

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chair: Councillor K Owen

Deputy Chair: Councillor G Stokes

Members:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor D Curran
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor V Harte
Councillor T Hearty	Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor H McKee
Councillor K McKeivitt	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly	

Officials in Attendance: Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Waste Management
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

NS/086/2019: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies were received.

NS/087/2019: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of Conflicts of Interest were made.

NS/088/2019: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2019

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 October 2019. (*Circulated*).

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 October 2019 be noted and actions removed as marked.

Issues raised

In response to Councillor Andrews, Mr Scullion advised officers were working on the Property Maintenance Policy and Strategy and a report would be brought back to a future Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

NS/089/2019: NOTICE OF MOTION – WEED KILLER GLYPHOSATE

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

"Council will cease from using the weed killer Glyphosate and request that all sub-contractors employed by Council also cease the use of Glyphos and all products containing Glyphosate in this Council district, in favour of a more environmentally friendly product and approach"

Read: Report dated 20 November 2019 from Mr K Scullion re: use of herbicides containing glyphosate and recommending that that Officers undertake research into the implications of ceasing the use of herbicides containing glyphosate across the Council Estate as a means of controlling weeds and invasive species and that Officers bring back a report to the NS Committee with recommendations for consideration at the January 2020 meeting. **(Circulated)**.

In formally proposing the Motion Councillor Brown said glyphosate was an incredibly controversial chemical that had been deemed by the International Agency for Research Against Cancer to be carcinogenic to humans. He outlined the health issues linked to the weed killer glyphosate in Studies carried out and said at least 29 Countries and a number of Councils in England and Wales had banned it. As a result of a Sinn Fein Motion, Derry and Strabane Council also became the first Council in Northern Ireland to ban the weed killer.

Councillor Brown said he had discussed the issue with officers in Neighbourhood Services who had confirmed that the weed killer Round Up containing glyphosate, was used to ensure the management of conservation areas, control of invasive species and flood risks and access to high quality sporting facilities and infrastructure. He understood why the Council used the product but said there were safer alternatives available and whilst there might be cost implications to using them, it was not possible to put a price on the health of ratepayers.

Councillor Brown said there could be exceptions such as the need to control invasive species like Japanese Knotweed but if the weed killer was used warning notices should be put up to make the public aware.

Councillor Brown said he accepted the recommendations in the Officer's report but in advance of a report coming back to the January Neighbourhood Services Meeting he

was seeking a commitment tonight that the Council would ban use of the chemical glyphosate.

Councillor Kimmins seconded the Motion and requested that an action be included that Council write to all Statutory Agencies such as NIHE; Roads Service and Rivers Agency asking that they also ban the use of this chemical and commit to allowing wildflower growth where appropriate.

A number of Councillors spoke in support of the Motion.

Mr R Moore said there would be cost implications with the implementation of the proposal and said the Committee should have all the information available to them before making a decision on this matter.

Mr Scullion said he could give a commitment that Round Up would not be used by Council staff before this report came back to Committee and also that Officers would speak to colleagues in Derry and Strabane Council on how they had implemented this ban and this information could also be included in the January report, along with the inclusion of other Statutory Agencies.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Kimmins, it was agreed to approve the recommendations contained in the report dated 20 November 2019 and that Officers undertake research into the implications of ceasing the use of herbicides containing glyphosate across the Council Estate as a means of controlling weeds and invasive species and that Officers bring back a report to the NS Committee with recommendations for consideration at the January 2020 meeting.

It was also agreed the report include an update on the actions taken by Derry City and Strabane District Council in implementing such a ban.

It was further agreed Officials would write to other Statutory Agencies operating within the District advising the Council was giving consideration to banning its own use of this product on its property and would encourage those Public Authorities within this District to undertake a similar review.

It was noted the Assistant Director had given a commitment that herbicides containing glyphosate would not be used by Council staff in advance of a report being tabled at the January Meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee.

NS/090/2019: NOTICE OF MOTION – FLY TIPPING

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

“This Council agrees that fly-tipping is an unwanted blight on our District which creates an unnecessary burden on public resources. We request that Neighbourhood Services utilise the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 to actively identify, pursue and issue fixed penalty notices to those responsible. Furthermore, we agreed that Council should issue a press release advising of a no nonsense, proactive approach to illegal dumping using local press to publicise our public amenity centres and their opening times. We collectively agree that as a designated area of natural beauty this Council should be doing all within its power to detect and deter those responsible”.

Councillor Taylor formally proposed the Motion, seconded by Councillor Clarke.

Mr Moore advised Officers had met with Councillor Lewis and had updated him on the actions that were being taken to deal with the issue of fly-tipping and that a report would be brought back to the December NS Meeting.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

NS/091/2019: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MID-YEAR ASSESSMENT BUSINESS PLAN 2019-2020

Read: Neighbourhood Services Mid-Year Assessment Business Plan 2019-2020. ***(Circulated)***.

In response to a query from Councillor Hearty for an update on the implementation of a Cross-Border Anti-Dumping Project with Louth County Council, Mr Moore said officers were meeting regularly and working on an Action Plan which would be taken back through the Joint Committee. He advised the Group would be looking at initiatives such as working with local communities; PR; targeting and monitoring hotspots and use of technology such as CCTV.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to approve the Neighbourhood Services Mid-Year Assessment Business Plan 2019-2020.**

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

NS/092/2019: CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS GROUP MEETING - 5 NOVEMBER 2019

Read: Report dated 20 November 2019 from Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director: Facility Management and Maintenance Department re: Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting held on 5 November 2019. ***(Circulated)***

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed as follows:**

- **Note the contents of this report and the report of the Christmas Illuminations Group Meeting held on 5th November 2019.**
- **Approve the request to light up five planted trees in Duke Street, Warrenpoint, for this year and future years. Cost for this year would be £3000. Officers be permitted to proceed with this work prior to full Council approval so as to allow the trees to be lit for the Warrenpoint “Switch On” which takes place on Saturday 30th November 2019.**
- **Endorse the actions detailed in the report of the Christmas Illuminations Group Meeting held on 5th November 2019.**

Following discussions with Members it was also agreed:-

AGREED:

- **DEA Officer to liaise with the local community in Crossgar to see if a Christmas tree could be supplied and located where it would not be vandalised as in previous years.**
- **Council Officers contact the Clough Community Group to assist them in putting lights etc. on one of one Christmas tree to be lit up in the village.**
- **Officers acknowledged concerns expressed about the lighting of the tree in Kilkeel and said the technique to light up the tree would be changed this year and would then be assessed at the next Christmas Illuminations Meeting.**

NOTED:

Councillors expressed their congratulations to Officers and Members on the Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Committee in relation to the Sustainable Christmas Tree initiative and said it was a good news story and something the Council should be very proud of.

NS/093/2019: ROSTREVOR PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Mr Scullion said Rostrevor public conveniences had closed earlier this month due to dry rot being present in the ceiling joists. The toilets were attached to a Council owned property 16 The Square Rostrevor on which a project was being worked on through the Council’s AHC Directorate. A survey carried out had shown dry rot in the property which also affected the ceiling joists in the toilets and for health and safety reasons the toilets had to be closed.

Mr Scullion said a report would be taken back either to the December Active and Healthy Committee meeting or the Neighbourhood Services Committee meeting.

Councillor Tinnelly said it was disappointing that the toilets had to close but he understood from a health and safety reason why this happened. He asked that the work be expedited to ensure they would re-open as soon as possible.

In response to a query from Councillor McKevitt, Mr Scullion said there were no plans to put a mobile toilet unit in Rostrevor Square on a temporary basis. He advised there were facilities available in Kilbroney Park although he acknowledged this was some distance away.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Cllr. McKevitt and Cllr. Taylor left the meeting – 6.50 pm).

NS/094/2019: LITTER BIN POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Read: Report dated 20 November 2019 from Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director: Waste Management, re: Litter Bin Policy and Procedure. ***(Circulated)***

Members raised the following issues:-

- Important to ensure overflowing bins were emptied regularly.
- There was a real need for recycling bins, particularly in car parks and estates and also a need to ensure bins were regularly refurbished and re-painted.
- Need for bins to be provided in rural communities and small hamlets, where there has been a settlement growth.
- Additional weight should be given to a location for a bin if a Councillor asked for it as Councillors were able to identify hot spots.
- Anti litter bins with flaps should be provided in coastal towns such as Newcastle to prevent seagulls from scattering litter.
- Phones numbers should be provided on bins so that members of the public could ring and report if they were full or damaged.

Mr Parkes advised the location of bins would be looked at as part of the Street Cleansing Review but said in a lot of cases if a bin was provided too close to a person's home there would be complaints and a request to have it moved. He said in Estates bins tended to be located at entrance/exit points.

Mr Parkes said stickers would be put on all street bins to advise that both general litter and bagged dog litter could be put in the one bin. The condition of the bins would be addressed through the Property Maintenance Strategy and other types of bins such as hard plastic could be used in coastal areas where there was a potential for corrosion.

Mr Parkes said he would take on board the comment about a request for a bin from a Councillor being given extra weight. There would be a review of the new Policy in a year's time and this could be added if necessary. He also addressed the point about contact numbers being displayed on bins but said this would only work if there was someone there to answer the call.

Mr Moore advised that contact numbers and the means for improved communications could be considered through the Neighbourhood Services Transformation Project or the Council's work on the CRM project.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to approve the draft Litter Bin Policy and Procedure.

(Cllr. Curran left the meeting – 7.00 pm).

NS/095/2019: **DAERA CONSULTATION ON THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN NI**

Read: Report dated 20 November 2019 from Mr Joe Parkes, Assistant Director, Waste Management, re: DAERA Consultation on the Waste Management Plan NI. *(Circulated)*

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to approve the Draft Response (as circulated at Appendix 3) with the report to the DAERA Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland.

NS/096/2019: **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS – REFUSE COLLECTION AND HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES**

Read: Report dated 20 November 2019 from Mr J Parkes re: Christmas and New Year holiday arrangements for Refuse Collection and Household Recycling Centres. *(Circulated)*

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the above report.

FOR NOTING

NS/097/2019: **Arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES 26 SEPTMBER 2019**

Read: Report of Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting (No.44), held on Thursday 26 September 2019. *(Circulated)*

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the above Report.

NS/098/2019: **ARC21 MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN - OCTOBER 2019**

Read: Arc21 Members Monthly Bulletin – 31 October 2019. *(Circulated)*

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the Arc21 Members Monthly Bulletin – 31 October 2019.

**NS/099/2019: ARC21 PAPER ON CONSULTATION ON
SCIENCE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK**

Read: Arc21 Paper on Consultation on Science Strategy Framework.
(Circulated).

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor
Clarke, it was agreed to note the above Paper.**

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Item 16 is 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 Kimmins, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on these items.

**NS/100/2019: IN COMMITTEE ITEMS FROM Arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE
MINUTES – 26 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Read: In Committee items from Arc21 Joint Committee Minutes – 26
September 2019. *(Circulated).*

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

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

**Item 16 – In Committee items from Arc21 Joint Committee Minutes –
26 September 2019**

On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the In-Committee Items from the Arc21 Joint Committee Minutes of 26 September 2019.

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was also agreed to organise a visit for Members of the Neighbourhood Services Committee to the Regen Waste Incinerator Plant in Newry and the Waste Incinerator Plant in Duleek.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.15 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2 December 2019.

Signed: Councillor Owen
Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee

Signed: Mr R Moore
Director of Neighbourhood Services