



28 October 2020

Committee Chair: Councillor R Foster

Committee Vice-Chair: Alderman T Burns

Committee Members: Aldermen – F Agnew, L Clarke, M Girvan, J McGrath and J Smyth
Councillors – J Archibald, A Bennington, J Gilmour, N Kelly, A Logue, T McGrann, V McWilliam and R Swann

Dear Member

MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

A remote meeting of the Operations Committee will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill on Monday 2 November at 6.30 pm.**

All Members are asked to attend the meeting via "Zoom".

To ensure social distancing, it is only possible to facilitate 11 Members in the Council Chamber. Priority admission will be given to Committee Members on a first come, first served basis. This does not affect the rights of any Member participating in the meeting.

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqui Dixon".

Jacqui Dixon, BSc MBA
Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

PLEASE NOTE: no refreshments will be available

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9034 0048/028 9448 1301 memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

A G E N D A

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3 PRESENTATION

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5.2 DfI Blue/Green Infrastructure - Interim Update and Correspondence from Ulster Farmers Union

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7 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING ON
MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2020**

3.1 IN CONFIDENCE WM/arc21/008 arc21 ORGANISATION - PRESENTATION

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 EH/EHS/LR/007 DOG FOULING LEGISLATION

Members are advised that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has requested that the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs review the current legislation relating to penalties for dog fouling offences.

They have subsequently written to the other 10 councils seeking their support and requesting that they consider writing to the Minister on the same terms, namely,

- requesting that the maximum amount payable under a Fixed Penalty Notice in respect of littering and dog fouling offences be increased from £80 to £250; and,
- that consideration is given to devolving powers for setting Fixed Penalty rates to local councils.

Both items of correspondence are **enclosed**.

Members' instructions are requested.

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.2 PK/GEN/130 THREEMILEWATER CONSERVATION AND ANGLING CLUB – REQUESTED CHANGES TO ARRANGEMENTS

Members are reminded that the Threemilewater Conservation and Angling Club has been operating at Mossley Dam since 2012 originally, on the basis of an annual renewal. In June 2019, Council approval was given to the Club for a 12-year licence, to facilitate submission of applications for funding by the Club. Approval was also granted for a change to day ticket sales for Mossley Dam, to be restricted to 'catch and release'.

Club representatives have recently requested that Council considers a number of changes to existing arrangements. Currently, the Club can fish for 8 months per year and has asked that this be increased to year-round fishing. This requires approval from both Council and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

The benefits of year round fishing highlighted by the Club are:

- Increased opportunities for club members to fish – as milder winters extend the season
- Increased day ticket sales
- Greater opportunities to keep cormorants off the Dam
Club members patrol the dam over the winter months and presence of humans has proven to be the biggest deterrent to these birds. An increased number of anglers around the Dam would help keep the cormorants at bay. While Club members are there to protect the fishery from cormorants, they could also fish the dam and maximise its use.

In addition, the Club is seeking Council's permission to develop additional fixed/floating fishing pontoons which they suggest would improve the Dam as a fishery and allow anglers to fish areas of the dam other than just on the boardwalk with the following benefits:

- Anglers could move to other parts of the Dam rather than waiting for the fish to come to them
- Pontoons would provide clearance from trees and bushes, allowing the angler to cast parallel to the bank while leaving the trees and bushes untouched
- Fishing from pontoons would also provide a challenge to the more experienced angler as different casting techniques can be incorporated
- Gives options when strong headwinds make fly fishing from the boardwalk difficult - usually the most sheltered areas of the dam are along the two banks
- Give access to some of the best fishing areas along the treelines where flies and insects drop

Although the permission is being sought in advance, the Club is trying to identify possible sources of funding based on the proposed site plan enclosed with a full report to be brought to Committee should funding be secured. In the event of the Club being successful, any pontoons would be installed by Council's contractors to ensure that any works conducted will protect and maintain the integrity of the Dam infrastructure.

Officers have been drafting the new licence and subject to Council and departmental approval will make any amendments necessary and report to Committee for consideration and approval.

RECOMMENDATION: that approval is given for

- (i) the Threemilewater Conservation and Angling Club to progress with year round fishing, subject to the approval of the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, and,**
- (ii) Permission to develop fixed/floating pontoons subject to the Club securing funding and to final approval by Council.**

Prepared by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.3 PK/GEN/057 GREEN FLAG AWARDS

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful has confirmed that a total of 20 Green Flags have been achieved in the Borough this year. This is the retention of 19 sites and the addition of Antrim Lough Shore and Gateway as a newly successful location.

Members are reminded that the Green Flag Award is an internationally recognised award which demonstrates an agreed standard of management as well as maintenance and evidence of community involvement in open spaces. To achieve the Green Flag status there must be a site management plan in place and compliance to a range of strict criteria. These criteria include; horticultural standards, cleanliness, environmental management, biodiversity, community involvement and safety standards.

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful has indicated that since the Award programme's inception in Northern Ireland in 2008, it continues to grow from strength to strength, increasing from three sites, to a record 78 Green Flag awards being presented in 2020.

The Awards are judged annually by a panel of experts, who volunteer their time to assess the management plans and the sites through a rigorous judging process. This year due to COVID-19 restrictions, submissions were judged primarily on submitted management plans, however, as restrictions began to ease there were unannounced inspections of a number of sites. This was a challenge as works planned for some areas not able to be completed, due to the focus on essential services in spring and early summer.

The most recently submitted site, Antrim Lough Shore Park and Gateway, had a full inspection by Green Flag judges accompanied by Parks staff. This site was the most challenging as the capital scheme had not yet been completed with work needing to be done to finish the area to the normal high standard. During the inspection, Parks staff were able to set out, in detail, plans for the completion of the site and this has meant that a Green Flag has been secured for the site this year.

As works have recently been completed in Crumlin Glen it is intended, subject to approval, to submit it for accreditation in 2021.

The table below sets out the Green Flags achieved.

Park / Open Space	Green Flag Awarded by Type
Antrim Castle Gardens	Council - Heritage
Antrim / Belmont Cemetery	Council - Parks
Ballynure Old Graveyard	Council - Parks
Ballyeaston Church Ruin	Community
Jordanstown LSP, Hazelbank Park & Gideon's Green	Council - Parks
Kilbride Cemetery	Council - Parks
Lilian Bland Park	Council - Park
Mallusk Cemetery	Council - Parks
Mill Race Trail	Council - Parks
Newtownabbey Way	Council - Parks

Randalstown Viaduct and Riverside Walk	Council - Parks
Rashee Cemetery	Council – Parks
Rathfern Activity Centre	Community
Sentry Hill Community Garden	Community
Sentry Hill Historic House	Council - Heritage
Six Mile Water Park	Council – Parks
Toome Linear Park	Community
Valley Park (V36 and Glas-na-Braden Glen)	Council – Parks
Wallace Park	Council - Parks
New site	
Antrim Lough Shore Park and Gateway	Council – Parks

RECOMMENDATION: that

- (i) the success in achieving 20 Green Flag Accreditations in the Borough is noted; and**
- (ii) approval is given to submit a total of 21 locations to the Green Flag process in 2021, including Crumlin Glen at a cost of £9,540.**

Prepared by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.4 WM/WM/37 REFUSE & RECYCLING PUBLIC HOLIDAY COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS 2021

The arrangements for refuse and kerbside recycling collections for Public Holidays in 2021 are set out below for consideration.

The proposed alternative collection days for 2021 are:

Public Holiday	Legacy Antrim Households	Legacy Newtownabbey Households
St Patrick's Day Wednesday 17 March	No change 17 March 2021 (Wednesday)	No change 17 March 2021 (Wednesday)
Good Friday Friday 2 April	No Collection Required	No change 2 April 2021 (Good Friday)
Easter Monday Monday 5 April	9 April 2021 (Friday)	Collections for this day are rescheduled to the day after and the same for each successive day of this week through to Saturday to catch up
Easter Tuesday Tuesday 6 April	No change 6 April 2021 (Tuesday)	As above. (Wednesday)
May Day Bank Holiday Monday 3 May	No change 3 May 2021 (Monday)	No change 3 May 2021 (Monday)
Spring Bank Holiday (Late May) Monday 31 May	No change 31 May 2021 (Monday)	No change 31 May 2021 (Monday)
12 July Monday 12 July	16 July 2021 (Friday)	Collections for this day are rescheduled to the day after and the same for each successive day of this week through to Saturday to catch up
13 July Tuesday 13 July	No change 13 July 2021 (Tuesday)	As above
Summer Bank Holiday (Late August) Monday 30 August	No change 30 August 2021 (Monday)	No change 30 August 2021 (Monday)
Christmas Day Holiday public holiday falls on Monday 27 December	31 December 2021 (Friday)	No Service. Collections for this day are rescheduled to Tuesday 28 December and the same for each successive day of this week through to 31 December 2021 (Friday)

Boxing Day Holiday public holiday falls on Tuesday 28 December	28 December 2021 (Tuesday)	29 December 2021 As above
Friday 31 December	Rescheduled Christmas Day public holiday collection.	3 January 2022 (Monday)
New Year's Day Monday 3 January	No change 3 Jan 2022 (Monday)	Rescheduled to 4 January 2022 (Tuesday) Collections rescheduled for each successive day of this week through to Saturday to catch up

** Legacy Antrim collections are Monday – Thursday, with legacy Newtownabbey being Monday to Friday Monday – Friday in legacy Newtownabbey.*

For information Members may wish to note the already approved arrangements for the 2020 Christmas holiday period,

Public Holiday	Legacy Antrim Households	Legacy Newtownabbey Households
ALREADY APPROVED		
Christmas Day Holiday – Friday 25 December	No Collection Required	No Service with collections knocked on to the following day until the end of the week 28 December 2020 (Monday)
Boxing Day Holiday – Monday 28 December	28 December 2020 (Monday)	29 December 2020 (Tuesday) with collections knocked on for the rest of the week
Thursday 31 December	Thursday 31 December 2021	2 January 2021 (Saturday)
New Year's Day – Friday 1 January	No Collection Required	4 January 2021 (Monday) with collections knocked on for the rest of the week
Friday 8 January	No Collection Required	9 January 2021 (Saturday)

Residents in the Borough will be advised of their collection arrangements through the usual means of Borough Life, bin stickers, social media, and on the Council's website.

RECOMMENDATION: that the arrangements for refuse and recycling bin collections for Public Holidays in 2021 are approved.

Prepared by: Michael Laverty, Head of Waste Management

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.5 PK/CP/001/VOL4 CAR PARKING CHARGES

In recent years, Council has approved free car parking on Saturdays in December in Ballyclare to promote Christmas shopping in the town. Local traders have indicated that this initiative encourages people to both visit the town and stay for longer. This year, there are 4 Saturdays, 5th 12th 19th and 26th and it is therefore proposed that free parking is offered on these dates from 6.00am to 6.00pm. Harrier Way is now free following a Council decision in January 2020.

On a number of public holidays car parks have traditionally been free and for 2021 these are:

- Friday 1 January 2021
- Monday 5 April 2021 (Easter Monday)
- Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 July 2021.

Council approved delegated authority to the Director of Operations in November 2019 for the full or part closure of car parks for the following purposes:

- To facilitate a Council event (e.g. Christmas switch on).
- To facilitate public holiday closures as above

Christmas switch on events will not require closures this year as these will be virtual events. Any other requests (e.g. a request from a club or organisation for an outside event) would be brought to Committee for consideration in the normal way.

RECOMMENDATION: that approval is given for free car parking at the Square car park, Ballyclare on Saturdays 5, 12, 19 and 26 December 2020.

Prepared by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.6 PK/GEN/181 REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO DEVELOP A SENSORY GARDEN AT TOOME COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT GARDEN

Members are reminded that TIDAL manages a community allotment garden on Council land adjacent to the play park in the village. Correspondence, enclosed, has been received from the group indicating their intention to further develop the community garden by developing a sensory area.

They are both seeking permission to develop the sensory garden on the site and requesting a letter of support to accompany their application.

As the deadline for the funding application being submitted by the group was 9 October a letter of support was provided as the project is very much in keeping with the aims of both Council's Corporate and Community Plans.

The group is not seeking funding.

RECOMMENDATION: that approval is given for TIDAL to proceed with the development of a sensory garden within the community allotment space in Toome and that retrospective approval is given for the letter of support to the Group.

Prepared by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1 L/LEI/040 FOUNDRY LANE FLOODLIGHTING

Members are reminded of a partnership between the Education Authority (EA) and Council in relation to the operation of the Foundry Lane synthetic pitch in Ballyclare. The partnership is underpinned by a licence agreement which provides public access to the synthetic hockey pitch at Ballyclare High School for community use during evenings and weekends. Bookings during community access slots are managed by Council. The licence period is from 1st September 2006 – 31st August 2031.

A fault was recently reported relating to the floodlighting at the pitch, with investigation through Council's Property Services team deeming the floodlights unsafe for future use. The lights are at the end of their useful life, and require full replacement. The licence agreement between the EA and Council states that costs for large maintenance issues such as floodlighting are to be split 50/50. Previous works of this scale were procured by the EA as the pitch is their asset. Officers have been in contact with the EA to progress these works and in the interim have managed to temporarily re-locate all community bookings to other Council facilities.

A further report on timeline, estimated costings and any other relevant information will be brought to Committee for consideration in due course.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Matt McDowell, Head of Leisure

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.2 PK/BIO/019/VOL3 Dfi BLUE/GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE - INTERIM UPDATE AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM ULSTER FARMERS UNION

Update

Following consideration of potential walking and cycle paths at the September meeting of Committee, it was agreed that Officers would inform the Department for infrastructure of the following, in addition to the proposed Doagh to Larne Greenway;

- Route from the Hightown Road through the centre of Glengormley to Gideon's Green, incorporating the section which the Department has expressed an initial interest in, namely, O'Neill Road to Gideon's Green
- the Boardwalk in Antrim
- Crumlin to Glenavy

During a meeting with the Head of the Department's Active Travel Unit, held just before the September meeting of Committee, it was highlighted that in order to apply for funding from the £20m budget announced by the Infrastructure Minister for Blue/Greenways that councils would need to commission and meet the costs of any associated business cases and/or feasibility studies. The Active Travel unit has been provided with information on the Crumlin to Glenavy route. Most recently, the list has been added to with the following items, further vehicle electric charge points and bicycles racks.

As Council's capital programme is currently suspended any expenditure to progress a scheme would require Council's approval.

Doagh to Larne Greenway- Request by Ballynure and District Community Association

A representative of the Ballynure and District Community Association has contacted both Officers and Members regarding some proposals for a walking route in Ballynure. A meeting has been arranged to discuss details and a report will be brought to Committee in December.

Correspondence from Ulster Farmers Union

Correspondence, **enclosed**, has been received from the Ulster Farmers Union stating that their members who are the landowners residing and working in the Borough are **opposed** to any project which could "*lead to loss of viable farmland, additional restrictions, governance, access issues, trespass issues not forgetting liability issues*". UFU have asked that the Council fully engages with the UFU and their members and landowners when progressing with plans for any potential new Greenway.

RECOMMENDATION: that the correspondence from Ulster Farmers Union be noted.

Prepared by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.3 PK/BIO/032 BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION 2020

This year's Best Kept Garden competition attracted 72 applicants, the highest number to date, and probably reflects of the amount of time that some residents spent in their gardens during the restrictions that were in place in spring and early summer.

The judges, The Mayor Councillor Jim Montgomery, Aldermen Smyth and Clarke and Councillor McWilliam went through the initial shortlisting process and those shortlisted nominees were visited in September. The winners have now been agreed by the judging panel. The calibre of entries was very high and the judges had a particularly challenging time in reaching and agreeing the shortlist. Entries from schools and commercial premises were down this year, as is to be expected, and it is hoped that this can be reviewed in 2021.

As it is not possible to hold an event this year, due to the current restrictions, an alternative virtual event is being developed. It is planned that this will be recorded and streamed on Council's social media channels and website.

Details of the link and launch of the event will be provided to Members in due course.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations