NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE AN IÚIR AGUS MHÚRN

Minutes of District Development Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 October 2006 at 7.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

In the Chair: Councillor W Burns

Other Members 26

In Attendance: Councillor C Burns

Councillor W Burns
Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey
Councillor M Cole
Councillor M Connolly
Councillor B Curran
Councillor G Donnelly
Councillor F Feely
Councillor A Flynn
Councillor I Hanna
Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D Kennedy

Councillor I Hearty
Councillor D Kennedy
Councillor T Murphy
Councillor J McArdle
Councillor J McCreesh
Councillor P J McDonald
Councillor K McKevitt
Councillor M Murphy
Councillor J O'Hare

Councillor J Patterson Councillor H Reilly Councillor M Ruane Councillor G Stokes

Councillor G Oliver

Councillor A Williamson

Also in Mr T McCall, Clerk and Chief Executive

Attendance: Mr G McGivern, Director of District Development

Mr E Curtis, Director of Administration

Mr J Finnegan, Internal Auditor

Mrs G Quinn, Committee Administrator

Apologies: Councillor J Feehan

Councillor M Mathers Councillor C Mussen At the outset of the Meeting Members observed one minute's silence as a mark of respect on the death of Councillor Mussen's daughter, Roisin.

D.D/299/2006: - SYMPATHY (REF: M/23)

At the request of Councillor O'Hare it was agreed to send a message of sympathy to the family of the late Charlie Murphy a former Councillor with Newry Urban No. 2.

At the request of Councillor Casey and Councillor McArdle it was agreed to send a message of sympathy to Councillor Marian Mathers on the death of her father-in-law Hugh.

At the request of Councillor T Murphy it was agreed to send a message of sympathy to Mr & Mrs Lennon on the tragic death of their daughter Jessica.

D.D/300/2006: - MINUTES

On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Williamson Minutes of the District Development Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 September 2006 were adopted as a true and accurate record same having been circulated.

MATTERS ARISING

NIE – Councillors Emergency Contact Numbers

Councillor Casey advised that he had been finding it difficult to contact NIE on the Councillors priority number. He said he had phoned twice a day for 2 weeks and whilst the issue was now resolved, he asked that the Council write to NIE advising on the problem Councillors are experiencing contacting them on their priority number and registering dissatisfaction.

Councillors Visit to Fingal County Council

Councillor Carr referred to the recent visit by Councillors to Fingal County Council Offices, Dublin. He said that in the Boardroom each place setting had a microphone and Meetings were broadcast on the Worldwide Web using a webcam system.

Councillor Carr requested that the Council look at the cost of providing this facility and these costings be brought back to the Council for discussion at an appropriate Meeting.

D.D/301/2006: - SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING – TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2006 - COUNCIL RESPONSE TO AREA PLAN (REF: M/31/5)

Mr Richard Bowman, Planning Consultant, Ferguson & McIlveen was in attendance for discussion on this item

Read: Report of Special Committee Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 10

October 2006 to consider the Council response to Draft Newry and Mourne

Area Plan. (Copy of Report and Draft Response circulated).

With reference to the comments on the Rural unallocated it was noted that the Rural unallocated had been re-worded by Richard Bowman as follows: -

It is Policy of Newry and Mourne District Council to promote rural development and encourage people to live and work in the countryside if they wish. In this regard the Council would ordinarily welcome a 20% allocation (or higher) to the rural remainder as suggested in Table 13B of the Population and Housing Technical Supplement.

That said Council is mindful of the ever increasing restrictions being placed on rural development, in terms of Blanket Green Belt and PPS 14 and will question as to whether even 20% of all new houses would be developed in the rural area under such tight restrictions.

Prior to PPS 14 and the Draft BNMAP the Rural Area in the District was a mix of Green Belt and Open Countryside and accounted for over 30% of the average annual dwellings built throughout the District. Using data previously provided by Planning Service it is noted that prior to PPS 14 and the Draft BNMAP Green Belt approvals in the District are on average 65% less than those in rural remainder. It is therefore reasonable to assume that if either the overly restrictive Policies for PPS 14 remain in place or the Blanket Green Policy is not relaxed in the Area Plan, approvals for housing in the rural areas would be around 65% less. That being the case a 65% reduction from the original 30% plus allocation would mean that the effect of allocation for the rural area would only be 10.5%.

In principle, the Council will always object to any reduction in approvals for housing in rural areas. However when faced with the situation where the tighter restrictions on rural housing appear inevitable, Council will wish to ensure that maximum opportunities are afforded for housing development in settlements. The 9.5% variation between the Area Plan allowance of 20% and what appears to be a realistic figure under Green Belt Policy of 10.5% accounts for 13,000 dwelling units. If it is not possible to build these 13,000 buildings in the rural area Council want them to be reallocated to the settlements across the District.

Councillor Carr asked that a comment be included in the Council's response objecting strongly to the de-zoning of land within settlements when it is clear that tighter restrictions in the rural area will increase demand within these settlements.

On the proposal of Councillor Reilly seconded by Councillor Carr it was agreed to approve the draft response to the Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 with a comment being added on dezoning of land within settlements when it is clear that tighter restrictions in the rural areas will increase demand within these settlements.

The Newry and Mourne District Council draft response to Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 be forwarded to Planning Service on Tuesday 17 October 2006.

Councillor Feely asked that it be recorded that he did not agree with the suggestion in the Council's response that Newry City should be allocated 5,000 units.

TENDERS

D.D/302/2006: - LANDS FOR GRAZING

Read: Report on offers received for lands to let for grazing.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare seconded by Councillor Connolly to approve as follows: -

a) Monkshill, Newry (2.3 acres) (PH/9/2)

It was noted that 1 offer was received and it was agreed to accept this offer from Malachy Maguire, 4A Templehill Road, Newry in the sum of £160.

b) Rostrevor Cemetery (4.1 acres) (PH/14/1/1)

It was noted that no offers had been received and it was agreed to take no further action.

c) Carginagh Road, Kilkeel (4.3 acres) (R/S 99/1)

It was noted that 1 offer had been received and it was agreed to accept this offer from Seamus Rooney, 119 Glenview, Carginagh Road, Kilkeel in the sum of £175.

d) Lands at Moorhill Quarry, Newry (11.5 acres) (SC/34)

It was noted no offers had been received and it was agreed to take no further action.

e) Lands at Courtney Hill, Newry (Former Refuse Disposal Sites at Courtney Hill and at Tinnelly's Quarry (11.2 acres) (SC/31)

It was noted that 2 offers had been received and it was agreed to accept the highest offer from Malachy Maguire, 4A Templehill Road, Newry in the sum of £350.

f) Lands at Jonesborough beside Jade Centre (3.5 acres) (R/S 5)

It was noted that no offers had been received and it was agreed to take no further action.

D.D/303/2006: - INSTALLATION OF THE NEWRY RIVER CHANNEL MARKERS - CONTRACT DOCUMENTS (REF: G/1/7 & M/81/4/6)

On the proposal of Councillor Reilly seconded by Councillor O'Hare it was agreed the Council sign the Channel Markers Contract documents for the Newry River and forward it on to VTMS for countersigning at the earliest opportunity.

FINANCIAL ITEMS

D.D/304/2006: - EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS AND SIGN TREASURER'S

ADVICE SHEET – SEPTEMBER 2006

(**REF**: **F**/1)

Considered: Examination of Accounts and Sign Treasurer's Advice Sheet in respect of

payments made during the month of September 2006. (2 Payment Runs)

(Copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor Williamson seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve payments made in the month of September 2006 in the sum of £383,489.45 First Payment Run and £1,348,517.25 Second Payment Run.

D.D/305/2006: - EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS MANUAL PAYMENTS

- SEPTEMBER 2006

(REF: F/1)

Considered: Examination of Manual Payments made during the month of September

2006. (2 Payment Runs) (Copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor Williamson seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve payments made for September 2006 in the sum of £169,186.73 First Payment Run and £31,063.73 Second Payment Run.

D.D/306/2006: - IMPREST ACCOUNT – SEPTEMBER 2006

(**REF**: **F**/1)

Considered: Analysis of Revenue Payments made through the Imprest Account for the

month of August 2006. (Copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor Williamson seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to grant approval for the payments made through the Imprest General Revenue Account for the month of September 2006 in the sum of £7,548.03.

COMMUNITY SERVICES ITEMS

D.D/307/2006: - COMMUNITY, SPORT & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

MEETING – WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2006

(REF: R/S 269)

Read: Report of Community, Sport and Public Works Committee Meeting held on

Wednesday 27 September 2006. (Copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the above Report and the recommendations contained therein.

D.D/308/2006: - SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY, SPORT

& PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2006

- SALE OF DERRYLECKAGH PLAYING FIELDS

(REF: R/S 269 & R/S 171)

Read: Report of Special Committee Meeting of the Community, Sport and Public

Works Committee held on Friday 22 September 2006 to which all interested Councillors were invited to attend to discuss proposed sale of Derryleckagh

Playing Fields. (Copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor McArdle it was agreed to approve the above Report and the following recommendations contained therein: -

(1) Council Officials write to Down County Board to advise that the Council has not taken any decision to remove any playing fields and that whilst the Council had decided to pursue the siting of a leisure facility on the Newry Swimming Pool Site there would be full consultation with various Stakeholders.

- (2) That the Council proceed no further with the sale of Derryleckagh Playing Fields and that Senior Council Officials meet with Senior Representatives from Mitchel's GFC to discuss alternative plans that Mitchel's GFC have and that a Report from this Meeting be brought back to the Council within 4 weeks.
- (3) At the request of Councillor O'Hare it was agreed that Council Officials provide an update on the situation regarding Barnmeen Playing Fields and Drumgath GAC. It was further agreed that any letters sent to the Club be circulated to both Councillor O'Hare and Councillor McKevitt.

D.D/309/2006: - SPECIAL COMMUNITY, SPORT & PUBLIC WORKS

COMMITTEE MEETING - MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2006

- HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL (REF: R/S 269 & R/S 112)

Read: Report of Special Community, Sport and Public Works Meeting held on

Monday 18 September 2006 to which all Councillors were invited to attend

to discuss the Halloween Festival 2006. (Copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare seconded by Councillor Williamson it was agreed to approve the above Report and the following recommendations contained therein: -

- (1) The Funfair Company that submitted a Tender to provide a funfair at St Christopher's Park for the Halloween Festival 2006 be approached and advised that the Council would consider offers in excess of £10,000 subject to confirmation that this is procedurally correct.
- That no permits would be issued for street trading during the afternoon event to be held between 5pm and 9pm on Sunday 29 October 2006 outside Newry Town Hall.
- (3) That a Special Community, Sport and Public Works Committee Meeting with all interested Councillors invited to attend be convened to discuss the Halloween Festival 2006.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

D.D/310/2006: - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

- WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2006

(REF: M/4/2)

Read: Report of Economic Development Committee Meeting held on Wednesday

4 October 2006. (Copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor Williamson seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the above Report and the recommendations contained therein with the following comments: -

E.C/193/2006: - Development Brief for Warrenpoint Baths

Mr McGivern reported that there had been a further Meeting with the Crotlieve Councillors in relation to the Development Brief for Warrenpoint Baths and Crotlieve Councillors were content with the Development Brief and it was agreed to now proceed to advertise proposals for the redevelopment of Warrenpoint Baths.

It was agreed Councillor Ruane be given a copy of the Report of the Meeting with Crotlieve Councillors for his information as he had been unable to attend the Meeting.

Ballinacarry Bridge

Mr McGivern reported that a letter had been received from Roads Service advising that Ballinacarry Bridge was no longer a priority even though £90,000 had been spent on a Feasibility Study.

It was agreed to write to the relevant body asking why £90,000 had been spent on a Feasibility Study and the Scheme was no longer a priority.

Mr McGivern further reported that the East Border Region Committee were meeting to discuss the issue of Ballinacarry Bridge no longer being a priority and it was agreed that pending the outcome of the East Border Region Committee Meeting the Council seek a Meeting with Mr Peter Hain, Secretary of State and the relevant Minister in the South of Ireland.

Councillor Casey said Newry as a City had not benefited from proper inward investment. He said the infrastructure in the City was deteriorating rapidly and there was a need for the Council to be more progressive and challenge the appropriate authorities.

D.D/311/2006: - INTEGRATED RURAL AGRICULTURE FISHERIES COMMITTEE

MEETING – FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2006

(REF: M/4/2/4)

Read: Report of Integrated Rural Agriculture Fisheries Committee Meeting held on

Friday 22 September 2006. (Copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare seconded by Councillor Williamson it was agreed to approve the above Report and the recommendations contained therein.

Councillor Connolly raised the issue of fishing for prawns and it was agreed the Council write to DARD outlining their concerns with regard to the allocation of quota increase and the inability of the current legislation to allow for the quota for all smaller boats to be spread over a calendar year as opposed to a monthly basis.

It was agreed at the request of Councillor Casey that the appropriate Official be asked to investigate the capacity for fishing in Newry River.

Members further asked that the netting of fish in Newry Canal be investigated.

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

D.D/312/2006: - ARTS COMMITTEE MEETING – TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2006

(REF: CP/17)

Read: Report of Arts Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19 September 2006.

(Copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor Williamson seconded by Councillor Patterson it was agreed to approve the above Report and the recommendations contained therein.

Councillor Curran raised the issue of the problem of the feeder tank in the female toilets in the Town Hall which became very apparent during the recent play staged in the Town Hall and asked that this be referred to Building Control to have the problem rectified at the earliest opportunity.

Councillor Patterson raised the issue of the advertising hoarding on the railings around Newry Town Hall which detracted from the facade of the Town Hall. It was agreed Mark Hughes be asked to arrange to look at having this hoarding removed and placed somewhere more appropriate.

Councillors also asked that the Tourist Office sign outside Newry Town Hall be re-sited in a more suitable location.

D.D/313/2006: - AGM OF IRISH LANGUAGE COMMITTEE - THURSDAY 14

SEPTEMBER 2006

(REF: M/48)

Read: Report of AGM of Irish Language Committee held on Thursday 14

September 2006. (Copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor McArdle it was agreed to approve the above Report and the recommendations contained therein.

At the request of Councillor Curran it was agreed that a Site Meeting be convened with relevant Officers to consider maintenance works and security at Mount St Patrick House and a Report be brought back to the Council at the earliest opportunity.

D.D/314/2006: - IRISH LANGUAGE EXECUTIVE COMMMITTEE MEETING

- TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2006

(REF: M/48)

Read: Report of Irish Language Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 3

October 2006. (Copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor Connolly seconded by Councillor Feely it was agreed to approve the above Report and the recommendations contained therein.

D.D/315/2006: - STAFF & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING – THURSDAY 28

SEPTEMBER 2006

(REF: M/4/3)

Read: Report of Staff and Policy Committee Meeting held on Thursday 28`

September 2006. (Copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor Patterson seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the above Report and the recommendations contained therein.

D.D/316/2006: - REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL -

MONDAY 9 OCTOBER 2006 – PROPOSED REVISED POLICY RE

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

(REF: F/3/75)

Read: Report of Special Committee Meeting of Council with all interested

Councillors invited to attend held on Monday 9 October 2006 to discuss proposed revised policy re voluntary contributions. (Copy circulated).

The recommendation arising out of the report was that Option (A) be accepted i.e that applications are assessed and scored by Officers and are presented to the Council for consideration as is currently the case.

Councillor Stokes proposed and Councillor O'Hare seconded that the Council support Option (C) i.e that voluntary contribution applications are assessed and scored jointly by Officers and Sub Committees of Councillors with recommendations tabled at full Council and that the criteria for assessing and scoring voluntary contribution applications should not be sent out with the application forms.

The proposal was put to a vote. Voting was as follows: -

For: 12 Against: 11

It was therefore accordingly agreed that the Council approve Option (C), that voluntary contribution applications are assessed and scored jointly by Officers and a Sub Committee of Councillors with recommendations tabled at full Council and that the criteria for assessing and scoring voluntary contribution applications should not be sent out with the application forms.

D.D/317/2006: - ADVERTISEMENT IN NEWRY AND MOURNE DIRECTORY (REF: M/28)

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McArdle seconded by Councillor Stokes that the Council take an advertisement in the Newry and Mourne Directory $-1/8^{th}$ of a page - black and white at a cost of £195.

D.D/318/2006: - CONFERENCES/SEMINARS (REF: M/53)

It was agreed to approve as follows in respect of Conferences/Seminars referred for the Management Team Meeting on Friday 13 October 2006:-

(a) <u>Intertrade Ireland – Implementing a Framework for Collaborative Action</u>

Delegate: Gerard McGivern, Director

Jonathan McGilly

Date: 9 November 2006 **Venue:** Canal Court Hotel

Fee: £75

(b) <u>Dundalk Chamber of Commerce – Engineering Economic Success</u>

Delegate: 1 No. Officer District Development

Date: Thursday 26 October 2006

Venue: Park Inn, Dundalk

Fee: €150

(c) Nuclear Free Local Authorities – AGM and Annual Policy Briefing

Delegate: Stephen Cooper, Environmental Health

2 No. Councillors

Date: Thursday 7 & Friday 8 December 2006

Venue: Bewleys Hotel, Leeds

Fee: £80

D.D/319/2006: - NEWRY SHOW ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

(REF: M/28)

It was agreed to appoint the following Councillors and their partners to attend the Newry Show Annual Dinner Dance to be held on Friday 3 November 2006 in the Canal Court Hotel – tickets £25 each:-

Councillor W Burns

Councillor J Feehan

Councillor T Hearty

Councillor J O'Hare

Councillor G Oliver

Seamus Crossey, Assistant Enterprise Development Officer

D.D/320/2006: - NEWRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TRADE – BUSINESS

CHRISTMAS CHARITY LUNCH

(REF: M/28)

It was agreed the following attend the Newry Chamber Commerce and Trade Business Christmas Charity Lunch on Thursday 7 December 2006 at 12 noon in the Canal Court Hotel – tickets £40 plus vat each:-

Councillor D Kennedy

Councillor J Patterson

Councillor K McKevitt

Councillor J O'Hare

Councillor G Donnelly

Councillor A Williamson

4 No. Sinn Fein Councillors – Cllr Hearty to advise

Mr G McGivern, Director

D.D/321/2006: - REQUESTS FOR RECEPTIONS

(REF: M/28)

Councillor O'Hare requested a suitable Reception be arranged for Drumgath GFC Seniors on winning their first Intermediate Championship.

D.D/322/2006: - HILLHEAD ROAD – REQUEST FOR MEETING (REF: G/4/1)

On the proposal of Councillor McDonald seconded by Councillor Patterson it was agreed to request a further meeting with Roads Service as a matter of urgency to review progress on the Hillhead Road issue.

D.D/323/2006: - CAR PARK AT CRAOBH RUA, BESSBROOK (REF: R/S 177)

At the request of Councillor T Murphy it was agreed the relevant Official contact him with regard to the very poor condition of the car parking area at Craobh Rua with a view to having this area tarmaced

D.D/324/2006: - IRISH LANGUAGE HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL – TI CULLAIN (REF: M/48)

On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed the Council provide soft drinks and crisps for the Irish Language Halloween Festival to be held in Ti Chulainn.

It was agreed the costs incurred with providing the soft drinks and crisps be taken from the Irish Language budget.

D.D/325/2006: - REQUEST FOR MEETING – FLOODING ON BETTYSHILL ROAD (REF: G/4/1)

At the request of Councillor McKevitt it was agreed to convene a Crotlieve Area Councillors Meeting with Roads Service and representatives from Ballyholland School with regard to flooding on Bettyshill Road, Ballyholland.

D.D/326/2006: - REQUEST FOR MEETING – ENTRANCE TO NEWRY CATHEDRAL
(REF: G/4/1)

At the request of Councillor Patterson it was agreed to convene a Newry Town Councillors Meeting with Roads Service with regard to parking at the entrance gate to the Cathedral on Hill Street, Newry.

It was agreed to add this item to the November Newry Town Pilot Scheme Meeting.

D.D/327/2006: - REQUEST FOR MEETING – HIGH WALK, DOMINIC STREET (REF: G/4/1)

At the request of Councillor McArdle it was agreed to include the issue of the condition of the High Walk, Dominic Street, Newry at the November Newry Town Pilot Scheme Meeting.

There being no further business the Meeting ended at 8.50pm.
FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2006.

SIGNED:						
	CHAIRMAN					
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SIGNED:	CHIFF EXECUTIVE					

# **NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**PURPOSE OF MEETING:** District Development Committee Meeting

VENUE: Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

DATE: Monday 16 October 2006

Name of Council	lor	Time of Arrival	Time of Leaving	Meeting Duration	Travel Time To/From Home	Mileage	Same Day Meeting	Total Time	Amount Payable
Burns C	58	7.00	9.00						
Burns W J	2	7.00	9.00						
Carr M	52	7.00	9.00						
Casey C	54	7.00	9.00						
Cole M J	48	7.00	9.00						
Connolly M		7.00	9.00						
Curran B	6	7.00	9.00						
Donnelly G		7.00	9.00						
Feehan J W	49								
Feely F	8	7.00	9.00						
Flynn A		7.00	9.00						
Hanna I B	10	7.00	9.00						
Hearty T	59	7.00	9.00						
Kennedy D	12	7.00	9.00						
Murphy T		7.00	9.00						
Mathers M									
McArdle J	55	7.00	9.00						
McCreesh J P	44	7.00	9.00						
McDonald PJ	35	7.00	9.00						
McGinn P	56								
McKevitt K		7.00	9.00						
Murphy M	47	7.00	9.00						
Mussen C									
O'Hare J	37	7.00	9.00						
Oliver G		7.00	9.00						
Patterson J	38	7.00	9.00						
Reilly H	26	7.00	9.00						
Ruane M	53	7.00	9.00						
Stokes G		7.00	9.00						
Williamson A V	39	7.00	9.00						

Officials in attendance: Time of Arrival: Time of Leaving:

Signed: Geraldine Quinn Date: 16 October 2006