



Fermanagh & Omagh  
District Council  
Comhairle Ceantair  
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

## **Disability Advisory Group**

Tuesday 28 November 2017, 1:30 pm

Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown

**Present:** Councillor Victor Warrington (Chair), Councillor Patricia Rogers, Councillor Errol Thompson, Councillor Debbie Coyle, Gerry Maguire, Eileen Drumm and Gerry Knight.

**Apologies:** Robert Gibson, Iain Davidson, Andrew Wilson and Dermot Devlin.

**In Attendance:** Margaret McMahon, Finbar Maguire and Matthew Nevin.

### **1. Welcome**

Councillor Warrington welcomed everyone to the meeting. A particular welcome was given to Danielle Crossan. Danielle introduced herself as a Student Social Worker, based in Leonard Cheshire, Omagh.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were accepted.

### **3. Review of Minutes of Thursday 20 July 2017**

Members of the Group reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 20 July 2017.

Proposed: Councillor Warrington

Seconded: Gerry Knight

### **4. Matters Arising**

#### **Shopmobility Signage**

Eileen Drumm informed the Group that more signage is to be displayed within Erneside and an update will be available after a meeting on Thursday 30 November.

**Action:** Eileen to provide feedback on Shopmobility signage at next meeting.

## **Omagh Leisure Complex**

Matthew informed the Group that an updated Action Plan has been sent to Dermot Devlin from the Director of Community, Health & Leisure and Head of Leisure, Recreation & Sport.

## **Work Experience Procedure for People with Disabilities**

Margaret explained to Members that the procedure is currently with the Unions, Staff and Groups for consultation.

Councillor Coyle queried whether people with disabilities had been consulted with regarding the Public Realm Scheme. Margaret reassured members that the Consultant must consider the views of people with disabilities.

Gerry Knight made members aware that Action on Hearing Loss have a member of staff dedicated to help make reasonable adjustments for employees with hearing loss.

**Action:** Gerry Knight to pass on the Individual's contact details to members of staff.

## **5. Outcome of Advisory Group Consultation /**

## **6. Revised Terms of Reference**

Margaret explained to the Group that a consultation took place in November with members of the Disability Advisory Group and Access Advisory Groups. Margaret gave an overview of the recommendations, including:

- Revised Terms of Reference for each group.
- Groups to have a more formal structure, including how the Access Advisory Groups report information to the Disability Advisory Group.
- Disability Advisory Group Actions to be reported to the Policy & Resources Committee.
- An increase in Group membership, with a wider representation of disabilities.
- The widening of the Access Advisory Groups remit from Arts & Heritage to all Council Services.

Margaret gave a brief overview of the three Terms of Reference and advised that they would be sent to Members for feedback, closing on Friday 15 December 2017.

Gerry Maguire congratulated the Council on being the first Local Authority to have a Disability Advisory Group, however expressed concern that the group shouldn't disintegrate. Gerry added that it's hard to encourage younger people to get involved due to Councillors being Members and the timing of the meetings. Danielle further explained that younger people with Leonard Cheshire would be nervous attending these meetings.

Councillor Warrington responded that the Group is beyond politics and isn't formal to encourage members to participate. Councillors Coyle, Thompson and Rogers all agreed.

Councillor Coyle proposed that a Councillor, Council Officer and Volunteer attend local Groups to attract new membership to the Access Advisory Groups and make all the Groups more approachable. All agreed with this idea.

Councillor Warrington asked Officers to send out an email or letter asking the Group if they would be interested in having members of the Group attend meetings.

**Action:** Matthew to send emails and letters out to local groups.

Gerry Knight advised that some members of the Strule Arts & Disability Advisory Group feel that the Group is disappearing. Margaret reassured Gerry that this would not be the case and that the Group will actually have a wider scope and gain new membership.

Gerry proposed a launch of the new Groups and to advertise the event in the local newspapers. All agreed.

Margaret suggested that an article should be included in the next edition of the 'Inform' Newsletter. Councillor Thompson added that an article should also appear in the Neighbourhood Renewal Newsletter.

Danielle suggested the Group to use Social Media to attract younger members. Councillor Rogers reemphasised this.

**Action:** Matthew & Finbar to organise a launch of the Advisory Groups and invite local media.

**Action:** Matthew & Finbar to ensure articles are included in the 'Inform' Newsletter and Neighbourhood Renewal Newsletter.

**Action:** Finbar to ensure news articles are advertised on Council social media pages.

## **7. European Day for Persons with Disabilities**

Finbar presented the members with a copy of the advert for the Celebration Event, explaining that the Public Health Agency had provided funding for it. Finbar added that the events will provide a chance for people to browse information stands and participate in activities, such as Christmas Crafts. All welcomed the event.

Gerry Knight added that the event was a positive step, highlighting the importance of staff providing plenty of notice to local groups. All agreed.

**Action:** Council Officers to note that adequate notice should be given for all future events.

Councillor Rogers advised that adequate seating should be provided at the events to support visitors.

**Action:** Matthew & Finbar to provide adequate seating at both events.

Councillor Coyle asked if the Celebration could be an annual event. Margaret agreed that a Celebration should be arranged annually, but it's scale would depend on funding.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Gerry Maguire raised an issue with the Assisted Bin Lift and the negative effect it had on him. Eileen played a video demonstrating the problem. Margaret assured Gerry that the issue would be raised with the Director and Manager responsible for the service. Councillor Thompson emphasised that the issue must be raised with the Director of Environment & Place.

**Action:** Margaret to raise issue with the appropriate Officers.

Gerry Knight explained to the Group that he had attended the Car Parking Strategy Consultation at the Strule Arts Centre, but left half way through as he couldn't hear the conversations from the floor. Gerry suggested that a hand-held microphone should be made available at all future events.

**Action:** Margaret to provide feedback to Off-Street Car Parking Officer / Head of Building Control & Licensing.

Eileen presented photos to the Group to highlight the number of problems at the Buttermarket Car Park. Gerry also expressed his concerns over the dimensions of Blue-Badge Spaces in the district. Councillor Coyle welcomed the feedback and told the Group that changes must be implemented properly during this phase of work.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting will take place on Thursday 25 January 2018 at 2 pm. A launch of the three groups will take place prior to the meeting.