

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday 29 May 2018 at 6pm in the
Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

In the Chair: Councillor R Mulgrew – 6.00pm – 6.50pm
Councillor W Clarke – 6.50pm – 7.55pm

In attendance: **(Councillors)**
Councillor T Andrews Councillor D McAteer
Councillor M Carr Councillor A McMurray
Councillor C Casey Councillor J Macauley
Councillor G Craig Councillor M Murnin
Councillor C Enright Councillor B O’Muirí
Councillor G Fitzpatrick Councillor B Quinn
Councillor G Hanna Councillor H Reilly
Councillor H Harvey Councillor J Rice
Councillor T Hearty Councillor D Taylor
Councillor R Howell Councillor W Walker
Councillor D Hyland

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer
Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mr S Richardson, DFI, Roads
Mr S Duffy, DFI, Roads
Mr I Campbell, DFI, Roads

SC/19/2018 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, Byrne, Curran, Devlin, Harte, Kimmins, Larkin, Loughran, Ruane, Sharvin, Stokes, Tinnelly and Trainor.

SC/20/2018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

The Chairperson welcomed the representatives from DFI Roads to the meeting and invited them to give their presentation.

SC/21/2018

**PRESENTATION FROM DFI ROADS ON SOUTHERN
DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT**

Mr Richardson introduced his two colleagues Mr Duffy and Mr Campbell and he then proceeded to talk through his Annual Report on the DFI Roads Southern Division work in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area. (Copy Attached).

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

- 2017/2018 was a very challenging year in relation to budgets, however the 2018/2019 budget would have £15m allocated from a £75m structural maintenance budget to address the roads that had been worst affected by potholes.
- As a result of the increased budget for 2018/2019, any potholes 2” deep would be repaired as opposed to only 4” potholes for the 2017/2018 period.
- Although not included in the report and not in the NMDDC council area, a £500,000 safety barrier was to be constructed along the A1 dual carriageway, this would significantly increase safety controls and reduce head on collisions in that cars would be contained on one side of the carriageway.
- Two schemes that were not included in the report but confirmed to be carried out were Seaview, Warrenpoint and Dundalk Road, Newtownhamilton.
- Since July 2017, the Strangford Ferry had a 100% record in terms of cancellations due to operational or mechanical faults. There were 100 crossings cancelled due to adverse weather.
- The 20mph speed limit at Clonalig Primary School was on a part time basis only and was operating successfully. There were plans to roll out this initiative to other areas, subject to funding and the request to implement this initiative at Ballynahinch Primary School would be monitored.
- The one-way system in Edward Street, Ballynahinch was under review and would be reconsidered once works at Commons Corner were completed.
- The budget for pedestrian crossings was set at £200,000 and each crossing cost £30,000, however a crossing in Killyleagh was high priority and was under review.
- The commencement of the Ballynahinch by-pass was subject to funding being available.
- There were no plans in place to introduce variable speed recording equipment across the district.

- The Cluster Road in Newtownhamilton would need to be looked at as, although it was not a main road, due to subsidence on the road during the bad weather, school buses were unable to use it.
- The roads across the Slieve Gullion and Newry DEAs were in an extremely bad state of repair.
- The severe winter and lack of funding had a severe impact on the roads in the Southern Division and it was not a personnel issue, therefore reallocating staff would not take place. The allocation of funding in terms of road repairs across the district was apportioned fairly and according to where it was most needed
- Statistics on the numbers of pothole damage claims across the district to be made available to Members.
- Funding had been secured to complete the development stage of the Southern Relief Road and it was important that due diligence was performed in this process.
- The Southern Relief Road was a strategic project that was key to unlocking the economic potential of South Down and Newry and as such, UK and ROI governments should be lobbied for EU funding, linked to potential funding from the Belfast Region City Deal. It would be hoped that it would be completed within the next ten years.
- Car parking at various rural tourism hotspots eg Trassey Road, Head Road and Bloody Bridge was an issue that needed to be addressed.
- With regard to parking issues for the residents of Valentia Place, Newcastle, Mr Richardson advised that a test case for residents parking was carried out in Belfast and the results would be fed back into the system, however, there was no prospect of this initiative being carried out in Newcastle in the foreseeable future.
- Roads DFI to look at completing a small piece of tarmacking during 2018/2019 that was not undertaken when the roads and footpaths were recently resurfaced in Ballymartin.
- The completion of a small piece of missing footpath between Ballymartin and Kilkeel was under review.
- Of the 21,000 surface defects across the district, 14,000 of these had been completed in the last quarter.
- Roads DFI were continuing to develop the fault reporting system and would investigate the possibility of alerting those who report faults when these had been resolved.

- An assessment of the speed limit at Seaforde to be undertaken, however speed limits had to be proportionate for the surrounding environment.
- DFI Roads to continue to bid for funding for the completion of works for the stretch of road from the Old Warrenpoint road – Newry side that was never completed.
- The bad state of repair on the Upper Burren Road to be reviewed.
- DFI Roads to check if work on all roads in Forest Hills had been carried out.
- An expansion of the Park & Ride facility at Newtowncloghogue would be a Roads issue not Translink.
- The sequencing of the lights along the Armagh Road into city centre to be looked at to reduce queuing time.
- The addition of a 2nd entrance / exit at the Damolly retail park to be explored.
- The erection of sound barriers along the A1 at the Fathom Line to be explored.
- DFI Roads to look at the damage done to properties at Ballymartin by contractors when road works had been carried out.
- DFI Roads to look at the possibility of a yellow traffic box being installed outside BE Aerospace to help alleviate traffic congestion.

Councillor Clarke proposed that a meeting take place with Council and Roads Service to discuss the realignment of Newcastle roundabout. This was seconded by Councillor Quinn.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Richardson for his very informative presentation and commended him and all staff for their hard work under such restrictive budgetary constraints.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Quinn that a meeting take place with Council and Roads Service to discuss the alignment of Newcastle roundabout.**
It was agreed that Roads Service officials respond in writing to the issues raised at the earlier DEA clinics as well as the issues raised during the meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.55pm.