

**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 19 January 2017 at 3.00 pm in the Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown.

PRESENT: Councillor Victor Warrington (Chair), Councillor Errol Thompson, Councillor Debbie Coyle, Eileen Drumm and Gerry Maguire.

APOLOGY: Councillor Patricia Rogers, Andrew Wilson, Gerry Knight, Dermot Devlin and Robert Gibson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Davidson, Matthew Nevin, Margaret McMahon, Finbar Maguire, Sonya McAnulla and Clarissa Beacom.

1/17 **WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone present.

2/17 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were accepted.

3/17 **REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2016**

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 29 September 2016 for accuracy.

Proposed: Gerry Maguire

Seconded: Eileen Drumm

4/17 **MATTERS ARISING**

35/16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The provision of coach parking at the carpark adjacent to Enniskillen Castle was brought to the Director of Environment and Place's attention and should be progressed within the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Car Parking Strategy.

5/17 **SERVICE UPDATE: DEMOCRATIC AND CUSTOMER SERVICES**

The Head of Democratic and Customer Services tabled the Customer Service Standards and a presentation highlighting the functions of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council as a whole and within Democratic and Customer Services, Public Relations and Registration.

Gerry Knight, thanked the Head of Democratic and Customer Services for her presentation and queried the link between Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and the Health Service. The Group was informed that the Council has a Fermanagh and Omagh Health and Social Care Services

Group with meetings held every second month. The meetings are useful for Fermanagh and Omagh District Council to raise any concerns regarding health and social care within the district.

Eileen Drumm, questioned the possibility of the Talking Newspaper receiving recordings from Committee meetings.

Action: Head of Democratic and Customer Services to contact the Talking Newspaper to investigate the feasibility of receiving recordings from Committee meetings.

Councillor Coyle, queried whether Fermanagh and Omagh District Council responds to negative comments online regarding the Council. The Head of Arts and Heritage assured the Group that all comments are responded to, that are posted on Council pages.

Members were afforded the opportunity to ask any further questions before the Head of Democratic and Customer Services was thanked.

6/17 **SHOPMOBILITY SIGNAGE**

The Access and Inclusion Co-Ordinator informed the Group that he had contacted both Shopmobility and the Manager of Erneside who was very willing to assist with making the shopping centre more accessible. Eileen Drumm explained how she had been invited to carry out an accessible survey however, currently this had not been completed.

Action: Access and Inclusion Co-ordinator to ensure this item is on the Agenda for the next meeting.

7/17 **RNIB CORRESPONDENCE – LICENSING OF PAVEMENT CAFES**

The Equality Policy Officer circulated a summary of the RNIB correspondence in relation to the Council's Operational Guidelines on licensing of pavement cafes which is to be used across all 11 Councils in Northern Ireland.

Eileen Drumm raised concerns over a particular area in Darling Street, Enniskillen where there are difficulties using the path due to furniture being placed in the way.

Action: Head of Policy and Strategic Services to pass this information regarding difficulties on Darling Street to the Head of Building Control and Licensing.

Action: Head of Arts and Heritage to raise the issue of accessibility and design through the Director of Community, Health and Leisure.

Eileen Drumm queried the possibility of inserting signage at dropped kerbs to emphasize the importance of no parking.

Eileen Drumm questioned why the two seats at the Diamond in Enniskillen had been removed and asked whether there would be potential to have the seats returned as well as a cover put in place above them.

Action: Head of Arts and Heritage to raise the return of the two seats with the Head of Parks and Open Spaces.

Eileen Drumm invited Councillors to use scooters for while in order to gain a wider perspective of what it is like for a scooter user.

Action: Eileen Drumm to contact Democratic Services in order to arrange for an invite to be sent out to Councillors to use scooters.

8/17 UPDATE ON AWARENESS TRAINING

The Access and Inclusion Co-Ordinator gave an update on awareness training so far within Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and future plans until March 2017. Councillor Warrington thanked the Access and Inclusion Co-Ordinator for his work.

9/17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Head of Arts and Heritage raised an issue from an email that was received from Andrew Wilson regarding consideration being given to providing more space within level access for those with a disability.

Action: The Access and Inclusion Co-Ordinator to take this issue forward and ensure Box Office staff are aware as well as ensure level access is publicised.

10/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 16 March 2016 at 2.00 pm in the Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown.