

**Joint Access Advisory Group**

Tuesday 20 June 2019, 2:00 pm

Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown

**Present:**

Gerry Knight	Naomi Fujitani
Hetty Van Brandenburg	Pauline O'Hagan
Dermot Devlin	Gerry Maguire
Jayne Hughes	Joanne McDonald
Orla McIlhatton	Eileen Drumm
Ann Murphy	Doris Cutler
Anne Kilgannon	Geraldine Keys
<p><b>In attendance:</b> Margaret McMahon, Finbar Maguire, Matthew Nevin, Leza Cleery, Carol Follis and Steven Conlon.</p>	

No	Item	Action By:
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>Gerry Knight welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Apologies Received:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Wilson</li> <li>• Seline McDonnell</li> <li>• Heather Russell</li> <li>• Anne-Marie McCaffrey</li> <li>• Bob Lingwood</li> <li>• Pauline McSorley</li> <li>• David McCollum</li> <li>• Patricia Moore</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>Agree Action Notes of last meeting</b></p> <p><b>Car Parking</b></p> <p>Matthew provided an update on the changes to off-street car parking.</p> <p>Hetty highlighted the importance of car parking spaces and the limited number that exists at the Bawnacre Centre. Margaret explained that in the future the Bawnacre will go through a refurbishment programme, which will help make parking more accessible.</p> <p>Gerry K. informed members that the new riverside walkway in Omagh had no dropped kerb, which will cause people who use wheelchairs and buggies problems. Margaret assured members that staff would investigate who had ownership over the path and how the issue could be fixed.</p> <p><b>Action 1:</b> Margaret to investigate who is responsible for the walkway.</p>	Margaret McMahon

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	<p><b>PASS Scheme</b>  Matthew informed members that a new registration form had been produced for the scheme. When information and training is rolled out for the new scheme, staff will be made aware of the priority queuing for people with autism and dementia.</p> <p>Gerry K. asked for information on the scheme to be sent to support groups within the district.</p> <p><b>Action 2:</b> Matthew to send PASS Scheme information to groups.</p> <p><b>Accessible Changing in Omagh Leisure Complex</b>  Finbar informed members that the accessible changing cubicle had been relocated to the area closest to the pool. Finbar added that this is in addition to the main accessible changing room located at the left of the Changing Village.</p> <p>Dermot requested that Omagh Access Forum Members be provided with an opportunity to view the facilities.</p> <p><b>Action 3:</b> Finbar to arrange a meeting with the Complex Manager.</p> <p>Jayne highlighted the need for more than one changing room in venues. Jayne explained that carers need extra time to help family members and that during busy periods more than one family may need it. All agreed.</p> <p>Joanne pointed out that you can book the changing room in advance by contacting Omagh Leisure Complex.</p> <p><b>Disability Sports NI Award</b>  Finbar updated the group on the Disability Sports NI Award for Omagh Leisure Complex and asked if all members would be happy to hold the next meeting at the venue and have a recognition event after the meeting. All members agreed.</p> <p><b>Action 4:</b> Matthew to organise the next meeting and send an invite to all members.</p>	<p>Matthew Nevin</p> <p>Finbar Maguire</p> <p>Matthew Nevin</p>

No	Item	Action By:
	<p><b>Bridge Street, Omagh</b> Matthew presented the group with an image of the new Bridge Street area.</p> <p>Dermot informed members that the renovations looked positive and that he particularly welcomed the removal of the cobbles.</p>	
	<p><b>Insert Update:</b>  <b>Action 1:</b> Officers are investigating which department has responsibility for the Riverside Walkway. Once the organisation has been identified, officers will raise the possibility of replacing the kerbing with them.</p> <p><b>Action 2:</b> New PASS form has been sent to local groups and displayed at Council venues. Training for staff on priority queuing will take place during August.</p> <p><b>Action 3:</b> A tour of the changing facilities at Omagh Leisure Complex will take place at the next Omagh Access Advisory Group meeting in August.</p> <p><b>Action 4:</b> A celebration event to recognise Omagh Leisure Complex's Disability Sports NI Award will take place at the next Omagh Access Advisory Group meeting in August.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Update: Disability Advisory Group/ Terms of Reference</b> Margaret presented members with a list of the seven Councillors who will sit on the Disability Advisory Group over the next 4 years.</p> <p>Margaret gave an overview of the Terms of Reference for the two Access Advisory Groups and how the members can help advise on Council services. Margaret highlighted that the Council can act on areas or problems that are within its remit.</p> <p>Gerry K. emphasised that Councillors can learn a lot from the members as they have first-hand experience of the requirements needed to make things more accessible. Margaret encouraged members to take the opportunity to talk to Councillors and Officers about any concerns they have.</p>	

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	<p>Gerry M. queried whether the newly elected Councillors had been provided with training. Margaret highlighted that all Councillors are provided with a package of training that covers a broad range of topics, including information on the Councils work on Equality and Disability.</p> <p>Margaret explained that the Disability Advisory Group will need to nominate four members from each of the two Advisory Groups going forward.</p> <p><b>Action 5:</b> Members to vote for four members to represent them at the next Access Advisory Group meeting.</p> <p>Margaret also suggested that the Groups create Action Plans for the next 2 years to help highlight areas that the Group can work on. All members agreed.</p> <p><b>Action 6:</b> Members to bring ideas to be included in the Action Plans to the next meetings.</p>	<p>Gerry Knight and Andrew Wilson</p> <p>Gerry Knight and Andrew Wilson</p>
	<p><b>Insert Update:</b></p> <p><b>Action 5:</b> The next Access Advisory Group meetings will take place in August. An email asking for nominations to the Disability Advisory Group has been issued to all members.</p> <p><b>Action 6:</b> Actions Plans will be discussed by members at the next Access Advisory Group meetings. All members who cannot attend the meetings will be provided with a chance to contribute suggestions in the following weeks.</p>	
4	<p><b>Outcome of Ican Fest</b></p> <p>Matthew provided the group with a brief overview of what the ican fest achieved in March 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 45 Activities</li> <li>• 5 Training Opportunities/ Information Talks</li> <li>• 1 Health Fayre</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 500 + attendees throughout the week.</li> </ul> <p>Matthew explained that the Council hopes to run the festival again, however additional funding needs to be secured first.</p> <p>Eileen added that activities should not be programmed for the start of March, as it clashes with International Woman's Week.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <p>Doris explained that the Macular Degeneration Support Group has been struggling to find an organisation to help members learn computer and mobile phone skills. Anne K. highlighted that banks are providing training on how to use online banking. Pauline suggested contacting Fermanagh Rural Community Initiative to help source tutors for classes.</p> <p>Anne K. informed the group that Edinburgh has a scheme that provides public transport discount for people with disabilities. Margaret explained that while transport is not a Council power, Community Planning may be able to help investigate this option.</p> <p><b>Action 7:</b> Margaret to pass query onto Community Planning.</p> <p>Gerry added that he had a great experience at Enniskillen Yacht Club through the SailAbility programme. Joanne also shared her positive experience. Both members encouraged people to get involved with the project.</p>	Margaret McMahon
	<p><b>Insert Update:</b></p> <p><b>Action 7:</b> Translink NI currently provide a half fare Smartpass for anyone who is in receipt of Personal Independence Payment, previously Disability Living Allowance. To be eligible to apply for this half fare concessionary travel pass you must be getting either the higher or lower rate mobility component.</p>	

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	<p><b>How to apply</b> To get a SmartPass you must also be aged between 16 and 59, and have been permanently resident in Northern Ireland for a minimum of three months.</p> <p>You can get an application form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in person from any Translink bus or rail station</li> <li>• by phoning 028 9066 6630 (deaf and hard-of-hearing applicants can use the textphone number 18001 9066 6630)</li> <li>• by emailing: smartpass@translink.co.uk to ask for a form to be posted to you</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>PCSP Disability Action Plan:</b></p> <p>Carol Follis (PCSP Manager) informed the Group that the Police and Community Safety Partnership had drafted a new Disability Action Plan and would appreciate the groups feedback on the document. Carol highlighted the importance to ensure that all PCSP projects, such as the 'Be Safe' events, target people with disabilities.</p> <p>Geraldine queried the time period for consultation. Carol explained that the Plan would be open for twelve weeks.</p> <p><b>Action 8:</b> Gerry K. asked Matthew to share the document with members and for the Groups to create a response at the next meeting.</p>	Matthew Nevin
	<p><b>Insert Update:</b></p> <p><b>Action 8:</b> The PCSP Disability Action Plan consultation will open on Monday 29 July and close on Friday 25 October. Members of the Access Advisory Groups will create a response at the meetings in August.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Date of next meetings</b> The date of the next meeting will be forwarded to members of the Fermanagh Access Advisory Group and Omagh Access Advisory Group separately.</p>	Matthew Nevin