

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 February 2021 at 6.00pm via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor O Magennis

Deputy Chair: Councillor T Andrews

Members:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Councillor C Casey | Councillor W Clarke |
| Councillor D Curran | Councillor A Finnegan |
| Councillor G Malone | Councillor C Mason |
| Councillor H McKee | Councillor K McKeivitt |
| Councillor D Murphy | Councillor K Owen |
| Councillor G Stokes | Councillor D Taylor |

Non-Committee Members: Councillor J Tinnelly Councillor G O'Hare

Officials in Attendance: Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Mr L Dinsmore, Head of Waste Processing and Enforcement
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

NS/010/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director.

The Chair referred to an email circulated to some Members of the Committee, mostly in the Newry end of the District, in relation to an article in the "Newry Reporter" highlighting fly-tipping in the Newry DEA and the Council's lack of response. She confirmed she had discussed the issues in the article with the Acting Director who had agreed that his Directorate would review the situation to see how they could make improvements in this area.

Mr McBride confirmed an update on the status of the Neighbourhood Services Enforcement Improvement Plan would be brought to the March Committee Meeting and as part of that report Officers would identify the number of incidences reported to the Council and the corresponding response rate.

NS/011/2021: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

Councillors McKee, Owen and Clarke declared an interest in item 4 – presentation by Arc21, as Members of Arc21. However as the item was a presentation, with no decisions required, they did not withdraw from the discussion during this item.

NS/012/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2020

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 January 2021. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 January 2021 be noted and actions removed as marked.

PRESENTATIONS

NS/013/2021: PRESENTATION ON ARC 21 – THE NEXT 20 YEARS

Mr Tim Walker, CEO arc21, gave a presentation on arc21 – the next 20 years. The presentation outlined what the work arc21 did on behalf of its member Councils; what had been achieved; the Local Government residual waste problem and the proposed residual waste treatment project at Mallusk. *(Copy of presentation attached)*.

A short q & a session followed during which Mr Walker encouraged members of the Committee to visit the facilities at Duleek and Poolbeg, Dublin, to see similar sites in operation.

Mr McBride advised it had been previously agreed that members of the NS Committee would visit the facility at Duleek and this would be arranged when it was safe to do so, in line with Government guidelines.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NS/014/2021: BIG DISTRICT CLEAN-UP

Councillor Tinnelly spoke on the following Notice of Motion which he had proposed and had been referred to the NS Committee from the Council meeting of 1 February 2021:-

"Throughout the Covid pandemic, many residents of and visitors to our district have taken the opportunity to exercise in the parks, rural roads & pathways of our towns & villages to help their physical and mental wellbeing and in so doing, many have found a renewed sense and awareness of the stunning beauty of our district. Regrettably, this increased volume of cyclists and walkers has also lead to a marked increase in the amount of rubbish that is discarded along those very roads and pathways. To that end Newry Mourne & Down Council will organise and supervise a district wide 'Big Spring Clean Up', particularly on our rural roads on a chosen Saturday morning this coming Springtime, delivered through the respective DEA's and

involving as many community groups, schools and residents of our district as possible, public health advice permitting.

Councils role will be to coordinate what is happening within each DEA and to provide logistical support like litter pickers, bags, hi-vis vests, rubbish collection points etc; on request, and to engage external groups who may wish to partner us in this project. If successful, this initiative will then become an annual event for our Council to lead, in this time of increased environmental awareness".

Councillor Tinnelly said he would like to record his appreciation for the incredible work done by the Council's cleansing staff on daily basis and said this Motion was designed to complement this work, with its primary target being the many areas of our District that are not on a cleansing route, particularly rural roads and villages. He also acknowledged the great work carried out by many community groups in organising litter picks and other initiatives to help keep the District clean and said the Council could lead on such an initiative by creating a corporate approach and involving other agencies such as Tidy NI.

Councillor Tinnelly said he hoped such an initiative would generate and renewed and enduring civic pride within our towns and villages and that it would become an annual event. He acknowledged that with the current restrictions it might not be possible to have the event in the Spring and was therefore renaming it the "Big District Clean-Up".

Councillors Stokes, Taylor, Curran, Malone, McKee, Mason, McKevitt, Owen and Clarke welcomed the Motion and spoke in support of it.

In response to a query from Councillor McKevitt, Mr McBride said the Council would welcome the opportunity to work with community groups, including the provision of litter pickers, bags, collection points etc. but this service had been suspended due to COVID restrictions. He said this would restart once restrictions were eased by the Executive.

Councillor Clarke asked if Councillor Tinnelly would also include agreement to inviting the Council's Statutory Partners such as DfI Roads, NIHE, Forestry etc. to also get involved in such an initiative. Councillor Tinnelly confirmed he would be happy to include this in his Motion.

Read: Report dated 17 February 2021 from Mr J McBride regarding the above Motion. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed to recommend approval to Officers to develop a scheme, similar to the "Cleaner, Greener Communities Initiative" in 2019, to be implemented later in the year. This would be subject to the easing of COVID-19 Regulations, as well as the availability of the necessary supporting resources. A report to be**

brought back to a future meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee on the detail of the proposed scheme.

It was also agreed that the Council engage with external groups, including Statutory Agencies, to encourage them join in this initiative.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

NS/015/2021: REVIEW OF COUNCIL BUS SHELTER POLICY

Read: Report dated 17 February 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: review of Council Bus Shelter Policy. ***(Circulated)***.

Members welcomed measures which would speed up the involvement of Translink in the provision of bus shelters and raised the following issues: -

- Outstanding request for the provision of a bus shelter in Saintfield and Crossgar
- Details of the bus shelters in the District and if they were Council or Translink owned to be provided to Councillors
- Is there a policy for repair and replacement of bus shelters (this would form part of the Management Plan – the aim of which was to have a set of bus shelters which were well used and well maintained)
- An update given on what happens once a request for a bus shelter was received
- Outstanding request for a bus shelter in Annacloy, Orchard Grove, Downpatrick (Translink had indicated this request had met their criteria but had not given an indication as to when it might be provided)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to note the content of the report and that Council write to Translink seeking clarification on its programme for delivering bus shelters in this Council area and seeking confirmation that they have a budget available to undertake these works.

NS/016/2021: APPLICATION FOR BUS SHELTER ON MAIN STREET, HILLTOWN

Read: Report dated 17 February 2021 from Mr K Scullion, re: application for bus shelter on Main Street, Hilltown. The report recommended approval of the recommendation set out in Appendix 1 i.e. that a bus shelter should not be erected at this location as it did not fulfil all the criteria as per Council policy - that one third or more of

home owners/tenants in the vicinity (50m radius) confirmed in writing that they object to the shelter being located as proposed. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to defer taking a decision on this issue and that further discussions be carried out with local residents/objectors in conjunction with the PCSP and PSNI to address any potential anti social behaviour concerns.

**NS/017/2021: CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS
WORKING GROUP MEETING – 14 JANUARY 2021**

Read: Report dated 17 February 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Working Group Meeting held on 14 January 2021. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to note the content of this report and the Action Sheet of the Christmas Illuminations Group Meeting held on 14th January 2021 and to approve the recommendations as set out in Section 1.2 to 1. 6 on the report.

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed that Killyleagh Street, Crossgar, be added to the list for the provision of potential future Christmas lighting and that officials add this location to the list to bring back to Committee with costings.

WASTE MANAGMENT

**NS/018/2021: PROVISIONAL NI LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED
MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS**

Read: Report dated 17 February 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: provisional NI Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: It was agreed to note the content of this report and that the Waste Management Department continue to promote recycling initiatives. It was noted that this was considered essential to support household recycling efforts.

NS/019/2021: FLEET REPLACEMENT

Read: Report dated 17 February 2021 from Mr J McBride re: fleet replacement. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to note the content of this report and approve the recommendation to adopt an incremental approach at this stage for transitioning the Council to fleet to alternative, greener fuels in-line with green vehicle technology and supporting infrastructure; approve the presentation of business cases for the replacement of prioritised 3,500kg – 6,500kg GVW vehicles at the Neighbourhood Services Committee in March 2021; and subject to the completion of the depot survey referred to in section 2.9, present business cases for the replacement of vehicles <3,500kg GVW prioritising the procurement of alternative, greener fuels at the Neighbourhood Services Committee in April 2021.

FOR NOTING

NS/020/2021: COVID 19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PLAN UPDATE

Read: Report dated 17 February 2021 from Mr J McBride providing the Committee with an update in relation to the ongoing COVID-19 response and recovery plan within the Neighbourhood Services Directorate. The scope of this plan related to key services within the Waste Management and Facilities Management & Maintenance Departments. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the above report.

NS/021/2021: Arc21 JC MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN – JANUARY 2021

Read: Arc21 JC Members Monthly Bulletin – 28 January 2021. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: It was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.

NS/022/2021: Arc21 JC MINUTES – 1 DECEMBER 2020

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on 1 December 2020. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **It was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.**

NS/023/2021: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

Read: Historic Actions Tracking Sheet *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised

NS/070/2019 – Notice of Motion Memory Gardens

Mr Scullion advised this issue had not been progressed due to pressure on staff resources as a result of the pandemic. However it remained on the action sheet as work to be progressed.

NS/171/2020 – Bring Sites Review

Mr Dinsmore confirmed the documentation to seek tenders had been prepared and tender for removal was ready to be sought. Mr Dinsmore added that it was hoped to start to take in Bring Banks by mid-March.

NS/170-2020 – Notice of Motion Delivery of small brown food waste bins and caddy bags

Mr Dinsmore said the intent was to bring a report to Committee within the next couple of months on this issue.

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.**

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

Items 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 are deemed to be exempt under 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) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

On the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this item.

NS/024/2021: ARC 21 IN COMMITTEE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES – TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2021

Read: Arc 21 In Committee Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Tuesday 1 December 2020. *(Circulated)*.

NS/025/2021: MINOR WORKS MAINTENANCE ACROSS COUNCIL PLAY AREAS

Read: Report dated 17th February 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: minor works maintenance across Council play areas *(Circulated)*.

NS/026/2021: PROPOSED EXTENSION TO MONKSHILL MUNICIPAL CEMETERY

Read: Report dated 17th February 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: proposed extension to Monkshill Municipal Cemetery. *(Circulated)*.

NS/027/2021: PROPOSED EXTENSION TO KILBRONEY MUNICIPAL CEMETERY

Read: Report dated 17th February 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: proposed extension to Kilbroney Municipal Cemetery. *(Circulated)*.

NS/028/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE SUPPLY OF FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS

Read: Report dated 17th February 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: supply of feminine hygiene products. *(Circulated)*.

NS/029/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE PROVISION OF "AS REQUIRED" CLEANING SERVICES

Read: Report dated 17th February 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: business case for the provision of "as required" cleaning services. *(Circulated)*.

NS/030/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PUBLIC SPACE CCTV

Read: Report dated 17th February from Mr K Scullion re: business case for maintenance of Council public space CCTV. *(Circulated)*.

NS/031/2021: PROPOSED RENT REVIEW FOR BALLYKINE HRC, BALLYNAHINCH

Read: Report dated 17th February 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: proposed rent for Ballykine HRC, Ballynahinch. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/032/2021: BUSINESS CASE – SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE FOR
COMPACTORS AND SKIP UNITS LOCATED AT
COUNCIL HRC SITES**

Read: Report dated 17 February 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: business case for servicing and maintenance for compactors and skip units located at Council HRC sites. (*Circulated*).

Councillor Stokes proposed and Councillor Andrews seconded to come out of closed session.

When the Committee was out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following had been agreed:-

Item 16 – Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes – Tuesday 1 December 2020

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Tuesday 1 December 2020.

Item 17 – Minor works maintenance across Council play areas

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of the report and accept the conclusion of the business case that option 3 be approved. Option 3 would see the appointment through tender of a competent contractor or contractors to undertake council wide minor works contract within Council play parks and MUGA'S (costs not exceeding the maximum value per works order as detailed in the report).

Item 18 – Proposed extension to Monkshill Municipal Cemetery

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to note the content of the report and that Committee approve the recommendations within section 1.5 of this report

Item 19 – Proposed extension to Kilbroney Municipal Cemetery

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the content of the report and that Committee approve the recommendations within section 1.6 of this report.

Item 20 – Business case for supply of feminine hygiene products

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the findings of the business case presented in that Option three was the preferred option. Option three would see the appointment of a contractor to supply and service feminine hygiene products and similar services in Council facilities for the next 36-month period or up to a maximum value as detailed in the report.

Item 21 – Business case for the provision of “as required” cleaning services

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the findings of the business case presented in that Option three was the preferred option. Option three would see the appointment of a competent cleaning contractor to provide “as required” cleaning services for the Councils 31 Public Toilets, Newry Market and Chapel of Ease, to cover any future staff shortages for the next 12-month period or up to a maximum value as detailed in the report.

Item 22 – Business case for maintenance of Council public space CCTV

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of the report; approve the findings of the business case presented for Town Centre CCTV Repairs and Maintenance and accept Option 3 - to issue a tender for 2 + 1 year to appoint competent CCTV Maintenance Contractor to provide maintenance of Council Public CCTV systems.

Item 23 – Proposed rent review for Ballykine HRC, Ballynahinch

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the content of the report and recommend that subject to final confirmation by the Council’s Assistant Director of Corporate Services (Finance), that the rent increase as detailed in Appendix 2 applies, and Council approve that the annual rental will increase in accordance with the terms of the lease.

It was further agreed that the Assistant Director of Corporate Services (Finance) confirm no miscalculation would apply, with appropriate adjustment to be made to

the Council's Rent Register and that the Landlord be advised that Council accepted the rental increase as per the terms of the Lease.

Item 24 – Business case – servicing and maintenance for compactors and skip units located at Council HRC sites

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to note the content of the report and recommend approval of Option Two in the business case to procure a contract for the servicing and maintenance for compactors and skip units located at Council HRC sites.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 March 2021.

**Signed: Councillor O Magennis
Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee**

**Signed: Mr J McBride
Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)**

arc21 – the next 20 years

Tim Walker
Acting Chief Executive



Of & For Local Government

- Eastern Waste Management Group (2000)
- Democratically accountable:
 - Joint Committee
 - Waste Management Plans (Council & DAERA Approved)

arc21 works on behalf of its member councils to guide, support and help them meet their legal requirements and drive forward innovative waste management programmes including the development of infrastructure



What do we do?

- Advocacy
- Planning & Policy
- Procurement
- Compliance & Contract Management
- Outreach



What have we achieved together?

- Recycling rates have risen sixfold
- £120M value of waste treated by core contracts in last 5 years
- Treated c1.7M Tonnes of council collected waste in last 5 years
 - 837K Tonnes to Landfill Contracts
 - 852K Tonnes diverted to other Treatment contracts
- £42M savings achieved by diversion compared to landfill
- Future proofed proposals to **maintain statutory obligations**
 - protect the environment & public health
 - safeguard ratepayers & council finances
 - support the Circular Economy



Local Government has a Residual Waste Problem

- c.500K Tonnes of non-recyclable household waste produced annually
- Currently **landfilled** or **exported** overseas:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Landfill: | full capacity within the decade / 10% cap |
| Export: | taxes rising / Brexit uncertainty |
| Environment: | unsustainable |
| Value: | paying to export green jobs & energy |

- Decision to build essential planned waste infrastructure for councils **stalled**
- We can't keep repeating the inactivity of the past
- Living in an age of consequences



Residual Waste Treatment Project

Policy Compliant

- EU / UK / NI
- Local & Central Govt approval

Planning & Governance

- Procurement Exercise
- Site Selection Exercise
- Planning

Decision

- Planning approval pending
- Business Case
- Council decision
- Consenting Process



Residual Waste Treatment Project (Mallusk)



European Best Practice

£240M private sector investment

Council asset

300 indirect & induced jobs

18 MW of renewable energy

5% increase in recycling rates

Revenue share for councils

Landfill diversion

Net Zero CO2 commitments

Financial certainty

Public health / environmental protection

A Catalyst for Change

- Instead of burying the future we can use waste to power possibility
- Potential 45-acre NI Circular Economy & Eco-Energy Park
- More than a planning decision – opportunity for local government to determine the future of waste management for a generation
- A choice of setting a new precedent for local government collaboration in infrastructure investment and delivery of policy or.....
- Drift towards System Failure – a looming crisis



A Case of Need

- 124KT NI residual waste infrastructure gap by 2035 even accounting for:
 - arc21 Hightown development
 - 65% recycling rates
 - COVID-19 economic impact
- Almost 400KT municipal waste currently landfilled / exported (NI) – circa 250KT from arc21 (= 15 Million black bins/annum)
- arc21: 595KT municipal waste arisings
302KT recycled & composted (2019/20)
- Alternative, robust facilities do not exist.



A Case of Need

- Policy Drivers
 - Waste Hierarchy
 - Net Zero Targets
 - Circular Economy/Economic Development
 - Clean Energy production
 - Diversification of energy supplies
 - Proximity Principle
 - Waste Crime
- Imperatives
 - Public health/System resilience
 - Financial exposure
 - Time is running out.....
- Letters of Support





Legend

- Electricity
- Hydrogen
- Heat
- Condensate water

Questions?

