



Disability Advisory Group

Thursday 1 November 2018, 2 pm

Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown

Present: Councillor Victor Warrington (Chair), Councillor Debbie Coyle, Andrew Wilson, Eileen Drumm, Gerry Knight & Dermot Devlin.

Apologies: Councillor Errol Thompson, Councillor Garbhan McPhillips, Gerry Maguire & Joanne McDonald

In Attendance: Margaret McMahon (Head of Policy & Strategic Services), Finbar Maguire (Policy Officer – Equality), Matthew Nevin (Access & Inclusion Coordinator)

1. Welcome

Councillor Warrington welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted.

3. Review of Minutes of Thursday 26 July 2018

Members of the Group reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 26 July 2018.

Proposed: Andrew Wilson

Seconded: Eileen Drumm

4. Matters Arising

Street Signage

Margaret provided the Group with an update on the signage that had caused problems on High Street in Omagh. Margaret explained that after the last meeting, at The Ardhowen, the Enforcement Officer had removed the sign. Gerry K welcomed this development.

Buttermarket Access

Matthew provided a response from the Licensing Department regarding the 3 issues with parking at the Buttermarket:

- We are in consultation with DfI to see if a resolution to the lack of dropped kerbs and footpaths can be found. An update will be provided to this group when there is significant progress on this issue.
- The positioning of the assessable parking spaces will be considered as part of the programme of works in the car parks.
- Signage in car parks is under review at present. This is under consideration and when a decision has been made, this group will be updated.

5. Drop-In Sessions

Finbar presented a report detailing the revised dates and locations for the Disability Advisory Group Drop-In Sessions.

Finbar provided the following feedback from the Age-Friendly Event in Irvinestown:

- Increase the number of Leisure Opportunities for people with access requirements
- More activities for Cancer Support Groups, for example swimming sessions exclusively for the Group)
- Provision of Inclusive Play Equipment
- Dances for people with Alzheimer's/ Dementia
- Information on Food Waste and Bin Collections

Councillor Warrington welcomed the events and encouraged all members to attend where possible.

Eileen raised an issue regarding receiving more information on Radar Key Facilities. Councillor Coyle asked for a brief update at the next meeting.

Action: Officers to update members at the next meeting.

6. Update: Marble Arch Caves Relaxed Tours

Finbar provided an update on the 3 Relaxed Tours that took place at the Marble Arch Caves. Finbar informed Members that 3 Groups representing Autism, Dementia and Learning Disabilities had enjoyed the tours and provided useful feedback for future tours.

Councillor Coyle advised that from her previous experience other Caves provide torches at the beginning of the Tour. Gerry K. added that staff should offer the option

of having a head torch during the tour, as many people need to use both two hands to negotiate steps and uneven ground. Finbar confirmed that staff are looking into all option before programming regular tours next year.

Action: Staff to consider feedback and organise regular relaxed tours in 2019.

7. Access Advisory Group Feedback

Gerry K. provided an update from the last Omagh Access Advisory Group. Gerry informed the Group of the following:

- Congratulations had been extended to Bob Lingwood, who had celebrated his 100th Birthday.
- Members had spoken to the Arts Council regarding the Arts & Disability Equality Charter.
- Members had discussed the access at Omagh Leisure Complex, including the new Pool Pods and Disability Changing Room.
- A discussion took place regarding the Visual Guides and how to help people with Autism within services.

Andrew provided an update from the last Fermanagh Access Advisory Group Meeting. Andrew informed the Group of the following:

- The Group had welcomed several new Members.
- Members discussed the need for regular awareness training for staff.
- Members discussed Sign Language Tours at Marble Arch Caves & Enniskillen Castle.
- A discussion took place on how to make businesses more accessible.

Dermot informed Members that My Way Access and Omagh Chamber of Commerce are working to organise a Town Centre Ramble in Omagh. All Members welcomed this update and asked Dermot to keep them informed.

Action: Dermot to provide more information at the next meeting.

8. Public Realm Scheme/ Shopmobility Ramble Consultation

Finbar presented a report on the Public Realm Scheme/ Shopmobility Ramble, including the route the participants took and the feedback that was reported from participants.

Councillor Warrington thanked everyone who took part and highlighted how the event helped to illustrate the problems for people with disabilities using the footpaths in Enniskillen.

Eileen added that she had mentioned the event at a meeting she attended in Belfast and Councillors were commended on their willingness to engage in the exercise.

9. Any Other Business

Dermot highlighted an issue for people with physical disabilities using the footpaths in Omagh during icy weather. Councillor Warrington advised Dermot that the Department for Infrastructure is responsible for the gritting of footpaths and that he should approach the Omagh Town Councillors if problems occur over the Winter period.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 27 November 2018 at 2 pm.
(Meeting postponed until Tuesday 22 January 2019 at 2 pm.)