

**FERMANAGH & OMAGH DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

**COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR FHEAR
MANACH AGUS NA HÓMAÍ**

DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Minutes of the meeting of the Disability Advisory Group held on Thursday 26 May 2016 at 2.00 pm in the Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown.

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

APOLOGIES: Liz Wilson and Andrew Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Robert Gibson, Ian Davidson, Matthew Nevin, Margaret McMahon, Finbar Maguire, Keith Collen and Clarissa Beacom.

14/16 **WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone present.

15/16 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were accepted.

16/16 **REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 24 March 2016 for accuracy. The minutes were then adopted without any amendments.

Proposed: Councillor Thompson

Seconded: Gerry Knight

17/16 **MATTERS ARISING**

10/16 PROGRAMME OF SERVICE PRESENTATIONS

The amended 'Service Presentation Schedule' was then considered.

11/16 SERVICE UPDATE: POLICY AND STRATEGIC SERVICES

The Head of Policy and Strategic Services, informed the Group that the annual report on the Disability Action Plan 2015-2017 was due to go to Committee in July 2016 but assured members that she would circulate the plan to them beforehand for any comments.

Action: Head of Policy and Strategic Services to circulate Annual Report on the Disability Action Plan 2015-2017.

13/16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Inclusion and Access Coordinator, circulated the 'Mystery Shopper Evaluation' which was carried out by Eileen Drumm who volunteered to visit the Ardhowen Theatre, as a mystery shopper in April 2016. Eileen gave an

overview of her experience visiting the Ardhowen detailing the positive and negative aspects regarding accessibility as well as recommendations for future changes. A member commended Eileen on her detailed report.

Members discussed other key points that should be looked at when thinking about the short and long term development of the Ardhowen. The Head of Arts and Heritage, informed members that a Condition Survey was due to commence week beginning Monday 6 June 2016 on a number of Council buildings, including the Ardhowen. An Options and Economic Appraisal would then need to be completed. It was hoped that members of this Group would have an input on the process for updating the Ardhowen.

Dermot Devlin expressed his frustration regarding previous difficulties in relation to being included in the planning process for Omagh Leisure Complex and was happy to be in this Group and to be included at an early stage.

The Director of Community, Health and Leisure, thanked everyone for their honesty and looked forward to working together to improve accessibility.

18/16 **SERVICE UPDATE: LEISURE, RECREATION AND SPORT**

The Leisure, Recreation and Sports Manager, delivered the 'Disabled Provision' presentation to the Group. The Leisure, Recreation and Sports Manager, highlighted a new programme that started in May 2016 called Every Body Active 2020, explaining that Sport NI is providing funding to Fermanagh and Omagh District Council in the amount of approximately £86,000 annually for four years. The Council is also providing funding for this programme in a partnership with Sport NI. This programme will include inclusive and disabled activities as well as providing activities in rural areas across the district. The programme will focus on developing and providing sustainable activities. Eileen congratulated the Leisure, Recreation and Sports Manager on his presentation.

Eileen, raised issues regarding the ramps at the start/finish line at the 10K event last year however, the Leisure, Recreation and Sports Manager assured members that the route has changed this year and this therefore, should no longer be an issue.

Gerry Knight, raised concerns regarding evacuations in the swimming pools and questioned the possibility of staff having a sign nearby that could easily be shown to swimmers or lights could flicker or change colour to make those that are deaf aware that they should exit the pool.

Dermot, questioned the possibility of making kayaking more accessible. The Leisure, Recreation and Sports Manager informed the Group that he had researched hoist options to access the water. The Leisure, Recreation and Sports Manager also reported that from speaking to those with disabilities at other outdoor activities, the need for toilets at the location was also a key point raised.

19/16 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Dermot, Chairman of the Omagh Access Forum, invited those interested to attend the next Omagh Access Forum meeting which is due to take place on Tuesday 14 June 2016 at 10.30 am.

Action: Dermot to send a reminder to Councillor Thompson.

20/16 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is due to take place on Thursday 28 July 2016 at 2.00 pm in the Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown.