

Disability Advisory Group

Thursday 28 November 2019, 2:00 pm

Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown

Present:

Dermot Devlin	Eileen Drumm
Councillor Emmet McAleer	Gerry Knight
Councillor Tommy Maguire	Councillor Victor Warrington
In attendance: Margaret McMahon, Finbar Maguire and Matthew Nevin	

No	Item	Action By:
1.	Welcome and Introductions Councillor Warrington welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillor Warrington addressed the Group in relation to recent press coverage.	

No	Item	Action By:
2.	<p>Apologies Received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Wilson • Bob Lingwood • Councillor Donal O’Cofaigh • Councillor Errol Thompson • Councillor Garbhan Mc Phillips • Gerry Maguire • Joanne Mc Donald • Jayne Hughes 	
3.	<p>Updates on Action Notes from Disability Advisory Group– Tuesday 23 July 2019</p> <p>Margaret outlined the outstanding actions and updates from the last Disability Advisory Group on Tuesday 23 July 2019.</p> <p>Eileen queried whether the alarm at the Buttermarket Accessible Toilet was adequate or not. Margaret explained that this system was recently installed and that shop owners had been made aware of it. Eileen suggested that she would test the alarm and report her findings back to the Group.</p> <p>Action 1: Eileen to test the alarm at Buttermarket Toilets and report findings to the Group.</p> <p>Gerry Knight highlighted that members of the Omagh Advisory Groups had taken part in a Ramble along the Riverside Walk and were absolutely delighted with the pathway. Gerry added that the only improvement would be a shelter near the middle of the walk so that people don’t get soaked during the wet weather. Margaret assured Gerry that the feedback would be passed onto the relevant Officers.</p> <p>Action 2: Margaret to pass feedback onto Parks and Open Spaces.</p>	<p>Eileen Drumm</p> <p>Margaret McMahon</p>

No	Item	Action By:
	<p>Eileen added that she would highlight this issue at the next Environmental themed Community Planning meeting.</p> <p>Action 3: Eileen to highlight issue at next Community Planning meeting.</p> <p>Gerry and Dermot provided an overview of the positive feedback received after the tour of Omagh Leisure Complex in September. Gerry added that the member of staff was very helpful and had a positive outlook of wanting to help people.</p> <p>Councillor McAleer welcomed the positive feedback and asked for an update on the Playpark Strategy. Margaret explained that the Strategy would be brought to Committee early next year.</p>	Eileen Drumm
	<p>Insert Update:</p> <p>Action 1: Eileen to carry out the test in the next month and provide an update at the March Meeting.</p> <p>Action 2: Margaret raised the possibility of improvements to future pathways with the Head of Parks & Open Spaces.</p> <p>Action 3: The next Environmental Theme Community Planning Meeting will take place in March 2020.</p>	
4.	<p>Update: Off-Street Car Parking</p> <p>An update on Off-Street Car Parking will take place at the next meeting due to the Officer being off sick.</p> <p>Eileen raised disappointment that another scooter-user had been informed that traffic wardens had been advised against issuing tickets to vehicles blocking dropped kerbs. Eileen added that she was raising this issue with IMTAC.</p> <p>Councillor Warrington highlighted that it would be best to find out what advice was actually given to the Traffic Wardens. Councillor Maguire added that the rationale for this decision might be that the white lines at dropped kerbs have been removed due to the ongoing work but agreed that it was necessary to get the full facts first.</p>	

No	Item	Action By:
	<p>Dermot raised an issue with the provision of changing places for people with disabilities at events. Margaret explained that after highlighting the issue with the Head of Arts & Heritage, who has responsibility for Corporate Events, it had been agreed that, where possible, changing places would be provided at events and would be included in the Events Strategy. Margaret added that due to the limited number of mobile changing facilities in the region it may not be possible to provide them at all events.</p> <p>Councillor McAleer queried what facilities were required in town centres. Dermot explained that each town should have a 'Changing Places' facility. Margaret explained that the Council had committed to providing these facilities in new or redeveloped Council venues.</p> <p>All Members agreed that the draft Action Plan covered the aims of the Group and should be accepted as the final document.</p>	
6.	<p>Update: Fermanagh Access Advisory Group Meeting on 3 September 2019</p> <p>In Andrew's absence, Eileen provided an update from the last meeting at The Ardhowen, including the discussions that took place on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enniskillen Public Realm Scheme • PASS Scheme • Omagh Leisure Complex and Fermanagh Lakeland Forum • Nominations to the Disability Advisory Group • FODC Disability and Equality Action Plans • Disability Advisory Group Action Plan • PCSP Disability Action Plan • Fermanagh Community Transport <p>Finbar explained that the Disability and Equality Action Plans would be going to Council in January 2020. Finbar added that the PCSP Manager had provided an update on the Groups' feedback, which was included in the document provided at the start of the meeting.</p>	

No	Item	Action By:
7.	<p>Update: Omagh Access Advisory Group Meeting on 27 August 2019</p> <p>Gerry K. updated the group on the issues that were raised at the last meeting at Omagh Leisure Complex, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverside Walk • Bridge Street Renovations • Nominations to Disability Advisory Group • Discussion: FODC Disability & Equality Action Plan • Disability Advisory Group Action Plan • PCSP Disability Action Plan • Overgrown tree on Hospital Road • Tour of Omagh Leisure Complex <p>Councillor McAleer queried whether Officers had provided a contact to Dermot regarding the overgrown tree. Matthew explained that it was the responsibility of Dfl and that he had provided an online form for Dermot to complete. Dermot highlighted that no action had been taken over the past 2 months. Councillor Warrington agreed to raise the issue with a member of staff from Dfl.</p> <p>Action 5: Councillor Warrington to raise issue of overgrown tree with a member of staff from Dfl.</p>	Councillor Warrington
	<p>Insert Update:</p> <p>Action 5: Councillors contacted Dfl on the individual's behalf and the overgrown tree has now been cleared.</p>	

No	Item	Action By:
8.	<p>Conference: International Day for Persons with Disabilities</p> <p>Finbar presented Members with a copy of the Agenda and Poster for ‘International Day for Persons with Disabilities’ taking place on Friday 6 December at Fermanagh House. Finbar added that the following organisations would be presenting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FODC - Public Realm Scheme • Action Mental Health • Fresh Focus • Guide Dogs NI • Action on Hearing Loss <p>Margaret added that an invite had been passed onto the Mental Health Champions.</p> <p>Action 6: All Members agreed to promote and attend Conference, where possible.</p>	All Members
	<p>Insert Update:</p> <p>Action 6: A number of members from the Disability Advisory Group and Access Advisory Groups attended the Conference on 6 December 2019. Approximately 45 people attended the event, with a number of organisations setting up stands at the side of the room. The event was the first Council Event to have a ‘Mobiloo’.</p>	
9.	<p>19/20 Awareness Training Programme</p> <p>Finbar provided an update on the Awareness Training Programme organised for Council Officers, including Deaf Awareness, Basic Sign language, Learning Disability and Visual Awareness Training.</p> <p>All Members welcomed the training.</p> <p>Finbar added that there was an option to provide one or two training sessions for members of the Group and the Fermanagh and Omagh Access Advisory Groups.</p>	

No	Item	Action By:
10.	<p>Any Other Relevant Business</p> <p>Eileen presented Councillor Warrington with a letter from Shopmobility regarding the issues within Erneside. Councillor Warrington agreed to take the letter to Council and request that the Chairperson consider it under Any Other Business.</p> <p>Action 7: Councillor Warrington to raise Shopmobility Letter at next Council Meeting.</p> <p>Action 8: Eileen to make Shopmobility Enniskillen aware of the action.</p>	<p>Councillor Warrington</p> <p>Eileen Drumm</p>
	<p>Insert Update:</p> <p>Action 7: Councillor Warrington raised the issues experienced by Shopmobility at the Council Meeting on 3rd December 2019.</p> <div data-bbox="618 815 1529 1315" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>16. Any Urgent and Relevant Business</p> <p>16.1 Shopmobility, Enniskillen</p> <p>A Member advised that the space utilised by Shopmobility in the Erneside Shopping Centre had been considerably reduced and in his view was not fit for purpose. He referred to the importance of Shopmobility within the Shopping Centre in terms of providing a fully inclusive shopping environment.</p> <p>RESOLVED: On the proposal of Councillor Warrington, seconded by Councillor McAleer, that representations be made to Erneside Shopping Centre highlighting the importance of Shopmobility within the Shopping Centre in terms of providing a fully inclusive shopping environment.</p> <p>Councillor Maguire re-entered the meeting during consideration of the above matter.</p> </div> <p>Action 8: Eileen made Shopmobility aware of the agreed way forward after the meeting.</p>	

No	Item	Action By:
11.	<p>Date of next meetings</p> <p>30 January 2019 2.00 – 4.00pm</p> <p>A Chairperson's Reception will take place after the next meeting for Members of the Disability Advisory Group, Enniskillen Access Advisory Group and Omagh Access Advisory Group.</p> <p>Action 9: Finbar to invite members to Chairperson's Reception</p>	<p>Finbar Maguire</p>