

**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 16 March 2017 at 2.00 pm in the Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown.

PRESENT: Councillor Victor Warrington (Chair), Councillor Patricia Rogers, Councillor Errol Thompson, Eileen Drumm, Gerry Knight, Gerry Maguire and Mary O'Brien.

APOLOGY: Andrew Wilson, Dermot Devlin, Finbar Maguire and Robert Gibson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Davidson, Matthew Nevin, Margaret McMahon, Marcella Kinsella and Clarissa Beacom.

11/17 **WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone present.

12/17 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were accepted.

13/17 **REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2017**

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2017 for accuracy.

Proposed: Councillor Thompson

Seconded: Gerry Knight.

14/17 **MATTERS ARISING**

4/17 (35/17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS)

The Head of Arts and Heritage reported that four options had been developed for the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Car Parking Strategy, in relation to the provision of coach parking at the carpark adjacent to Enniskillen Castle.

7/17 RNIB CORRESPONDENCE – LICENSING OF PAVEMENT CAFES

Concerns were raised over a particular area in Darling Street, Enniskillen where difficulties using the path due to furniture being placed in the way had returned.

Action: The Head of Policy and Strategic Services to raise this issue again with the Head of Building Control and Licensing.

Eileen Drumm informed the Group that a date had been set, Wednesday 6 September 2017, for Councillors to use scooters for a while in order to gain a wider perspective of what it is like for a scooter user.

15/17 SERVICE UPDATE: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Principle Environmental Health Officer circulated a presentation highlighting the different areas within the Environmental Health Department.

It was noted that Environmental Health could not publicise the Affordable Warmth Scheme as Fermanagh and Omagh District Council have a contract with the Department for Communities to prioritise key areas within the district.

Action: All to forward details of groups to the Principle Environmental Health Officer, that may be contacted to inform them of the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

Gerry Knight queried whether Environmental Health distributed a light that flashed when the doorbell was used.

Action: Principle Environmental Health Officer to research if the flashing light for use with doorbells is an item that Environmental Health or the Policing Community Safety Partnership would distribute and report back to the Group.

Gerry Maguire questioned whether there was an approved contact list for trades' people, i.e. plumber in the district. It was reported that the Housing Executive would have this list.

The Group was afforded the opportunity of asking any further questions before Councillor Warrington thanked the Principle Environmental Health Officer for her presentation

16/17 SHOPMOBILITY SIGNAGE

Eileen Drumm reported that the accessible survey that she had been invited to carry out in Erneside, had still not been completed.

Action: Access and Inclusion Co-ordinator to contact the Manager of Erneside to pursue the accessible survey.

17/17 UPDATE ON ACCESSIBLE SEATING AT THE ARDHOWEN

The Access and Inclusion Co-ordinator explained that it would be ideal to have more than three accessible seats in the Ardhoven Theatre but due to how old the building is this currently would not be possible. The Group was informed that Box Office staff do however, keep the three accessible seats to the last day before being sold as well as the highlighted level access seating. These issues will be considered in the Capital Programme.

18/17 **INFORMATION EVENT**

The Access and Inclusion Co-ordinator circulated an information page and informed the Group that the Public Health Agency have contributed money, to hold another information event for those with a disability, to help make them aware of services that are available to them. The event is due to take place on Tuesday 28 March 2017.

Action: Administrative Assistant to send an invite to the Group.

Action: Head of Policy and Strategic Services to forward information page to Eileen Drumm for circulation.

Action: Access and Inclusion Co-ordinator to distribute information around Centres, to be advertised.

19/17 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Omagh Leisure Complex

Mary O'Brien raised concerns with issues in the newly built Omagh Leisure Complex. The Group was assured that as Fermanagh and Omagh District Council now have a Capital Programme for the district early conversations will take place with Disability Groups in the design stage of new buildings.

Councillor Rodgers and Councillor Thompson agreed that Fermanagh and Omagh District Council can learn from past problems and with the help of this Disability Advisory Group we can move forward.

Inclusive Walk – Monday 3 April 2017

Eileen Drumm queried why Willowbridge School was only allocated 30 spaces on the Inclusive Walk, as with their own assistants there would be more people to help.

Action: The Access and Inclusion Co-ordinator to contact the Leisure, Recreation and Sport Officer regarding the allocated spaces to Willowbridge School on the Inclusive Walk.

20/17 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 18 May 2017 at 2.00 pm in the Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown.