

**Joint Access Advisory Group**

Tuesday 23 July 2019, 2:00 pm

Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown

**Present:**

Andrew Wilson	Eileen Drumm
Gerry Maguire	Dermot Devlin
Councillor Emmet McAleer	Councillor Garbhan Mc Phillips
Councillor Errol Thompson	Councillor Victor Warrington
<b>In attendance:</b> Margaret McMahon, Finbar Maguire, Matthew Nevin and Melissa Little	

No	Item	Action By:
1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>  Margaret welcomed everyone to the meeting.	

No	Item	Action By:
2.	<p><b>Nomination of Chair and Vice Chair</b></p> <p>The group agreed positions within the group as follows:</p> <p>Councillor Victor Warrington, <b>Chair</b> Dermot Devlin, <b>Vice-Chair</b></p>	
3.	<p><b>Apologies Received:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gerry Knight</li> <li>• Joanne Mc Donald</li> <li>• Councillor Tommy Maguire</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>Agree Action Notes of last meeting – Tuesday 20 June 2019</b></p> <p><b>Riverside Walkway, Omagh</b> Margaret advised that the Riverside Walkway in Omagh was built and funded by legacy Omagh District Council, but Officers are investigating which department has responsibility for the Riverside Walkway at present. Once the organisation has been identified, Officers will raise the possibility of replacing the kerbing with them.</p> <p><b>Action 1:</b> Margaret to investigate who is responsible for the walkway.</p> <p><b>PASS Scheme</b> New PASS form has been sent to local groups and displayed at Council venues.</p> <p><b>Action 2:</b> Training for staff on priority queuing will take place during August.</p> <p><b>Accessible Changing in Omagh Leisure Complex</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>Margaret McMahon</p> <p>Matthew Nevin</p>

No	Item	Action By:
	<p><b>Action 3:</b> Council Officers to organise a wheelchair audit of the Changing Village in Omagh Leisure Complex during the Omagh Access Advisory Group meeting in August.</p> <p><b>Public Transport Discount</b> Margaret advised the group that 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> <p>Members raised the following concerns they have experienced with Public Transport in the District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If availing of the concessionary rate it is not possible to buy a return journey, in this instance two single journeys must be purchased.</li> <li>• Bus journeys need to be booked 48 hours in advance of each trip to ensure that there is an accessible bus on that route. For longer journeys e.g. trips to Dublin you must give at least 2 weeks' notice prior to travel.</li> <li>• There is lack of bus routes and services on offer after 6pm in the evening and on Sundays.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 4:</b> Dermot advised that The Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee (IMTAC) are carrying out an audit of bus stations at present. Dermot to raise the groups concerns with IMTAC.</p> <p><b>PCSP Disability Action Plan</b> Finbar advised members of the group that the PCSP Disability Action Plan consultation will open on Monday 29 July and close on Friday 25 October.</p> <p><b>Action 5:</b> Members of the Access Advisory Groups to create a response at the meetings in August.</p>	<p>Matthew Nevin</p> <p>Dermot Devlin</p> <p>Dermot Devlin/A Wilson</p>
	<b>Insert Update:</b>	

No	Item	Action By:
5.	<p data-bbox="286 236 1473 268"><b>Overview of Public Consultation: Disability &amp; Equality Action Plans 2019-2022</b></p> <p data-bbox="286 312 1859 379">Finbar gave the group an overview of the key themes and associated actions as set out within both draft Action Plans that will be subject to a full 12-week public consultation process.</p> <p data-bbox="286 424 1760 491"><b>The Disability Action Plan 2019-2022 sets out several actions to be undertaken to reflect four key themes:</b></p> <ul data-bbox="338 536 1850 759" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and implementation of the Disability Action Plan</li> <li>• Increasing awareness, and the understanding, of the needs of people with disabilities.</li> <li>• Providing responsive and accessible services to increase the opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in public life.</li> <li>• Developing and improving the effectiveness of the Disability Advisory Group and the Enniskillen and Omagh Access Advisory Groups.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="286 804 987 836"><b>Equality Action Plan 2019-2022 – Key themes:</b></p> <ul data-bbox="338 880 1850 1286" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing appropriate systems to include mainstream equality of opportunity at strategic level of the Council.</li> <li>• Putting in place appropriate measures to remove potential barriers to accessing services for everyone.</li> <li>• Putting in place appropriate mechanisms for integrating spoken, written and signed language forms in a way that best meets the needs of local language communities.</li> <li>• Putting in place appropriate systems to improve equality monitoring and data collection by Council Services.</li> <li>• Improving the awareness and understanding among employees and Elected Members of not only their roles/responsibilities relating to Equality of Opportunity, but also the range of equality services and activities.</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="286 1295 1877 1359">The public consultation commences w/c Monday 29 July 2019 and concludes on 25 October 2019, the results of which will be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee on 13 November 2019.</p>	

No	Item	Action By:
	<b>Insert Update:</b>	
6.	<p><b>Discussion: Action Planning 2019/20</b></p> <p>Margaret queried with Members if there is a requirement for the Disability Advisory Group to have an Action Plan. The group agreed that there should be a separate Action Plan and that the two Access Advisory Groups (Enniskillen and Omagh) will contribute to the development and implementation.</p> <p><b>Action 6:</b> Margaret to organise a date for the three groups to come together to develop a Draft Action Plan for the group.</p>	Margaret McMahon
	<p><b>Insert Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <p><b>Public Toilets, Buttermarket, Enniskillen</b> Eileen congratulated all those involved in the recent upgrade work that has been carried out at the Buttermarket, Enniskillen. Eileen noted that a pull-cord has been installed in the in the Accessible toilet and queried where this is linked to, in the instance that emergency assistance be required.</p> <p><b>Action 7:</b> Margaret to find out where this is linked to.</p> <p><b>Stroke Services Public Consultation, Killyhevlin, Enniskillen</b> Eileen informed members of the group that at the recent Stroke Services public consultation event in the Killyhevlin on 17 July 2019, there were no sign language interpreters. Eileen queried this with the Western Health and Social Care Trust staff on the night and was advised that attendees were required to to pre-book sign language interpreters prior to the event.</p>	Margaret McMahon

No	Item	Action By:
	<p><b>Omagh Hospital &amp; Primary Care Complex</b>  Dermot highlighted the following accessibility issues at the entrance of the new Omagh Hospital &amp; Primary Care Complex with regards to, the <b>pavement</b>, a lack of dropped kerbs and parked cars blocking dropped kerbs.</p> <p>Dermot advised that if there was awning similar to the entrance at the South West Acute Hospital in Enniskillen it would be help alleviate some issues.</p> <p><b>Action 8*:</b> The group agreed that a letter be issued to the Western Health and Social Care Trust to address these concerns.</p> <p><b>Old Market Place, Omagh</b>  Dermot advised that Members of the Omagh Access Forum have recently had accessibility issues at Old Market Place in Omagh due to parked cars blocking entrances and footpaths.</p> <p><b>Action 9:</b> <b>XXXX</b> to contact NSL who provide Parking Management Services in the District to invite them to attend the next Disability Advisory Group meeting so the group can highlight areas in the district were issues have been arising.</p> <p><b>Action 10*:</b> <b>XXXX</b> to contact DfI Roads to enquire about putting permanent parking restrictions in place in Old Markey Square i.e. bollards.</p> <p><b>Activities and Opening Hours, Enniskillen Town Centre</b>  Eileen highlighted the lack of activities and businesses open in Enniskillen Town Centre after 5pm.</p> <p><b>Action 11:</b> <b>XXXX</b> to liaise with Business Improvement District (BID) Manager to enquire about the possibility of late night opening.</p> <p><b>Play Parks</b>  Dermot queried about Play Park facilities in the district for older children with autism in terms of what is currently available and if consideration could be given to closing play parks to the public for one hour on a regular basis for autism friendly sessions.</p>	<p><b>Council</b></p> <p>?</p> <p>?</p> <p>?</p>

No	Item	Action By:
	<p><b>Action 12:</b> Margaret to liaise with the Head of Parks and Open Spaces to query what provisions can be included within the Play Park Strategy.</p> <p><b>Education Authority</b> Councillor Emmet McAleer expressed his concerns regarding the incident in Omagh recently whereby an 8-year old child with autism was left on a bus for four hours at the bus depot and pointed out that a similar incident also happened in Fermanagh in 2015.</p> <p><b>Action 13*:</b> The group agreed that a letter be issued to the Education Authority to address the groups concerns.</p> <p><b>Press Release</b> Finbar advised the group that he is preparing a press release to advertise the Disability Advisory Group within the district to let people know what the group does and how it can help people.</p> <p><b>*Actions 8, 10 &amp; 13</b> pending Council approval at the next P&amp;R Committee meeting on 11 September 2019.</p>	<p>Margaret McMahon</p>
	<p><b>Insert Update:</b></p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Date of next meetings</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 24 September 2019 1 – 3pm (Action Planning 19/20)</b></p> <p><b>28 November 2019 2.00 – 4.00pm</b></p> <p><b>30 January 2019 2.00 – 4.00pm</b></p>	