Councillor R Burgess
Chairperson
Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

**Signed: Mr J McGilly
Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration**

**Mr A Patterson
Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events**
