

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure and Community Development Committee held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Tuesday, 6th October 2020 at 6.03pm

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Alderman M Henderson MBE (Chairman) Councillor D Honeyford (Vice Chairman) The Right Worshipful The Mayor Councillor The Hon Nicholas Trimble Aldermen A Grehan and J Tinsley Councillors N Anderson, R T Beckett, D J Craig, A Gowan, S Hughes, H Legge and R McLernon
<u>PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:</u>	Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer Councillors R Carlin, M Guy, A Gowan, A McIntyre and S Skillen
<u>OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:</u>	Aldermen D Drysdale and S Martin Councillors A Givan and U Mackin
<u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council</u> Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing Member Services Officers
<u>IN ATTENDANCE IN A REMOTE LOCATION:</u>	Chief Executive Head of Parks and Amenities Head of Sports Services Head of Communities

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairman of the Committee, Alderman M Henderson extended a welcome to all present in the Chamber and remotely and to everyone watching on the live stream.

The Chairman outlined the fire evacuation procedures 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**

There were no apologies recorded for this meeting.

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. There were no declarations of interests made during the course of this meeting.

3. Report from the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing

It was agreed that the main report and recommendations of the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

3.1 Halloween 2020 Event

The Committee was provided with a tabled paper in advance of the meeting outlining options for a fireworks display event at Halloween 2020. The Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing spoke of this paper highlighting a number of issues that were considered when exploring various Council locations as the venue for this event, such as:

- The availability of extensive hard standing;
- Scale to allow the incorporation of adequate safety zones;
- Proximity of adequate car parking;
- Proximity of residential housing;
- Ease of ingress/egress;
- Ability to maintain appropriate social distancing and adherence to guidance; and
- Costs.

Following the consideration of various Council venues, it was agreed there were none which had sufficient hard standing ground and could allow the necessary marshalling to control numbers and social distancing, and therefore it was agreed by the Council's senior management team to explore external venues for a 'drive in' fireworks display, with the most appropriate site being identified as the Eikon Centre/Balmoral Park. Officers from the Council and other statutory bodies attended a site visit. The concept of this event, including the advantages and disadvantages of the Council hosting this event at the Eikon Centre/Balmoral Park, were outlined in the report tabled for Members consideration. The Director reminded the Committee that due to the current Covid-19 pandemic restrictions there were concerns about:

- The significant expenditure (approx. £45,000) associated with this event for a 15 minute display at a time of austerity;
- The Council hosting a large scale event (albeit relatively safely controlled in cars) when Covid-19 infections are increasing;
- Attracting negative social media for the Council arising from any access and egress issues;
- The possibility of a circuit breaker occurring during the Halloween period, causing the Council to cancel the event leaving the Council with considerable irrecoverable costs; and

3.1 Halloween 2020 Event (cont.)

- Attracting and managing crowds from outside of the Council area as a result of fireworks displays in other areas being cancelled already.

Following the presentation of the report, a number of Members spoke in support the recommendation that the Council does not proceed with a fireworks display for Halloween 2020. Councillor D J Craig advised that his mother had recently taken ill and was briefly admitted to hospital and while there, he witnessed the pressures facing the NHS at this time and agreed that the event should not go ahead demonstrating the support the Council has for current public health guidance. Members who spoke after Councillor D J Craig, sent their best wishes to his mother. Councillor S Skillen supported the recommendation and asked that next year a mini display at the Dundonald International Ice Bowl be considered. Councillor N Anderson similarly asked that an event in the Castlereagh South area be considered in future years. The request to hold smaller, localised events across the Council area was echoed by Councillor H Legge. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble agreed with the recommendation and received clarification on why the site at LVI was not considered.

It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor H Legge and agreed to recommend that the a fireworks display event does not proceed based on the risks to the Council's reputation appearing to outweigh the benefit achieved by a 15 minute firework display for 2000 cars, and that regrettably in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic no fireworks display be organised by the Council for Halloween 2020.

During the discussion of this item the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer joined the meeting at 6.10pm.

3.2 Proposed Cyclovia Event

The Committee considered a report regarding exploring the introduction of a 'cyclovia' concept event in Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area in conjunction with the PSNI and relevant authorities. The Committee were reminded that this was raised in the Council Chamber by Councillor S Lee as a Notion of Motion and deferred to the Leisure and Community Wellbeing Committee for consideration. The Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing advised that due to seasonally inclement weather, the possibility of holding this event in the spring/summer would be investigated. It was proposed by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble, seconded by Alderman A Grehan and agreed that a further report on this matter would be brought back to the Committee for consideration at a later date.

4. Report from the Head of Parks and Amenities

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

4.1 Lisburn BMX Club

The Committee was reminded that Lisburn BMX Club has leased land at Bells Lane Park from the Council since March 2015 and have successfully drawn down funding to develop a first class BMX track where it holds local and national events. The Club has advised officers that it wishes to add a pump track to its current training capability. In order for the Club to apply for £50,000 funding from the Whitemountain Programme, it requires proof that the landlord (i.e. the Council) has given approval for the Club to proceed with the project. The Head of Parks and Amenities advised that the Club will be required to complete a biodiversity checklist to ensure no damage to the local habitat. He further noted that the Green Flag judges who visited Bells Lane Park and the Allotment in early September were impressed with the BMX Club Complex.

During the discussion regarding this request Councillor H Legg, Councillor D J Craig and Councillor S Hughes commended the work being undertaken by Lisburn BMX Club, in particular referencing how inclusive its facilities and activities are for those not just within the Council area but NI wide. Members encouraged the continued development of its facilities and supported the ambitious plans set out by the Club.

It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor S Hughes and agreed to recommend that Council approve Lisburn BMX Club developing a pump track within the curtilage of the existing leased area at Bells Lane Park.

4.2 Mayor's Parade and Family Fun Day 2021

The Committee was advised that in considering the possible dates for the Mayor's Parade and Family Fun Day 2021 and avoiding clashes with the RUAS show, the most appropriate date for the event would be Saturday 8th May 2021. Once a date has been approved, the officers would be able to proceed with the necessary organisational arrangements cognisant of any Covid-19 implications at that time.

The Head of Parks and Amenities reminded Members that in July 2020 the Council utilised an existing tender to bring a panoramic wheel to Wallace Park. The wheel remained in place until August 2020 and was a popular attraction. The wheel operator was compliant with Covid-19 restrictions and public health guidance. The tender remains valid through next year and the wheel operator has asked that the wheel be permitted to return with the opening day coinciding with the Mayor's Family Fun Day 2021 and then remain operational until Sunday 27th June 2021. If approved Members suggested that the fee paid by the wheel operator, approximately £10,000, would be donated to the Mayor's Charity to offset the loss of fund raising opportunities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions.

During the discussion of this item, Members agreed to note the date for this event, welcomed the wheel returning in 2021 and the subsequent boost it would have for local businesses. Alderman S Martin queried the appropriateness of the fee from the wheel being donated to the Mayor's Charity especially at a time when the Council was implementing strict cost controls. He further asked that assurances be given to the Council relating to the processes used for donating money received

4.2 Mayor's Parade and Family Fun Day 2021 (cont.)

by way of a private tender to the Mayor's Charity. The Chairman, Alderman M Henderson stated that Alderman S Martin's comments would be noted.

It was proposed by Councillor R McLernon, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed to recommend that Council note the date of the Mayor's Parade and Family Fun Day 2021 as Saturday 8th May and approve the installation of the panoramic wheel from this date remaining in place until the end of June. It was agreed that the allocation of the Council's income from the panoramic wheel be donated to the Mayor's Charity subject to the provision of assurances regarding the associated process relating to this.

4.3 Christmas Events 2020

The Committee agreed to accept a verbal report in respect of the various Council's Christmas events being discussed for 2020 in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions. The Head of Parks and Amenities advised that work was ongoing with the relevant Council Departments for smaller, more controlled switch on events and that in order to spread some Christmas cheer, officers were considering the idea of commissioning a travelling pantomime that would be based in four sites across the Council area and perform Cinderella three times a day. This would be aimed at Primary School children with schools walking in groups to the nearby outdoor locations. This would allow for easier marshalling of numbers as well as allowing class bubbles to sit closer together – maximising the number of children within the area that can attend each performance. The approximate cost of these events would be £27,000. The Head of Parks and Amenities acknowledged that these plans were in the early planning stages and sought permission of the Committee to continue with these plans with a further detailed report being brought to the Committee next month.

During the discussion of this item, Members commended the team for developing innovative and creative ideas to celebrate Christmas during this difficult time. Members raised the following concerns for officers to take into account in the planning process:

- Pressures currently faced by primary schools and teachers with the possibility of the Council going to the schools instead of the schools going to a Council event;
- Social distancing and classes bubbles may restrict the numbers that could gather, even outside;
- Currently the Education Authority do not provide additional transport for school children meaning schools that can access the pantomime would be restricted;
- Ensuring that special educational needs schools have the opportunity to be involved in the Council's plans; and
- If schools have the inclination or resource to be involved with the Council's celebrations.

Other suggestions brought forward by officers and the Committee Members during this meeting included:

4.3 Christmas Events 2020 (cont.)

- The Right Worshipful the Mayor being accompanied by Santa Claus and going out to schools or local communities across the Council area;
- Basing a Christmas event for families based on the model used by the 'Great Artdoors' festival, the puppet show at Moat Park or performance similar to 'The Broads' recently developed by the Council's Art centre;
- Holding a socially distanced pensioners dinner or creating a 'Christmas meals on wheels' for older residents of the Council area and those shielding;
- Holding localised smaller events by empowering local communities to get involved;
- Use of online or virtual resources to connect with schools unable to attend events due to restrictions.

Councillor S Hughes agreed that it would be preferable to include all schools within the area and host local events, however he expressed concerns regarding the reality of bringing these events to life with the limited resources available to the Council at this time. The Director echoed these comments and stated that in reality not every child within the Council area would be reached by the Council but that he and his team would develop events that were as inclusive as possible within the resources and time frame available. He further advised the objective was to take the Christmas spirit usually found in Market Square out around the Council area.

The Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing informed the Committee that work was ongoing regarding celebrations in the Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum as the traditional Santa setting may not be feasible this year.

A number of Members sought an update regarding the community led switch on events which had been agreed at a previous meeting. The Director advised that a report would be brought to the Committee regarding local switch on events however he informed Members that at the moment there was a concern among a number of community groups in organising local Christmas events in the context of the current Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, even with the Council offering specific support in relation to health and safety.

It was proposed by Councillor H Legge, seconded by The Right Worship the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble and agreed to recommend that the officers explore various options for the Council's Christmas 2020 celebrations in principle, with a further a report being brought back to the Committee for final approval.

During the course of this item, the Chief Executive joined the meeting remotely at 6.31pm.

5. Report from Head of Communities

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

5.1 Community Arts Recovery Financial Assistance Programme

The Head of Communities presented her report advising that the Council's Arts Service traditionally deliver a number of financial assistance programmes to support organisations and individuals to deliver key arts based programmes and events, however due to the Covid-19 pandemic all funding support was suspended, pending review. Both the Arts and Communities teams have been working closely with communities and groups via a DEA model to identify and meet the need of local communities.

Communities have indicated that they wish to have safe, local arts based programmes and events to promote positive mental health and connectivity, similar to the recently successful 'The Broads' and 'The Great Artdoors' projects. It was requested that these should be based across each of the seven DEA's. The Head of Communities advised that a financial assistance programme to the value of £15,000 could be drawn down from the Covid-19 Community Response Framework previously agreed by Council.

This initiative was welcomed by Members of the Committee with particular reference made to the positive impact that these community events can have on the mental health of residents. Members further commended the Arts Service on the success of the recently held programmes 'The Broads' and 'The Great Artdoors'. Alderman A Grehan paid tribute to the role the Community Arts Officer, Wilson had played in the success of these programmes.

The Head of Communities agreed to provide an update to the Committee on the Community Response Framework at a later date following a request from Councillor M Guy.

Alderman J Tinsley asked for confirmation if this fund would be available for musicians from marching bands to apply to and the Head of Communities agreed to come back to Alderman J Tinsley directly regarding this.

Councillor H Legge made reference to a recent event held in Moat Park and asked that the Head of Communities would explore new methods to publicise community events hosted by the Council.

At the end of the discussion of this item, the Chairman, Alderman M Henderson asked that the Head of Communities contact Councillor T Mitchell by telephone the following day on a similar matter.

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed to recommend that £15,000 be allocated from the budget previously agreed by Council to support the Covid-19 Community Response Framework, to deliver a local Community Arts Financial Assistance Programme.

During the course of this item Councillor S Hughes left the meeting at 7.05 and then returned at 7.10pm.

5.2 Halloween Events 2020 – Community Arts Programme

Members were reminded that in previous years the Council delivered a number of Halloween Events, including the 'Twilight Night by Fairy Light'. Given the current Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent government guidance, there would be great complexities and challenges in delivering such an event whilst adhering to regulations with regards to social distancing and numbers in attendance. In order to meet the community need to celebrate Halloween 2020 officers have met to explore a range of activities that can be delivered safely including socially distanced events, online competitions and community workshops. The Head of Communities provided Members with a proposed programme for consideration.

During the discussion of this item the Head of Communities advised that there would be two workshops held in each DEA. Following a suggestion from Councillor M Guy regarding residents showcasing pumpkins in the window of their houses, similar to how rainbows had been displayed during lockdown, the Head of Communities agreed to investigate how the Council could promote this.

It was proposed by Councillor M Guy, seconded by Councillor D J Craig and agreed to recommend that the proposed ISLAND Arts Halloween virtual and community based Arts programme for October 2020 be approved.

During the discussion of this item, Alderman D Drysdale remotely joined the meeting at 7.10pm.

5.3 Older People's Survey

The Committee was asked to recall that earlier in 2020, the Public Health Agency had provided the Council, in its role as contract holder for the Age Friendly Coordinator, with additional funding to carry out a survey across three Council areas to gain a better insight into the needs of older people. The Head of Communities provided an update on the progress of this survey and advised that the Council had appointed Otium to deliver the project however due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions progress had been delayed. The project will be launched at the start of October 2020 to run in conjunction with Positive Aging Month.

During the discussion of this item, it was noted that the results of this survey will be more relevant than ever following the restrictions older people encountered as a result from the Covid-19 pandemic. Members queried the methodology being used to capture this information and asked if local community groups could be asked to assist in gathering this information from a typically hard to reach demographic.

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by the Vice Chairman, Councillor D Honeyford and agreed to note the information provided relating to the Older People's Survey.

5.4 Community Planning: Community Voluntary Sector Engagement

The Committee was asked to recall that Lisburn and Castlereagh Strategic Community Planning Partnership had been supported over the last few years by the Carnegie UK Trust to develop a number of projects, including models of best

5.4 Community Planning: Community Voluntary Sector Engagement (cont.)

practice for authentic engagement with key stakeholders in Community Planning, statutory partners and the community and voluntary sector. Given the recent successes delivered with these groups via a DEA model, officers have met with the Carnegie UK Trust to realise this project. The Carnegie UK Trust appointed Prospect Awards to work with the Strategic Community Planning Partnership to explore this process by engaging with the seven DEA's to find which model best supports and delivers against each area's needs. Prospect Awards will be holding targeted workshops from mid-October 2020 with key stakeholders, the community and voluntary sector and Elected Members. Members were advised that dates for future workshops would be available in due course with a report on this matter being provided at a later date.

It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed to recommend that Council note the information contained in the report.

6. Report of Head of Sports Services

6.1 Birmingham 2022 Pre-Games Training Camps Opportunity

The Committee was advised that the organising committee of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games had provided correspondence outlining its approach seeking Expressions of Interest from potential host city/venues from across the UK willing to host pre-Games training and holding camps.

The Head of Sports Services informed Members that the Council area has previously hosted such camps and that there were a number of sports clubs with the appropriate facilities and past experience in hosting including Salto City of Lisburn Gymnastics Centre, Lisburn Racquets Club and Lisnagarvey Hockey Club. The Head of Sports Services advised that not only would this allow for young local sports participants to see and possibly meet visiting elite athletes and competitors, there would also be promotional and media opportunities for the wider city area arising from hosting such camps.

Members welcomed this request and supported the Head of Sports Services in submitting this expression of interest while acknowledging that if successful there would be a boost to local economy also. The Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing reminded Members that it would be unlikely for the Council and its surrounding sports facilities to attract an entire country in advance of any competition for a pre-Games training camp but it was more reasonable to expect a part of a national team or groups from specific sporting disciplines from a country to be hosted in the area.

It was proposed by Councillor R T Beckett, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed to recommend that Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council co-ordinate the submission of the Expression of Interest forms on behalf of the local clubs best placed to facilitate a pre-Commonwealth Games training camp in advance of Birmingham 2020.

6.2 Return to Sport Funding – Sport Lisburn and Castlereagh

The Head of Sports Services informed the Committee that Sport Lisburn and Castlereagh recently held its first Committee meeting post lockdown and considered how best it could provide support to local sports clubs and the needs of their members in their recovery from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions. The finance that Sport Lisburn and Castlereagh would normally have provided to assist local sports clubs and individual competitors remained untouched and as a result Sport Lisburn and Castlereagh have identified a total of £15,000 that could be utilised to assist local sports clubs in their initial stages of returning to sport. The Head of Sports Services provided the list of criteria that has been agreed at the recent meeting of Sport Lisburn and Castlereagh. This criteria has been drafted to ensure as many clubs as possible can avail of funding, with a minimum grant to any one club being £500 up to a limit of £1000, this being dependent on the number of applications and funds available. The Committee was asked to consider a partnership approach with Sport Lisburn and Castlereagh and provide match funding to these clubs, drawing money from the £200,000 agreed and allocated by the Council for the Covid-19 Community Support assistance.

During the discussion of this item, Councillor R T Beckett advised that he and the Vice Chairman, Councillor D Honeyford, attended the meetings of Sport Lisburn and Castlereagh on behalf of the Council in an observer capacity and he supported the recommendation outlined in the report as it provided funding to local clubs most in need of it, especially at this difficult time. The Vice Chairman, Councillor D Honeyford, outlined funding opportunities from Sport NI which excluded a number of sporting organisations who rented premises from the Council and stated that this fund would help address this.

The Head of Sports Service agreed to provide a report to the Committee on the work of Sport Lisburn and Castlereagh following a request from Councillor R Carlin.

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Councillor D J Craig and agreed to recommend that the Council adopt a partnership approach with Sport Lisburn and Castlereagh in providing a Return to Sport Funding for local clubs, on the basis of the criteria set out in the report, with a match funding contribution from the Council of £15,000.

During the course of this item, Councillor N Anderson left and returned to the meeting at 7.42pm and 7.44pm respectively.

6.3 Customer Service Excellence – Sports Services

Members were reminded that Sports Services is the largest council service to have been awarded Customer Service Excellence. This accreditation was initially awarded in 2018 with further reviews taking place annually. Following a remote assessment in early June, Sports Services have increased the number of Compliance Plus areas identified in previous assessments and the Head of Sports Services furnished the Committee with details of the results. The success of the Vitality Household membership and the independent research contributed to the positive results, which also reflect positively on the management and operational

6.3 Customer Service Excellence – Sports Services (cont.)

front line staff within Sports Services. This report was welcomed by Members of the Committee.

It was proposed by Alderman A Grehan, seconded by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble and agreed to note the Customer Service Excellence Assessment report for Sports Services.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Carryduff Colts FC
Chairman, Alderman M Henderson

The Chairman, Alderman M Henderson, asked the Head of Sports Services to provide the Committee with an update following a meeting with Carryduff Colts FC. The Head of Sports Services advised that Carryduff Colts FC had requested a written response to be shared on social media and with other interested parties regarding the synthetic pitch at Lough Moss Park and that subject to the Committee's agreement, the Head of Sports Services would provide a written report on this issue. This proposal was agreed.

7.2 Dundonald Arts Corridor – 'Wee Free Library'
Councillor H Legge

Councillor H Legge advised the Committee of various projects that the Dundonald Arts Corridor have undertaken in the area and in particular referred to the 'Wee Free Library' programme that was ongoing, allowing users to 'leave a book, take a book' at various locations across the area. This programme has been supported by a number of charities and has proven beneficial for people's mental health. Currently these can be found in three locations across the area and Councillor H Legge asked if the Council could offer any support installing shelving units in other locations such as the pitches at Billy Neill MBE Country Park. Councillor S Skillen similarly spoke in support of this initiative and referred to the boxes at Dungoyne Park being too low and asked if this could be also be addressed. Councillor H Legge advised that she had already been in touch with the Men's Shed at Dungoyne Park and Longstone Memorial Garden regarding this programme. It was agreed that the Head of Parks and Amenities would speak to Councillor H Legge regarding this issue outside of the Committee meeting.

During the discussion of this item, Councillor A Gowan left the meeting at 7.46pm.

7.3 Physical Training by Non-Council Groups in Council Parks
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble stated that he had been advised by someone who uses council parks for physical exercise and group training sessions that a Council officer had approached them and advised that this was not permitted. He sought clarification on this matter especially as other groups were using the Council parks for similar classes. The Head of Parks and Amenities referred to a Council Byelaw that does not permit the unauthorised use of the

7.3 Physical Training by Non-Council Groups in Council Parks (cont.)
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble

Council parks particularly for commercial purposes and advised that this was to protect the Council as it could not verify that an organiser had undertaken the relevant risk assessments, insurances or were compliant with restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Head of Parks and Amenities advised that it was not appropriate to permit use of the parks at this time without this information but would be happy to reconsider this issue at another time. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble stated that he did not think it was the right message for the Council to be communicating especially at a time when residents should be encouraged to exercise for the mental health benefits and asked why other groups were able to use the parks when this group was not. The Head of Parks and Amenities advised that there is currently not the resource within his team to police this matter and therefore, it was not that this group was approached by the Council but that the organiser asked to use the park and was advised of the byelaw. The Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing stated that this was historically an issue especially when organisers were receiving commercial gain from using the Council's premises and the Council was at risk of people claiming if injured, but he understood the Mayor's point about the importance of encouraging exercise at this time and agreed to discuss this with the Head of Parks and Amenities outside of the meeting.

During the discussion of this item, Councillor A Gowan returned to the meeting at 7.48pm.

7.4 Old Memorial Gardens at Milltown Derriagh
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig provided an update to the Committee regarding the Council helping to supply electricity to the above mentioned site which he raised at the previous meeting. As discussed last month, this issue was being considered by the Council's senior management team due to the cost associated with this request and advised that all the Councillors from that DEA had met the Chief Executive on site to discuss further. Following discussions, the cost of this work was able to be reduced by bringing some of work 'in house'. It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor S Hughes and agreed that the Council support installing electricity to this site and the work be progressed accordingly.

7.5 Record of Thanks
Councillor M Guy

Councillor M Guy made reference to the Council's Community Spirit Grant scheme that allowed a thank you event to take place last night at 'Let's Go Hydro' organised by the BT8 community group to thank volunteers who helped within their community during the lockdown restrictions. She stated that the night was a unique thank you event where families were able to gather safely in their cars to watch a film together and have food brought to them. She wanted to put on record that this small gesture by the Council has left a huge positive impact on the local community. Later in the meeting, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer

7.5 Record of Thanks (cont.)
Councillor M Guy

made reference to this event which she attended on behalf of the Mayor's office and echoed comments relating to the way the event was managed with all public health guidelines being carefully supervised and attendees marshalled. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer thanked Councillor M Guy for making her feel so welcomed and congratulated the volunteers of BT8, totalling over 350, who demonstrated real community spirit during these difficult months.

7.6 Ravine Project - Knockbracken Health Care Park
Councillor M Guy

Councillor M Guy commented on the work ongoing within Knockbracken Health Care Park to develop walking trails and activities for families and commented that it was a fantastic space within a part of the Council area lacking green space. Councillor M Guy asked if the Council would explore any opportunities to develop the site.

During the discussion of this item, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble, left the meeting at 7.58pm.

7.7 Record of Thanks
Councillor S Skillen

Councillor S Skillen wished to put her thanks on record for the Council's Community Spirit Grant scheme that allowed vouchers and a thank you letter from the Chief Executive to be sent out to the volunteers who assisted their community during the lockdown restrictions within the Castlereagh East area of the council.

During the discussion of this item, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble, returned to the meeting at 8.00pm.

7.8 The Mayor's Community Awards
Alderman A Grehan

Alderman A Grehan sought clarification regarding the format for next year's 'The Mayor's Community Awards' if the current Covid-19 restrictions would still be in place. The Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing advised that historically the Mayor's Community Awards took place alternately between Lagan Valley Island and the La Mon Hotel and that the hotel would be better able to cater for any ongoing public health restrictions due to it having a larger function room. He further indicated that the planning process was in its early stages with alternative formats continuing to be explored to ensure the event goes forward in a safe and a compliant manner that can celebrate the essential work undertaken in the voluntary and community sector particularly over the last six months. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble, gave assurances that all conversations held with the La Mon Hotel in relation to the event were done with the current guidance in mind and that he was determined to ensure that the work undertaken by the volunteers and the community groups was recognised this year more than ever. The Mayor also referred to the Pride of Place Awards that will be

7.8 The Mayor's Community Awards (cont.)
Alderman A Grehan

taking place soon using online technology and that lessons could be learnt from the success of that event.

At the end of this item, Alderman A Grehan sought clarification regarding what Committee the NI Centenary celebrations sat under and was advised it fell to the remit of the Corporate Services Committee.

7.9 Derriaghy Primary School Steering Group
Alderman S Martin

Alderman S Martin commended Councillor D J Craig for the work he had done for the Old Memorial Gardens at Milltown. Alderman S Martin requested that a meeting of the Derriaghy Primary School steering group be reconvened as soon as possible. The Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing advised that there had been correspondence between the Chief Executive and the Education Authority with regards to this project and advised that it was hoped that there be progress on this matter within the next few weeks and he could provide a further update then. The Director explained that there were some concern regarding the 'clawback clause' as well as challenges surrounding 'best attainable price' connected with any social community asset transfer. Following a discussion were other Members agreed that there was a need for an urgent meeting, it was proposed by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble, seconded by Councillor D J Craig and agreed that an urgent meeting of the steering group be called by the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing and that all Councillors from that DEA would be invited to attend also.

During the discussion of this item Councillor A Gowan left the Council Chamber at 8.08pm; Alderman A Grehan left and returned to the meeting at 8.09pm and 8.11pm respectively; The Vice Chairman, Councillor D Honeyford left and returned to the meeting at 8.15pm and 8.16pm respectively.

7.10 Ulster Scots Language Week and Seachtain na Gaeilge
Councillor R Carlin

Councillor R Carlin referred to the upcoming Ulster Scots Language Week taking place in November. He enquired about the Council's plans to celebrate this and if there were online resources available due to the current restrictions, and further asked what plans the Council had for Seachtain na Gaeilge in March. The Director of Leisure and Community Development advised that both language weeks had been included in the Council's Good Relations Action Plan and that the Council had been recently approached by the Ulster Scots Agency about hosting events this year, with the majority of these being held virtually.

7.11 Lisburn Rangers Football Club
Chairman, Alderman M Henderson

The Chairman, Alderman M Henderson advised that correspondence had been received from Lisburn Rangers Football Club requesting the opportunity to present to the Committee on its concept plans for the development of Stanley Park. It was

7.11 Lisburn Rangers Football Club (cont.)
Chairman, Alderman M Henderson

proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor N Anderson and agreed that the Committee would receive a presentation from Lisburn Rangers Football Club 'in committee' at the November meeting.

8. Confidential Report from the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

The Chairman advised that the reasons for confidentiality were as set out in the agenda, i.e.:-

8.1 Vitality Membership Survey – Feedback Survey

[Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)]

8.2 Outdoor Facilities: Alignment of Facility Available

[Confidential for reason of information in relation to which a claim for legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings]

8.3 Request for Flexible Retirement

[Confidential for reason of information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual]

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor H Legge, seconded by the Vice Chairman, Councillor D Honeyford and agreed that the confidential reports of the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing be considered "In Committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

It was agreed that the confidential reports and recommendations of the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below and other items noted:

8.1 Vitality Membership Survey – Feedback Survey

It was proposed by Councillor H Legge, seconded by Vice Chairman, Councillor D Honeyford and agreed to recommend that the Council accept the contents of the independent research carried out into the Vitality Household Membership scheme.

8.2 Outdoor Facilities: Alignment of Facility Availability

It was proposed by Councillor S Hughes, seconded by the Vice Chairman, Councillor D Honeyford and agreed that this item be moved from 'in committee' and discussed after the end of confidential business.

8.3 Request for Flexible Retirement

It was proposed by Councillor S Hughes, seconded by the Vice Chairman, Councillor D Honeyford and agreed to recommend that the Council approve the request for flexible retirement for the post of Assistant Keeper of Collections with a start date of 1st December 2020.

During the discussion of this item, Councillor A Gowan joined the meeting remotely at 8.24pm.

9. Confidential Any Other Business

9.1 Billy Neill MBE Country Park
Alderman D Drysdale

Alderman D Drysdale made the Committee aware of an approach he had received from a football club regarding the future 3G pitch provision at the Billy Neill MBE Country Park. Arising from this he had contacted the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing and the Chairman of the Committee following which an initial meeting had taken place with representatives of the club concerned. Following a discussion, it was proposed by Councillor S Hughes, seconded by the Vice Chairman, Councillor D Honeyford and agreed to give officers permission to engage in further dialogue about the potential 3G development at Billy Neill MBE Country Park with an update report to follow in due course.

“Resumption of Normal Business”

It was proposed by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble seconded by Councillor H Legge, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

10. Outdoor Facilities: Alignment of Facility Availability
(Agenda Item 8.2 Refers)

Following the agreement that this item would be considered out of committee, the Director presented his report. Members were reminded that a report on this matter had been considered in February 2020 but had referred back to the Committee for further consideration during the ratification process at that month’s Council meeting. At the monthly meeting of the Council on 22nd September 2020 discussion took place on this issue and arising from this discussion it was agreed that “as an interim measure and with immediate effect there has be a temporary alignment of availability of sports pitches in the Lisburn and Castlereagh areas”. At the same meeting it was further agreed to grant delegated authority to the October meeting of the Leisure and Community Development Committee on this matter.

The report highlighted that some outdoor sports facilities within the former Lisburn City Council area have not been available for organised/booked football on Sundays, whereas in the former Castlereagh Borough Council area pitches for organised football and baseball have been made available for such use and this inconsistent approach has remained the case since the establishment of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council on 1st April 2015.

10. Outdoor Facilities: Alignment of Facility Availability (cont.)
(Agenda Item 8.2 Refers)

The report outlined four areas of concern raised by Members which included staff welfare, impact on neighbouring church services, consultation with neighbouring properties and need, and further provided three options for the Committee to consider.

During the consideration of this report, the Vice Chairman, Councillor D Honeyford stated that he did not feel that the proposed recommendation as outlined in the report should be adopted and asked that the Committee consider 'Option A' instead to ensure alignment of the policy across the Council area.

Alderman J Tinsley raised his concerns regarding 'Option A' and suggested the policy should be amended to include the statement 'that where particular issues would be raised with the Council that these would be dealt with appropriately'. Following a discussion relating to this proposed amendment, Members felt it was unnecessary to explicitly include this in the policy as it would be expected that any issues raised with the Council would be dealt with in the appropriate forum. Alderman J Tinsley asked that this amendment be formally noted.

Councillor D J Craig sought clarification from officers that this change in the policy had undergone an Equality Impact Assessment and was advised by officers that the policy had undergone Equality Screening. Councillor D J Craig stated that as there were significant differences between the two he sought assurances from the Chief Executive that the due diligence on this policy had been correctly adhered to.

It was proposed by the Vice Chairman, Councillor D Honeyford, seconded by Councillor R Carlin and agreed under delegated authority as granted to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 22nd September 2020, that the Council align the overall policy to be consistent with the arrangements applying in the former Castlereagh Borough Council areas so that it applies across the entire Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area.

Councillor D J Craig requested that his vote against this motion be noted.

The Chairman, Alderman M Henderson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked those who watching on the live stream. As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.57pm.

Mayor/Chairman