

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held in the Council Chamber, Strabane Council Offices, on Wednesday 16 January 2019 at 4.00 pm

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

Non- Member of Committee: - Alderman M Devenney

In Attendance: - Mrs K Phillips (Director of Environment and Regeneration), Mr C Canning (Head of Environment) and Mr T Monaghan (Regeneration Manager) and Miss L Bell (Committee Services Assistant).

ER1/19 Notice and Summons of Meeting

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

ER2/19 Member Attendance and Apologies

The Director of Environment and Regeneration completed the roll call. No apologies were received from Members.

ER3/19 Declarations of Interest

Councillor R Mc Hugh and Alderman Hussey declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 18- Castledearg Shared Space Project- Acquisition of Lands.

Chairperson's Business

ER4/19 Happy New Year

As this was the first Meeting of 2019, the Chair wished Members, Officers and the Press present in the Chamber a Happy New Year.

ER5/19 Additional Item – Notice of Intention to Use Lands at Church Square, Sion Mills.

The Head of Environment presented the above late item and Members were given the opportunity to review the late information.

He advised that the purpose of the late item was to seek Members' approval that Hetherington Painting and Building Contractors be permitted to erect a temporary storage compound on Council lands at Church Square, Sion Mills to facilitate work being carried out for the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Councillor Tierney thanked the Officer for presenting the report to the Committee and welcomed the opportunity for the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to make alterations for resident's benefit within the District Council area.

In response to a question from Councillor Jackson, the Head of Environment confirmed that it was normal practice for contractors to seek Council approval before using Council lands, He explained that the terms of the licence would be agreed and the land would be reinstated to Council once the work was completed.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised Councillor Jackson that the particular issue he had referred to in Eskaeen View could be investigated if he so wished.

Alderman Ramsey joined the Meeting at this point.

Councillor Campbell concurred with Councillor Jackson and referred to a site in the Cromore area of Creggan that had been used for the same purpose.

In response to a request from Councillor D Kelly, the Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that she would seek information on the position of this request from a planning perspective.

Alderman Warke commented that when contractors had recently carried out work in the Newbuildings area he had found them most amenable. He welcomed the benefit of this request to the residents.

In response to a query from Alderman Hussey, the Head of Environment stated that he did not have any information relating to consultations with non-Housing Executive residents in the area.

Alderman Hussey expressed his support for the work to be carried out as requested.

The Committee

Recommended that Council permit Hetherington Painting and Building Contractors to erect a temporary Storage compound on Council Lands at Church Square, Sion Mills.

ER6/19 Arson Attack to Eglinton Play Park

Alderman Warke referred to a recent arson attack at a play park in Eglinton. He stated that the damaged equipment had already been removed and queried the costing and time-scale for the repair of the play park.

Alderman Devenney supported the queries of Alderman Warke and asked for an update on any insurance claim process which may have been progressed.

The Head of Environment advised that the equipment had been removed at a cost of £900 to Council. He advised that as any repair would be subject to Health and Safety specifications, Council had consulted the original provider to source the cost of replacement equipment and he expected a response shortly. He further advised that whilst there was an insurance claim in progress Council had progressed with the removal of the damaged equipment and sourcing replacement equipment. He advised that Council's Health and Safety Officers had ensured that the remaining equipment posed no risk to the public and that the Parks Development Manager had been made aware of the builders' offer of service.

Alderman Hussey reassured Members of the quick response of Council Officers to a similar issue which had previously taken place in Sion Mills.

In response to a further question from Alderman Warke the Head of Environment confirmed that the repair could take a number of weeks as Council had procurement procedures to follow.

ER7/19 Retirement of Council Staff

The Chair informed Members of the retirement of Council Environment and Regeneration employees; Mr Esmond Black, Mr Jim Gallagher, Mr

James McIvor, Mr Eddie Nutter and Mr Norman Boyd and wished them well in their retirements.

Councillor Tierney echoed these sentiments.

ER8/19 Noise Pollution Complaints

Councillor Tierney made Members aware of various complaints of noise pollution at night-time which had been reported to the Community Safety Wardens. He stated that Wardens within Belfast City Council had access to handheld devices which could be used to record sound levels on a chip which could then be provided to landlords or housing associations. He requested that Council investigate this option for use within the Derry City and Strabane District Council Area.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that the Community Safety Wardens and Environmental Health were under the remit of the Health and Community Directorate. She agreed to forward the request to the Director of Health and Community and the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing.

Alderman Hussey commented that he trusted that all Council areas would be covered by this if rolled out.

ER9/19 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on Wednesday 5 December 2018

The Open Minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 5 December 2018 (ER282/18-ER299/18) were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

ER10/19 ER289/18- Bio-Digester Concerns

Councillor Tierney queried the role of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency regarding this issue and suggested they be invited to address the Planning Committee to present their concerns.

In response, the Director of Environment and Regeneration confirmed that the Head of Planning Performance and Improvement was compiling a report regarding this issue and she would ensure that the NIEA were involved. She agreed that the NIEA be invited to a future meeting of the Planning Committee to address the issue.

ER11/19 Street Naming and Property Numbering – Development of 21 New Dwellings at Site at Upper Galliagh Road Derry – Request for Development Name

The Head of Capital Development and Building Control presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated. He explained that the purpose of the report was for Members to approve the naming of a new development of twenty-one new dwellings at a site on Upper Galliagh Road, Derry.

The Committee

Recommended that Council approve the adoption of the name Gleann Elagh for the housing development at Upper Galliagh Road, Derry.

ER12/19 Street Naming and Property Numbering – Development of 7 New Dwellings at 7-9 Moyle Road, Newtownstewart – Request for Development Name

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated. He explained that the purpose of the report was for Members to approve the naming of a new development of seven new dwellings at 7-9 Moyle Road, Newtownstewart.

The Committee

Recommended that Council approve the adoption of the name Riverview Close for the new development at 7-9 Moyle Road, Newtownstewart.

ER13/19 Street Naming and Property Numbering – Development of 36 New Dwellings at a site adjacent to 55 Strabane Road, Castlederg – Request for Development Name

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated. He explained that the purpose of the report was for Members to approve the naming of a new development of thirty-six new dwellings site adjacent to 55 Strabane Road, Castlederg.

The Committee

Recommended that Council approve the adoption of the name Riverview Manor for the new development at 55 Strabane Road, Castledearg.

Open for Information

ER14/19 Applications Processed under Building Regulations (NI)

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated. He explained that the purpose of the report was to advise Members of applications processed under Building Regulations (NI) between 1 November and 30 November 2018.

Members noted the content of the report.

ER15/19 Street Naming and Property Numbering – Requests for Installation of Bilingual Language

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated. He explained that the purpose of the report was to inform Members of the outcome of recent applications to provide bilingual signage at Grangemore Park and Farland Way, Derry.

In response to a request from Councillor Campbell, the Director of Environment and Regeneration stated that she would seek an update from Officers and would contact Councillor Campbell directly.

Members noted the content of the report.

ER16/19 Update on the Preparation of an Outline Business Case for the Development of a Regional Crematorium

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 progress with the preparation on an Outline Business Case (OBC) with regard to the development of a regional crematorium.

Councillor Hastings commented that it would be regrettable if the North- West was impeded from establishing a crematorium and

highlighted the need for equality across Northern Ireland in relation to this issue.

Alderman Devenney concurred and stated that this was a sensitive issue and Council should do all possible to secure a crematorium for the citizens of this District

Councillor Duffy stated that the issue was well rehearsed and suggested Council seek clarification on the issues as soon as possible.

The Chair queried if Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council had information which Derry City and Strabane District Council were not privy to.

The Head of Environment advised that Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council had a slightly different approach. He clarified that more detail was required in terms of the relevant legislation and that there was significant scope for Council to take the proposal forward once this advice had been obtained.

ER17/19 Proposed Disabled Parking Bay

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated. He explained that the purpose of the report was to advise Members of correspondence received in December 2018 from Transport NI, network Development Section, regarding proposed disabled persons' parking bay at Marlborough Terrace, Marlborough Street, Carnhill and High Park, Derry.

Members noted the content of the report.

ER18/19 Cleaning of Mews Lanes within the Council District

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 number of mews lanes within the city area of the Council district.

In response to a request from Alderman Hussey, the Head of Environment agreed to issue a list of lanes existing outside the City with a build-up of rubbish.

In response to another request from Alderman Hussey, the Director of Environment and Regeneration clarified that the Department of Infrastructure (Roads) had responsibility for streetlights provision. She undertook to liaise with DfI and update the Committee in due course.

The Head of Environment commented that the City Centre Initiative and community organisations were also taking note of defective street lighting and had reported this to the Department for Infrastructure (Roads)

Councillor Tierney referred to Minute reference ER267/16 and clarified that he had referred to the 236 Mews lanes within the City and District and not only the City. He called for an update regarding plans in place to target the issue of illegal dumping in these locations.

Alderman Ramsey encouraged the involvement of community groups and youth clubs in tackling these issues and queried the cost to Council.

Councillor Hastings suggested that Council make the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Housing Associations aware of the cost implications to Council.

Alderman Warke highlighted a problem area of dumping on Strabane Old Road which he felt was given priority on the cleaning schedule in comparison to other areas within the City and District.

Councillor Campbell agreed with the comment that the amount of illegal dumping was shocking. He queried the cost of Councils clean-up efforts adding that some areas needed more attention than others.

Councillor Jackson expressed his shock at the indiscriminate dumping by a small minority of residents in the Strabane Old Road area, adding that most residents were outraged by this. He stated that he did not agree with the comment that this area received preferential treatment in comparison to other areas. He pointed out that Council should take every opportunity for enforcement in relation to this issue.

Alderman Devenney commented that everyone could pick out hotspots for illegal dumping and added that the perpetrators did this because they know that Council will clean up. He also highlighted that a bulky waste collection service was also provided by Council. He highlighted the need to address faulty street lighting in rural areas as he felt this fault encouraged dumping in some areas and also requested a report on the levels of enforcement be provided to the Committee.

In response, the Head of Environment commented that Officers have been working with communities to tackle the issue. He stated that engagement with landlords and students was ongoing and that progress was being made.

In relation to the ownership of the Mews Lanes, the Head of Environment commented that Council found it difficult to spend public funds on lands which were not owned by Council, however, they had an obligation to keep public footpaths clear.

He advised that Council worked in partnership with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Housing Associations to address the issue. He also advised of education initiatives to encourage no dumping of waste and the free bulky waste collections and recycling centres service that Council provided in order to alleviate the problem of illegal dumping.

He assured Members that every reported incident of indiscriminate dumping was investigated. He referred to the problem area of William Street and advised that cameras were now in operation. Councillor Hastings indicated his appreciation of the work carried out by the Cleansing Department, stating that this area was one of the best in terms of the service provided.

In response to a query from Alderman Devenney, the Head of Environment clarified that ensuring waste was disposed of correctly was the sole responsibility of the householder, referring to a recent case where a fixed penalty notice was issued to a householder who had paid a third party to dispose of waste.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that if possible in cases of this nature the details of the third party would be taken and reported to NIEA.

In response to a question from Councillor Tierney, the Head of Environment clarified that Officers would be aware of the majority of Clean up initiatives scheduled by community organisations. He advised that Council would inspect the water materials collected and issue Fixed Penalty Notices when appropriate.

Councillor Tierney suggested Council write to community organisations to remind them to notify Council when organising litter picks.

In response to a query from the Chair, the Head of Environment clarified that regular meetings took place with Donegal County Council Officials to exchange information surrounding this issue, adding that any information exchange would comply with General Data Protection Regulations. He also advised that under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive retailers were obligated to dispose of old electrical items when consumers replaced them.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the content of the report.

ER19/19 DfI Correspondence on Proposed Speed Limits

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated. She advised that the purpose of the report was to advise Members on DfI's proposed speed limits at Camus Road and Liskey Road

Councillor D Kelly welcomed this development and proposed that Council issue a response to the Department for Infrastructure to indicate support, stating that the wording should reinforce that this was the core objective of the Community Plan.

The Committee

**Recommended (i) that Members note the content of the report.
(ii) that Council issue a response to the Department of Infrastructure in support of the development with wording to reinforce that this development echoed the core objectives of the community plan.**

The Meeting went into Confidential Business

The meeting terminated at 4.45 pm