



31 December 2019

Committee Chair: Alderman J McGrath

Committee Vice-Chair: Councillor M Cooper

Committee Members: Aldermen – T Burns and M Girvan
Councillors – J Archibald, A Bennington, R Foster, J Gilmour,
N Kelly, R Kinnear, A Logue, N McClelland, J Montgomery,
S Ross and R Swann

Dear Member

MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Operations Committee will be held in the **Round Tower Chamber, Antrim Civic Centre on Monday 6 January 2020 at 6.30pm.**

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

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9034 0098 / 028 9448 1301 memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

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**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING ON
MONDAY 6 JANUARY 2020**

3 ITEMS FOR DECISION

3.1 EH/EHS/FC/011 - COMMUNITY RESUSCITATION MINUTES

Members are reminded that the Community Resuscitation Working Group was set up in the Borough involving the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, Council officers and other stakeholders. The third meeting of the group took place on 17 September and the minutes are **enclosed**.

Following the group having been established in early 2019, it may be useful if Members had an update from Stephanie Leckey, Lead Officer from the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Resuscitation Team.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the Community Resuscitation Working Group meeting of 17 September 2019 be approved, and that Stephanie Leckey, Lead Officer from the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Resuscitation Team, be invited to a future meeting of the Operations Committee.

Prepared by: Wendy Brolly, Environmental Health Manager (Health and Wellbeing)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

3.2 EH/PHWB/009 - OIL STAMP POLICY

Members are reminded that Council operates an Oil Stamp Saving Scheme which is a continuation of similar schemes operated by both legacy Councils.

Buying heating oil in larger quantities is more cost effective but it can be an unaffordable option for some households in the Borough. This scheme, allows householders to spread the cost by purchasing £5 stamps and saving these to pay for larger quantities of oil.

Stamps are available for sale from thirty-seven retailers and community organisations across the Borough. Stamps are also available at a further nine Council premises:

- Mossley Mill,
- Antrim Civic Centre,
- Each of the leisure Centres and,
- Old Courthouse, Antrim.

Since the schemes were launched over £2 million worth of stamps have been sold by the retailers.

Oil stamp saving cards hold 40 stamps and these cards can then be used for payment or part-payment of home heating oil from any of the fifty oil distributors who participate in the scheme.

The legacy policies have now been reviewed and the Scheme will be delivered in line with the new Oil Stamp Policy (**enclosed**), subject to approval. The policy describes the principles of the scheme and sets out the arrangements for retailers, oil distributors and customers.

The policy has undergone Equality Screening, Rural Needs Screening and General Data Protection Screening. As a result, a General Data Protection Impact Assessment is deemed not to be required.



RECOMMENDATION: that the Oil Stamp Policy be approved.

Prepared by: Wendy Brolly, Environmental Health Manager (Health and Wellbeing)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

3.3 L/LEI/2 - LEISURE GRANT AID

A total of 43 leisure grant applications have been received in the third call in this financial year with 183 applications received to date in 2019/2020. For the same period last year the total number of applications was 134.

Applications have been scored and recommendations are enclosed.

Category	Approved to date 2019/20			Applications this call (01/10/2019 – 30/11/2019)		Funding Balance (Subject to recommendation)
	No. of apps	Budget	Approved spend to date 19/20	No. of apps.	Reqs (£)	
Capital Grants	0	£30,000*	£0	0	£0	£30,000
Grants to Clubs	13	£30,000	£7,111	6	£17,401	£390.03
Grants to Athletes	64	£50,000	£26,009	26	£8,345.30	£9,055.32
Grants to Coaches and Officials	21	£15,000	£3,948	0	£0	£9,071.74
Sports Event Grants	11	£31,000	£15,246	2	£6,922.40	-£3,178.61
Defibrillator Grants	10	£14,000	£7,500	3	£4,228	-£2,712.50
Totals	119	£170,000	£59,816	37	£36,896.70	
Fitness Suite Gold Card	12	20 gold cards		6 (1 ineligible)		2 Remaining
Total spend to date including this call, if approved: £127,374.02						

* £10,000 has already been reallocated from the Capital grants category. Original annual budget was £40,000.

A high volume of applications continues to be received. In order to meet current need within the 'Defibrillator' and 'Sports Event' categories, it is proposed that the amount of £10,000 of funding is reallocated from the 'Capital Grant' category to cover the requests; £5,000 to the 'Defibrillator' category, and, £5,000 to the 'Sports Events' category. As this is the final call for leisure grants for the current financial year, this reallocation should meet the demand for applications received.

The table shows funding balances of categories less the recommended awards.

Category	Approved to date 2019/20		Funding Balances (If transfers are approved)
	budget	Proposed Budget	
Capital Grants	£30,000	£20,000	£20,000
Grants to Clubs	£30,000	No change	£390.03
Grants to Athletes	£50,000	No change	£9,055.32
Grants to Coaches and Officials	£15,000	No change	£9,071.74
Sports Event Grant	£31,000	£35,000	£1,821.39
Defibrillator Grant	£14,000	£19,000	£2,287.50
Totals	£170,000		

RECOMMENDATION: that

- i. the grant awards as detailed are approved;**
- ii. £10,000 of funding is reallocated from the 'Capital Grant' category to cover the requests received in the 'Defibrillator' and 'Sports Event' categories; £5,000 to the 'Defibrillator' category, and, £5,000 to the 'Sports Events' category.**

Prepared by: Janine Beazley, Grants and Special Projects Officer

Agreed by: Matt McDowell, Head of Leisure

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

3.4 L/LEI/VLC/015 - GULLIVER'S TRAIL – V36

Members are reminded that as part of the programming of V36, a shared space engagement programme has been delivered over recent years, funded through Peace IV.

To date a number of activities have been successfully delivered through this funding programme:

- Easter and summer inclusive sports camps
- Schools Out Fair
- Spooked Out
- Santa Saunter

More recently, through the Arts and Heritage team, a trail has been developed - Gulliver's Trail - for V36 and up into the Valley Park. Based on the same concept as the Fairy Trail in place at Antrim Castle Gardens, the trail will be installed by March 2020. Its attractive wooden features in the natural setting around the park will be able to be enjoyed on a casual basis as there will be interpretive panels alongside. For a more interactive experience, booklets will be available to purchase from the reception at the Valley Leisure Centre at a cost of £3.00. The cost of the project has been met by 100% funding from the Peace IV programme.

The Gulliver theme has been developed due to the Cave Hill, which overlooks V36, said to be the inspiration for Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels.

RECOMMENDATION: that the cost of booklets to accompany Gulliver's Trail at V36 is approved at £3.00.

Prepared by: Matt McDowell, Head of Leisure

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

3.5 PK/GEN/030 - BRITAIN IN BLOOM

The Mayor and community representatives from Randalstown and Antrim, attended the recent prestigious Britain in Bloom Awards at RHS Lindley Hall in Westminster, London, when Antrim received a Silver Gilt in the Town category, whilst Randalstown won a Gold Award in the Small Town category.

Correspondence has been received from the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), requesting Council's support for nominating Randalstown to represent Northern Ireland in the Small Town Category in the upcoming 2020 competition, subject to Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) approval – letter and nomination process (**enclosed**). The invitation is based on the town winning Ulster in Bloom in 2019.

The judging process will again involve a 2-hour tour of the town by two RHS judges in July/August 2020, with relevant community and Council representatives in attendance. The format will be the same as in 2019.

A further invite has been received via NILGA, to consider nominating winners from Britain in Bloom to compete at the International Challenge in 2020 - see **enclosed**. Organised by Communities in Bloom. The judging takes place in July/August, with the award ceremony then taking place in Alberta, Canada in September 2020. Costs would be in the region of £1,500 per person, along with the £995 entry fee.

RECOMMENDATION: that Committee supports the nomination for Randalstown to represent Northern Ireland in the Small Town category at the RHS Britain in Bloom competition in October 2020.

Prepared by: Elaine Upton, Countryside Officer

Agreed by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

4.1 EH/EHS/FC/011 SAFE BUSINESS TRAINING NOVEMBER 2019

Members are reminded that training for Chinese catering businesses had been identified as part of the Food Service and Health and Safety Service Delivery Plans for 2019/20.

Training events were held at Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre on 13 and 14 November 2019, with sessions being delivered in both Mandarin and Cantonese.

The training was developed and delivered by the Council's Food Safety team and translated by Miss Kalan Cheung, who trained as a student Environmental Health Officer with legacy Newtownabbey Borough Council. A total of 54 staff from 31 businesses from across the Borough attended the training.

Premises were provided with information packs at the end of the training in both Cantonese and Mandarin, which provided further detail on the topics covered. Any businesses that were unable to attend will receive an advisory visit from an Environmental Health Officer and a copy of the seminar pack.

Evaluation of the event was very positive with 96% of participants stating that the quality of the seminar material was excellent. Comments from businesses included *"having a Cantonese speaker helped with the language barrier"*. Environmental Health Officers were in attendance at the events to clarify any specific queries that businesses had arising from the training.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Safe Business Training report be noted.

Prepared by: Colin Kelly, Environmental Health Manager (Commercial)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.2 L/LEI/SD/018 HEALTH INTERVENTIONS

Members will be aware that the Leisure service through its Sports and Physical Activity team, currently works with several voluntary and statutory organisations in the delivery of health intervention programmes. These programmes target various groups and ultimately aim to assist in improving the health and wellbeing of citizens within the Borough. A list of some of current programmes the Leisure service is actively involved is as follows:

- Move More Macmillan (a Physical Activity Pathway for those living with and beyond Cancer)
- Stay Steady, Stay Strong (falls prevention programme)
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation (physical activity for those with breathing and lung conditions)
- Cardiac Rehabilitation (exercise programme following a cardiac event)
- Special Populations (Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis, Dementia, Learning Disability and Physical Disability groups)

In April 2018 Council was awarded a three-year funding allocation of £27,000 from the Public Health Agency (PHA) to deliver the regional Physical Activity Referral Scheme (PARS) formerly GP and Exercise Referral, across Council's Leisure Centres. The scheme is delivered by two Everybody Active coaches as well as Fitness Consultants employed within the Leisure Centres. The scheme has been hugely successful with 193 participants completing the 12-week programme in 2018/2019 (115% of target), and 282 participants completing the programme for 2019/2020 (167% of target). Due to the success of the scheme and overachievement of targets, a further £17,000 of funding has been awarded to Council by the PHA for 2019/2020. This funding will allow additional leisure employees to be trained to deliver PARS as well as providing training for the delivery of the Cardiac Rehabilitation programme.

In addition to the funding received for PARS, Council has also recently been awarded £3,000 through the Northern Healthy Lifestyles Partnership to promote and deliver the Active Pregnancy Programme. This programme is aimed at encouraging expectant mums to get active and stay active with the funding assisting in the promotion of the programme across all Council's Leisure Centres.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Anna Boyle, Sport & Physical Activity Development Manager

Agreed by: Matt McDowell, Head of Leisure

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.3 L/LEI/012, L/LEI/428 INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL RESTRUCTURE PROJECT

In response to the Irish Football Association's (IFA) decision to implement its Intermediate Football Restructure Project, Council agreed to write to the IFA to express its concerns (September 2019), and subsequently to invite IFA to Committee to present on the issue (December 2019). A response has been received (**enclosed**) and an invitation issued.

RECOMMENDATION: that the correspondence be noted.

Prepared by: Matt McDowell, Head of Leisure

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.4 WM/WM/37 WASTE MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE UPDATE 2018-2019

Council has two statutory waste targets that have to be complied with and they are as follows:

1. Recycle 50% of all household waste by 2020;
2. Limit the landfilling of biodegradable waste to no more than 16,358 tonnes in 2020.

Under the Landfill Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003, Council is requested to submit waste data returns to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. These are completed on a quarterly basis throughout the year and are used by the NIEA to calculate Council's recycling rate and compliance with the landfill diversion targets i.e. Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS).

The annual waste data submission for 2018-2019 was verified and published on 28 November 2019. The data demonstrates the performance of Council for 2018-2019 in relation to both the Household and Municipal waste.

The report highlights that for the first time the Northern Ireland average Household Recycling rate has reached 50.0%, meaning Northern Ireland has been successful in reaching the 2020 recycling target one year ahead of schedule.

Below is a summary of the 2018-2019 results and their comparison with the data published for 2017-2018. Antrim and Newtownabbey's performance is compared to that of the other 10 Northern Ireland Local Authorities where applicable.

	2017-18		2018-19		ANBC Ranking
	Tonnes	%	Tonnes	%	
Total Household Waste Arisings	77,607		81,027	+ 4.4	
Household Waste Arisings to Recycling	40,519	52.2	45,441	56.1	No 1 household recycling rate (%)
Household Waste Arisings to Recovery	9,648	12.4	12,064	14.9	7 th largest % of household waste sent to recovery
Household Waste Arisings to Landfill	27,440	35.4	23,522	29.0	7 th largest % of household waste sent to landfill
Total Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Arisings	93,023		98,224	+ 5.6	
Municipal Waste Arisings to Recycling	50,797	54.6	57,766	58.8	No1 recycling rate (%)

Municipal Waste Arisings to Recovery	11331	12.2	13,312	13.6	7 th largest % of waste sent to recovery.
Municipal Waste Arisings to Landfill	30,895	33.2	26,360	26.8	7 th largest % of waste sent to landfill.
Biodegradable Waste to Landfill	14,235	75	11,622	65	

* Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste is ALL the waste that the Council collects i.e. commercial, street sweepings, recycling centres as well as household waste.

Summary of the main points:

- Council's Household Recycling Rate is up by 3.9% since 2017/18 to the highest rate in Northern Ireland (56.1%);
- Decrease in the amount Biodegradable Municipal Waste landfilled to 11,622 tonnes with only 65% of the annual allocation used;
- Council has achieved the two statutory waste targets, stated above, for 2020;
- An overall increase in both household and municipal waste arisings of between 4.4-5.6% resulting in rising waste treatment costs;
- Reduction in the total amount of waste landfilled by 4,535 tonnes.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Waste Strategy and Contracts Manager

Agreed by: Michael Laverty, Head of Waste Management

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.5 WM/WM/37 REPAIR CAFÉ UPDATE

Members will be aware that Officers have helped to facilitate the development of a local Repair Café, an independent volunteer run project, which will periodically provide repair events to local communities across the Borough.

The ethos of the Repair Café is about repairing items to prevent waste creation in a relaxed and informal way and this results in an enjoyable experience for both the volunteers and the attendees. The overall aims are both environmental and social improvements in society.

To date there has been three events with the latest being the official launch in Ballyclare on 16 November, to coincide with European Week of Waste Reduction. Over 60 items were brought in for repair and a significant number of these items were fixed by the volunteers. The group also attracted residents who expressed an interest in becoming volunteers. The next Repair Café will be held on Saturday 18 January 2020 from 10.00am to 1.00pm in Castle Mall, Antrim.

There will be further events held in towns and villages across the Borough and the Repair Café Antrim and Newtownabbey group is currently finalising arrangements. Images from the last events are included (**enclosed**) and the Group would appreciate any promotion of their events from Members and Council for this local initiative.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Waste Strategy and Contracts Manager

Agreed by: Michael Laverty, Head of Waste Management

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.6 WM/COMS/01 COMMUNICATIONS FUNDING FOR PLASTICS AND FOOD WASTE

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, in conjunction with WRAP NI, released two separate funding opportunities targeting Plastic and Food Waste communications.

Council successfully applied for £5,700 to fund additional communications targeting plastic recycling across the Borough. The funding will cover the following initiatives that will be implemented before the end of March 2020:

- Design, print and production of bathroom recycling bags to help residents collect the plastics that are often not recycled in the home;
- Design, print and production of a bin hanger to highlight recyclable materials in the black bin that should be in the recycling containers;
- Social media campaign targeting the recycling of plastics and reinforcing Council's #irecyclerright branding.

Council has also been awarded funding of £15,950 for the following communications initiatives to increase food waste recycling in the Borough:

- Social Media influencer campaign using social media to push key food recycling messages;
- Design, print and production of digital panels, ad-shells and bus shelters across the Borough promoting the recycling of food waste over Christmas and the New Year;
- Social media campaign targeting the food waste recycling and reinforcing Council's #irecyclerright branding;
- Food Waste video played during the trailers of two local cinemas for 3 weeks during Christmas Holidays.

Officers will monitor the impact of the campaigns on the plastic and food waste tonnages collected over the coming months and will report back to Council in the future.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Waste Strategy and Contracts Manager

Agreed by: Michael Laverty, Head of Waste Management

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.7 EH/PHEWB/10 - NORTHERN HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PARTNERSHIP

Members are reminded that Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is a member of the Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership. The group develops an annual action plan, which supports local delivery of the Regional Obesity Prevention Implementation Group Action Plan. Other members include the Northern Health and Social Care Trust, the Public Health Agency, Mid and East Antrim, Causeway Coast and Glens and Mid Ulster Councils.

In November, the Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership offered partner organisations the opportunity to apply for two funding streams:

- Choose to Live Better Festival 2020
- Gardening/Conservation Projects 2019/2020

Two applications were submitted by the Health and Wellbeing Team.

Choose to Live Better Festival 2020

The 'Choose to Live Better Festival' runs annually throughout the Northern Health and Social Care Trust, aiming to enhance opportunities for:

- Increasing physical activity
- Improving nutrition
- Tackling obesity

The basis of the application built on last year's focus of targeting sedentary behaviour. In February 2019, 'Healthy Cues' were used to encourage staff, Members and visitors to move regularly and increase their water consumption. The cues included:

- Signage from the Public Health Agency's 'Take the Stairs' initiative was displayed at lift points in both civic buildings, to encourage use of stairs instead of the lift.
- Issuing Council branded aluminium water bottles to all staff and members to encourage everyone to stay hydrated during the day.
- Daily pop up messages on staff and Members computers at 12pm each day throughout the week (11-15 February 2019). An example is shown below.
- Information sheets were uploaded daily on the staff app.
- A video which was made by leisure staff demonstrating desk based stretches and exercises that could be done throughout the day to encourage movement. The video reached 94 people and is available to view: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eo6lZYcDTg0&t=1s>

All of the messages linked to the 'Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing' model available on the following link <https://www.mindingyourhead.info/take-5-steps-wellbeing>

The 5 steps are:

Connect: Connect with the people around you; family, friends, colleagues and neighbours at home, school or in your local community. Think of these relationships at the cornerstone of your life and spend time developing them.

Building these connections will support and enrich you every day.

Be active: Go for a walk or run, cycle, play a game, garden or dance. Exercising makes you feel good. Most importantly, discover a physical activity that you enjoy; one that suits your level of mobility and fitness.

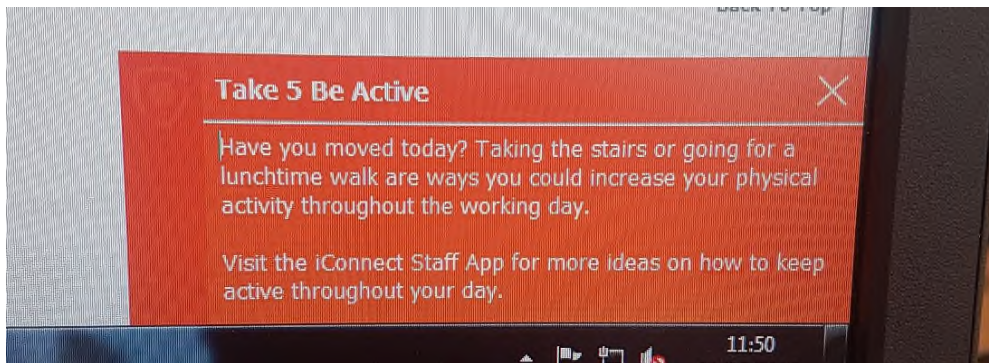
Take Notice: Be observant, look for something beautiful or remark on something unusual. Savour the moment, whether you are on the bus or in a taxi, eating lunch or talking to friends. Be aware of the world around you and what you are feeling.

Keep Learning: Don't be afraid to try something new, rediscover an old hobby or sign up to a course. Take on a different responsibility, fix a bike, learn to play an instrument or how to cook your favourite food. Set a challenge you will enjoy. Learning new things will make you more confident, as well as being fun to do.

Give: Do something nice for a friend or stranger, thank someone, smile, volunteer your time or consider joining a community group. Look out as well as in. Seeing yourself and your happiness linked to the wider community can be incredibly rewarding and will create connections with people around you.

Positive comments were made about the initiative including; "The signs at the lift were a brilliant idea and the bottles were great", "it was a great initiative" and "they were all positive steps".

Below are some photos from the week.



This year **£2,000** funding has been offered from the Partnership. This will be used to roll out further 'Healthy Cues' including:

- Permanent signage at lift points in Antrim Civic Centre and Mossley Mill displaying the Public Health Agency 'Take the Stairs' messages.
- A leaflet highlighting walking routes which are available from or adjacent to Council buildings. The aim is to encourage staff, Members and visitors to stay active during breaks.
- Issuing further aluminium water bottles. The bottles will be allocated to new staff and Members. This will continue to encourage hydration and reduce the use of single use plastic, linking to the 'Refillution' project running within Council.
- Take 5 information uploaded on to the staff app.

Gardening/Conservation Project 2019/2020:

The gardening project funding application was made by the Health and Wellbeing team in partnership with Tidal House, Men's Shed, She Shack and Community Garden based in Toomebridge.

Health and Wellbeing staff have been working in Toomebridge focusing on improving emotional wellbeing.

As part of the project a '**Tree of Hope**' was planted by the community. This was as a symbol of hope for all those affected by suicide or mental health to show care and support from the community. The tree is planted along the canal walkway and acts as a place for reflection. It is also accompanied by a lending library which houses books as well as leaflets for mental health services.





The Partnership has offered **£3,975** for the further development of this project. The planned developments are based on the 'Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing' as mentioned above. Activities will include;

- Signage at the canal walkway. The walk way is used by many visitors and locals. Signage is important to highlight local assets helping people **be more active** and **connect**.
- Improvements at the Tree of Hope site will encourage members of the public to **take notice** and encourage **connections**.
- Further work on the lending library will provide a space for locals to **give** and share books.
- Planters built by the Men's Shed and She Shack. They will be planted through an intergenerational project working with the local schools and a nursing home. This will provide a great **learning** opportunity.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Kelly Forsythe, Environmental Health Officer

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.8 PK/GEN/032 - REQUEST TO USE JORDANSTOWN LOUGH SHORE PARK – CIRCUS

A request has been received from Circus Vegas on Wheels to hold a Circus event at Loughshore Park, Newtownabbey on the green area.

The Circus has indicated that they would like access to the site from 7am on Monday 20 April 2020, through to 9.30pm on Sunday 26 April 2020. This time includes set up and recovery of the site.

The Circus would open to the public from 1.00pm on Tuesday 21 April through to 1.00pm on Sunday 26 April 2020.

The Circus has requested permission to:

- Erect a 'Big Top' on the Green area
- Provide portable toilets
- Accommodate associated Circus Vehicles
- Use a PA system within the 'Big Top' for music and the Ringmaster.

The Circus has confirmed the following:

- Litter will be removed by the Circus on a daily basis
- They will provide full disabled access
- This is a magic/acrobatic circus and there will be no animals.

As in previous years, a bond of £1,000 per site will be payable by the circus owners in lieu of any damage to the site, in addition to normal booking charges. Members should note that no animals will be performing at this circus.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Mark Wilson, Parks Manager

Agreed by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.9 PK/B10/23 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Members will be aware that Council has successfully implemented the Environmental Management System (EMS) which is accredited to ISO14001 standard. In order to retain the ISO14001 accreditation, the EMS is audited annually by an independent external auditor.

The EMS must meet specific criteria including a commitment by Council to meeting the requirements of environmental legislation and regulations, preventing pollution and striving for continued improvement in environmental performance.

The auditor congratulated the Council on the successful implementation of the recently revised ISO14001 standard and commented that, 'he Council continues to demonstrate a proactive and committed approach to environmental management and protection and is meeting the requirements of ISO 14001:2015. Many improvements have been made since the last audit. Staff continue to demonstrate a positive attitude to the EMS'.

Planned projects to demonstrate continued improvement in environmental performance include the establishment of a climate change working group, plastic reduction initiatives, waste prevention and reuse projects, and studies into alternative fuelled vehicles.

Another demonstration of Council's environmental performance was the achievement of a Platinum Award in the annual Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey. The Survey is completed by government and private organisations across Northern Ireland assessing their performance in areas including energy, transport, water and waste. Despite stricter criteria in 2019, Council maintained its Platinum Award and was the only local authority to achieve this level of award.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report is noted.

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Waste Strategy and Contract Manager

Agreed by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.10 PK/BIO/002 ALL IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN

Council agreed in 2016 that it would lead on an eight Council bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a three-year pollinator plan. This plan was named 'Bee-licious and attracted £76,800 across the eight councils (£5,262 per Council). The primary output of this project was increased awareness for residents of the importance of pollinating plants and the provision of pollinator habitats. The three year project and resulting pollinator plan resulted in the Borough contributing to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. This Plan is available at www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan.

In essence Bee-licious resulted in

- The restoration of semi-natural habitats to benefit pollinators.
- The development of a training programme of events, in consultation with local community groups
- Training and workshops to include species-rich grassland, hedgerow and woodland habitat restoration.
- Publicity and promotional materials to inform and inspire people on the value of pollinators and what they can do to help through the Bee-licious project.

Many of the activities that contained within the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan are reflected in the ongoing work of the Parks team as discussed and agreed through the Grass Management Sub-Group, Operations Committee and Council itself. Officers' work with Town and Village groups also promotes actions in the context of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

This includes:-

- the management and restoration of semi-natural habitats and their native plants
- identification and protection of existing sources of food and shelter for pollinators on council owned land
- identification of areas to be mown under a pollinator friendly regime
- the creation of 5 meadows
- the identification of flagship verges managed to be pollinator friendly
- reduction – or elimination of the use of pesticides (currently reviewing the use of glyphosate)
- funding of pollinator projects on council land to demonstrate best practice to other sectors and installing appropriate signage
- the promotion and distribution of pollinator friendly guidelines

In addition, Members may wish to note that Officers are currently updating the Biodiversity Plans for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report is noted

Prepared by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks and Cemeteries

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations