

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18 October 2022 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor O Magennis (Chamber)

Members: Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
Councillor C Casey (Chamber)
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)
Councillor D Curran (Chamber)
Councillor A Finnegan (Chamber)
Councillor G Malone (Teams)
Councillor K McKeivitt (Chamber)
Councillor D Murphy (Chamber)
Councillor K Owen (Teams)
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)
Councillor G Stokes (Teams)
Councillor D Taylor (Teams)
Councillor J Tinnelly (Teams)

Non-Committee Members: Councillor C Enright (Teams)
Councillor H McKee (Teams)

Officials in Attendance: Mr A Cassells, Director Sustainability and Environment
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

SE/137/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor A McMurray.

The Chair advised Councillor Andrews had made her aware that Strangford had been awarded the Best Kept Most Improved Village at the Amenity Council Awards and she extended her congratulations on this achievement.

SE/138/2022: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

SE/139/2022: ACTION SHEET OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2022 be noted and actions removed as marked.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

SE/140/2022: UPDATE REPORT ON VEGETATION GROWTH WITH AUGHIRM (LITTLE) RIVER AT THE EVENTS SPACE, KILKEEL

Read: Report dated 18 October 2022 from Kevin Scullin Assistant Director, Facilities Management and Maintenance, re: update on vegetation growth within Aughrim (Little) River at the Events Space, Kilkeel. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the contents of the report and to agree to Council organising a consultation with all relevant stakeholders on the findings of the report. Consultation to include Mourne DEA Councillors; Kilkeel Development Association; landowners adjacent to this section of the river; DFI Rivers Agency and Inland Fisheries. The purpose of the consultation would be to seek to agree a preferred option and agreement on a way forward.

Councillor Ruane said about a month ago he had raised an issue on behalf of a local fishing club, with the Director regarding a major fish kill at Donaghaguy Reservoir, Warrenpoint. He said he had asked for a full report to come back to Council to say exactly what happened and expressed his extreme disappointment that he still had not received any update. Councillor Ruane said it was totally not acceptable that a Councillor had to wait over a month for a response to an issue raised. In the same phone call he had raised an issue regarding a tree in Church Street Warrenpoint and it took 3 weeks to get it cut back.

Mr Cassells apologised to Councillor Ruane for not responding just yet as they were still awaiting a response from the Loughs Agency and NIEA. He said he accepted the comments made by the Councillor and would respond to him very shortly on the fish kill.

SE/141/2022: CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS GROUP MEETING – 30 JUNE AND 6 OCTOBER 2022

Read: Report dated 18 October 2022 from Kevin Scullin Assistant Director, Facilities Management and Maintenance, re: report of Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting of 30 June and 6 October 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the contents of the report and the Action Sheets of the Christmas Illuminations Group Meetings held on 30th June and 6th October 2022 and to approve the recommendations as set out in Sections 2.3 and 2.5 of this report.

- In response to a query from Councillor Casey regarding any potential increase in electricity costs for lighting the Christmas illuminations and the impact this may have on budgets, Mr Scullion explained that how the Council were charged for electricity for Christmas illuminations differed from how they normally paid for electricity as the electricity for illuminations was fed through the lampposts themselves and this bill was paid for by DFI Street Lighting with the amount to be paid by the Council worked on as a mathematical calculation. He confirmed that because they were linked to a lamppost the illuminations came on when the street lights came on so there would be no change this year compared to previous years.
- In response to a request from Councillor Clarke that a Christmas tree be provided at Newcastle Harbour, Mr Scullion said there was currently no proposal to do anything along the Promenade this year but officials would be willing to work with the local community to see if anything could be done.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

SE/142/2022: UPDATE ON CLEANSING WORKSHOP

Read: Report dated 18 October 2022 from Sinead Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding update on Elected Member District Cleansing Workshop. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to approve the report of the Elected Member District Cleansing Workshop held on 5 October 2022.

Issues raised

Councillor Andrews – referenced the implementation of an agreement signed by the

former Department of Learning – a scheme that gave young people and people who were unemployed a chance of employment in the waste collection and street cleansing service and other Departments within the Council. He said there had been a report previously and he asked that consideration be given to the recommendations from it being included alongside the recommendations from the Workshop.

Councillor Clarke – street cleansing in estates and the number of cars parked in estates which made it difficult to cleanse them and collect bins. He asked if there would a street cleansing schedule available for each town within the DEAs to alert residents and hopefully cars could be moved to allow this to happen. He also suggested the development of an app to enable people to know when areas were scheduled for cleansing.

NOTICE OF MOTION

SE/143/2022: NOTICE OF MOTION – REVENUE FROM EU CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Councillor Enright's Motion was as follows:-

"Council notes that last year's notice of motion seeking a target of between 80 and 181 EV charging points in NM&D car-parks resulted in a management report in May 2022 suggesting that such charging points would cost £12,000 each and as much as £2.7 million in total with no business case. Thus a target of 1% of parking spaces (80) or 1 per Council car-park (181) was unrealistic from a cost point of view.

Council notes that new information has emerged to back the suggestion that EV charging companies want to lease car-parking spots from Council throughout the District and are prepared to share charging revenue with Council. Far from costing money, EV infrastructure going forward can be seen as a new form of Council revenue.

Council resolves to seek long-term rental and revenue sharing opportunities with EV infrastructure companies to keep Newry Mourne and Down District Council competitive in Tourism, Business and to replace the rates being lost by the on-going closure of filling stations across the district.

Within 3 months of this motion, Council will make an open offer of 6 tranches of 20 parking spots to all 3 EV charging companies operating on the Irish/NI grid system as a trial run for a 2-year period.

Following the 2 year trial of the offerings by the different EV charging companies; and based on service and value for money to Council; long-term contracts should be made with companies offering the best solutions to residents and visitors alike to Newry Mourne and Down District Council".

Councillor Murphy formally proposed and Councillor Owen formally seconded the Motion.

Councillor Enright said the Council had over 140 car parks of their own with over a 1000 managed on street parking spaces in towns such as Kilkeel, Newry, Warrenpoint and 51 car parks which were managed on behalf of the Department. He said it would appear that EV charging companies were interested in those that had originally belonged to the Council of which almost every settlement in the Council District had at least one.

Councillor Enright said it appeared that the economics of EV charging had changed in that they were now looking to rent parking spots and share revenue with the Council. He said officers should look at the 140 Council owned car parks to see which ones EV companies might want to rent from Council and share revenue and as the Officer report seemed to support this idea he was happy with it.

Read: Report dated 18 October 2022 from Andrew Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment regarding Notice of Motion in relation to EV Infrastructure. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to endorse the recommendation made at the Strategic Finance Working Group Meeting of 16 June 2022 as set out in Section 2.2 of the report and that officers consider the most appropriate way forward in relation to identifying appropriate spaces that may be suitable for the proposal as outlined in the Notice of Motion.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 13-15 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (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.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:-

SE/144/2022: PROPOSED PHASE 2 EXTENSION TO KILBRONEY MUNICIPAL CEMETERY

Read: Report dated 18 October 2022 from Mr K Scullion regarding proposed Phase 2 extension to Kilbroney Municipal Cemetery. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed to note the content of the report and to proceed with Option 2 for the Phase 2 development of Kilbroney Municipal Cemetery. Option 2 would include refurbishment works to the existing cemetery site and an extension to the cemetery (circa 208 burial plots) in line with current planning approval.

It was also agreed to bring forward a proposal for lights for Phase 1 and 2 and the compound once planning had been approved.

SE/145/2022: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN – 29 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 29 September 2022. *(Circulated)*.

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

SE/146/2022: MINUTES OF ARC 21 SPECIAL 'IN COMMITTEE' JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – 25 AUGUST 2022

Read: Minutes of Arc 21 'In Committee' Joint Committee Meeting held on 25 August 2022. *(Circulated)*.

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

FOR NOTING

SE/147/2022: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed the Historic Actions

**Tracking Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services
Committee/Sustainability and Environment Committee
Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.**

**In relation to Minute reference NS/174/2021 – Business
Case for Maintenance of Town Clocks – it was also agreed
at the request of Councillor Taylor that officers consider
the addition of the clock at St. Mary’s Parish Church, Newry
to the schedule for maintenance of town clocks and report
back to Committee.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.45 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 November 2022.

**Signed: Councillor O Magennis
Chairperson of Sustainability & Environment Committee**

**Signed: Mr A Cassells
Director of Sustainability & Environment**