



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD  
AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Councillor Foster
- Members Present** : Aldermen – F Agnew, T Burns, 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
- Non Committee Members** : Alderman M Cosgrove  
Councillors – P Dunlop, S Flanagan, M Goodman, L Irwin,  
R Lynch, J Montgomery, V McAuley, N McClelland,  
N Ramsay, S Ross, B Webb and R Wilson
- Officers Present** : Director of Operations - G Girvan  
Head of Leisure - M McDowell  
Head of Environmental Health - C Todd  
Head of Parks - I McMullan  
Head of Waste Management – M Laverty  
Systems Support Officer – C Bell  
ICT Helpdesk Officer – Jonny Wilson  
Mayor and Member Services Officer - S Fisher
- In Attendance** : Mr Tim Walker, Acting Chief Executive, arc21  
Mr John Green, Acting Project Director, arc21

**CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the November Operations Committee meeting and reminded all present of the audio recording procedures. He also congratulated the leisure team on the success of the Move Live virtual fitness programme which has proved to be a great success with more than 15,000 hits. On behalf of the Committee, he wished Alderman Burns' son, who had sustained a bad injury during a football match at the weekend, a speedy recovery.

In order to protect public health during the current COVID-19 emergency it was not possible to allow the public or the press to physically attend the meeting. The public and the press can access those parts of the meeting which they are entitled to

attend via live stream (a link to which is on the Council website). The meeting minutes and audio recording will be published on the Council's website.

## **1 APOLOGIES**

None

## **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Item 3.1 - Councillors Kelly, McGrann and Goodman

*The Chair advised that as the presentation was In Committee, he would take the rest of the business in Open Session first.*

## **4 ITEMS FOR DECISION**

### **4.1 EH/EHS/LR/007 DOG FOULING LEGISLATION**

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

They had 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 were circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Logue

Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**a letter is sent to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs requesting that powers are devolved to local government for setting fixed penalty fines for dog fouling.**

*ACTION BY: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health*

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

Members were 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 had recently requested that Council considers a number of changes to existing arrangements. Currently, the Club can fish for 8 months per year and had 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 were:

- 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 was 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 was being sought in advance, the Club was trying to identify possible sources of funding based on the proposed site plan, which was circulated, 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 would protect and maintain the integrity of the Dam infrastructure.

Officers had 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.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

**approval is given for**

- (i) 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 clarification is provided regarding Brown Trout in the Mill Pond;**
- (ii) permission to develop fixed/floating pontoons subject to the Club securing funding and to final approval by Council.**

*ACTION BY: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks*

#### **4.3 PK/GEN/057 GREEN FLAG AWARDS**

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful had confirmed that a total of 20 Green Flags had 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 were 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 had 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 was secured for the site this year.

As works had recently been completed in Crumlin Glen it was intended, subject to approval, to submit it for accreditation in 2021. The table below sets out the Green Flags achieved.

<b>Park / Open Space</b>	<b>Green Flag Awarded by Type</b>
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
<b>New site</b>	
Antrim Lough Shore Park and Gateway	Council – Parks

Proposed by Councillor Bennington  
 Seconded by Alderman Burns and agreed that the

- (i) 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.**

*ACTION BY: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks*

#### **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 were set out below for consideration.

The proposed alternative collection days for 2021 are:

<b>Public Holiday</b>	<b>Legacy Antrim Households</b>	<b>Legacy Newtownabbey Households</b>
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 noted the already approved arrangements for the 2020 Christmas holiday period,

<b>Public Holiday</b>	<b>Legacy Antrim Households</b>	<b>Legacy Newtownabbey Households</b>
<b>ALREADY APPROVED</b>		
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 would be advised of their collection arrangements through the usual means of Borough Life, bin stickers, social media, and on the Council's website.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

**the arrangements for refuse and recycling bin collections for Public Holidays in 2021 are approved.**

*ACTION BY: Michael Laverty, Head of Waste Management*

#### **4.5 PK/CP/001/VOL4 CAR PARKING CHARGES**

In recent years, Council had approved free car parking on Saturdays in December in Ballyclare to promote Christmas shopping in the town. Local traders had indicated that this initiative encourages people to both visit the town and stay for longer. This year, there are 4 Saturdays, 5, 12, 19 and 26 and it was 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 had 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 would 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.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam  
Seconded by Councillor Archibald and agreed that

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

*ACTION BY: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks*

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

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

They were 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 was not seeking funding.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Logue and agreed 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.**



## **Officers to explore the potential for a sensory garden in Sixmilewater Park.**

*ACTION BY: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks*

### **5 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

#### **5.1 L/LEI/040 FOUNDRY LANE FLOODLIGHTING**

Members were 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 1 September 2006 – 31 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 had been in contact with the EA to progress these works and in the interim had managed to temporarily re-locate all community bookings to other Council facilities.

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

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

#### **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 had been provided with information on the Crumlin to Glenavy route. Most recently, the list had been added to with the following items, further vehicle electric charge points and bicycles racks.

As Council's capital programme was 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 had contacted both Officers and Members regarding some proposals for a walking route in Ballynure. A meeting had been arranged to discuss details and a report would be brought to Committee in December.

### **Correspondence from Ulster Farmers Union**

Correspondence, circulated, was 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 had asked that the Council fully engages with the UFU and their members and landowners when progressing with plans for any potential new Greenway.

Proposed by Councillor Swann

Seconded by Alderman Girvan and agreed that

**following clarification from the Director that the Ulster Farmers' Union would be consulted with all other relevant stakeholders should the proposed Doagh to Larne Greenway proceed to business case stage, the correspondence from Ulster Farmers Union be noted.**

NO ACTION

## **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 had 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 was to be expected, and it was hoped that this can be reviewed in 2021.

As it was not possible to hold an event this year, due to the current restrictions, an alternative virtual event was being developed. It was 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 would be provided to Members in due course.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**the report be noted and Officers provide a breakdown of winners by DEA and that consideration be given to having winners in each DEA going forward.**

*ACTION BY: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks*

*The Chairperson advised that the following Supplementary report would be taken at this point of the meeting.*

#### **5.4 L/LEI/2 SPORTS CLUB HARDSHIP FUND**

The COVID-19 pandemic had inevitably had a financial impact on local sports clubs, due to reduced revenue and increased costs associated with complying with new guidelines set by their respective National Governing Bodies to facilitate a safe return to sport.

In April 2020, Sport Northern Ireland in partnership with Department for Communities opened the Northern Ireland wide Sports Hardship Fund has been oversubscribed despite a further two calls for funding. To date only 39 sports clubs from within the Borough have received financial assistance through this Fund, equating to only 5% of successful applications to Sport NI.

The Northern Ireland Executive announced funding for the sports sector on Thursday 29 October, however, some smaller clubs in the Borough which were looking for support for small value items may still require localized support which is tailor made to meet their needs.

Members were reminded that the Leisure Grant Aid programme (annual budget of £170,000) had not opened for applications in this financial year, however, there was potential to design a funding programme for small grants with a budget of £50,000 which would specifically help clubs operating in the Borough to comply with COVID-19 related requirements.

Officers had contacted several National Governing Bodies as well as having been approached by some local sports clubs and these discussions will be very useful to inform a grant programme, should it be approved. It was proposed that grants up to a maximum of £1,000 could be available to successful applicants to assist Clubs.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington  
Seconded by Councillor Logue and agreed that

**approval be given for a Sports Hardship Fund with a budget of £50,000 for sports clubs operating within the Borough specifically to help with compliance with COVID-19 requirements.**

*ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Head of Leisure*

**PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'**

Proposed by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and agreed that

**the following Committee business be taken In Confidence and audio recording would cease.**

**6. ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE**

*Alderman McGrath joined the meeting during this item and Alderman Clarke, Councillor McWilliam and Councillor Swann left the meeting during this item.*

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

Following agreement at a meeting of the Operations Committee an invitation was extended to Tim Walker, Acting Chief Executive of arc21 to make a presentation updating members on the proposed Residual Waste Treatment project.

The presentation was subsequently delayed due to the impact of COVID-19 and Mr Walker had also since been requested to provide a response to any of the issues set out in the Council's letter of 28 August 2020 to the Chief Executives of the other arc21 member councils as well as to Mr Walker, as Acting Chief Executive of arc21 and these were circulated.

The 10-minute presentation was made by Tim Walker and John Green, Acting Project Director of arc21, and conducted via Zoom to ensure compliance with social distancing.

The arc21 team then answered Members' questions and the Chair thanked them for the presentation, following which they left the meeting.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

**the presentation be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

## 6.1 **IN CONFIDENCE** WM/arc21/4/VOL6 arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE PAPERS

As agreed at the November (2015) meeting of Council, the papers for the arc21 Joint Committee Meeting were circulated for:

- October 2020

Members were reminded that these documents are confidential and may be legally privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure so therefore Members should not disclose this information to any third party and the information must be kept secure.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Burns and agreed that

**the papers be noted.**

NO ACTION

## 6.2 **IN CONFIDENCE** EH/GEN/012 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER VEHICLE REPLACEMENT

Members were reminded that the vehicles used by the Enforcement Officers are essential for carrying out patrols and for recovering stray dogs across the Borough.

There are currently 8 diesel vehicles in the fleet and these average 12,500 miles each year. These vehicles are replaced in line with the Council's Vehicle Replacement Policy on average every 8 years, however, all vehicles are well maintained and retained for as long it is economical to do so.

The latest vehicle due for replacement was now 13 years and in considering its replacement, Officers had assessed the costs and benefits of replacement with a similar diesel vehicle and an electric vehicle, which would align with Council's commitment to reduce its carbon footprint. A comparison of the costs of the two vehicle types is set out below based on a Renault following a costing exercise by Fleet which found these to be the most cost effective vehicles which were purchased through the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) framework. In addition, Renault claim zero carbon emissions for the electric version of this vehicle.

<b>Vehicle</b>	<b>Estimated vehicle cost (including conversion to transport dogs)</b>	<b>Estimated fuel cost per mile</b>	<b>Estimated fuel cost per year (based on 12,500 miles)</b>	<b>Estimated fuel cost over life of vehicle (8 Years/ 100,000 miles)</b>
Renault Kangoo Diesel Maxi (average speed 64mpg)	£16,000	8p	£1,000	£8,000

Renault Kangoo Electric Maxi	£20,000	4p	£500	£4,000
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Although the electric powered van was more expensive to buy, the fuel costs were halved and it has zero carbon emissions which means that overall there was estimated to be no additional cost to Council and purchasing this vehicle helps Council to reduce its carbon footprint.

Members were reminded that at the first Climate Change Working Group meeting it was reported that the Fleet team are developing a green fleet strategy which would aim to 'adopt cleaner fuels and technologies by embedding green criteria in the fleet procurement process – reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollutants:

Aim to purchase/lease ultra and low emission vehicles such as electric and hybrid vehicles (where technology available) as an alternative to diesel and petrol'.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington  
 Seconded by Alderman Burns and agreed that

**approval is given to purchase an electric vehicle to replace the current diesel van used by the Enforcement team at an estimated cost of £20,000 and that the potential to address the issue of visually impaired pedestrians be explored.**

*ACTION BY: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health, Linda Gregg, Transport and Contracts Manager*

### 6.3 **IN CONFIDENCE** PK/GEN/182 **LIVING WITH WATER PROGRAMME – AN INTEGRATED PLAN FOR DRAINAGE AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT IN GREATER BELFAST**

Members were advised that the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) has developed an Integrated Plan for drainage and wastewater management in Greater Belfast or the Living With Water Programme as it is referred to, which covers the Greater Belfast area including parts of Newtownabbey.

By way of background, in 2014, when it became clear that the drainage infrastructure across Belfast was unable to meet the requirements expected of it, the Northern Ireland Executive approved the development of a Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan (SDIP) for Belfast to protect against flooding; enhance the environment; and grow the economy.

To develop and deliver this plan, an interdepartmental group, called the Living With Water Programme was established. The consultation document 'Living with Water in Belfast' due to be launched is the draft Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan (SDIP) for Belfast.

The Living With Water programme as outlined is intended to be an holistic approach to the management of drainage and wastewater from upper catchment management to urban SuDS, storage and direct defences. It

recognises the essential role played by Waste Water Treatment Works and the need for significant investment in these facilities whilst at the same time identifying a range of other catchment based projects which could also impact positively on the current and future challenges of managing water.

The Department would be launching the public consultation on this proposed approach on 11 November 2020 with a closing date of 29 January 2021.

The programme proposed is important to the Borough as the Waste Water Treatment Works at Whitehouse is in urgent need of upgrading with environmental problems already incurring along the shoreline. Importantly, this situation is also impacting on economic growth in this part of the Borough with refusals or restrictions on new residential and commercial connections now being issued by Northern Ireland Water.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The LWWP team had offered to give a presentation to Elected Members following the launch of the public consultation.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Alderman McGrath and agreed that

**a briefing be arranged and that it is ensured that RSPB is consulted in relation to the Dam at Gideon's Green.**

*ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning*

**PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'**

Proposed by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Alderman Burns and agreed that

**the remainder of Committee business be taken in Open Session.**

The Chairperson advised that audio-recording would recommence at this point.

There being no further committee business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 9.25 pm.

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**MAYOR**

***Council Minutes have been redacted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation, and legal advice.***