

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

PRESENT: Eileen Drumm, Gerry Knight, Andrew Wilson and Gerry Maguire.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Victor Warrington, Councillor Errol Thompson, Councillor Debbie Coyle, Councillor Patricia Rogers, Robert Gibson, Mary O'Brien and Dermot Devlin.

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

21/17 **WELCOME**

The Head of Arts and Heritage welcomed everyone present. Due to Councillor Warrington being unable to attend the meeting Gerry Knight was elected Chair pro tem.

22/17 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were accepted.

23/17 **REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THURSDAY 16 MARCH 2017**

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 16 March 2017 for accuracy.

Proposed: Gerry Maguire
Seconded: Eileen Drumm.

24/17 **MATTERS ARISING**

15/17 **SERVICE UPDATE: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

The Principal Environmental Health Officer reported that the best contact regarding the flashing light used with doorbells would be the Western Health and Social Care Trust on 028 6632 4400.

ACTION: The Access and Inclusion Co-Ordinator to forward contact details of the Western Health and Social Care Trust to the Group.

19/17 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Omagh Leisure Complex

It was reported that Mary O'Brien had met with the Head of Leisure, Recreation and Sport to discuss issues with the Omagh Leisure Complex and was very happy with the work in progress.

Inclusive Walk – Monday 3 April 2017

The Access and Inclusion Co-Ordinator reported that he had contacted the Leisure, Recreation and Sport Officer regarding the allocated number of spaces for Willowbridge School on the Inclusive Walk. The Group was informed that numbers are limited for each group to give everyone a fair chance of participating.

25/17 **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Due to the low attendance at the meeting, the Chair proposed to wait to the next meeting in the hope that there will be a bigger Councillor turnout in order to elect a Chair.

ACTION: Access and Inclusion Co-Ordinator to ensure the Election of Chair is an item on the Agenda at the next Disability Advisory Group meeting.

26/17 **SERVICE UPDATE: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE**

The Head of Community Planning and Performance circulated a presentation highlighting the different areas within the Community Planning and Performance Department.

The Group was afforded the opportunity of asking any further questions before the Chair thanked the Head of Community Planning and Performance for her presentation.

27/17 **SHOPMOBILITY SIGNAGE**

Eileen Drumm reported that she had met with the new Manager of Erneside and had a walk around the building and the carpark. Eileen then provided feedback on the outcomes of their discussion.

ACTION: Eileen Drumm to forward the report from the walk around of Erneside to the Access and Inclusion Co-Ordinator.

28/17 **REPORT ON ACCESS INFORMATION EVENT**

The Equality Policy Officer circulated a Feedback Report on the Access Information Event and took Members through the document.

A discussion took place on ways of preventing those using toilets for people with disabilities when they do not have a disability however, it was brought to the Groups attention that there are people that need access to toilets quickly that may not have a disability.

Eileen Drumm raised concerns regarding the emergency cord in the Buttermarket toilets and questioned, in the case of an emergency where the cord led to and who it would alert.

ACTION: Head of Arts and Heritage to follow up on where the emergency cord in the Buttermarket toilets leads to and who is alerted in the case of an emergency.

ACTION: Head of Policy and Strategic Services to forward the link of opening hours of Council toilets to Gerry Maguire.

It was reported that Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is going to provide red card keys to those with a disability for all new toilets.

A Member raised concerns regarding issues with parking at the South West Acute Hospital, especially at night time.

ACTION: Head of Arts and Heritage to pass on concerns over parking issues at the South West Acute Hospital to the appropriate Head of Service.

The Group was informed that the Council is to employ a Manager of Off Street Car parking.

29/17 UPDATE ON MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPIONS

The Head of Policy and Strategic Services informed Members that the Equality Policy Officer and the Access and Inclusion Co-Ordinator have prepared terms of reference for the Council's Mental Health Champions. A second meeting is due to be held to ensure everyone involved is in agreement before a report is submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee in June 2017.

A Member queried what the clear definition for Mental Health is. The Head of Policy and Strategic Services assured the Group that the definition would be within the document which will be shared once it is submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee.

30/17 ACCESS AND INCLUSION EVALUATION

The Access and Inclusion Co-Ordinator tabled the Independent Evaluation for the Access and Inclusion Project and gave an overview of the document.

The Chair thanked the Access and Inclusion Co-Ordinator for the work he has carried out.

31/17 UPDATE FROM ACCESS ADVISORY GROUPS

The minutes of the most recent Strule Arts Advisory Group were circulated to the Group. As Chair of the Strule Arts Advisory Group, Gerry Knight gave an overview on how the Group was set up to help those with a disability. Gerry Knight reported that the Strule Arts Centre had received awards for the work that had been carried out and commended the staff that worked there.

The minutes from the most recent Fermanagh Arts and Access Advisory Group were circulated to the Group.

Andrew Wilson voiced his concerns on the Groups' anger and disappointment at the non-attendance from Councillors at the meeting. The Head of Arts and Heritage assured Members that their comments would be taken on board.

ACTION: Head of Arts and Heritage to take into consideration comments made regarding the non-attendance of Councillors and review the Disability Advisory Group.

ACTION: Head of Arts and Heritage to pass comments from Members on regarding the non-attendance to Councillors.

Gerry Knight thought it may be useful that the Minutes of each Disability Advisory Group meeting be submitted to a Council Committee to inform other Councillors within the Council of the workings of the Group.

The Chair thanked Andrew Wilson and suggested that there should be an opportunity for the Strule Arts Advisory Group and the Fermanagh Arts and Access Advisory Group to meet together.

32/17 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Scooter Day

Eileen Drumm informed the Group that she hoped to work with the Access and Inclusion Co-Ordinator in June or July 2017 to help organise Councillors to attend the Scooter Day event on Wednesday 6 September 2017.

Draft Equality and Disability Action Plan

ACTION: Head of Policy & Strategic Services to bring the draft Equality and Disability Action Plan to the Disability Advisory Group in September 2017 for input.

Volunteer Policy

The Access and Inclusion Co-Ordinator mentioned the new Volunteer Policy which he hopes to send out to Members in order to sign up and start claiming expenses by the end of June 2017.

33/17 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 20 July 2017 at 2.00 pm in the Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown.