



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Disability Advisory Group

Thursday 30 October at 2.00pm

Online Meeting via Webex

Present:

Eileen Drumm	Robert Lingwood
Andrew Wilson	Emma Harte (Mencap)
Gerry Knight	Joanne McDonald
Robert Lingwood	Councillor Stephen Donnelly
Councillor Errol Thompson	Councillor Victor Warrington
Councillor Emmet McAleer	Councillor Garbhan McPhillips
Councillor Tommy Maguire	Councillor Donal O’Cofaigh
In attendance: Margaret McMahon, Matthew Nevin, Nicola McCann and Melissa Little.	

No	Item	Action By:
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Councillor Warrington welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the second Agenda prepared by Dermot and Eileen which was circulated prior to the meeting. Councillor Warrington advised that, whilst each of the issues raised were of high importance they were outside the remit of this Group and that Councillors would continue to lobby the relevant agencies on these sorts of issues on behalf of the Members. Councillor Warrington highlighted the importance that the Terms of Reference for the Group are adhered to.</p> <p>M McMahon advised that going forward Members would be given the opportunity to add items to the Agenda and that Councillors and Officers are available to discuss matters at any stage between meetings.</p> <p>Action 1: Following discussions, the Group agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The items raised within the Agenda prepared by Eileen and Dermot are to be considered under Any Other Business at the present meeting. • Officers would liaise with Members to draw up the Agenda for future meetings. • The Terms of Reference are to be circulated to all Members of the Group. • The Action Notes from each meeting are issued as soon as possible following each meeting. 	<p>Margaret</p>
	<p>Insert Update Action 1 (Margaret): Revised Draft Terms of Reference attached</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies Received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dermot Devlin • Finbar Maguire 	
3.	<p>Action Notes from the last meeting on 30 July 2020</p> <p>The Action Notes from the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.</p>	

No	Item	Action By:
4.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Buttermarket Toilets Eileen advised that due 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>Action 2: 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 3: 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 the Council agreed that a letter would be issued 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, however, a new manager was appointed in February and Shopmobility are not as active in the shopping centre at present due to the current restrictions.</p> <p>Action 4: 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>Councillor Warrington</p>

No	Item	Action By:
	<p>Enniskillen Public Realm Scheme</p> <p>Margaret referred to the email issued by Matthew prior to the meeting which gave an update on the consultation process in relation to the Enniskillen Public Realm Scheme. Margaret advised that the update included contact details for Joseph Reilly who is the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council contact for the Scheme and for issues relating to barriers/crossings contact details for a member of staff from F.P. McCann had also been provided.</p> <p>Margaret noted that at the previous meeting there were discussions around correspondence that was received from the Minister for Infrastructure, Nichola Mallon, whereby the Council had been invited to come forward with suggestions on ways to improve town centre accessibility. This correspondence was considered at the Council meeting on 23 July whereby it was agreed that the Council could take no further action as there was no specific funding to carry out footpath widening works.</p> <p>Margaret advised that, as per the minutes of the Council meeting on 23 July, the Council had liaised with the Department for Infrastructure regarding the widening of footpaths in Enniskillen Town Centre and that they had advised that if the Council wished for this work to be carried out the Council would have to provide the funding. The Department of Infrastructure advised that the provision of wider footpaths in Enniskillen would result in encroachment into the carriageway, the removal of on-street car parking and during the consultation process of the scheme this option had been discounted.</p> <p>The Group discussed Tranche Two of the Revitalisation funds that the Minister for Infrastructure referred to in her letter to the Council. It was highlighted that there was a specific focus and emphasis that this funding be used for improving disability access and fulfilling section 75 duties.</p> <p>Action 5: Elected Members request that the Council re-visits it's decision on 23 July regarding the correspondence received from the Minister for Infrastructure.</p>	<p>Elected Members</p>

No	Item	Action By:
	<p>Eileen raised the following queries in relation to the Enniskillen Public Realm Scheme:</p> <p>1) Can the temporary drop-kerb structures safely support the weight of motorised wheelchairs/scooters/prams crossing from one side of the street to the other?</p> <p>2) Could businesses in areas where work is being carried out keep their advertising boards off the pathways so they are not further narrowed?</p> <p>Action 6: Matthew to query the items Eileen raised with Joseph Reilly.</p> <p>Councillor Warrington noted that advertising boards should not be on pathways and requested that Eileen send the details of the premises that are not adhering to this by email to Officers so that this can be followed up.</p> <p>Action 7: Eileen to forward the details of the businesses who have advertising boards on pathways to Matthew to follow up on this.</p> <p>Gerry noted that at previous meetings there had been discussions regarding obstacles on pathways within Omagh Town Centre and following this, it had been agreed that Council Officers would periodically check that businesses in the main towns in the District are adhering to the rules regarding the placing of advertising boards outside their premises.</p> <p>Action 8: Matthew to follow this up to see if the checks that Gerry K referred to have been implemented.</p> <p>Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex At the last meeting Dermot noted that he was delighted with the improvements that have been made at the Omagh Hospital and Primary Care complex, to include, dropped kerbs, the repositioning of the bus shelter and the addition of three blue badge parking spaces, 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. Councillor Warrington to raise the issue regarding the awning at the next Trust meeting.</p> <p>Action 9: Councillor Warrington to raise the issue regarding the awning at the Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex at the next Trust meeting.</p>	<p>Matthew</p> <p>Eileen/Matthew</p> <p>Matthew</p> <p>Councillor Warrington</p>

No	Item	Action By:
	<p>Dergmoney Heights, Omagh At the last meeting Dermot highlighted accessibility issues in the Dergmoney Heights area in Omagh and he advised that he would email photos and details of the exact location of the issues to Councillor Thompson so that he could raise these issues with DfI.</p> <p>Councillor Thompson advised that he has been in contact with Dermot regarding this and has subsequently raised the issues with DfI-Roads who hope to resolve the issues shortly.</p> <p>Old Market Place, Omagh At the previous meeting Dermot queried if it would be possible to have an accessible parking space in Old Market Place, Omagh and Councillor Thompson advised that he would query this with DfI Roads.</p> <p>Councillor Thompson noted that this issue was raised through Omagh Town Centre Forum and DfI Roads have advised that discussions are ongoing with business owners in that area to establish if it would be possible to have an accessible parking space in Old Market Place.</p> <p>Gortin Glens Forest Park Following discussions at the last meeting regarding provision of a Changing Places facility at Gortin Glens Forest Park, Margaret advised that the Council's Project Officer has requested to speak to a Member of the Disability Advisory Group so that they could discuss what could be done in terms of improving accessibility. It was noted that, as the building is a timber frame structure it would therefore not be strong enough to support a hoist and for this reason a full Changing Places facility would not be possible.</p> <p>Following discussions, the Group agreed to invite Christine McClements who has been providing advice to Members on Changing Places facilities and Members, Dermot Devlin and Jayne Hughes to speak to the Project Officer.</p> <p>Action 10: Christine McClements, Dermot Devlin and Jayne Hughes to be invited to speak to the Project Officer at Gortin Glens Forest Park regarding accessibility.</p>	<p>Margaret</p>

No	Item	Action By:
	<p>Action 11: Christine McClements to be invited to the next Disability Advisory Group meeting to give a presentation on Changing Places facilities.</p> <p>Margaret advised that the feasibility studies that are being carried out to determine the viability of having changing places facilities in more Council venues are now complete and prices are being sought, therefore, the report on the findings should be available soon.</p> <p>Sign Video Relay Service on the Council Website Councillor McAleer noted that Dermot had highlighted that he felt that the Sign Video Relay Service was not prominent enough on the Council website and had suggested having the Signed Video Relay Service function displayed similar to the Chat function on the Council website.</p> <p>Action 12: Margaret to look into making the Sign Video Relay Service more prominent on the website.</p> <p>Update on Action 3.3 Disability Advisory Group Action Plan - Members (where comfortable and willing) taking part in Vox Pop/Video Log type videos, that could be shared on the Council website, to raise awareness of the Groups, their work and how disability affects their daily lives. Margaret advised that the target of three Vox Pop/Video Log type videos per year has not been reached this year, however, it is on the agenda.</p> <p>Action 13: Production of Vox Pop/Video Log type videos to be progressed.</p>	<p>Matthew</p> <p>Margaret</p> <p>Matthew</p>
	<p>Insert Update: Action 2 (Eileen): Action 3 (Eileen): Action 4 (Councillor Warrington): Action 5 (Elected Members): Action 6 (Matthew): The temporary kerb hopper ramps are designed to provide access for people using wheelchairs, pushchairs, mobility scooters etc. up to a weight of 250kg. Action 7 (Eileen/Matthew): No businesses have been highlighted as having advertising boards blocking pavements. Action 8 (Matthew): Enforcement Officer still carries out checks when doing regular inspections. Members can also highlight obstacles they come across at any stage for Officers to investigate.</p>	

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	<p>Action 9 (Councillor Warrington):</p> <p>Action 10 (Margaret): The Project Officer has made contact with both Jayne and Dermot to receive advice on Accessibility at the Gortin Glens.</p> <p>Action 11 (Matthew): Christine McClements to be invited to a future meeting or event to discuss Changing Places. Recently, this Groups' Members have been asked to provide their own feedback on potential new provisions.</p> <p>Action 12 (Margaret): There is a current project to improve the accessibility of the Council website and this will betaken forward as part of this programme of work.</p> <p>Action 13 (Matthew): Members to take part in a video to highlight the new workshops coming up in March. If members are willing to take part please let Matthew know during or after the meeting.</p>	
5.	<p>Update from Nicola McCann, Off-Street Car Parks Officer</p> <p>Nicola gave the following overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 01 April 2015 Fermanagh and Omagh District Council assumed responsibility for 39 off-street car parks at 39 locations across the District. • There are 12 car parks in Enniskillen, 7 of them are pay and display and 13 car parks in Omagh with 6 of them being pay and display. • There is an informative Off-Street Car Parking page on the Council website, this includes an interactive map which details the car park locations. • Within the Council's Car Park Strategy there is a recommendation that the Council works towards achieving the following nationally recognised accreditations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Passmark - Disabled Parking Accreditation • To achieve these accreditations the Council must meet certain accessibility standards and provisions e.g. specified widths for blue badge spaces, lighting requirements and at least 5% of spaces within car parks must be allocated as blue badge bays. • At present 9 of the Council's 39 car parks have 5% or above compliance, however, there is still a lot of work required to achieve full compliance/accreditation. • Within these 30 car parks there are 2351 spaces in total and they have 48 blue badge spaces, which equates to 2% compliance. To achieve 5% compliance a further 70 spaces would need to be 	

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	<p>allocated as blue-badge bays. 33 of these spaces are already planned within the car park resurfacing schedule that will be rolled out over the next three years over the Capital Works Programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When enforcement/charging was suspended during lockdown from March – September 2020 there was a rise in complaints regarding the misuse of blue badge spaces both for on and off-street car parking. • Cashless parking is available in all pay and display off-street car parks and on-street charged car parking locations in Northern Ireland operated by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and local councils through the Application JustPark. The 8p booking fee for each JustPark parking session is absorbed by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, allowing customers to access the cashless parking service for free. Normal parking charges apply thereafter. More information is available on the Council website. <p>Nicola noted that given that 13 car parks are soon set to be refurbished under the Council’s Capital Expenditure programme it would be useful to consult with Members of this Group at design stage to ensure that nothing has been missed and that the design meets the necessary standards.</p> <p>Action 14: Nicola to send the maps of the planned works for the 13 Council car parks to the Group for review and feedback.</p> <p>Action 15: Nicola to review the restrictions that are in place as a result of Covid-19 in early 2021 to determine if it would be possible for a Member of the Group to meet with her in person at one of the car parks to discuss the planned works further.</p>	<p>Nicola/All Members</p> <p>Nicola/Matthew</p>
	<p>Insert Update:</p> <p>Action 14 (Nicola/All Members): Following our discussions at the meeting I attended, I have been liaising with the Contracts team regarding the consultative role the Disability Advisory Group could take when we are carrying out refurbishment works of our off-street car parks.</p> <p>Ronan Mc Sherry (Head of Contracts) has advised that as the identified car parks are only undertaking routine re-surfacing, they will not be undertaking any consultation as these are maintenance works. He further advises that on larger schemes where significant re-design takes place, they do involve a wider steering group, and this is common practice.</p>	

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	<p>I wish to assure you that when liaising with Contracts on resurfacing works, we adhere to the DCAN 11 - Access for all Disabled Parking Provision Guidelines, including allocating 5% of the total number of spaces and the recommended dimensions / location of disabled parking. When the off-street car parks were transferred to councils in 2015 not all the car parks met the 5% allocation, I will keep you updated on the total increase of spaces as we move through our schedule for resurfacing.</p> <p>For your information discussions are on-going re the reconfiguration of Quay Lane North car park, Enniskillen. These works would be carried out to address on-going Anti-Social behaviour issues and will require planning approval. This will involve consultation with a wider steering group, and I will keep you informed as that progresses.</p> <p>If there is an off-street car park presenting specific accessibility concerns, then I can of course raise those concerns and look into further.</p> <p>Action 15 (Nicola/Matthew): Update to follow, after restrictions allow site visits.</p>	
6.	<p>Consultation on the Draft Special Educational Needs Regulations Margaret advised that the Council will be responding to the Consultation on the Draft Special Educational Needs Regulations.</p> <p>Margaret welcomed any feedback/comments from Members of the Group for inclusion within the response.</p> <p>Action 16: Community and Volunteer Members to feedback.</p>	Community Volunteer Members
	<p>Insert Update: Action 16 (Community and Volunteer Members) .</p>	

No	Item	Action By:
7.	<p>Any Other Relevant Business</p> <p>Update on Blue Badge space for Old Market Place, Omagh Discussed under Matters Arising.</p> <p>Walkway and steps at Dergmoney Heights, Omagh Discussed under Matters Arising.</p> <p>Update on kerbs outside SuperValu, Omagh 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>Action 17: Councillor McAleer to follow this up with DfI Roads and provide an update at the next meeting.</p> <p>COVID Testing Protocol Eileen advised that she has been made aware issues in relation to the Covid-19 testing protocol such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uncertainties regarding the procedure for persons with disabilities getting transport to the Covid testing facility. - Third parties e.g. taxi/community transport driver could be at risk of exposure to the virus when transporting persons with symptoms to the Covid Testing facility, - It is unclear what the procedure is for persons who are physically unable to undertake a test. - Some GP Practices have advised that they would send a nurse to assist with carrying out a test whilst others have advised that it is the patient's own responsibility to arrange transport to the testing facility. A consistent approach is needed across NI. <p>Eileen noted that, together with the Community Transport Manager, letters have been written to IMTAC, MLA's and the Department of Health to seek clarity on these issues.</p>	<p>Councillor McAleer</p>
	<p>Insert Update: Action 17 (Councillor McAleer):</p>	

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