



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

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

APOLOGIES: Robert Gibson

IN ATTENDANCE: Head of Arts and Heritage, Head of Policy and Strategic Services, Policy Officer, Access and Inclusion Officer and Elish Gray.

1. WELCOME

Councillor Warrington welcomed all to the meeting and apologised for his non-attendance at the May Meeting. Councillors Rogers and Thompson also apologised for not being present at the May meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THURSDAY 18 May 2017

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 18 May 2017 for accuracy.

Proposed: Gerry Knight

Seconded: Eileen Drumm

4. MATTERS ARISING

27/17 Shopmobility Signage

Eileen Drumm referred to an email from the Erneside Manager in follow-up to their meeting; signage at the Shopping Centre and the Shopping Centre Website will be updated.

Action: Eileen to forward the email to the Access and Inclusion Officer.

19/17 Omagh Leisure Complex

Dermot Devlin informed the group that a meeting took place with the Director of Community Health and Leisure in relation to the work to be carried out at Omagh Leisure Complex, the work will be completed by the end of the summer.

28/17 Toilet Facilities within the Council Area

The Head of Policy and Strategic Services tabled a location map of toilet facilities within the Council area.

Action: The Head of Policy and Strategic Services to forward a link to the opening hours of toilet facilities within the Council area.

5. ELECTION OF CHAIR

A discussion ensued relating to the election of Chair following which Councillor Thompson proposed and Councillor Rogers seconded Councillor Warrington as the Chair until July 2018. Councillor Warrington accepted the position.

6. Autism and Dementia Friendly Council

A presentation on Autism and Dementia was delivered by the Policy Officer. Members were informed that this initiative would be included within the Disability Action Plan which would be ratified at the July Council meeting. A twelve-week consultation process would follow, the Action Plan would be discussed at the September meeting.

A video on the access arrangement at the Castle Museum was presented by the Access and Inclusion Officer.

The following concerns were expressed:

- **The lack of Accessible parking spaces at the Museum carpark** – Members were informed that this issue would be addressed within the Council's Carparking Strategy Document
- **The lack of a dropped kerb at the War Memorial** – Members were informed that this was the responsibility of Transport NI
- **Concern was also expressed in relation to the lack of dropped kerbs within Enniskillen** - A query was raised as to whether this could be considered as part of the Public Realm Scheme; the Head of Policy and Strategic Services informed the meeting that there will be a consultation process on the Public Realm Scheme which the Group can feed into.

Action: A letter will be forwarded on behalf of the Group to Transport NI expressing their concerns in relation to the dropped kerb at the War Memorial.

7. Update from Access Advisory Groups

Andrew Wilson informed the meeting that the Fermanagh Access Advisory Group would like to encourage more members to join their group. Following a discussion, the Group noted that on 3 October, a Consultant would facilitate a meeting to look at Terms of Reference and Membership of the Groups in order to ensure that effective outcomes were achieved.

Action: Further information to be circulated by Head of Policy & Strategic Services.

8. Update on the Circus Aurora Programme

The Access and Inclusion Officer gave a presentation on the success of the Circus Aurora Programme

9. Volunteer Policy

The Access and Inclusion Officer informed the meeting that the new Volunteer Policy has come into effect and issued the members with documentation including relevant forms for completion.

The Head of Arts & Heritage expressed thanks on behalf of the group to the Access and Inclusion Officer for his hard work and commitment in ensuring that the Volunteering Policy went through Council.

10. Any Other Business

Work Experience

The Head of Policy and Strategic Services informed the meeting that herself, the Access and Inclusion Officer and HR are currently working on a procedure to provide work experience for people with disabilities. This would be discussed further at the September meeting with a view to launch it in October.

Life Changing Work Award

The Head of Arts & Heritage congratulated Gerry Knight on receiving the 'Passion In Action Award' from Action on Hearing Loss.

33/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 21 September 2017 at 2.00 pm in the Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown.