

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure and Community Development Committee held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn and remotely, on Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 6.02pm

PRESENT:

Alderman M Henderson MBE (Chairman)

The Right Worshipful The Mayor
Councillor Hon. Nicholas Trimble

Councillor D J Craig

PRESENT IN A

REMOTE LOCATION:

Councillor D Honeyford (Vice Chairman)

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer

Aldermen A Grehan and J Tinsley

Councillors N Anderson, R T Beckett, R Carlin, A Gowan,
M Guy, S Hughes, H Legge, A McIntyre and S Skillen

OTHER MEMBERS

PRESENT IN A

REMOTE LOCATION:

Alderman S Martin

Councillors S Lee and U Mackin

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Member Services Officers
Technician
IT Support

IN ATTENDANCE IN A

REMOTE LOCATION:

Acting Head of Communities
Head of Parks and Amenities
Head of Sports Services

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairman of the Committee, Alderman M Henderson extended a welcome to everyone present and stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders.

The Chairman outlined a number housekeeping points and then asked that any Member entering or leaving the meeting alert him accordingly so that the Member Services Officer might accurately reflect arrival and departure times in the minutes.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were accepted on behalf of Councillor R McLernon.

During the discussion of this item Councillors N Anderson, M Guy and H Legge joined the meeting remotely at 6.04pm.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman, Alderman M Henderson invited Members to declare any interests they might have in relation to the business of the meeting and reminded them of the requirement that they complete Declaration of Interest forms in this regard which had been provided at their places or electronically. The following declarations of interests were made at this stage of the meeting:

- Councillor A Gowan declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Agenda Item 3.1 'DEA Investment Plan – Village Plans for Annahilt and Drumbo' as Vice Chairman of Annahilt and Magheraconluce Community Association.
- The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Agenda Item 3.5 'PEACE PLUS Consultation (SEUPB's Draft Programme) Survey Consultation' as a Member of the SEUPB monitoring committee.

The Chairman, Alderman M Henderson reminded Members that due to the remote nature of the meeting, written forms should be returned to Member Services as soon as possible.

3. Report from the Acting Head of Communities

It was agreed that the main report and recommendations of the Acting Head of Communities be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

3.1 DEA Investment Plan – Village Plans for Anahilt and Drumbo

Having made a Declaration of Interest in relation to this item Councillor A Gowan remotely left the meeting before the discussion of this item at 6.05pm.

The Acting Head of Communities advised the Committee that as part of the Council's DEA Investment Plan, it was approved to progress the development and implementation of village plans in Anahilt and Drumbo, including a needs analysis and mapping exercises of the villages and surrounding areas. The Acting Head of Communities stated that project would be undertaken by Council officers, who would work closely with local communities and community planning partners with a budget of £5,000 available to address some actions arising out of the plans.

It was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed to recommend that Council approve the outline of the village plan projects for Anahilt and Drumbo.

3.2 DEA Investment Plan – Dromara Feasibility Study Community Infrastructure

Councillor A Gowan re-joined the meeting remotely at the start of this item at 6.08pm.

The Acting Head of Communities advised the Committee that as part of the Council's DEA Investment Plan, it was approved to progress the development of a Feasibility Study in Dromara and outlined that this would be undertaken in partnership with the Dromara Community Association. The purpose of the

3.2 DEA Investment Plan – Dromara Feasibility Study Community Infrastructure (cont.)

Feasibility Study would be to assess the viability of the association's aim to extend the community centre at Lagan Park, Dromara and undertake other minor works mainly with regard to the toilet facilities to meet community need.

It was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor A Gowan and agreed to recommend that Council approve the approach to work in partnership with the Dromara Community Association to develop a terms of reference for a Feasibility Study regarding the proposal to extend the community centre at Lagan Park, Dromara including other minor works. It was further agreed that a report on the findings be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee when completed.

3.3 Interpreting Museums: An Irish Museums Association (IMA) and Northern Ireland Museums Council (NIMC) Partnership Programme

The Acting Head of Communities spoke to her report, highlighting that the Lisburn Museum had been successful in gaining one of twelve places on an innovative 'Interpreting Museums' Programme. The aims of this programme had been to encourage stronger working relationships between cross border museums, enhance professional skills and develop a better understanding of the current museum practice. The Acting Head of Communities advised that as part of this programme the Lisburn Museum and the GAA Museum at Croke Park were partnered. She then showed the Committee a video that was created as part of the collaboration, focusing on the similarities between the two museums. The Acting Head of Communities advised that it was hoped that the two museums would be able to continue this partnership with additional projects and funding streams being explored by officers.

Members thanked officers for their work on this programme. Councillors A McIntyre and S Lee paid tribute to the work undertaken by the museum staff during the lockdown period, including the online services and exhibitions curated during this time. The Right Worshipful, the Mayor Councillor Hon. N Trimble asked for more information regarding the plans for reopening the museum in light of Covid-19 restrictions easing. The Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing thanked Members for their feedback and stated that she would pass these comments on to the museum staff. The Director advised that the new model of engaging with customers online had proven to be successful and museum staff would continue with a hybrid model once the museum reopened to the public. She further stated that she recognised that people enjoyed the social aspect of visiting the museum and that it would open in line with the easing of Covid-19 restrictions and following the necessary risk assessments.

It was proposed by the Right Worshipful, The Mayor Councillor Hon N Trimble, seconded by Councillor H Legge and agreed to note the collaborative working relationship between the two museums, through the 'Interpreting Museums' programme, particularly the scope for further partnership to develop the cross border connections.

During the discussion of this item Alderman S Martin joined the meeting remotely at 6.10pm.

3.4 DEA Investment Plan – Cultural Diversity Fund

The Acting Head of Communities spoke to her report on the provision of a Cultural Diversity Fund as part of the DEA Investment Plan with an agreed budget of £20,000 which would be promoted through two separate grant schemes, namely Cultural Diversity Fund for Groups and Cultural and Heritage Publication Fund for Individuals. Members of the Committee welcomed this fund and sought clarification regarding the assessment of applications and how this money would be distributed across the Council's seven DEA and these queries were addressed by the Acting Head of Communities. Councillor M Guy queried the feasibility of giving preference to underrepresented groups or groups who have not received funding from the Council previously. The Acting Head of Communities advised that funding would be awarded on merit but that in guidance notes issued, the Council could encourage applications from groups who had not previously engaged with the Council. The Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing added that if Members were aware of groups who were unfamiliar with the application process or needed assistance in constituting a group to contact the Community Services team for support.

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer and agreed to recommend that Council approve the detailed content of the Cultural Diversity Fund and its launch in June 2021.

3.5 PEACE PLUS Consultation (SEUPB's Draft Programme) Survey Response

Having made a Declaration of Interest in relation to this item the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer withdrew from contributing to this item.

The Acting Head of Communities reminded Members that the Committee had been granted delegated authority to agree a response in relation to the PEACE PLUS draft programme survey. The Acting Head of Communities advised that this response had included a number of relevant considerations and aligned with the aims and objectives of the Council. Alderman A Grehan welcomed this response and asked that in relation to Question 5 – 'Theme 3: Empowering and Investing in our Young People' that the answer be strengthened by including reference to investing in additional resources and support for disabled children.

It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by the Vice Chairman, Councillor D Honeyford and agreed that under delegated authority that the consultation survey response, as amended, be approved and submitted on behalf of the Council by the deadline of the 12th May 2021.

3.6 DEA Investment Plan – Community Facilities Fund

The Acting Head of Communities spoke to her report advising that the DEA Investment Plan included a proposal for the development of a Community Facilities Fund with an indicative budget of £40,000 per DEA - minimum award of £5,000 with a maximum of £10,000 per successful application. The Acting Head of

3.6 DEA Investment Plan – Community Facilities Fund (cont.)

Communities advised that this fund would complement the learning for the Community Investment Fund that the Council currently has out for receipt of Expressions of Interest and referred Members to the criteria outlined in the report detailing the grounds on which applications could be made to this fund. She further advised that it was anticipated that this fund could be open from mid to late June for applications with a report outlining the successful applications being brought back to the Committee for consideration in Autumn 2021.

It was proposed by the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble, seconded by Alderman A Grehan and agreed to recommend to Council that the content of this report, including the key outline details for the Community Facilities Fund and the timeframe for implementation be approved. It was further agreed that following the assessment of applications, a report would be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee to agree the award of funding.

4. Report from the Head of Sports Services

It was agreed that the main report and recommendations of the Head of Sports Services be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

4.1 DEA Investment Plan – Support for Sports Club

The Head of Sports Service spoke to his report advising the Committee that as part of the Council's DEA Investment Plan a Sports Club Fund had been agreed with a budget of £80,000. This fund aims to provide support for local sports clubs as they recover from the impact of Covid-19, dependent upon demand and available budget, successful applicants will receive a minimum award of £1,000 and a maximum of £3,000. The Head of Sports Services referred Members to the criteria outlined in the report detailing the grounds on which applications could be made to this fund. The Head of Sports Services further advised that to assist clubs in completing the application, all clubs would be invited to a number of virtual information sessions where guidance and assistance would be provided. These sessions would also be used by Sports Development Officers to receive feedback on how the Council can assist clubs going forward.

The Committee welcomed this report and a number of Members sought clarification on the assessment process, criteria used and feedback from local clubs following a similar smaller grant provided by Sport Lisburn and Castlereagh. These queries were all addressed by the Head of Sports Services.

It was proposed by Councillor S Hughes, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer and agreed to recommend that Council approve the Support for Sports Club Grant Aid Programme and that this grant would be launched in June 2021. It was further agreed that Councillor S Skillen would provide the Head of Sports Services with the contact details of a local club who wanted to be added to the Sports Services contact list.

4.2 Consultation on a New Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity

The Head of Sports Services provided the Committee with a draft response to the Department for Communities consultation on a new Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity for Northern Ireland, covering the next ten years and beyond. The response has been co-designed in consultation with key stakeholders through focus groups and questionnaires.

It was proposed by the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble, seconded by Councillor S Hughes and agreed to approve the response to the consultation on the new Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity be submitted to the Department for Communities by the deadline of 14th May 2021 in draft format.

During the discussion of this item Councillor U Mackin left the meeting remotely at 6.40pm.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Lisburn District Loyal Orange Lodge
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing

The Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing advised that correspondence had been received from the Lisburn District Loyal Orange Lodge (LOL) requesting permission to assemble and disperse from Wallace Park as part of the 12th July celebrations, subject to the gathering being Covid-19 compliant and in line with restrictions at the time. The Director advised that infrastructure (such as barriers) would further be required in line with previous years. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer made reference to the Council making mini buses available previously. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble queried this gathering in the context of Covid-19 restrictions and insurance issues. The Head of Parks and Amenities confirmed that all plans would have to be agreed in line with the Council's Safety Advisory Group which would include compliance with the relevant Covid-19 restrictions and offered further reassurances that in previous years, the Lisburn District LOL were very organised and had complied with any guidance provided by the Council. The Head of Service further confirmed that the park would continue to be open to the public on that day.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer and agreed to recommend that Council accede to the request by the Lisburn District LOL to use Wallace Park as part of the 12th July celebrations and that the Council would provide appropriate infrastructure, subject to the relevant plans being scrutinised by the Council's Safety Advisory Group.

5.2 CCTV at Billy Neill MBE Country Park
Councillor S Skillen

Councillor S Skillen referred to a number of white tablets having being discovered at the entrance to Billy Neill MBE Country Park posing a risk to young children and animals and reminded the Committee that she had advised Members of similar incidents previously. Councillor S Skillen stated she was aware that the PSNI were investigating this matter but asked if a wider piece of work could be undertaken, led by Council officers with involvement from the PSNI, CityWatch and other

5.2 CCTV at Billy Neill MBE Country Park (cont.)
Councillor S Skillen

relevant agencies, to explore the use of CCTV across the site or the use of drones to monitor the park. The Head of Parks and Amenities advised that he was aware of this incident but stated that due to the size of the park CCTV or a drone would be unlikely to capture sufficient information to prevent these incidents. He further stated that he had engaged with the PSNI on this issue and following a request from Councillor H Legge, confirmed that he would invite the Members from within that DEA to any subsequent meeting with the PSNI.

5.3 Use of Queen Elizabeth II Ballymacross Playing Fields
Alderman J Tinsley

Alderman J Tinsley referred to correspondence he had received from a local Baptist Church asking for the free use of Queen Elizabeth II Ballymacross Playing Fields to hold a children's summer scheme, subject to the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. Alderman J Tinsley believed that the park would only be required for approximately one hour each day during the first week of August.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer and agreed to recommend that Council approve the request outlined above, subject to the group submitting the necessary details to the Head of Parks and Amenities and satisfying a number of conditions.

5.4 Expansion of CityWatch CCTV
Councillor N Anderson

Councillor N Anderson referred to previous discussions regarding CityWatch and the use of CCTV and asked that as part of a wider review of its use, that consideration be given to extending CCTV into the Castlereagh side including the Cairnshill, Hydebank and Billy Neill areas of the Council. The Head of Parks and Amenities stated that this issue was being examined by the Director of Service Transformation and confirmed that Councillor N Anderson's comments would be passed to him.

During the discussion of this item the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer left the meeting remotely at 6.52pm.

5.5 Use of Hydebank Playing Fields
Councillor N Anderson

Councillor N Anderson referred to correspondence he had received from CSSM Newtownbreda asking for the free use of Hydebank Playing Fields to hold a children's summer scheme, subject to the easing of Covid-19 restrictions.

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Councillor M Guy and agreed to recommend that Council approve the request outlined above, subject to the group submitting the necessary details to the Head of Parks and Amenities and satisfying a number of conditions.

5.6 Suspension of Bye-Law
Head of Parks and Amenities

The Head of Parks and Amenities advised the Committee that he had been approached by the Director of Environmental Services requesting that the Committee recommend the suspension of the Council's Bye-Law preventing the use of drones within the Council's parks to assist with the detection of environmental crimes, such as dog fouling and fly tipping. The Head of Parks and Amenities advised the Committee that the Council's Bye-Laws currently prevent the use of drones within its parks but further referred to the Council's ability to suspend a Bye-Law if appropriate. He recommended that the Bye-Law be suspended to permit the use of drones within its park solely by the Council or agents appointed by the Council to detect environmental crimes.

During the discussion of this item, Members expressed concern regarding the use of drones in parks and sought clarification regarding what protocols would be put in place in order to protect the privacy of residents using the Council's facilities. Further concerns were raised regarding the Council's ability to use drones in parts of the Council area due to the no fly zones that were in place close to airports and army barracks. The Head of Parks and Amenities advised that this issue would be best discussed with Environmental Services but the decision regarding suspending this Bye-Law fell to the remit of this Committee and permission was being sought tonight to facilitate any decision taken on this matter by the Environmental Services Committee.

It was proposed by the Right Worshipful, the Mayor Councillor Hon N Trimble, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed to recommend that Council suspend the current Bye-Law regarding the use of drones within its facilities and permit the use of drones within its park solely by the Council, or agents appointed by the Council, to detect environmental crimes, subject to the agreement of the Environmental Services Committee. All other use of drones by members of the public remains prohibited.

As there being no further business, the Chairman, Alderman M Henderson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and those who had been watching on the live stream and the meeting concluded at 7.03pm.

Mayor/Chairman