

## **NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21 September 2021 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room. Downshire Civic Estate, Downpatrick and via MS Teams.**

**Chair:** Councillor W Walker (Chamber)

**Deputy Chair:** Councillor A Finnegan (Teams)

**Members:** Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)  
Councillor P Brown (Teams)  
Councillor C Casey (Teams)  
Councillor D Curran (Chamber)  
Councillor O Magennis (Teams)  
Councillor G Malone (Teams)  
Councillor D Murphy (Teams)  
Councillor K McKeivitt (Teams)  
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)  
Councillor D Taylor (Teams)

**Non-Committee Members:** Councillor A McMurray (Teams)  
Councillor R Howell (Teams)  
Councillor A Lewis (Teams)

**Officials in Attendance:** Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)  
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance  
Ms S Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management  
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer  
Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

### **NS/134/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

No apologies were received.

### **NS/135/2021: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"**

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

### **NS/136/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 AUGUST 2021**

**Read:** Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 August 2021. ***(Circulated)***.

## Matters arising from Action Sheet

### Overgrown section of Newry Canal from O'Reillys Lock towards Fearon's Lock

- Councillor Casey advised he was not referring to the overgrown trees/bushes along the banks on this section of the towpath and said Council workers were doing a great job maintaining these areas. However the Canal itself was very overgrown with weeds etc. and he asked that Council Officials contact Rivers Agency to get them to clear the waterway with a harvester, from O'Reilly's Lock towards Fearon's Lock.

**AGREED: Council Officials to contact Rivers Agency and report back.**

### Broken and overhanging tree branches at Ring McIlroy Park, Warrenpoint

- Councillor Ruane expressed his strong disappointment that his request made at last month's Committee Meeting, that broken and overhanging tree branches in Ring McIlroy Park, Warrenpoint be cut, had still not been acted on. He said this was simply not good enough Mr Scullion said these trees were outside the boundary of what was owned by Council and ownership of the land could not be determined but if this continued to be the case, Council would take action to have these trees cut back.

**AGREED: Council Officials follow this matter up with Councillor Ruane and provide a timetable as to when this work would be carried out.**

### Public Toilet Strategy Update

**AGREED: In response to a query from Councillor Andrews, Mr Scullion advised an update report in relation to the governance arrangements for the Public Toilet Strategy would be tabled at the October Committee Meeting.**

### Distribution of food waste caddy bags

**AGREED: In response to a query from Councillor Andrews, Ms Murphy advised food caddy bags would be delivered this week and action would be taken to distribute them and issue the relevant communications around this.**

### Christmas Illuminations

**AGREED: In response to a request from Councillor McMurray, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that officers look at what mechanisms would be available to re-distribute surplus Christmas Illuminations to interested Community Groups. A report**

be tabled at the October Christmas Illuminations Sub Committee Meeting and reported back to Committee in October.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Brown, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 August 2021 be noted and actions removed as marked.

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

### **NS/137/2021: TRANSLINK PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR BUS SHELTERS IN COUNCIL AREA**

Read: Report dated 21 September 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: Translink proposed programme for bus shelters in the Council area. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve option 2 – to delay installation of a bus shelter in Burren pending outcome of Translink’s deliberations in October/November 2021 with the option to reconsider this position if Translink were deemed to be making limited progress in providing the bus shelter in Burren.

## **WASTE MANAGMENT**

### **NS/138/2021: DISTRIBUTION OF COMPOST FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Read: Report dated 21 September 2021 from Ms S Murphy re: distribution of compost for community groups. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed to:-

- 1. Note and approve the contents of this report**
- 2. Note an update report on Compost week will be provided at a future meeting of the NS Committee**
- 3. Direct requests for the supply of compost from local community groups to [recycling@nmandd.org](mailto:recycling@nmandd.org)**

**4. Note an update report on future delivery of compost will be provided at a future meeting of the NS Committee**

**AGREED:** It was also agreed that Ms Murphy contact Arc21 regarding the delivery charges for the compost to see if there would be an option for community groups to collect the compost themselves, or if there could be a reduction in the £25 delivery charge. Ms Murphy to report back to Committee on this matter as part of a future options report.

**NS/139/2021: POWER WASHING SCHEDULE**

Read: Report dated 21 September 2021 from Ms S Murphy re: schedule of deep cleansing of paved surfaces in Public Realm areas. *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised by Members

The following issues were raised by Members and it was agreed Officers note these and where necessary, liaise with the relevant Councillor outside of the meeting:-

- Councillor Curran – queries regarding the standard of cleanliness in Downpatrick, particularly the Irish Street area.
- Councillor Taylor – if funding was secured for additional cleansing works, areas in Bessbrook and Newtownhamilton should be added to the schedule.
- Councillor Ruane – officials to explore the option of purchasing additional equipment for Council staff that would enable them to carry out minor cleansing works across the District.
- Councillor Andrews – noted the Council were applying to DAERA for funding for these works but in future years has the Council any plans to deal with these issues by securing funding and grants to enable the works to be carried out.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed to approve the schedule as set out in sections 2.1 and 2.2 of the report.

**NS/140/2021: REVIEW OF DISTRICT CLEANSING**

Read: Report dated 21 September 2021 from Ms S Murphy re: Review of District Cleansing. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed an Elected Member workshop being organised as part of the initiation of a Review of District Cleansing.

**Officers to look at a date and start time which would enable as many members as possible to attend and participate in the workshop.**

## **EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Items 18 and 19 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 Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on these items.**

**NS/141/2021: ARC 21 IN COMMITTEE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY 24 JUNE 2021**

Read: Arc 21 In Committee Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 24 June 2021. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/142/2021: UPDATE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN**

Read: Report dated 21 September 2021 from Mr J McBride re: update on the implementation of the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Procurement Action Plan. *(Circulated)*.

Councillor Magennis 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:-

NS/141/2021 - Arc21 Joint Committee Minutes 24 June 2021

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 24 June 2021.**

NS/142/2021 – Update on Neighbourhood Services Procurement Action Plan

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to approve the progress update report and note that services will continue “out of contract” until new contracts were awarded and regularised.

**FOR NOTING**

**NS/143/2021:** **Arc21 JC MINUTES – 24 JUNE 2021**

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on 24 June 2021 (*Circulated*).

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.

**NS/144/2021:** **Arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS’ MONTHLY BULLETIN HELD ON 26 AUGUST 2021**

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members’ Monthly Bulletin held on 26 August 2021 (*Circulated*).

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.

**NS/145/2021:** **HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

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

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.

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

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 October 2021.

**Signed:** Councillor W Walker  
Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee

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