

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 14
November 2018 at 4.00 pm**

**Present:- Councillor Reilly (Chairperson), Aldermen Bresland, Hussey, Ramsey
and Warke, Councillors Campbell, Dobbins, Duddy, Duffy, Hastings, Jackson, D
Kelly, R McHugh and Tierney.**

Non-Member of Committee – Alderman Devenney.

**In Attendance:- Head of Environment (Mr C Canning), Head of Capital
Development and Building Control (Mr F Morrison), Regeneration Manager
(Mr T Monaghan), Heritage Development Officer (Ms M Edwards) and
Committee Services Assistant (Mrs T Johnstone).**

ER248/18 Notice and Summons of Meeting

The Head of Environment read the Notice and Summons for the Meeting.

ER249/18 Member Attendance and Apologies

The Head of Environment completed the roll call. There were no apologies.

ER250/18 Declarations of Members' Interests

Councillor Hastings declared an interest in agenda item 26 – Servicing, Maintenance and Erecting Dog Fouling Bins – TENV18-091.

ER251/18 Deputation- To Receive Mr Arbuckle, Bryson Energy to give an Update on Bryson Energy's Activities

The Chair invited Mr Arbuckle, Senior Manager, Bryson Energy to provide an update to Members on Bryson Energy's activities.

Mr Arbuckle distributed information leaflets to Members then proceeded with the presentation highlighting the following:

- Bryson Energy were part of the Bryson Charitable Group
- One of a network of 80 energy agencies across Europe
- Vision of Bryson Energy was to motivate and support householders to reduce their energy use, costs and carbon emissions
- Their mission is to energy proof homes throughout the City and District
- Bryson Energy was formed after the merger of three local energy agencies
- Bryson Energy was a one stop shop and a trusted central point of contact which addressed all elements of the fuel poverty triangle
- Energy efficiency, the level of household income, and the cost of fuel where the main elements in the fuel poverty triangle
- They also provide community oil clubs to help reduce costs to householders by making bulk oil orders.
- Bryson Energy also provide advice on electricity tariffs and switching providers
- Oil prices throughout Northern Ireland were unregulated with no transparency on pricing
- More flexible payment must be developed to address the high price and fluctuations
- 500 litres of heating oil in Derry costs 60p per litre compared to 56p cheaper when buying 900 litres in bulk
- Some suppliers charging 76p per litre for small deliveries such as 150 litres
- People using plastic containers are charged 66p per litre - even more expensive and a dangerous means of budgeting, yet supplier has no delivery costs
- Disparity in oil prices between the North-West and Belfast – householder in the North-West pays on average 5p per litre more or £25 per load and for smaller loads 11p per litre
- 69 percent of urban areas experiencing fuel poverty with 89 percent in rural areas
- Bryson Energy have a Service Level Agreement with Derry City and Strabane District Council to

assist Council in its energy projects and raise public awareness on renewable energy

Mr Arbuckle then distributed information leaflets to Members and invited questions and comments from the Committee.

The Committee thanked Mr Arbuckle for the useful and informative presentation and commented on the following:

- The alarming disparity with oil prices in the North West compared to Belfast which a contributing factor to fuel poverty throughout the City and District
- Referred to oil prices not being regulated and asked what Council could do in terms of lobbying oil companies to challenge the price difference
- Concerned at that the price of fuel had increased at the time of year when those suffering from fuel poverty needed it the most
- Referred to the affordable warmth scheme and noted that people who had availed of the scheme were still experiencing fuel poverty
- Stated that most people were could not afford to buy the higher volumes of oil and suggested that a higher number of people used plastic containers to fill oil tanks on a weekly basis as opposed to purchasing in bulk
- Referred to oil clubs and stated that not everyone were fully informed of the benefits and cost efficiency by becoming a member and suggested that Council undertake a promotion drive to all residents throughout the City and District
- Enquired if Bryson Homes had considered external retro fit insulation for existing homes as well as introducing the hive heating system whereby heat and water are thermostatically controlled
- Enquired if information regarding advice on tariffs and switching energy providers could be available online
- Enquired if Bryson Energy had anticipated any difficulties regarding EU status after March 2019

In response, Mr Arbuckle stated

- There was no reason given to explain the price difference between the North West region and Belfast

- Agreed that the promotion of oil clubs throughout the City and District would be beneficial and cost effective for households
- Outlined that there were currently 27 oil clubs in operation and that next year they will be controlled by the local communities
- Stated that although the price of oil could not be regulated it may be influenced by schemes such as oil clubs
- Stated that after the Grenfell disaster, a theoretical debate had taken place regarding the use of external cladding. He added that external insulation was used in the Republic of Ireland, however it was extremely expensive.
- Outlined that the Affordable Warmth Scheme was a university led project which identified homes affected by fuel poverty and subsequently targeted scheme had been implemented to award grants to certain households to enable them to have warmer homes
- He stated that the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland website offered up to date online advice and assistance available for anyone wishing to switch electricity providers or compare fuel prices. He added that Bryson Energy also had a Freephone number contained within the information leaflet
- Referred to the anticipated impact for Bryson Energy within EU and stated that the organisation may lose a proportion of EU funding.

Councillor Jackson stated that Council would work with Bryson Energy with regard to ensuring that information and advice could be communicated to all households throughout Council area. He suggested that Bryson Energy provide small video information clips in order for Members to share on social media to relay information and advice to a wider audience.

In response, Mr Arbuckle stated that the organisation had spoken to Council officers regarding having the Bryson Energy contact details and an energy efficiency page included on Council's website. He added that he welcomed working with Council in any capacity to ensure that householders received the advice and assistance available to them.

The Chair thanked Mr Arbuckle for his presentation and concurred with Councillor Jackson's suggestion for Council to work with Bryson Energy in an attempt to tackle fuel poverty throughout the City and District.

Chairperson's Business

ER252/18 Nappuchino Event

The Chair informed Members aware of a forthcoming conference on Tuesday 20 November in the Foyle Arena from 9.30am -12.30pm entitled Nappuchino. He stated that the event would encourage parents or carers to move away from plastic nappies to more environmentally sustainable ones and he encouraged Members to attend.

ER253/18 Royal Mail Postbox on Chapel Road

The Chair referred to a matter that had been raised at a previous meeting regarding the removal of the Edwardian Royal Mail post box on Chapel Road. He enquired if officers could contact Royal Mail to establish when the post box will be re installed at Chapel Road and also request clarification on the number of that particular type of post box still in use throughout Council area. He added that the information would be of interest to those keen to see that particular type of heritage retained.

ER254/18 Proposed Recycling Facility at Newbuildings

Alderman Devenney thanked the Chair for permitting him to bring up a matter under Chairperson's Business. He stated that he had raised the issue at a previous Environment and Regeneration Committee meeting regarding a suitable space for a recycling facility at Newbuildings. He stated that a space had been identified but unfortunately it did not progress. He suggested that a scoping exercise be carried out at the previous Council owned waste facility in the area. He added that a recycling centre at this location would encourage people to recycle not just at Newbuildings but the surrounding areas and would also help prevent illegal dumping.

In response, the Head of Environment stated that a report would be brought to a future Environment and Regeneration Committee meeting for Members' consideration.

ER255/18 Burnt Out and Abandoned Vehicles

Councillor Campbell raised expressed concern regarding the procedure for the removal of burnt out and abandoned vehicles throughout the City. He stated that the matter had been raised at a previous meeting, however since then there have been more burnt out vehicles at Galliagh, the Bogside and Creggan Estate. He stated that the contracted removal service had guaranteed removal of such vehicles within a 24 hour period. however this has not happened. He further stated that some vehicles had been lying for 3 days or more which raised health and safety issues particularly for children living in the area. He referred to an abandoned car at Creggan Estate with broken windows and had been informed that an abandonment notice was required before removal could take place. He advised that the vehicle had been left at the side of the street for seven days as per the notice then a further 3 days which resulted in a total of 10 days before it was removed. He asked if the previous procedures for the removal of such vehicles could be re-instated as it proved to be a more efficient service.

Councillor Tierney stated that it was his understanding that the delay for the removal of vehicles was due to problems with the new system which had been addressed. He emphasised the importance of the immediate removal of burnt out and abandoned vehicles because of the impact it had on the area. He suggested community involvement on would be a more effective way forward as local community organisations were used to remove bonfire material during the summer months and the local 'touch' reached far beyond what any external contractor had achieved. He enquired when the contract with the current removal firm was due to expire and stated that he understood they were more cost effective, however it was not working out.

In response, the Head of Environment stated that Members had raised a number of concerns regarding this matter and the company had been contacted to address the matter. He outlined that a performance contract was in place which included a guarantee that abandoned vehicles would be removed within a 24 hour period. However, he stated that this had not been the case on at least two occasions. He stated that after some initial problems the company had agreed that vehicles would be removed within the 24 hour period and if they did not honour this agreement, it would be deemed a breach of contract and therefore the contract would be terminated. He referred to abandoned cars that still may be fit for purpose and advised that Council were obliged to serve a 7 day abandonment notice adding that if a vehicle could not be taxed or insured, it was a matter for the PSNI or DVLA. He further stated that when a car was abandoned and

damaged beyond use then Council would remove it immediately. He informed Members that recent discussions had taken place with the removal company regarding issues such as procurement and the standard of service and that an update report would be provided at a future Committee meeting.

ER256/18 Provision of Bins Outside Council Offices

Councillor Dobbins stated that she raised the matter at a recent Planning Committee meeting regarding the lack of bin provision outside Council offices. She noted that there were receptacles available for cigarettes, however there were no bins available.

In response, the Head of Environment reported that a meeting had been recently held with the property team regarding the matter and confirmed that bins would be installed within the next few days.

ER257/18 Fly-Tipping at Mews Lanes

Alderman Ramsey referred to the build-up of rubbish at the mews lanes throughout the City and District, particularly in Bond Street area. He expressed concern that rubbish was being dumped in the area on a regular basis and that although Council were not responsible for the area, he asked if they could clear away the rubbish which had become a health and safety issue. He noted that fines had been issued to people who had been dumping illegally in the area, however, the problem still persisted. He asked if Council investigate who was responsible for maintaining the area as soon as possible. He stated that leaflets had been distributed to households, to no avail and suggested that Council liaise with the PSNI to consider issuing anti-social behaviour orders to offenders. He stated that the people involved were not leaving any method of identification in order for them to be traced and that the matter was extremely difficult to deal with.

The Chair stated that the matter was tabled for discussion under Agenda Item 10 and invited the Head of Environment to comment on the matter.

In response, the Head of Environment stated that the matter was being given the utmost consideration. He stated that every incident brought before the team would be investigated in the search for evidence. He stated that not being able to confirm ownership for the area resulted in difficulties with how to go forward on the matter. He advised that Council had been working with local communities to publicise and raise

awareness on the matter, however with the absence of direct community involvement there had been difficulty identifying those responsible and eradicate the problem.

In response, to a query from Alderman Ramsey, the Head of Environment confirmed that specific costing was available for clearing Mews Lanes.

ER253/18 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on Wednesday 10 October 2018

The Open Minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 10 October 2018 (ER217/18-ER236/18) were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

ER254/18 Deputation – To receive Mr Scott and Ms Gallagher, Woodland Trust to discuss the Faughan Valley Project (ER220/18)

Alderman Hussey referred to the recent visit by the Princess Royal to County Londonderry for the launch of a project at Brackfield Wood where 40,000 native trees had been planted in memory of soldiers who fell at the Great War. He stated that it was appropriate that congratulations be recorded from the Committee and at Council to everyone involved in the cross-community project.

ER255/18 Health and Safety Works to the War Memorial (ER235/18)

Alderman Hussey referred to the above item and expressed gratitude to Council staff on the marvellous work carried out at the Diamond War Memorials and at other Council related war memorials throughout the District.

ER255/18 Response on Dfi Consultation on A2 Buncrana Road Improvement Scheme- EIA Scoping Report

The Head of Environment presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to advise Members of a consultation received by Council on 7 September 2018 on the above matter.

Councillors Duffy welcomed the report and stated that comments from Sinn Fein on the report would be forwarded to the Head of Environment.

Councillor Tierney stated that he was aware of concerns raised by residents particularly at Messines Park and Farren Park. He added that it was important that Council consider these concerns and stated that he was unsure if the proposed scheme would remedy the congestion problem at that area. He stated that although an improvement scheme was needed, he did not feel that this particular scheme met the needs of people throughout the City and District and also residents from the area. He stated that all comments on the report by the SDLP would be forwarded to the Head of Environment.

In response to a query from Councillor Hastings, the Chair advised that the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) had illustrations on display and asked that Officers re-circulate these to Members.

The Committee

Recommended **That (i) comments to be submitted on behalf of the Council and (ii) illustrations/plans be re-circulated to Members.**

ER256/18 Council Support for the Eco- Schools Programme in Northern Ireland 2019/2020

The Head of Environment presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to seek Members approval with regard to a request for an uplift in the annual support from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful with regard to the Eco-Schools Programme for the 2019/2020 period.

Councillor Dobbins welcomed the report and stated that she was content to propose the recommendation contained within. She congratulated Hollybush Primary School on their recent success at winning the prestigious Ashden Award for sustainable energy. She stated that children were more aware of environmental issues and were teaching others on how to become more environment friendly.

Councillor Duddy also welcomed the report and seconded the proposal contained within. She stated that everyone was aware of the benefits

of Eco Schools and the work undertaken by them to educate children on the importance of becoming environmentally friendly.

The Committee

Recommended that Members approve the request for an increase in funding from £1,500.00 to £1,650.00 for the Eco Schools Programme

ER257/18 Draft Protocol on Combating Fly Tipping

The Head of Environment presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to seek Members comments with regard to a draft protocol on fly-tipping issued by the Government Waste Working Group (GWWG).

Councillor Tierney referred to previous comments raised by Alderman Ramsey regarding Council taking the initiative and clearing the area as it was a recurring problem with no-one taking responsibility. He referred to a lane in the William Street area of the City which Council had cleared on several occasions and expressed incredulity that household rubbish was being dumped in the middle of the city centre. He stated that Council needed to examine how this issue could be remedied in the long term as a short term 'sticking plaster' remedy was not the way forward. He stated that in relation to the mews lane at William Street, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) had a duty to act on the matter. He referred to the provision of mobile CCTV in the Rosemount area and enquired if this could be used to address the issue of fly-tipping at William Street and other areas throughout the City. He proposed that a report be brought to a future Committee meeting to outline how many lanes were being used for fly-tipping throughout the City and District and any Officer recommendations on how to resolve this matter. He also suggested that officers conduct a cost analysis and liaise with NIEA on the matter. He then proposed that a focus group be set up to tackle these issues.

The Head of Environment stated that in relation to CCTV, that discussions had taken place in relation to how CCTV could be used to identify those who were depositing waste illegally throughout the City. He explained that in a recent case prosecuted by Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council, a fly-tipper challenged the case on the grounds that they had been filmed without the consent. However, the matter was decided in favour of the plaintiff on the basis that the area

under CCTV surveillance had been well sign-posted. The person was subsequently fined. He stated that subject to Members' consideration, that overt CCTV provision be installed at William Street as it was an ongoing issue at that particular area. He stated that signs would state that CCTV was being used for the prevention of crime and if anyone was identified depositing rubbish illegally CCTV footage could be used as evidence.

Councillor Tierney Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Hastings that CCTV be installed as soon as possible at the lane mews in William Street.

Councillor R McHugh sought clarification on why CCTV surveillance had to be overt. He stated that fly-tipping was also a major issue in the rural areas particularly at the border with Donegal. He stated that covert surveillance had been discussed by the former Legacy Strabane District Council as overt surveillance would not be as successful in rural areas. He stated that there had been no reference to cross-border participation within the report and asked that this be taken into consideration.

Alderman Ramsey concurred with the sentiments expressed by Councillor Tierney and stated that the fly-tippers needed to be punished more severely, either by a more strict enforcement of existing legislation or by introducing new legislation with tougher penalties.

Alderman Warke welcomed the draft protocol and stated that fly-tipping was a serious environmental issue. He stated that tackling the problem would be a costly matter and enquired the annual cost incurred by Council. He concurred with the comments raised by Alderman Ramsey regarding implementing tougher penalties to those involved in illegal dumping of waste.

Alderman Devenney stated that the issue of fly-tipping was a sad reflection on society. He further stated that people had even travelled considerable distances to dispose of waste illegally. He enquired if any evidence found within the waste could be used to identify and prosecute the people involved in fly-tipping. He also sought clarification on the number of fines issued on the matter.

Councillor Duffy welcomed the recommendation to use CCTV in relation to fly-tipping. She stated that she had also raised the matter at previous meetings and had attempted to convene a seminar for local businesses on how to examine this issue and raise awareness on their

rights and responsibilities. However, this evolved into a higher level general conference on the environment which had been useful but had not focused on fly-tipping. She stated that the idea of having a focus group to include business owners in the area would be a constructive way forward as the illegal dumping of rubbish was not providing a good image for the City.

Alderman Hussey concurred with the sentiments expressed by Councillor R McHugh regarding the illegal depositing of waste at cross-border areas. He stated that the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) had listed the powers and responsibilities to be undertaken by Council, however there was no mention of the resources, such as the disposal of collected waste that would also be provided. He stated that the required resources should be included within the protocol. He noted that the protocol did not list issues regarding access to private land and stated that rubbish had been dumped onto private land particularly in rural areas and was informed that this was the responsibility of the land owner. He stated that the majority of waste would be on a commercial basis as rather than paying to have waste disposed of correctly, it was being dumped illegally therefore a distinction should be made between private and commercial waste.

Alderman Devenney concurred with the comments raised by Alderman Hussey regarding the private land issue. He stated that he wished to commend the Head of Environment and the team on their speedy response to any matters received regarding illegal dumping. He expressed concern at the volume of rubbish that could be dumped before NIEA were responsible to act.

The Chair concurred with the sentiments expressed by Alderman Devenney on the swift response by officers on the matter.

In response, the Head of Environment stated that in terms of the covertness of CCTV, this had come to the fore due to GDPR and privacy regulations. When CCTV is in operation it must state that it is being used for the purposes of crime prevention or detection and signs must be erected to inform the general public. He stated that the incident at Lisburn was at a rural location and that even with clear signage being displayed they had persisted in dumping waste illegally. He stated that CCTV being accepted as evidence in court gave assurance to other councils when dealing with such matters. He stated that the sign at William Street will state that it was being used to detect crime and prevent illegal dumping in the lane. He stated that a report would be brought back on the cost and location of dumping at other

lanes and fixed penalty notices that had been issued to offenders. He referred to the chain of evidence regarding the submission of identification as evidence to be brought before the courts and stated that if officers were given information such as a name or a car registration this would be acted upon. He stated that comments made regarding cross-border co-operation, costs and resources would be forwarded to the working group. He stated that the City Centre Initiative (CCI) had organised a meeting with traders in the William Street area and invited over 20 to discuss illegal dumping but only three had attended.

The Chair remarked that it has been suggested at a previous meeting of the Business and Culture Committee to reward businesses who had disposed of their waste correctly.

Councillor Tierney proposed the setting up of a working group with officers, members and statutory partners such as the NIEA on ways to address this issue could be considered.

The Committee

Recommended that (i) Members approve the installation of CCTV at the lane in William Street, Derry; (ii) all issues raised by Members be included in the draft protocol; (iii) a detailed report on areas being used for fly-tipping throughout the City and District and (iv) a working group to be set up with the relevant statutory partners

ER258/18 Memorandum of understanding - Winter Gritting

The Head of Environment presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to seek Members approval with regard to the continuation of the

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Transport NI and Council with regard to the clearing and gritting of designated footpaths and walkways during periods of adverse winter weather.

Councillor Campbell welcomed the report and endorsed the recommendation. He stated that it made common sense to continue with a further three year agreement with DfI. He noted that Council's

Resilience Plan was up to date and that it had played a key role within the community particularly in adverse weather conditions.

Councillor Dobbins also endorsed the recommendations. She referred to the grit boxes that had been removed from various areas throughout the City earlier in the year and noted that some had still not been returned. She asked that the matter be looked into particularly with the onset of winter.

In response, the Head of Environment stated that Transport NI were responsible for the maintenance of grit boxes throughout the City and District. He stated that they would be contacted to ensure that any grit boxes that had been removed would be returned to the appropriate area.

Alderman Hussey referred to the areas under consideration for gritting at Castleberg. He expressed concern with the priority 1 walkway and commuter routes at Castleberg town centre as Main Street at the Diamond and William Street had not been included. He stated that the local post office, fast food restaurant and busy supermarket were located at William Street and that consideration must be given to frequently used areas within towns and villages.

In response, the Head of Environment stated that this would be taken into consideration as the document was subject to review.

The Committee

Recommended that Council continue with the MoU with Transport NI with regard to the clearing of city and town centre footways and pedestrian areas during periods of adverse or prolonged winter weather.

ER259/18 Update Report- New City Side Cemetery

The Head of Environment presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on progress with regard to identifying lands suitable for development as a municipal cemetery on the City side of Derry and to seek approval to engage Land and Property Services (LPS) should it be concluded following site investigations that the lands on offer are suitable for this purpose.

Councillor Campbell welcomed the report and stated that the impending capacity at the City Centre needed to be addressed as it was his understanding that it would reach full capacity within 12 years. He referred to plans for a crematorium to be located in the City and District and asked for an update.

Alderman Ramsey also enquired about the crematorium and remarked that more land would also need to be acquired for this project.

Councillor Tierney stated that he had similar concerns regarding the crematorium and stated that although people may choose to be cremated their remains were also buried and this could mean having to acquire even more land. He referred to the land at Killea for the new cemetery and asked how many plots would be available. He expressed concern regarding the road network and the public transport connections to and from Killea. He remarked that while working as a taxi driver some years ago, a fare to Killea from the City was approximately £6 or £7 and suggested it was likely to have increased since then. He added that the City was expanding but not in that direction and stated that he would like more detailed information on the matter.

Alderman Devenney stated that it would be prudent to consider plans for a crematorium and enquired as to how much land would be required.

Councillor Hastings also expressed concern regarding the location of the new cemetery due to the lack of transport available to the area. He stated that the people of Derry and Strabane visited relatives and friends interred on a regular basis however, not everyone could afford to travel to Killea. He stated that transport costs would also increase the cost of funerals.

In response the Head of Environment stated that the crematorium was a joint project with three other councils with a business case being currently prepared. He hoped to have a report with all the proposals on the crematorium to Members by January for Members' consideration whether to proceed with a full business case for the development of the facility.

In terms of the City Cemetery, he stated that rather than 12 years, it was somewhere between 5 and 7 years for new burials, therefore it was imperative that Council acted as soon as possible. He stated that the City Cemetery will operate for some considerable time beyond that due

to the re-opening of existing plots. He further stated that this was the second occasion that Council had conducted an exercise to identify lands for a civic burial site as there had been no interest shown on the first occasion. He advised Members that four sites had been identified with three at Killea and one at Culmore. He stated that there were no cemetery lands available within the environs of the City therefore travel would unfortunately be needed to get to city side cemeteries of the future. He stated that having a city cemetery on our doorstep could not be considered going forward as the land was not available. In terms of capacity, what has been offered to Council was in the region of 166 acres, which in burial capacity would provide well over 50 years and the proposed crematorium would also have an impact on space required. He outlined that two processes were running side by side which would feed into each other and decisions regarding how much land would be required at the end of that process had yet to be made dependant on approval for the crematorium. He concurred with Councillor Tierney's comments that even if people were cremated they may still request to be buried.

Aldermen Hussey and Warke also asked if the burial capacity at cemeteries at Ballyoan and Castlederg could also be examined and a report brought back on the matter.

In response, the Head of Environment stated that capacity was monitored at all cemeteries located throughout the City and District and that a report would be brought to a future Committee meeting.

The Committee

Recommended that (i) a report on the proposals for a crematorium be brought to the January Committee meeting and (ii) a report detailing the burial capacity at all cemeteries throughout the City and District be brought to a future Committee meeting

ER260/18 Boom Hall Lands- Community Engagement Proposals

The Regeneration Manager presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members in relation to proposals for Officers to undertake a programme of community engagement in relation to ongoing initiatives at Boom Hall to consider the creation of the

establishment of a consultative forum and formally appoint a senior Council Officer to be represented on the Foyle River Garden Trust's Project Board.

Alderman Warke left the meeting at this point.

Councillor Dobbins stated that presentation delivered by Foyle River Gardens Trust at a previous Committee meeting had been ambitious and costly, however it was achievable. She welcomed stated that the Director for Environment and Regeneration was on board with the project and also welcomed the one day consultation for early next year. She added that positive feedback had been received on a citywide level.

Councillor Duffy welcomed the report and stated that it was a very exciting time for the area at Boom Hall and the entire area. She referred to the presentation by Foyle River Gardens which had sparked the imagination of the public in terms of future aspirations for the area. She stated that the initial steps were being taken to ensure that the regeneration plans were carried out which would benefit everyone throughout the City and District and beyond. She referred to the community engagement process on the matter and stated that it was important that the views of the community were acknowledged. She referred to the funding required for the project and stated that it was important for Council to be fully involved and also encouraged the participation of senior council officers.

Councillor Hastings enquired how the plans for Boom Hall would link in with the Greenway from Muff, Co Donegal to the City as the greenway plans had progressed much further than the plans for Boom Hall.

The Head of Capital Development and Building Control outlined that an existing greenway link from Muff ran from the entrance to the Foyle Hospice at Culmore Road through Bay Road Park and subsequently to the City centre as part of the route. He stated that this particular section of greenway was put into that area some years ago and would be the tie-in point with Boom Hall estate and subsequently along the walkway at the quay to the city centre.

Alderman Hussey enquired if there was any further information on the independent group who expressed an interest in the project. He referred to the one day consultation session and asked if this would take place on-site. He then enquired if there was any proposed link-in to the Maritime Museum as 2019 would commemorate the 70th

anniversary for the beginning of the Second World War. He remarked that Boom Hall had been utilised by the Women's Royal Naval Service and the WREN's trained at Boom Hall during this time.

In response, the Regeneration Manager explained that a collection of representatives such as the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, the Architectural Heritage Fund, and Foyle City Trust had expressed an interest in the promotion of conservation. He stated that they had welcomed the proposals put forward by Foyle River Gardens, however they asked that the historic build features at Boom Hall must be maintained. He referred to the one day consultation and stated that it was not the most amenable site from a health and safety perspective for the consultation to take place upon and that Members would be advised when a suitable venue was agreed.

The Heritage Development Officer stated that Boom Hall was very much involved in the interpretation programme for the Maritime Museum given not just to its location to the river and the Boom from the Siege of Derry but also its connections with the Second World War.

The Committee

Recommended that (i) Members approve that the Director of Environment and Regeneration, or her nominated officer would represent Council on the delivery board once it has been established; (ii) arrange a public engagement session to advise on Council's current plans for the site and (iii) seek interest in the establishment of an associated consultative forum in respect of the proposed Conservation Management Plan

ER261/18 Street Naming & Property Numbering- Development of 2 New Dwellings and 9 Apartments at Fahan Street, Derry- Request for Development Name

The Head of Capital Development and Building Control presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to gain Members consent to name a development of two new dwellings and nine apartments at

Fahan Street, Derry.

The Committee

Recommended that Members approve the name Fahan Court for this proposed new housing development

ER262/18 Street Naming & Property Numbering- Development of 91 New Dwellings at Lands opposite Lettershendoney Avenue, Eglinton, Derry- Request for Development Name

The Head of Capital Development and Building Control presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to # Members. The purpose of the report was to gain Members consent to name a new development of ninety-one new dwellings at a site opposite Lettershandoney Avenue, Eglinton, Derry.

The Committee

Recommended that Members approve the name Gortnessy Meadows for this proposed new housing development.

ER263/18 Applications Processed under Building Regulations (NI)

The above report was presented for information to advise Members of applications processed under Building Regulations (NI) between 1 September and 30 September 2018.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the content of the report.

ER264/18 2018 Environmental Awards

The above report was presented for information to update Members on the success achieved by Council in a number of Environmental awards over recent months.

Councillor Dobbins as a point of interest stated that the City and District had been successful in gaining a number of awards such as Ulster in Bloom and these achievements should be acknowledged. She

stated that the team under the management of Mr McCartney had enhanced the entire City and District.

Councillor Jackson concurred with the sentiments expressed by Councillor Dobbins and wished to pass on congratulations and also best wishes for upcoming awards. He stated that despite the awards that have been won there were major challenges within the City and District in terms of indiscriminate dumping of waste.

Alderman Hussey fully endorsed the remarks made by the previous speakers and highlighted that Derry City and Strabane District Council had achieved a gold award in Britain in Bloom and had been extremely close in winning the category for Britain in Bloom Award. He stated that this was a tremendous accolade for the team and the local communities who were involved. He stated that it was important however to focus beyond the City to the towns and villages throughout the district.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the content of the report.

ER265/18 Historic Environment Division Heritage Asset Audit- Strabane Area

The above report was presented for information to inform Members of the content of the Heritage Asset Audit for the Strabane area which was commissioned by the Department for Communities – Historic Environment Division (HED) and the Heritage Lottery Fund and the plans to hold a public event in Strabane to share the findings of the audit.

The Regeneration Manager invited the Heritage Development Officer to provide Members with information on the Strabane Heritage Asset Audit.

The Heritage Development Officer stated that the heritage audit was an extremely worthwhile piece of research which offered an opportunity to raise awareness of the rich diversity of heritage that could be found throughout the City and District. She advised Members that there were plans to hold a public event in Strabane to share the findings of the audit in early 2019 and encouraged Members to attend.

Councillor D Kelly referred to the audit and expressed his disappointment at the commentary provided throughout the body of the report particularly the criticism which he described as explicit in regard to Council's seeming negligence around heritage which he described as unacceptable. He stated that Council was not the author of the report and suggested that officers engage with the author in terms of having the audit edited to a more acceptable standard. He described the language as 'clumsy' and was unsure if criticism of Council was therefore intended as it had also commended Council on the work carried out in enabling and making heritage available across the Council area. He expressed concern as there was so much going on throughout the Council area in terms of heritage that had not been incorporated into the report such as heritage week, and the Johnny Crampsie and Flan O'Brien festivals. He also noted that no reference had been made regarding the appointment of a Heritage Development Officer. He said that nothing had been mentioned in the audit regarding the huge cultural shift within heritage particularly in accessing heritage services through digitalisation with so much online material to be sourced. He added that people no longer needed to engage with the traditional gatekeepers of heritage as they could go directly online to carry out research. He stated that no reference had been given to the Ulster American Folk Park which was in the process of being designated a national immigration and migration studies centre for Ireland and enquired why Members had received a recommendation to develop that type of facility in Strabane. He then referred to the study on thatched housing which was listed within the audit as a priority. He stated that he could not see the value in replicating something that was contained within the Ulster American Folk Park and that there were other aspects of heritage more pressing than a priority case study on thatching. He felt that in his opinion, the report contained elements which absolved the faults of the Department who had held responsibility for heritage in previous years. He stated that Council had a minor role with the statutory partners within community planning and local development plan and in his opinion, the Department has attempted to place the onus on Council to pick up on their failings over a long number of years which was not acceptable. He further stated that when Council did not have the powers that it now had, it had demonstrated great care and regard for the heritage of the district. He emphasised that the report should not go into the public domain without comment as the criticism was undeserved and unmerited.

The Regeneration Manager referred to Councillor D Kelly's very valid and well made comments. He concurred that the audit did not project

Council's role in promoting built heritage. He asked that Councillor D Kelly forward his observations and comments to officers so any factual inaccuracies could be addressed before the document was made available to the public.

Alderman Hussey stated that the work undertaken by Council with regard to heritage had not been properly recognised. He concurred with Councillor D Kelly that the report contained factual inaccuracies and stated that although the report contained a tremendous amount of information, some of the comments were unjustified.

The Committee

Recommended that the comments put forward by Members are included in the report.

ER266/18 Proposed Disabled Parking Bays

The above report was presented for information to advise Members of correspondence received in October 2018 from Transport NI, Network Development Section, regarding proposed disabled persons' parking bays at various locations throughout the District.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the content of the report.

The meeting went into Confidential Business.

The meeting terminated at Time Not Specified