

Disability Advisory Group
Monday 26 April at 12.30pm
Online Meeting via Zoom

Present:

Eileen Drumm	Andrew Wilson
Dermot Devlin	Emma Harte (Mencap)
Gerry Knight	Joanne McDonald
Councillor Garbhan McPhillips	Councillor Stephen Donnelly
Councillor Errol Thompson	Councillor Victor Warrington
Councillor Emmet McAleer	Councillor Tommy Maguire
In attendance: Margaret McMahon, Matthew Nevin, Finbar Maguire and Melissa Little.	

No	Item	Action By:
1.	Welcome and Introductions Councillor Warrington welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	Apologies Received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob Lingwood • Gerry Maguire 	

No	Item	Action By:
3.	<p>Updates on actions from the last Disability Advisory Group meeting on 30 October 2020</p> <p>Buttermarket Toilets Eileen advised that due to the ongoing restrictions in relation to COVID-19 she had not yet tested the alarm at the Buttermarket Toilets to check that it is adequate but that she will do this as soon as possible.</p> <p>Action 1: Eileen to test the alarm at the Buttermarket Toilets and report findings to the Group at the next meeting.</p> <p>Riverside Walk, Omagh 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>Action 2: Eileen to highlight this at next the next Environmental Community Planning meeting.</p> <p>Shopmobility 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>Eileen advised that, with the easing of restrictions, the Shopmobility office is due to reopen in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Action 3: Councillor Warrington to follow this up to see if Erneside had responded to the Council's letter.</p>	<p>Eileen</p> <p>Eileen</p> <p>Cllr Warrington</p>

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	<p>Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex Councillor Warrington advised that he had spoken to Chris Curran and A Kilgannon from the Health and Social Care Trust in relation to the issues raised at the last meeting regarding the awning and the misuse of the blue badge spaces at the Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex and they responded as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In relation to the awning at the Omagh Hospital and Primary Complex, they believed there to be adequate cover. 2. In relation to the misuse of the blue badge spaces, they advised they would be more proactive in checking how these spaces are being used in the hope that this will deter any further misuse of these spaces. <p>Update on kerbs outside SuperValu, Omagh Councillor McAleer provided the following update from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The street layout was originally designed as a Public Realm project by Omagh District Council's design consultant and constructed in 2009. - The disabled parking layouts within the town centre were all provided with appropriate dropped kerbs between pairs of parking bays at that time. - The suggestion of a continuous dropped kerb along the edge of the disabled parking bays would not be a permitted layout as it would provide no warning to pedestrians with a visual impairment that they were walking off the footway. - Motorists who are wheelchair users need to position their vehicle a distance out from the kerb line and this would permit access to the vehicle and the dropped kerbs. - DfI have no plans to change the disabled parking layouts within Omagh Town Centre as they are still considered to be appropriately providing for service users' needs. 	

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	<p>Insert Update: Action 1 (Eileen):</p> <p>On 18/05/21, Eileen tested the alarm in the Buttermarket Accessible Toilets. Eileen findings include:</p> <p>After pulling the red cord and the alarm went off I waited for a few minutes as I opened the door John who has a unit next door came to my aid. I explained why I pulled the cord and one of my friends checked if the staff in the Cafe had heard but they hadn't. In the meantime, John phoned Tracey's to find out how to switch off the alarm. He was told there was a reset button beside the red cord which he reset and showed it to me.</p> <p>My question is if I had been locked in and had fallen for real how long before someone would have unlocked the door and who has the key in an emergency.</p> <p>Response to Eileen's query from Fermanagh Enterprise:</p> <p>'We haven't been given a key for this door but I had a quick look and an ordinary screwdriver or a coin can be used to open it – as far as I know this is a common lock provision on a door like this. Thus any member of the public who had a coin or similar could easily open the door.'</p> <p>Action 2 (Eileen): The next Environmental Community Planning meeting is to take place on Tuesday 27 July. There may be potential to incorporate this shelter into another project proposed for the pathway (Subject to funding).</p> <p>Action 3 (Cllr Warrington):</p>	
4.	<p>Report from the Joint Meeting of Access and Inclusion Groups. (Andrew Wilson [Chair of Fermanagh Group] and Gerry Knight [Chair of Omagh Group])</p> <p>Andrew and Gerry gave the following update:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Andrew, Gerry and Matthew met recently to discuss allocating actions from within the Access and Inclusion Group's new Action Plan to members of the Access Advisory Groups. - Members of the Access and Inclusion Group had recently been invited to consult on a number of projects that the Council are carrying out including the signage on the Reminiscence Pathway in Enniskillen and an equestrian mounting block at the Gortin Glens Forest Park. An invitation was also received requesting attendance at an upcoming meeting to discuss a number of capital projects in Omagh & Enniskillen. 							
5.	<p>Disability Advisory Group Action Plan Following discussions at the last meeting in relation to some of the actions contained within the Disability Advisory Group Action Plan being allocated to Community and Voluntary Members, Finbar gave an overview of the following actions that could be taken forward and the suggested action points:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="286 707 1771 1412"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="286 707 1039 743">Action</th> <th data-bbox="1039 707 1771 743">Suggested action point:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="286 743 1039 1193">1. Contacting the relevant support/advocacy organisations within the District to publicise the Disability Advisory Group and invite them to attend future meetings so that they can learn about the work of the group and in addition so that the group can learn what their organisation does.</td> <td data-bbox="1039 743 1771 1193"> As the Group consists of Members who are members of many other organisations it was suggested that Community and Voluntary Members contact the following organisations to enquire if they would be willing to deliver a presentation to a future meeting of the Disability Advisory Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RNID (Gerry Knight) • Mencap (Joanne McDonald) • IMTAC (Eileen Drumm) • Disability Action (Eileen Drumm) </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="286 1193 1039 1412">2. Providing advice at the design, planning and fit-out stages of new developments. Providing advice at the planning and implementation stages of new projects/policies. Assisting Council Officers in making Council venues and services more</td> <td data-bbox="1039 1193 1771 1412"> This remains an ongoing action. Gerry and Joanne recently joined in on a call to give feedback on the accessibility of an Equestrian Mounting Block Design in the Gortin Glens. </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Action	Suggested action point:	1. Contacting the relevant support/advocacy organisations within the District to publicise the Disability Advisory Group and invite them to attend future meetings so that they can learn about the work of the group and in addition so that the group can learn what their organisation does.	As the Group consists of Members who are members of many other organisations it was suggested that Community and Voluntary Members contact the following organisations to enquire if they would be willing to deliver a presentation to a future meeting of the Disability Advisory Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RNID (Gerry Knight) • Mencap (Joanne McDonald) • IMTAC (Eileen Drumm) • Disability Action (Eileen Drumm) 	2. Providing advice at the design, planning and fit-out stages of new developments. Providing advice at the planning and implementation stages of new projects/policies. Assisting Council Officers in making Council venues and services more	This remains an ongoing action. Gerry and Joanne recently joined in on a call to give feedback on the accessibility of an Equestrian Mounting Block Design in the Gortin Glens.	
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	<p>accessible through providing advice/guidance as well as feedback from individuals with disabilities who have used these services/venues.</p>	<p>Four Group members also took part in a discussion on the Reminiscence Pathway Signage (for Enniskillen) on 12 April 2021. (Gerry Knight, Dermot Devlin, Joanne McDonald, Eileen Drumm).</p> <p>Members have also been invited to give feedback to Officers on Capital Projects which are taking place in both Omagh and Enniskillen.</p>
	<p>3. Arranging for Accessibility Audits (mystery shopper style). A Member of the group to visit a Council venue/facility to review the service and feed back to the Group.</p>	<p>Due to the recent Pandemic this has paused. However, when services start to re-open indoor accessibility audits will continue in a safe manner.</p> <p>For example, Eileen is due to look at the Buttermarket toilets and emergency pull cord. Accessibility audits which could be undertaken by Members going forward (in the short-term) include some outdoor Parks and Open Spaces areas, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omagh: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Arlestone Park. ○ Grange Park. ○ Riverside Walk. ○ Dog Park. • Enniskillen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forthill Park.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Broadmeadow Reminiscence Pathway (once complete) ○ Round 'O'. ○ Dog Park. 		
4.	Providing the Group with feedback on events that the Council holds i.e. the Christmas Lights switch on and Halloween events, not only on the success of these events but also if there were any mistakes so that improvements can be made.	Ongoing.		
5.	Agreeing a forward plan of presentations by Council Officers on various service areas throughout the Council.	Presentation to be delivered from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contracts Team - Parks and Open Spaces – Play Park Strategy Officers 		
6.	Members (where comfortable and willing) to take part in Vox Pop/Video Log type videos, that could be shared in on the Council website, to raise awareness of the Groups, their work and how disability affects their daily lives.	This action was paused due to Covid-19 Pandemic, however, it was noted that these could now be completed virtually. Members were requested to volunteer to take part in these with the aim being to complete one per month over the next three months.		
	Cllr T Maguire advised that as part of the works that are being carried out to Forthill park there will be widening of the vehicular access to the park and disabled parking however he suggested that a member of the Group carry out an accessibility audit once work is completed.		Eileen	

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	<p>Action 6 (Dermot/Gerry): Dermot and Gerry to carry out accessibility audits of the walks in the Omagh area and provide feedback/suggestions to the Group at the next meeting.</p> <p>Action 7: Gerry, Eileen and Joanne to contact the organisations which they are members of to enquire if they would be willing to deliver a presentation to a future meeting of the Disability Advisory Group.</p>	<p>Gerry/Eileen /Joanne</p>
	<p>Insert Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 4 (Eileen): • Action 5 (Finbar/Cllr Warrington): The press release has been drafted and will be sent to Cllr Warrington for approval shortly. The next press release is scheduled for September and it was agreed that it would be from Dermot as Vice Chair of the Group. • Action 6 (Gerry/Dermot): • Action 7 (Gerry/Eileen/Joanne): 	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Update: DfC Funding & i-can fest 2021</p> <p>Matthew provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full-size Changing Places facility is close to completion in the Strule Arts Centre, Omagh. • A reduced size Changing Place facility is set to be installed in the Enniskillen Castle Museum. • A new sensory room has been installed in the Fermanagh Lakeland Forum. • A new ceiling hoist and additional changing equipment has been installed in the accessible changing facilities in the Fermanagh Lakeland Forum. • As part of the new Reminiscence walkway in Enniskillen there will be signage with a focus on topics such as, time and work, play, smells, football and also a friendship bench. • Radar keys have been procured to allow 24hour access to public conveniences in the District. • A number of all-inclusive basket swings have also been purchased. 	

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	<p>I-Can Fest 2021:</p> <p>This year was the third annual festival organised by FODC and funded by the Public Health Agency. Due to the Covid restrictions in March, all activities took place either through pre-recorded or live workshops.</p> <p>Marketing: To help promote the activities, a booklet was designed and sent out to Advisory Group Members and local Support Organisations. Several social media posts were also created to highlight the different workshops.</p> <p>Due to the restrictions, hard copy booklets were not produced or distributed this year.</p> <p>Outcome: In total, 531 participants took part. This figure is a minimum, as a number of Day Care Centres sent the video onto other service users who did not receive a material pack. As the materials can be easily sourced, the videos can be used for future programmes.</p> <p>Feedback has been very positive, with participants reporting that they enjoyed the activities and the different variety. The live sessions did not work as well as the pre-recorded sessions. This feedback will help to plan future online events.</p> <p>Other comments included the need to deliver a hybrid programme in future years. Some people missed the socialising with others, which emphasised the need for physical workshops (when restrictions allow). However, the pre-recorded videos and material packs were highlighted by many as being more accessible for those who cannot travel or find it harder to. It also provided the flexibility for people to complete the activities over a longer period, in the comfort of their own homes. Therefore, a mixture of both options will be considered for other programmes and i-can fest 2022.</p> <p>Gerry queried if Matthew had a photo of how the signs in the Reminiscence Pathway would be mounted.</p> <p>Matthew advised that he had a video showing how the signs are mounted that he could share following the meeting.</p>	<p>Matthew</p>

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	<p>Action 8: Matthew to send Gerry the video showing how the signs on the Reminiscence Pathway are mounted.</p> <p>Cllr E McAleer queried if details of the locations of where basket swings had been installed could be shared.</p> <p>Margaret noted that the locations for the new basket swings had not yet been finalised however once this has been finalised and a list is available it would be shared with the Group.</p> <p>Action 9: Matthew to share the locations of where the basket swings have been installed with the Group once it is available.</p>	<p>Matthew</p>
	<p>Insert Update:</p> <p>Action 8 (Matthew): Video was provided at the last Access Advisory Group. It showed how the hinged sign can be lifted using a closed fist. This was the recommended approach by an Access Auditor.</p> <p>Action 9 (Matthew): Play Park Strategy – Project Manager provided the four locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lammy Playpark • Fermanagh Lakeland Forum Playpark • Dromore Playpark • Killyvilly Playpark 	
7.	<p>Public Health Agency (PHA) Funding 2021/2022</p> <p>Matthew gave the following update:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There will be an online Children's Summer Programme, with material packs being delivered to the participants' homes. The aim is to deliver 9 activities per week throughout July and August with approximately 30 packs available per workshop. - Mental Health First Aid Training is to be organised for members of the Access Advisory Group. The PHA are encouraging members to provide feedback to make the course more accessible. - International Day for People with Disabilities will continue to be marked this year, once the theme has been established more details on this will be shared with the Group. - Approximately 5 online workshops are to be delivered to Carers. This will link into the work of the Age Friendly Officer, who also receives PHA funding. - To encourage people with disabilities to get involved in the Council's Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy, consideration is being given to running workshops on how to grow their own vegetables/flowers. - The i-can Festival is to continue in 2022 with the PHA looking into the possibility of taking a regional approach and linking in with other Councils and Organisations. 	
8.	<p>Any Other Urgent or Relevant Business</p> <p>Eileen queried if the Council had been involved in the development of the Disability Strategy by the Department for Communities (DfC).</p> <p>Margaret advised that she had attended meetings, facilitated by DfC, to discuss the Disability Strategy, however, her understanding was that there is quite a lot of work to be completed before a Draft Strategy would be available for consultation, noting that this could be at least July/August 2021.</p>	
9.	<p>Date of the next meeting</p> <p>28 June 2021 at 2.00pm via Zoom</p>	