

## **Derry City and Strabane District Council**

**Open Minutes of Special Meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Derry on Tuesday 21 November 2017 at 4.00pm.**

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**Present:- Councillor Dobbins (Chair), Alderman Hussey, Warke; Councillors Duffy, Hastings, C Kelly, D Kelly, R McHugh, Reilly and Tierney.**

**In Attendance:- Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs K Philips), Committee Services Assistant (Mrs J Short).**

**Representing 'Life After': Mr C Sherrard.**

**Representing TransportNI: Network Development Manager (Mr H Gallagher) Network Development Engineer (Mr D MacBride), Network Maintenance Section Engineer (Mr R McCartney).**

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### **SER5/17 Notice and Summons for Meeting**

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

### **SER6/17 Member Attendance and Apologies**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration completed the Member Attendance register and apologies were recorded from Alderman Bresland and Ramsey and Councillors Campbell and Hassan.

### **SER7/17 Declarations of Members' Interests**

Councillor Tierney declared an interest in Life After presentation due to his Committee membership.

Councillor's Dobbins and Duffy declared an interest in the Roads Western Division Autumn report due to their representation on the Road Safety Committee.

**SER8/17 Presentation from Mr Sherrard representing 'Life After'**

The Chair welcomed Mr Sherrard to the meeting and invited him to make his presentation.

Mr Sherrard representing 'Life After' proceeded to update Members on the work of the group. He explained that the group provided assistance to people bereaved due to a road traffic accident and to raise awareness of road safety throughout the city. He said that he had decided to form the group after his father, Mr Wilson Sherrard was tragically killed in a road traffic accident and his family had received no help or support in dealing with their loss in the months following the accident.

He added that 'Life After' was formed in April 2017, under the guidance of a steering group and governed by a committee represented by elected Members, PSNI Family Liaison Team, Traffic Branch, Road Safety NI and Community Development Officer who meet once a month. He explained that the group provided an opportunity for families to meet together to talk about their pain and loss and to speak with Trauma Councillors and Community Development Officers.

He further added that the group was building momentum and it was anticipated that following further liaison with Road Safety NI and other key stakeholders that the group would be in a position to present proposals to Council early in the New Year. He thanked Members for their support and for the opportunity to speak at the meeting today.

Members collectively expressed their support of the initiative and commended Mr Sherrard on the work he had achieved since April 2017. They wished the group every success in the future in providing such a valuable service to the citizens of the District Council area and hoped to see the group expand with the delivery of the service throughout the whole of Ireland.

Mr Sherrard left the meeting.

**SER9/17 Presentation from Department for Infrastructure, (Roads Western Division) Autumn Report 2017**

The Chair welcomed the representatives from Roads Western Division and invited them to present their Autumn Report 2017.

Mr Gallagher, Network Development Manager presented the Works Programme Update Report (Autumn 2017), a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. He gave a brief update on the progress of the Strategic Road Improvement Schemes which included the A5 Western Transport Corridor, A6 Randalstown to Castledawson, A6 Londonderry to Dungiven and A2 Buncrana Road.

Mr McCartney, Maintenance Engineer reported on the structural maintenance planned works 2017-2018, which included planned resurfacing, surface dressing, drainage works and proposed footpath work, at an estimated cost of £508k.

Mr MacBride, Network Development Engineer reported that in 2017/18 financial year £190k had been allocated for Local Transport and Safety Measures within the Council area and included an improvement scheme at Ballyarnett Roundabout for which a developer contribution had been secured. He provided a brief overview of the planned works for Traffic Management Schemes, Pedestrian Measures, Traffic Calming, Safer Routes to Schools, and Local Transport and Safety Measures all of which were outlined in detail within the report.

Members made reference to the following:

- Concern expressed regarding road works within the Culmore Village area that involved 5 Contractors working simultaneously and caused major traffic disruption and delays during the summer holiday period.
- Queried the start date of the proposed improvement scheme at Ballyarnett road roundabout.
- Concern expressed regarding the displacement of 3 families in the Culmore area due to the flooding incident in August 2017 and the sewage problems had not been addressed.
- Welcomed the progress of the strategic road improvement schemes and asked for an update on the plans to improve the route to Caw roundabout.

- Concern expressed regarding lack of progress with the Buncrana Road improvement scheme and the Bogside parking scheme and traffic calming scheme at Academy Road all of which contributed to the safety of the people of the District.
- Concern expressed regarding the diversion route at Claudy and the lack of progression of the planned bridge works.
- Expressed concern of flooding problem on route between Foyle roundabout and Gransha Hospital.
- Welcomed the on-line reporting system available for Members.
- Welcomed the Castlefin road improvement scheme.
- Request made for the Principal of Bready Primary School to be informed of the scheme of works to be carried out on the A5.
- Welcomed progress of the proposed foot bridge scheme in Strabane Town.
- Welcomed road surfacing works and bridge maintenance schemes.
- Further engagement with residents and businesses in Claudy regarding proposed bridge works necessary.

The representatives from Transport NI responded as follows:

- Culmore Village road improvement scheme – Contractors have to ensure the work is carried out as safely as possible and have statutory right to position safety apparatus along the route and the school holiday period was the best time to have work carried out.
- Ballyarnet road roundabout scheme – no start date agreed.
- Flooding at Culmore – 3 families displaced – report to NI Water Division who are responsible for sewage problems.
- A5 and A6 Strategic Road Schemes - progressing within agreed timeline.
- Maydown Road and Caw road roundabout upgrade being progressed in terms of liaison with key stakeholders.
- Buncrana Road scheme – preparatory work being carried out in terms of public consultation.
- Bogside residents parking – formal consultation expected early New Year.
- Acknowledged the frustrations of residents in Claudy – however the bridge required major improvement works to be carried out to ensure maximum safety of users. Will continue to communicate with local businesses and residents in the area.
- Maydown Road resurfacing works will be given priority when funding is allocated.

- Flooding problem at Caw road roundabout and Gransha – investigatory work resulted in the need of a major drainage scheme and funding was an issue.
- Agreed to make contact with Principal of Bready PS regarding planned work at A5 Ballymagorry.
- Castlefin Road Scheme – Contractor was due on site in October 2017.

The Meeting ended at 6pm.