

City and Strabane District Council

Open Minutes of Environment and Regeneration Committee held in the Chamber, Council Offices, Strabane on Wednesday 6 July 2016 at 4.00 pm.

Present:- Councillor C Kelly (in the Chair), Aldermen Bresland, Hussey, Ramsey and Warke, Councillors Campbell, Dobbins, Duffy, Hassan, Hastings, D Kelly, M McHugh and Robinson.

Non-Member of Committee – Councillor P Kelly.

In Attendance:- Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs K Phillips) and Committee Clerk (Ms N Meehan).

ER152/16 Notice and Summons for Meeting.

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

ER153/16 Apology.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Tierney.

ER154/16 Declaration of Members' Interests.

There were no declarations of Members Interests.

Open for Decision.

ER155/16 Deputations.

There were no deputations.

ER156/16 Chairperson's Business.

With the permission of the Chairperson a Member of the Sinn Fein grouping referred to the community planning meetings held throughout the City the previous week the main purpose of which was to elect an interim Chairperson for each of the groups. He expressed

concern at proceedings in the Pilot's Row Centre where serious fabrications had been made by Independent Members. Council employees and elected representatives had also been verbally abused which would be reflected in the minutes relating to that meeting. He expressed further concern at the disgraceful treatment of an elderly lady who was a prominent community figure who was in attendance at that meeting. He stated that this behaviour was totally unacceptable and referred to the need for an apology to be issued by the individual responsible. He made reference to the significance of community planning particularly in terms of local community development.

The Member stated that at one of the community planning meetings an Independent Member of Council advised one individual to withdraw their nomination for the position of interim Chairperson.

An Independent Member of Council who was a non-Member of the Committee disassociated himself from the disgraceful conduct which had taken place at the community planning meetings the previous week.

An Independent Member of Council stated that he had attended two of the community planning meetings in Foyleside and Ballyarnett but had not witnessed any unacceptable conduct. He stated however, that at the Ballyarnett meeting, given the general discord, he had proposed that a different approach be adopted and nominations be sought for the positions of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. However, this proposal was rejected which may have contributed to the atmosphere which had then prevailed throughout the day,

A Member of the SDLP groupings referred to the three meetings which he had attended in the rural area which were a model of good practice. He stated that in terms of the election of the Chairperson a democratic process had been exercised. He totally opposed the appalling conduct at meetings throughout the City. He referred to the need to defend and protect the human rights of all concerned and ensure that the process was fair.

A Member of the UUP grouping referred to concerns which had arisen regarding the community planning process. He stated that the process provided a tremendous opportunity for elected Members to move forward and any obstacles which would prevent this process must be condemned outrightly. He stated that the impetus in his electoral area

was for progress in terms of community planning and anticipated that in due course other areas would follow suit.

The Chairperson concurred with the comments made by the Sinn Fein Member and said it was unfortunate that not all community planning meetings had emulated those in the rural area.

With the permission of the Chairperson a Member of the UUP grouping referred to concerns which had arisen as a result of an Assembly question regarding the cost incurred by local government in terms of the enactment of RPA. He suggested that a Meeting be arranged between the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team and elected representatives to discuss issues arising therefrom.

ER157/16 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on Wednesday 15 June 2016.

Minutes of Environment and Regeneration Meeting held on 15 June 2016 (ER128/16-ER144/16) were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson as correct.

ER158/16 Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

ER159/16 Energy Performance of Building Regulations.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated. She stated that the purpose of the report was to update Members on the current issues in relation to the Council's statutory obligations to enforce The Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) Regulations (NI) 2008 as amended, (the EPB regulations). She said it set out the current position of the EPB Team (based within Belfast City Council) and the authority required for the extension of the current working arrangements.

The Committee

Recommended (i) that Council agree to extend the authorisation of the two EPB Team officers employed under this project to the 31 March

2017;

(ii) Notes the continued success of the EPB Team in their support to enforce the EPB Regulations in line with the EPB Enforcement Protocol contained in Appendix 1; and

(iii) Grants approval for the Council to enter a Service Level Agreement with the EPB Team as contained in Appendix 2.

ER160/16 Street Naming and Property Numbering – Development of Additional Dwellings at Ardgrange.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. She stated that the purpose of the report was to obtain Committee approval for the naming additional dwellings at Ardgrange, Creggan Road, Derry.

The Committee

Recommended that approval be granted for (i) the numbering of four new dwellings 34, 35, 36 and 37 onto Ardgrange; and

(ii) the new name Ardgrange Close of twelve other new dwellings.

ER161/16 Sustainable NI

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. She stated that the purpose of the report was to seek approval in relation to support for Sustainable NI.

A Member of the SDLP grouping inquired if value for money was being achieved relation to Sustainable NI.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that considerable engagement had taken place between Council and Sustainable NI. The funding forthcoming from Council would

incorporate a number of consultancy days to be held throughout the year and she envisaged that value for money would be achieved.

Matters for Information.

ER162/16 Applications Processed Under Building Regulations (NI)

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. She stated that the purpose of the report was to advise Members of applications processed under The Building Regulations between 1 May 2016 and 31 May 2016.

A Member of the DUP grouping requested that Members be furnished with a list of all the targeted areas within the affordable warmth scheme as some confusion had arisen in relation to this.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that the affordable warmth scheme was within the remit of the Health and Community Directorate. She undertook to liaise with the Director of Health and Community and request that the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing bring forward a report in relation to this issue.

In response to a request from a Member of the Sinn Fein grouping the Director of Environment and Regeneration undertook to request that all Council Members receive a copy of the report as it applied to the entire Council area.

ER163/16 DOE Consultation on Proposals for a Historic Environment Fund.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. She advised that the purpose of the report was to update Members of the current consultation process initiated by the former DOE in relation to its proposals for the creation of a new Historic Environment Fund and to attach a copy of the consultation submitted to the new Department for Communities.

Members noted the above information.

ER164/16 Update on SECURE Project.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. She stated that the purpose of the report was to update Members on the status of the SECURE, Smarter Energy Communities European Project.

The Committee noted the above information.

ER165/16 Correspondence from Transport NI – Private Streets (NI) Order 1980.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. She advised that the purpose of the report was to inform Members of a private housing development adopted by Transport NI.

A Member of the Sinn Fein grouping suggested that in relation to the arrangements for street lighting and standardised processes, Transport NI engage with the local development plan particularly in relation to the rural area. He referred to the various types of lighting which were being proposed which were unobtrusive in larger areas but were out of character in the rural area. He said he felt it would be a good idea for Transport NI to consider this again from an aesthetic perspective.

A Member of the UUP expressed serious that the street lighting on a section of roadway in Castledearg which was on a major route had been defective since 1 June. He requested that Transport NI be contacted in relation thereto.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration undertook to consult with Transport NI regarding the above matters.

ER166/16 Proposed No Waiting at any Time at Main Street, Castledearg.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. She stated that the purpose of the report was to advise Member of a letter received from Transport NI, Network Development Section regarding a proposal to introduce a no waiting at any time restriction at Main Street, Castledearg.

A Member of the UUP grouping expressed concern that from the correspondence received, Transport NI did not appear to have engaged with the local community.

P167/16 Proposed Taxi Ranks and Transfer of Disabled Parking Bays

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. She stated that the purpose of the report was to advise Member of correspondence received from Transport NI, Network Development Section regarding various proposed taxi ranks and transfer of disabled parking bays.

Members noted the above information.

The Meeting terminated at 4.40 pm