

**Disability Advisory Group**  
Tuesday 23 February 2021 at 2.00pm  
Online Meeting via Zoom

**Present:**

Eileen Drumm	Robert Lingwood
Dermot Devlin	Lisa Breen (Mencap)
Gerry Knight	Joanne McDonald
Bob Lingwood	Councillor Stephen Donnelly
Councillor Errol Thompson	Councillor Victor Warrington
Councillor Emmet McAleer	Councillor Tommy Maguire
<b>In attendance:</b> Margaret McMahon, Matthew Nevin, Finbar Maguire and Melissa Little.	

No	Item	Action By:
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>Councillor Warrington welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Agenda for the present meeting had been pre-agreed with the Vice-Chair of the Group.</p> <p>Councillor Warrington proposed that the changes that had been highlighted in the Draft Terms of Reference which were circulated to the Group prior to the meeting are made so that the Group continues to achieve what it originally set out to do. He advised that Margaret will go through the proposed changes in more detail later in the meeting.</p>	

No	Item	Action By:
2.	<p><b>Apologies Received:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Wilson</li> <li>• Donal O’Cofaigh</li> <li>• Garbhan McPhillips</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Updates on actions from the last Disability Advisory Group meeting on 30 October 2020</b></p> <p><b>Buttermarket Toilets</b> Eileen advised that due to the ongoing restrictions in relation to COVID-19 she has been unable to test the alarm at the Buttermarket Toilets to check if that is adequate but that she will do this as soon as possible.</p> <p><b>Action 1:</b> Eileen to test the alarm at the Buttermarket Toilets and report findings to the Group at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Riverside Walk, Omagh</b> Gerry Knight previously highlighted that members of the Omagh Access Advisory Groups had taken part in a Ramble along the Riverside Walk in Omagh and shared their feedback in that overall, they were 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 wet weather. Eileen added that she had hoped to highlight this at the next Environmental themed Community Planning meeting however these meetings had been postponed due to Covid-19.</p> <p><b>Action 2:</b> Eileen to highlight this at next the next Environmental Community Planning meeting.</p> <p><b>Enniskillen Public Realm Scheme</b> Councillor Maguire advised that due to the nature of the town the new pathways in Enniskillen are as wide as engineeringly possible and that the surface would not be cobbled.</p> <p><b>Action 3:</b> Margaret to provide relevant contact details for Council/Contactor (F.P McCann) should the Group wish to raise any concerns in relation to the Enniskillen Public Realm Scheme.</p>	<p><b>Eileen</b></p> <p><b>Eileen</b></p> <p><b>Margaret</b></p>

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	<p><b>Shopmobility</b>            At a previous meeting Councillor Warrington advised that he raised the issues experienced by Shopmobility at the Council Meeting on 03 December 2019, and that Council had agreed to issue a letter 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 Warrington advised that, to date, he is not aware of a reply from Erneside.</p> <p><b>Action 4:</b> Councillor Warrington to follow this up to see if Erneside had responded to the Council's letter.</p> <p><b>Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex</b>            At a previous meeting Dermot noted that he was delighted with the improvements that had been made at the Omagh Hospital and Primary Care complex, however, he still felt that the awning could be improved so that it is similar to the awning at the entrance of the South West Acute Hospital.</p> <p>In addition, Dermot advised that he had recently been made aware of instances where blue badge spaces at Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex were being used incorrectly by non-blue badge holders and queried if this issue could also be raised with the Trust to see if they could carry out additional daily inspections to combat the misuse of these spaces.</p> <p><b>Action 5:</b> Councillor Warrington to raise these issues with Chris Curran, Health and Social Care Trust.</p> <p><b>Update on kerbs outside SuperValu, Omagh</b>            It was noted that this issue had been previously raised at a full Council meeting, however, to date, no further action had been taken.</p> <p><b>Action 6:</b> Councillor McAleer to follow this up and forward the update to Margaret for circulation to the Group.</p> <p>.</p>	<p><b>Councillor Warrington</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Warrington</b></p> <p><b>Councillor McAleer/Margaret</b></p>

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	<p><b>Draft Terms of Reference</b> Margaret gave the following overview of the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Membership will consist of 7 Elected Members and 8 Volunteer Members.</li> <li>- Meetings will normally last no longer than 90 minutes with a 10-minute comfort break halfway through the meeting.</li> <li>- The Agenda will be pre-agreed with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Group prior to each meeting.</li> <li>- Members will be asked if they would like to add items to the Agenda. Any additional items will be considered providing that they are relevant to Council service delivery/design and not already covered by standing items on the Agenda.</li> <li>- The primary point of communication between the Council and the Disability Advisory Group will be the Head of Policy and Strategic Services.</li> </ul> <p>All Members agreed with the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference.</p> <p><b>Action 7:</b> The Terms of Reference to be updated accordingly.</p>	
	<p><b>Insert Update:</b> <b>Action 1 (Eileen):</b> <b>Action 2 (Eileen):</b> <b>Action 3 (Margaret):</b> Contact details for FP McCann are as follows: <b>Trader Liaison Officer:</b> 028 7954 9090 (for local businesses). <b>Public Liaison Manager:</b> 028 7964 2558 <b>24 hour Emergency Contact:</b> 028 7954 9090 (Then choose option 1) <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:epr@fpmccann.co.uk">epr@fpmccann.co.uk</a></p> <p>Key Council Contact: <b>Joe Reilly</b> (Capital Projects Manager) <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:joseph.reilly@fermanaghomagh.com">joseph.reilly@fermanaghomagh.com</a></p> <p><b>Action 4 (Councillor Warrington):</b></p>	Margaret

No	Item	Action By:
	<p><b>Action 5: (Councillor Warrington)</b>  <b>Action 6 (Councillor McAleer/Margaret):</b></p> <p><b>Action 7 (Margaret):</b>  The Terms of Reference for the Group have been updated and will be made available online.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Report from the Joint Meeting of Access and Inclusion Groups on 17 February 2021. (Andrew Wilson [Chair of Fermanagh Group] and Gerry Knight [Chair of Omagh Group])</b></p> <p>Gerry K advised that following the last Joint Meeting of the Access and Inclusion Groups on 17 February 2021 the Group had put together an Action Plan and he gave the following overview of some of the key points from within the Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Members to report back relevant information on accessibility/disability that may be useful to other members of the Group e.g. funding/support.</li> <li>- Group to be involved in social media and press releases.</li> <li>- Members to participate in training events to raise awareness of the various types of disabilities with Councillors, Council staff and the public.</li> <li>- Evaluate existing Council services and make recommendations on how to improve accessibility i.e. Mystery Shoppers and subsequently report any issues to Council staff/Group Chairs as soon as possible.</li> <li>- Provide advice on Council new builds and redevelopments for Council venues and outdoor spaces.</li> <li>- Ensure that inclusive workshops/events are as accessible as possible.</li> <li>- Members are encouraged to attend inclusive workshops/events organised by the Council.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 8:</b> Matthew to circulate the Access and Inclusion Group's Action Plan to the Elected representatives on this Group.</p>	<p><b>Matthew</b></p>

No	Item	Action By:						
	<p><b>Insert Update:</b> <b>Action 8 (Matthew):</b></p> <p>Elected Members received a copy of the Access Advisory Group Action Plan on 20/04/2021. The Action Plan has been agreed by members and finalised by the Groups.</p>							
5.	<p><b>Progress of Disability Advisory Group Action Plan</b></p> <p>Finbar gave the following update on Progress of the Disability Advisory Group Action Plan:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="286 676 1792 1385"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="286 676 801 715">Action Point</th> <th data-bbox="801 676 1792 715">Update</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="286 715 801 1235"> <p><b>1.2 Promoting the Disability Advisory Group</b></p> </td> <td data-bbox="801 715 1792 1235"> <p>In December 2020, events were organised to mark International Day for People with Disabilities (IDfPWD). These were posted on the Council's social media channels and reached an audience of over 36,000 on Facebook, 14,000 on Twitter and 461 people interacting with comments on Facebook and 352 interacting with comments on Twitter.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the press releases that were aimed at promoting the activities taking place for IDfPWD that were issued to the local newspapers was not published.</p> <p>An article has recently been drafted for the Local Government Staff Commission's E-Magazine on International Day for People With Disabilities and also to highlight the work of the Group.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="286 1235 801 1385"> <p><b>1.3 Working towards ensuring that the Council website is compliant with WCAG 2.1 (AA) Guidelines</b></p> </td> <td data-bbox="801 1235 1792 1385"> <p>Council has recently invested in Software to improve accessibility of the website. This is currently being rolled out to all departments across the Council.</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Action Point	Update	<p><b>1.2 Promoting the Disability Advisory Group</b></p>	<p>In December 2020, events were organised to mark International Day for People with Disabilities (IDfPWD). These were posted on the Council's social media channels and reached an audience of over 36,000 on Facebook, 14,000 on Twitter and 461 people interacting with comments on Facebook and 352 interacting with comments on Twitter.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the press releases that were aimed at promoting the activities taking place for IDfPWD that were issued to the local newspapers was not published.</p> <p>An article has recently been drafted for the Local Government Staff Commission's E-Magazine on International Day for People With Disabilities and also to highlight the work of the Group.</p>	<p><b>1.3 Working towards ensuring that the Council website is compliant with WCAG 2.1 (AA) Guidelines</b></p>	<p>Council has recently invested in Software to improve accessibility of the website. This is currently being rolled out to all departments across the Council.</p>	
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	<p><b>1.4</b> Being present at the start of relevant staff training sessions to give an overview of the difficulties they experience because of their disability.</p>	<p>Councillor Warrington, Eileen, Gerry K, Andrew and Joanne have been involved in staff training sessions.</p>
	<p><b>1.6</b> Representation of people with disabilities, at relevant events and workshops, such as International Day for People with Disabilities.</p>	<p><b>International Day for People with Disabilities</b> Overall the event this year was really successful, there were 12 virtual workshops which took place over 6 days and there were 198 participants. Some of the feedback received indicated that people liked how they were able to pick a workshop at date/time that suited them due to the events being spread out over a number of days.</p>
	<p><b>1.7</b> Providing reasonable adjustments at events and workshops i.e. access areas, quiet spaces, interpreters, accessible toilets, accessible parking etc.</p>	<p>Matthew noted that feedback had been received from people who had been experiencing social isolation due to the restrictions in relation to Covid-19 and the lack of activities. Following this and with Public Health Agency funding a series of online workshops were organised from December 2020 – February 2021. Participants received a pre-recorded video and a material pack to complete each workshop. Activities included, Christmas bauble making, weaving, mosaic decorations, fridge magnets, mug warming and healthy eating workshops. These were all really well received, with 25 spaces per workshop and 14 workshops therefore engaging with 350 people.</p> <p>In addition, funding has recently been received to hold a third iCAN festival in March. Further details on this will be circulated over the coming weeks.</p>

No	Item	Action By:
	<p><b>3.1</b> Enhancing staff capabilities through training to ensure they can deal effectively with people with disabilities when they contact/visit the Council.</p> <p>On 22 March 2021 at 11.00am a training event is taking place with Headway on Brain Injury Awareness. All Members are welcome to attend and Finbar advised to contact himself/Matthew for the Zoom link.</p> <p>Gerry K queried if it would be possible for Matthew/Finbar to review actions within the Disability Advisory Group Action Plan and liaise with volunteer members to take actions forward.</p> <p><b>Action 9:</b> Matthew/Finbar to review the Disability Advisory Group Action Plan to identify which actions volunteer members could take forward and when, taking into consideration the current restrictions in relation to Covid-19.</p> <p><b>Action 10:</b> Matthew/Finbar to explore the possibility of featuring regular articles in the local newspapers.</p>	<p></p> <p><b>Matthew/Finbar</b></p> <p><b>Matthew/Finbar</b></p>
	<p><b>Insert Update:</b></p> <p><b>Action 9 (Matthew/Finbar):</b></p> <p>A short report has been drafted and is included as part of the Agenda at item 5.</p> <p><b>Action 10 (Matthew/Finbar):</b></p> <p>Since the New Year there does seem to have been a change in that there are more human-interest stories covered, similar the ones that have been suggested.</p> <p>Communications have suggested issuing articles once per quarter outlining the work of the Group, recent meetings, days of celebration and future work.</p> <p>A potential timeframe for the first four articles could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June (Cllr Warrington as Chair)</li> <li>• September (Dermot Devlin as Vice Chair)</li> </ul>	



No	Item	Action By:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December (Gerry Knight as Chair of the Omagh Group)</li> <li>• March (Andrew Wilson as Chair of the Fermanagh Group)</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>Any Other Relevant Business</b></p> <p><b>Recognising International Disability/Health Awareness Days</b>  Gerry K noted that the Council currently marks approximately 5 days that take place throughout each year e.g. International Day for Deaf/Blind and he queried if the Group could be involved in picking which days are marked each year so that a plan can be drawn up and rotated each year.</p> <p>Margaret advised that a list of the various days which take place to mark various disabilities can be brought to the next meeting so that the Group can decide which days they would like the Council to recognise. These could be rotated on an annual basis with International Day for People With Disabilities being recognised each year.</p> <p><b>Action 11:</b> A list of the Disability/Heath Awareness events that take place throughout the year to mark various disabilities to be brought to the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Promoting the Group</b>  Bob queried if more articles on the Group could be included in the Council's inFO magazine.</p> <p><b>Action 12:</b> Finbar to look into the possibility of including more articles on the Disability Advisory Group in the inFO magazine.</p> <p><b>Traffic Lights, Enniskillen</b>  Eileen advised that there is an area close to the traffic lights at South West College in Enniskillen where there is no dropped kerb and requested that one of this issued is raised with the Department for Infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Action 13:</b> Eileen to forward details of the exact location of the defect to Councillor Maguire so that he can raise the issue with the Department for Infrastructure.</p>	<p><b>Margaret</b></p> <p><b>Finbar</b></p> <p><b>Eileen/Councillor Maguire</b></p>

No	Item	Action By:
	<p><b>Insert Update:</b></p> <p><b>Action 11 (Margaret):</b></p> <p>A list of Awareness Days has been sent to Members.</p> <p><b>Action 12 (Finbar):</b></p> <p>The in-Fo magazine is currently issued once per year. The next edition is due in late Autumn / early Winter and the request for articles expected in June.</p> <p>It is suggested that this issue could contain a profile on the Disability Advisory Group, including a short profile on each of the eight Volunteer Members. This should increase the profile of the Group as well as allowing residents to know who to contact in order to raise issues on their behalf at DAG Meetings.</p> <p><b>Action 13 (Eileen):</b></p>	
7.	<p><b>Date of the next meeting</b></p> <p>An earlier start time of 12.30pm will be trialled at the next meeting and the invites for the next two meetings in April and June are to be issued following the meeting.</p>	

