

Disability Advisory Group
Monday 28 June at 2.00pm
Online Meeting via Zoom

Present:

Eileen Drumm	Andrew Wilson
Dermot Devlin	Emma Harte (Mencap)
Couincillor Donal O’Cofaigh	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, Gerry Donnelly (Licensing Manager) 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"> • Gerry Knight • Gerry Maguire 	

No	Item	Action By:
3.	<p>Updates on actions from the last Disability Advisory Group meeting on 30 October 2020</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 to highlight this at the next Environmental themed Community Planning meeting which is to take place on Tuesday 27 July 2021.</p> <p>Action 1: Eileen to highlight this at the Environmental Community Planning meeting on 27 July.</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>Action 2: Councillor Warrington to follow this up to see if Erneside had responded to the Council's letter.</p> <p>Accessibility Audits Dermot advised that following discussions with Gerry K he would liaise with Finbar to progress the accessibility audits of Arleston Park, Cranny Bridge, Riverside Walk and the Dog Park.</p> <p>Action 3: Dermot to liaise with Finbar to obtain the accessibility checklist so that he can carry out the accessibility audits at Arleston Park, Cranny Bridge, Riverside Walk and the Dog Park.</p> <p>Organisations presenting at future DAG meetings Following discussions at the last meeting, whereby members agreed to contact the organisations which they are members of to enquire if they would deliver a presentation at a future meeting of the Disability</p>	<p>Eileen</p> <p>Cllr Warrington</p> <p>Dermot</p>

No	Item	Action By:
	<p>Advisory Group, Joanne advised that she had been in contact with staff in Mencap in relation to this and that they had contacted Finbar to obtain the dates of future meetings.</p> <p>Action 4: Finbar to update the Group accordingly in relation to which meeting Mencap will be attending.</p>	<p>Finbar</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Pavement Café Applications Gerry Donnelly, Licensing Manager gave the following overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pavement Café legislation was introduced in Northern Ireland in 2014. - Applications must be supported by; location maps, a scale map 1:100, description of furniture, risk assessment and the appropriate public liability insurance must be in place. - There is a requirement for a minimum 2 metre clearance from the edge of the pavement café and adjoining premises and a screen/barrier with a sturdy rail. - All furniture is to be brought inside at night/close of business. - Pavement Cafés can operate between the hours of 8am – 11pm. - After an application has been received a notice is displayed in the applicants premises for 21 days and notice is also published on the Council website. - Prior to making decisions on applications the Licensing Team consult with PSNI, DfI Roads and the local Disability Action Group. - Once an application has been granted it is valid for three years. - Applications can be revoked at any stage due to non-compliance. - The main focus for the Licensing Team will be on non-compliance and enforcement where necessary. <p>A Member highlighted the importance of effective enforcement to ensure that any informal arrangements whereby businesses have restricted accessibility by placing street furniture on the pavement outside their premises without licence are dealt with accordingly.</p> <p>He queried if an assessment of the health implications of having pavement cafes in areas where there could be traffic congestion had been carried out.</p>	

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	<p>Dermot advised that he had come across instances whereby pedestrians had stopped to talk to people sitting in the pavement café and this had caused congestion and restricted accessibility.</p> <p>A Member queried if the Pavement Café at Pat's Bar, Enniskillen would be at the side or front of the building and also if alcohol can be purchased and consumed on the pavement.</p> <p>Margaret noted that The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) had recently been in touch with Finbar and Matthew regarding pavement cafés and they are going to come to speak to this Group in relation to this at the next meeting in September.</p> <p>Gerry Donnelly, responded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With most pavement café applications that had been received to date either dealt with or processing, the focus for the licensing team will now be on non-compliance, starting in the two main towns, Enniskillen and Omagh. Where necessary, enforcement will follow, this will involve instructing businesses to either remove the furniture or cease trading. - The query in relation to whether an assessment of health implications of having a pavement café in areas where there could be traffic congestion had not come up before, however, it will be discussed further with Environmental Health Officials. - This was an important point raised by Dermot in relation to the flow of pedestrians. There is a requirement on the conditions of a licence whereby businesses must ensure that staff monitor pavement café areas so that accessibility is not restricted and where necessary they should be asking members of the public to move along. - The Pavement Café at Pat's Bar will be located at the side of the building leading onto the Diamond area. - Alcohol cannot be not sold at pavement cafes unless it is joined/adjacent to a premises with a licence to sell alcohol whereby the licence is automatically extended to cover the area. - Pavement café legislation overrides on-street drinking bye-laws. 	

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	<p>Eileen queried if photographs of the area for future proposed pavement cafés could be submitted with applications as it would be beneficial for those who are involved in the Disability Action Group to have a better understanding of areas that they are not familiar with.</p> <p>Gerry D advised that he would request that photographs be included with future applications showing the area where the proposed pavement café would be located.</p>	
5.	<p>Report from the Fermanagh and Omagh Access Advisory Groups</p> <p>Andrew advised that a review of the Access and Inclusion Group Action Plan took place at the last Fermanagh Access Advisory meeting and at the next meeting members are to be allocated actions.</p>	
6.	<p>Disability Advisory Group Action Plan</p> <p>Finbar provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mencap and RNIB have been provided with the dates of future meetings so that they can provide presentations to the Group. - Dermot is going to begin the accessibility audits in the Omagh area shortly. - There are 3 areas in Enniskillen that still require accessibility audits, these are the Reminiscence Pathway at the Broadmeadow, Round O and The Dog Park. <p>Action 5: Any members that are willing to carry out the accessibility audits in the Enniskillen area to contact Finbar/Matthew.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joanne recently recorded an excellent video log which is currently being finalised with Mencap. - Dermot will be completing a video log at the new Changing Places facility in Omagh and it is hoped that this will be posted on social media on Changing Places awareness day on 19 July. 	<p>Volunteer Members</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work is ongoing to make the Council website more accessible. Broken links and misspellings are being fixed and the next piece of work will involve ensuring pdfs are accessible and compatible with screen readers. - The contract for the video relay service has been extended until March 2022. <p>Matthew gave the following update:</p> <p>Partnership Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As part of a partnership Project with Western Health and Social Care Trust, Public Health Agency, Derry City and Strabane District Council and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council there will be six events for adults with learning disabilities. - The aim of the project is to reconnect individuals and to help them to become more comfortable with getting out and about again. - There will be two workshops in July which will be on circus skills, 2 in August on nature crafts and 2 in September which will be sensory. - There will be a maximum of 15 participants per session and all procedures will be in place to ensure compliance with regulations and that participants feel safe. <p>PHA Funded Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding had been provided from the Public Health Agency to run a series of approx. 7 online summer workshops for children. - There will be a maximum of 30 participants per session. - Each participant will receive a tutorial video and a material pack. 	
7.	<p>Capital Grant Scheme Applications (Department for Communities)</p> <p>Matthew advised that six business cases for the following projects had been submitted to the Department for Communities in a bid to secure funding through their Access and Inclusion Capital Fund:</p>	

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	<p>1) Development of an Inclusive Community Garden 2) Tactile Mapping Project 3) Approx. 30-40 Inclusive Picnic Tables 4) Equipment (Ramps, handrails, audio wands for tourism venues) 5) Inclusive Playpark Equipment 6) Development of an Omagh Reminiscence Pathway at Riverside Walk</p> <p>The business cases are set to be marked in July and if successful in securing the funding the projects will be completed by March 2022.</p> <p>Eileen queried if the picnic tables at the Buttermarket, Enniskillen are Council owned and advised that they are not accessible.</p> <p>Matthew advised that he would look into whether the picnic tables at the Buttermarket are Council owned and advised that if successful in securing funding for the inclusive picnic tables this could be considered as a location.</p> <p>Action 6: Matthew to look into whether the picnic tables at the Buttermarket are Council owned and the possibility of having an inclusive picnic table there if successful in securing funding.</p>	<p>Matthew</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Member Queries</p> <p>1) Inclusive Fishing Jetties</p> <p>Finbar advised that he had liaised with Keith Collen, Leisure, Recreation and Sport Manager who had provided the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are 5 inclusive fishing jetties at still water loughs within the District and these are located at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 at Lough Acrussel (Outside Enniskillen) • Lough Inver (Rosslea) 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 at Lyon’s Lough (Rosslea) - There is disability access to fish at the pond in Arleston Park, Omagh. - The following still water loughs are not deemed accessible fishing jetties due to steps/steep access to existing jetties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lough Barry • Lough Lee • Lough Unshinagh • Lough Nayre - All other still water loughs within the District fall under the responsibility of Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). <p>Finbar advised that he can provide contact details for the appropriate person to speak to within DAERA to address any queries members may have in relation to any of the still water loughs under their remit.</p> <p>A Member highlighted that there is a commitment within the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan for the development of an inclusive fishing jetty in Enniskillen and he advised he would be keen to see this progressed.</p> <p>Action 7: Finbar to liaise with Keith Collen to express the Group’s disappointment that there is not an inclusive fishing jetty within Enniskillen town and highlight the commitment within the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan to provide this.</p> <p>2) Seating/Resting Area Outside Omagh Leisure Complex (OLC)</p> <p>Finbar noted that this had been highlighted by Joanne who advised that due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic there is a requirement to book leisure sessions at OLC in advance. This can result in customers having to wait outside the building for some time as they are not permitted to enter the building until the start time of their session.</p>	<p>Finbar</p>

No	Item	Action By:
	<p>Finbar advised that he is liaising with OLC staff to see if it would be possible to provide a bench/seated area outside the leisure centre.</p> <p>Action 8: Finbar to provide an update to the Group once a response from OLC staff is received.</p> <p>3) Online Hub or Directory of Organisations Finbar noted that this query was raised by Gerry Maguire who had enquired if there was an online directory of services.</p> <p>Finbar advised that he had recently become aware of the website 'Covid Wellbeing NI' which provides information on mental health, wellbeing, services and support. The website is updated on a weekly basis to reflect any changes to guidance or regulations.</p> <p>Action 9: Finbar to send further information and the link to the 'Covid Wellbeing NI' website to the Group.</p> <p>4) Grange Park Redevelopment Finbar noted that this item was raised by Dermot and advised that a Zoom meeting to discuss this further with the Play Park Manager had been scheduled for 07 July at 2.00pm.</p> <p>Finbar recognised the short notice and advised that if any members are unable to attend the meeting and would like to pass on feedback/comments to himself or Matthew they would raise these on their behalf.</p>	<p>Finbar</p> <p>Finbar</p>
9.	<p>AORB</p> <p>Forthill Park Eileen queried if the work had been completed at Forthill park so that the accessibility audit can be completed.</p> <p>Matthew advised that works at Forthill are ongoing and that he would be in touch as soon as they are complete so that the accessibility audit can be progressed.</p>	

No	Item	Action By:
10.	Dates of future meetings: Wednesday 29 September 2021 at 2.00pm Wednesday 24 November 2021 at 2.00pm Tuesday 25 January 2022 at 2.00pm	

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