



FERMANAGH & OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

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DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Minutes of the meeting of the Disability Advisory Group held on Thursday 29 September 2016 at 10.10 am in the Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown.

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

APOLOGY: Councillor Errol Thompson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Davidson, Robert Gibson, Finbar Maguire, Margaret McMahon, Matthew Nevin, Liz Nolan (Secretary), Helen Sheils and Anne Quinn.

29/16 Welcome and Apologies

The Chairperson welcomed everyone and accepted apologies.

30/16 Minutes of previous meeting

Members went through the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 July 2016 for accuracy.

Proposed: Gerry Knight

Seconded: Gerry Maguire

31/16 MATTERS ARISING

25/16 Access Information Events

Members agreed that irresponsible parking on dropped kerbs within the District needs to be addressed. The Director of Community, Health and Leisure informed Members that he had contacted the Director of Regeneration & Planning to address this problem under the Public Realm Scheme.

27/16 Any other Business

Following a query in relation to no signage for Shopmobility in Erneside Shopping Centre, it was proposed by Councillor Rogers and seconded by Gerry Knight that the Director of Community, Health and Leisure sends a letter on behalf of this Group to the Manager of Erneside Shopping Centre. Members agreed that the letter should refer to Shopmobility signage currently on display in Foyleside Shopping Centre, Derry/Londonderry. Further discussion ensued and it was agreed that Council Officers should speak to the Manager of Erneside Shopping Centre before sending a formal letter.

Actions:

- (i) Council Officers to contact the Manager of Erneside Shopping Centre regarding this issue.**
- (ii) Shopmobility signage in Erneside Shopping Centre to be included as an Item on the next Agenda.**

Following a query in relation to an update on issues raised by the Omagh Access Forum regarding DSNI's report on Omagh Leisure Complex it was agreed that:-

Action: An update regarding the DSNI report on Omagh Leisure Complex is forwarded to the Chair of Omagh Access Forum.

Members were advised that the issue of a cobbled surface on Bridge Street, Omagh and its unsuitability for wheelchair users would be addressed under the Public Realm Scheme.

32/16 Service Update: Community Services & Funding and Investment

Helen Sheils, Head of Community Services tabled a presentation highlighting the functions of Community Services in the following areas:-

- Community and Good Relations Support and Development
- Community Centres – 10 Council owned with 6 managed by the Community and 4 managed by the Council.
- Policing and Community Safety Partnership
- Funded Programmes and Partnership

The Group was provided with a list of staff within the Community Services department. Members were informed that the Council had employed five Community Safety wardens whose contact details would be circulated following Council approval of the draft Community Services Strategy.

Action: The Head of Community Services to circulate contact details for the Community Safety wardens.

Members were provided with detailed information in relation to Community Services Grant Aid. The Group was informed that a Community Newsletter is prepared and issued monthly by email and post. The contact for Newsletter submissions is Alison Gilmore at alison.gilmore@fermanaghomagh.com or 0300 303 1777 and the deadline is the second last week of the month.

Anne Quinn, Head of Funding and Investment informed Members that the Council welcomes applications from a variety of:-

- Non-profit taking groups
- Voluntary clubs
- Societies
- Associations and Organisations

All eligible groups must be based throughout the Fermanagh and Omagh district area.

The Head of Funding and Investment outlined the general eligibility criteria and gave examples of eligible expenditure. The Assessment Criteria was outlined and anyone wishing to apply for funding is encouraged to speak to an Officer within the Funding and Investment department before submitting an application. The next call for funding applications will be held in January/February 2017 and will be advertised on the Council website and in the local newspapers.

Members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions before both Heads of Service were thanked by the Chairperson and left the meeting.

33/16 Consultation: FODC's Equality Screening Report (April 2016 – September 2016)

The Equality Policy Officer informed the Group that all policies are screened through the Council in compliance with Section 75. Members were advised that the consultation date for equality monitoring screening closes on 25 November 2016.

34/16 Consultation: Community Planning & Local Development Plan, preferred options papers

Pamphlets in relation to information seminars taking place throughout the District on both the Community Plan & the Local Development Plan were circulated. The Director of Community, Health and Leisure outlined the difference in both plans and asked Members to feedback any comments through the Council's Community Planning & Performance department.

35/16 Any other business

Discussion took place on raising awareness to highlight difficulties encountered on a daily basis by those with a disability. It was agreed that this matter was important and that Councillors should continue to lobby on this issue.

Members highlighted that there was no provision for coach parking at the car park adjacent to Enniskillen Castle. The Head of Community, Health & Leisure suggested that this matter would be addressed when the Council prepares a car parking strategy.

Action: That this matter be raised with the appropriate Head of Service.

36/16 Date, time and location of next meeting

Thursday 24 November 2016 at 2.00 pm in the Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown.