

Derry City and Strabane District Council

**Minutes of Meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee (Open)
held in the Council Chamber - Strabane Council Offices on Wednesday 17
January 2018 at 4.00 pm**

**Present:- Members of Committee – Councillor Dobbins (in the Chair),
Aldermen Bresland, Hussey, Ramsey and Warke, Councillors Campbell, Duffy,
Hassan, Hastings, C Kelly, R McHugh, Reilly and Tierney.**

Non-Member of Committee – Alderman Devenney.

**In Attendance:- Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs K Phillips),
Head of Environment (Mr C Canning), Regeneration Manager (Mr T
Monaghan) and Committee Services Assistant (Ms N Meehan).**

ER1/18 Notice and Summons of Meeting

The Director of Environment and Regeneration read the Notice and Summons for the Meeting.

ER2/18 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

ER3/18 Declarations of Members' Interests

Councillor Hastings declared an interest in item 17 – Extension of the Provision of Haulage, Treatment, Recycling and Disposal of NWRWMG collected Local Authority Street Sweeping and Gully Waste as a member of the NWRWMG.

Open for Decision

Chairperson's Business

ER4/18 New Year's Greetings

The Chairperson wished Members, staff and members of the press a Happy New Year.

ER5/18 Refuse/Waste Collection

The Chairperson commended staff from Council's Cleansing Section on their hard work and efforts in dealing with the waste collection during the Christmas holiday period, particularly given the many spells of inclement weather. She also acknowledged public patience in terms of the obstacles facing staff in carrying out their duties.

Councillor Reilly concurred with the sentiments expressed above.

Councillor Reilly expressed concern that the Department for Infrastructure (Roads) had not included Chapel Road Primary School in its gritting network which was causing tremendous difficulties for the school, students, parents and staff. He referred to difficulties experienced by parents in trying to gain entry into the School grounds from Chapel Road. He referred to a further concern for the school regarding the delivery of school meals which were not cooked on the site. He stated that the inclusion of Chapel Road on the Department's gritting programme should be assessed on aspects other than road usage.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration reminded Members that the issue of gritting had been raised in December when Members had proposed that Council write to the Permanent Secretary of DfI requesting a meeting with officials in relation to their gritting policy. She stated that a response was currently awaited in relation thereto however, a further letter could be sent in this regard if Members so wished.

Alderman Hussey also commended staff from Council's Cleansing Section on their hard work over the Christmas holiday period. He referred to concerns raised throughout the district, particularly in relation to the previous eighteen hours, regarding gritting and assumed that all Members had received complaints from constituents in relation thereto. He acknowledged that a Meeting had been sought with the Department to discuss the matter however, he requested that an urgent meeting be arranged with local Roads Service officials to discuss concerns which had arisen as they were responsible for the provision of this service. He did not have any issues with those Roads Service staff at the forefront of carrying out this task and commended them on the excellent service that they provide. He queried the composition and

quantity per square metre of substance being used to treat varying road conditions and enquired if the substance which was of a satisfactory standard to prove effective.

The Committee subsequently

- Recommended**
- (a) that Council write to the Department of Infrastructure (Roads) requesting that they support the school and parents' Campaign to have Chapel Road Primary School included in the Department North West gritting programme; and**
 - (b) that Council request an urgent meeting with officials from the Department for Infrastructure (Roads) local office regarding the criteria and procedures applied with regard to gritting and the supply of salt boxes.**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration enquire if, given the urgency of this issue, it would be feasible if Officers met with local officials to discuss the matter.

Alderman Hussey agreed that given the urgency of the situation Officers could arrange to meet with local officials. He requested however, that, if available, elected representatives be invited to attend.

Councillor Campbell concurred with previous speakers' comments. He stated that weather conditions the previous day were unique in that the warning issued from the Met Office had been changed from yellow to amber. He expressed concern that the three arterial routes into Creggan Estate had not been gritted as a result of which serious problems had arisen particularly at Southway. He referred to the need for all of these issues of concern to be addressed with local officials. He referred to the Triax Resilience Plan which had been put into effect by the local community in areas of Creggan which had not been gritted. He said he would welcome a meeting with local officials to discuss these issues.

The Chairperson pointed out that volunteers in other areas of the City had also taken action to tackle roads which had not been gritted by DfI Roads.

Alderman Ramsey acknowledged the work carried out by frontline staff particularly given the dangers they faced in performing their duties. He expressed concern at the number of blocked gullies reported on Victoria Road and suggested that a scoping exercise be carried out to establish the level of work involved in respect of maintaining gullies.

The Chairperson acknowledged the adverse effect the inclement weather had on areas where works were being carried out but expressed concern however at the large potholes which had been created which were presenting major problems for drivers.

Alderman Devenney stated that issues regarding gritting frequently arose during periods of inclement weather. He pointed out that gullies in rural areas were cleaned annually and he understood that gullies in the Strabane were cleaned more regularly than in the City.

ER6/18 Newbuildings Recycling Centre

Alderman Devenney sought an update in respect of the Newbuildings Recycling Centre. He stated that in this age of recycling it was necessary to improve this activity where possible. He suggested that there was potential to provide an excellent recycling facility in Newbuildings.

The Head of Environment referred to discussions which had taken place regarding the siting of a recycling facility at Newbuildings and said he hoped to present a report thereon to the February Meeting of the Committee.

Alderman Devenney referred to discussions he had with Officers regarding the provision of Christmas Lighting in Magheramason and Newbuildings.

In relation to the provision of Christmas lighting the Head of Environment advised that Officers were currently considering enhancements across the entire Council area however, this would be budget dependant.

Alderman Hussey requested that the Christmas tree and lighting in Castlederg be removed.

ER7/18 Capital Projects Approval- Clooney Greenway - Lands Acquisition (GSP8/18)

Councillor Reilly thanked the Chairperson for granting him the opportunity to raise the above matter which had been discussed at the January Meeting of the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee and which was of relevance to the business of this Committee. He referred to the relevant Minute which stated that Council were constantly meeting with representatives from the Department for Communities in an effort to secure funding for this and other Council projects. He expressed concern however, that by the following month the district rate would have been struck and was anxious to know the scope of the Department for Communities budget.

Councillor Reilly expressed serious concern that although two new schools had been built in the area funding had still not been secured from the Department in respect of the greenway which would provide safer travel for students. He suggested that Council arrange to meet with the Department prior to striking the district rate to discuss the matter. He also referred to a number of other projects in respect of which funding from the Department had still not been confirmed, particularly the Shirt Factory Sculpture. He referred to the need to put pressure on the Department to commit to both projects.

The Committee

Recommended that Council make representations to the Department for Communities and seek a meeting with senior officials within the Department in an effort to secure funding for the Clooney Greenway and the Factory Girls Sculpture.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration undertook to progress this request through the Permanent Secretary. She confirmed that Council regularly met with the officials from the Department for Communities to discuss funding and referred to a meeting which had taken place the previous week to discuss capital projects.

Councillor Hastings referred to the importance of the Strathfoyle Greenway albeit concerns regarding funding. He stated that the Steering Group met on a regular basis in an effort to progress the project and suggested that this be included in any discussions with the Department regarding funding.

ER8/18

**Priorities for Transport Infrastructure in Northern Ireland Seminar
- 20 February 2018**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration referred to information which she had received regarding the "Priorities for Transport Infrastructure in Northern Ireland" Seminar to be held in Belfast on Friday 20 February. 2018, which she undertook to have emailed to Members. She suggested that any Member wishing to attend the Seminar should submit their name to the Members Services Officer.

ER9/18 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on Wednesday 6 December 2017

Minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 6 December 2017 (ER255/17-ER272/17) were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson as correct.

ER10/18 Closure of Ulster Bank Branches (ER262/17)

In response to a query from Alderman Hussey, the Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that the Director of Business and Culture had undertaken to write to Ulsterbank Headquarters and undertook to ascertain if a response had yet been received in relation thereto.

Alderman Hussey expressed serious concern at the delay in receiving a response from Ulsterbank to Council's request to meet to discuss their proposed closures and the impact thereof particularly on rural communities. He said Council must express its extreme disappointment at the Bank's apparent lack of responsibility and regard towards elected representatives regarding the closure of its banks in this Council area.

ER11/18 Deputation -Eunomia (Ref ER258/17)

Councillor Duffy referred to the recommendation contained in the above Minute that representatives from DAERA be invited to address a future Meeting of the Committee and sought an update in relation thereto.

The Head of Environment confirmed that an invitation had been sent to Owen Little from DAERA to address a future Meeting of Committee on the Zero Waste Circular Economy Strategy.

Councillor Duffy referred to a proposal to establish a Working Group which would include Council Officers, elected representatives, members

of Zero Waste North West and Owen Little from DAERA and requested that Officers report back to a future meeting in terms of progress in relation thereto.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that this project was contained within the Strategic Growth Plan and the arrangements for implementing the Plan were currently being considered. She undertook to consider this in conjunction with the arrangements and ensure it was progressed accordingly and keep Members updated in relation thereto.

ER12/18 Adoption of a Circular Economy/Zero Waste Strategy for Derry City and Strabane District Council (Ref ER262/17)

Alderman Hussey referred communications he had received from Zero Waste North West who were hoping to progress this in conjunction with Council. He requested that the potential for zero waste municipality be explored.

ER13/18 Street Naming and Property Numbering - Development of 6 New Dwellings at Clooney Road, Derry (Ref ER266/17)

Councillor Reilly expressed serious concern at the lack of preparation and provision by DfI Roads in respect of a number of new housing developments along the Clooney Road/Limavady Road and the opening of both the new Ebrington Primary School and Foyle College which were both located in this area. He referred to the obvious increase in traffic and pedestrians arising therefrom and the subsequent impact on roadways/pathways in the area. He referred to the need for these schools to be treated similar to other schools in the City in terms of the provision of signage in respect of speed limits. He said it was also necessary to ensure that drivers were aware of the increasing numbers of pedestrians using the roadways as a result of the new housing developments and the opening of the two new schools.

Councillor Reilly suggested that Council contact DfI Roads requesting the provision of adequate safety measures along this stretch of roadway to meet current demand.

ER14/18 Proposed Scoping of Regeneration Masterplan for the Former Faughan Valley High School

The Regeneration Manager presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated. He advised that the purpose of the

report was to seek Members approval to undertake a regeneration masterplan for the former Faughanview Valley High School and to outline proposed next steps.

The Regeneration Manager stated that the Education Authority had indicated that they were keen to place this on the market if a valuable proposal was not established. Communications were ongoing with the Education Authority in relation thereto. He stated that Officers had also discussed possible end uses with other local authority bodies. He advised that a report updating Members on the situation would be presented to a future Meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Reilly thanked the Regeneration Manager for his report and agreed with the proposed way forward in terms of developing the site and involving stakeholders. He requested that in relation to other masterplan work, elected representatives be granted an opportunity to become involved in the process.

Alderman Ramsey welcomed the work carried out by Officers and acknowledged the budgetary constraints involved. He stated that this was formerly a derelict site and the local community association welcomed this project. He stated that Alderman McClintock had requested that her thanks be recorded on behalf of the local community association.

The Committee

Recommended that Members support the progression of a regeneration masterplan for the former Faughan Valley High School and to approve a maximum budget of £15k.

ER15/18 Proposed Scoping of Regeneration Masterplan for the former Faughan Valley High School Site

The Regeneration Manager presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated. He advised that the purpose of the report was to seek Members approval to undertake a regeneration masterplan for the former Faughanview Valley High School and to outline proposed next steps.

The Regeneration Manager stated that the Education Authority had indicated that they were keen to place this on the market if a valuable proposal was not established. Communications were ongoing with the

Education Authority in relation thereto. He stated that Officers had also discussed possible end uses with other local authority bodies. He advised that a report updating Members on the situation would be presented to a future Meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Reilly thanked the Regeneration Manager for his report and agreed with the proposed way forward in terms of developing the site and involving stakeholders. He requested that in relation to other masterplan work, elected representatives be granted an opportunity to become involved in the process.

Alderman Ramsey welcomed the work carried out by Officers and acknowledged the budgetary constraints involved. He stated that this was formerly a derelict site and the local community association welcomed this project. He stated that Alderman McClintock had requested that her thanks be recorded on behalf of the local community association.

The Committee

Recommended that Members support the progression of a regeneration masterplan for the former Faughan Valley High School and to approve a maximum budget of £15k.

ER16/18 Applications Processed Under Building Regulation (NI)

The Head of Environment presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated. He pointed out that the purpose of the report was to advise Members of Applications processed under Building Regulations (NI) between 1 November 2017 and 30 November 2017.

Members noted the content of the report.

ER17/18 Update on the Joint Local and Central Government Sub Working Group on Fly Tipping

The Head of Environment presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated. He advised that the purpose of the report was to update Members on the establishment of a Fly Tipping Sub Working Group under the Joint Local and Central Government Working Group to consider and agree protocols with regard to incidents of Indiscriminate Dumping on a regional/local basis.

Members noted the content of the report.

ER18/18 Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics

The Head of Environment presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated. He advised that the purpose of the report was to update Members on the Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics for the 2016/17 period and the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme data for the same period.

Members noted the content of the report.

ER19/18 Proposed Disabled Parking Bays

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated. She pointed out that the purpose of the report was to advise Members of correspondence dated 21 December 2017 from Transport NI, Network Development Section, regarding proposed disabled parking bays throughout the district.

Members noted the content of the report.

ER20/18 War Memorials (Ref BC252/17)

Alderman Hussey referred to the above item which had been discussed at the December Meeting of the Business and Culture Committee. He suggested that this function fell within the remit of the Environment and Regeneration Directorate and as such sought an update on the Department's plans for maintaining War Memorials in terms of cleaning and restoration works.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that a report on the matter would be submitted to a future Meeting of Committee. She advised that general maintenance works were currently and would continue to be carried out. She advised however that issues in relation to restoration works would be progressed through the Working Group.

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified

The Meeting went into Confidential Business

Signed:_____
(Chairperson)

Date:_____