



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE  
HELD IN MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2021 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair:** : Councillor R Lynch
- Committee Members** : Aldermen - J McGrath and P Michael  
Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, M Cooper, P Dunlop,  
J Gilmour, N McClelland, V McWilliam, V Robinson, S Ross,  
L Smyth and M Stewart
- Non Committee Members** : Alderman L Clarke  
Councillors - A Bennington, L Irwin, and N Ramsay
- Officers Present** : Director of Community Planning – U Fay  
Head of Community Planning (Interim) – R McKenna  
ICT Change Officer – A Cole  
Systems Support Officer – C Bell  
Mayor and Member Services Officer – S Fisher

**CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

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 could 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 would be published on the Council's website.

**1 APOLOGIES**

Councillor Goodman

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Item 4.2 – Councillor Cooper

### 3 ITEMS FOR DECISION

#### 3.1 CP/CP/430 BALLYNURE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Members were advised that Officers had received a proposal which was circulated for a community library to be installed in Riverside Garden Ballynure, from The Fresh Group, a delivery agent on behalf of Co-op.

Overall the intention of the community library was to promote and encourage sharing of books whilst also contributing to building community spirit in the local area.

The installation, maintenance and all associated costs of the community library would be the responsibility of The Fresh Group on behalf of Co-op. It was requested that Council grant permission for the community library to be installed in the Riverside Garden, Ballynure.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald-Brown  
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and agreed that

**permission is granted for a community library to be installed in Riverside Garden, Ballynure.**

*ACTION BY: Amy Dunlop, Community Safety and Good Relations Co-ordinator*

#### 3.2 AC/TH/001 RECOVERY OF THEATRES

Members were reminded that the NI Executive approved reopening of theatres from Tuesday 27 July with the requirement that audience members must purchase tickets in advance, must have allocated seating with social distancing of 1 metre required.

Theatre at the Mill had been delivering a show programme since August with a maximum audience capacity of 168 within a 400 seat auditorium in order to achieve the required 1 metre of social distance. The Council's two smaller theatres the Old Courthouse and the Courtyard Theatre Ballyearl with 188 and 180 seat auditoriums respectively had remained largely closed given that achieving the required social distancing in these venues makes it cost prohibitive to operate.

On Monday 27 September the NI Executive announced that it was removing the requirement for social distancing restrictions in theatres. The wearing of face coverings is to remain as a legal requirement in venues, with face coverings to be worn whilst moving around communal spaces but not whilst seated during the programme.

In addition, Ministers are to issue additional guidance to venues advising the introduction of entry policies that require either proof of either COVID-19 vaccination, a negative lateral flow test or evidence of a positive PCR test within the previous six months. These measures were guidance and not mandatory, however, given the need to provide audiences with the

confidence to return to theatres it was proposed to adopt these measures for the operation of the Council theatres.

Theatre at the Mill has a programme of shows planned to spring 2022, however apart from a film programme in The Old Courthouse, there is no programme approved for the two smaller theatres. It is proposed to develop programmes for these venues through the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel, scheduled to meet later this month with a further report to be brought back to the Committee.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliams  
Seconded by Alderman McGrath and agreed that

- **the introduction of entry policies, that require either proof of Covid 19 vaccination, a negative lateral flow test or evidence of a positive PCR test within the previous six months, to the Council's theatre venues be approved;**
- **the development of programmes for The Old Courthouse Theatre, Antrim and The Courtyard Theatre, Ballyearl, through the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.**

*ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Deputy Director of Community Planning*

### **3.3 CP/PCSP/134 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY FOR ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY**

Members were advised that Antrim and Newtownabbey Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) is taking the lead on the development of an Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for the Borough.

It was proposed to follow a model recently implemented amongst different council areas in Scotland, and by engaging with key statutory partners who are also already engaged in tackling anti-social behaviour on the ground, create an overarching strategy to agree the approach, resourcing, emergency planning and interventions required to tackle this shared problem. The process will be designed to ensure the commitment, buy-in and ownership of the Strategy by all those involved in creating it.

The following Council service areas all have a role to play and will be participating in the development of the strategy:

- Community Planning
- Parks and Leisure,
- Environmental Health and
- Economic Development.

An invitation letter, copy circulated, had been issued to the following statutory partners:

- PSNI

- Translink
- NIHE
- Youth Justice Agency
- Education Authority
- NI Federation of Housing Associations
- NIFRS

Members commended Officers for the work carried out so far on anti-social behaviour in the Borough and asked that a strategy for V36 be prioritised.

Proposed by Alderman Michael  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper and agreed that

**the update on the development of an Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for the Borough be noted and that progress be reported to a future meeting.**

*ACTION BY: Lynda Kennedy, Peace IV & PCSP Co-Ordinator*

### **3.4 AC/GEN/066 CENTENARY OF NORTHERN IRELAND**

Members were reminded that it was agreed at the May Committee meeting to submit an application for £4,000 to the NIO to commission an arts project as part of their Beyond 100 Centenary Programme with the project details to be reported to a future meeting.

Councils were offered funding of up to £4,000 to commission an artist, community group, or group of young artists local to the area, to create and develop a cultural piece of work that reflects the unique community of each council area. The project was not required to have a centenary narrative, but to capture a moment in time for the community. The purpose of the project was to create a community trail of the work across NI which can be followed by residents and tourists. NIO requested that the work created be in a public space so that it would be wholly accessible to everyone.

Members were advised that the Council application for £4,000 was successful and a local artist Amanda Montgomery had worked with pupils from Jordanstown School to create and design a piece of work that explored the themes of nature and particularly plant leaves emerging, developing and enduring. The artwork was designed to reflect the heritage and wildlife associated with the Council's Loughshore coastal path and the re-emergence of society as people ventured out again. The Council had an established relationship with Jordanstown School having worked on a previous art projects as part of the Arts Challenge Fund. The pupils, who are deaf or have a visual impairment are extremely creative, enjoy excellent facilities in school to study art in its many forms, and enthusiastically worked to realise the project.

The project concentrated on creating colourful mosaic seats to two existing stone benches situated along the costal path from Loughshore Park to Hazelbank Park, images were circulated for Members' information. It was proposed to complete the project with the installation of plaques alongside

each bench to read 'This art work was produced by Artist Amanda Montgomery with the assistance of pupils from Jordanstown School with funding supplied as part of Our Story In The Making: Northern Ireland Beyond 100 Centenary Programme.'

The total cost of the project was £4,890, with the shortfall provided from within arts development underspends. It was planned to have an official launch of the project by the Mayor, with a representative of the NIO invited to attend.

Members asked that the Director of Community Planning pass their thanks and best wishes on his retirement to Bernard Clarkson for his many years of hard work and dedication.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop  
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and agreed that

**RECOMMENDATION: that**

**(a) the successful outcome of the application for £4,000 to the NIO Beyond 100 Centenary Programme and completion of the Art Project by local artist and pupils from Jordanstown School, at a total cost of £4,890, be noted;**

**(b) the installation of plaques as outlined and launch of the art project by the Mayor be approved with a representative of the NIO invited to attend.**

*ACTION BY: Leeann Murray, Arts Services Manager ( Acting)*

**3.5 AC/GEN/071 DFC CULTURE, ARTS AND HERITAGE TASKFORCE**

Members were advised that the Minister for Communities, Deirdre Hargey, announced the establishment of a Culture, Arts and Heritage Recovery Taskforce on 17 May 2021.

The purpose of the Taskforce was to consider measures to support re-opening and recovery in the immediate term and to identify long term actions that should be considered in the development of a new Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy.

In particular, the Culture, Arts & Heritage Recovery Taskforce was commissioned to propose measures:

- to support the reopening of heritage sites, theatres, performance venues and relevant public gathering places in line with the Executive's Pathway Out of Restrictions;
- to stimulate culture, arts and heritage activity, re-start the cultural economy and enable the sector to play a central role in rebuilding social and economic life here;
- to explore outdoor performance/activity, including at youth, amateur and community level across the summer, autumn and into the longer term, as a

means of encouraging participation and building audience confidence as the opening of indoor and outdoor facilities and activities rolls out;

- to advise on any short-term actions to support skills retention and to provide opportunity for potential new-entrants embarking on a career in the sectors; and;
- to identify medium to long term actions which might be considered in the development of a new Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy.

The areas under consideration included heritage sites, theatres, performance venues and relevant public gathering places in line with the Executive's Pathway out of Restrictions. The membership of the Taskforce was drawn from across the culture, arts and heritage sectors. Details of membership were circulated. SOLACE nominated the Director of Community Planning as their representative on the Taskforce. The officer engaged with colleagues across the other 10 Councils to present to the Taskforce a broad view of the issues facing Councils in relation to the Culture, Arts and Heritage recovery and their suggestions regarding support measures for consideration by the Taskforce.

The Taskforce met weekly from its establishment in May and presented its initial findings to the Minister at a virtual meeting in August. Following this the Taskforce issued an unpublished report to the Minister with 9 findings and corresponding recommendations, a copy of which was circulated for Members' information. Finding and recommendation 8 relates specifically to the potential role for Councils in relation to recovery of the Culture, Arts and Heritage sector.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam

Seconded by Councillor McClelland and agreed that

**the update on the DfC Culture, Arts and Heritage Taskforce be noted with a further update to be brought back to a future meeting.**

*ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning*

### **3.6 CP/CP/182 HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE WORKING GROUP**

Members were reminded that at the Council meeting in June the following motion was declared carried

"That this Council moves to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee."

and it was agreed that a Working Group be established to work in tandem with national events and to agree the details of the following:

- (a) funding opportunities provided for local Community Groups;
  - (b) a community asset to be named/renamed to include Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II;
- and

*(c) school children to be presented with a commemorative coin, to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.*

The first meeting of the Working Group was held in Mossley Mill on Tuesday 21 September 2021 and the minutes were circulated for Members' information.

A screening exercise on the programme had been carried out with the form circulated for Members' information. An equality Impact Assessment was not recommended.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper and agreed that

**(i) the minutes of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Group meeting of 21 September 2021 be approved;**

**(ii) the outcome of the Section 75 screening exercise be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning*

#### **4 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

##### **4.1 CP/CD/422 CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH ON EVENTS 2021 / SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS AWARDS 2021**

Members were reminded of the "Most Festive Competition" approved by Council in July 2021, the aim of which was to promote Christmas Spirit across the Borough and recognise the efforts made by Local Businesses, Schools, Churches and Community and Voluntary Groups at this special time of the year.

Categories under which entries can be submitted in 2021 include:

- Light Up Award – Best Lit Town/Village
- Local Light Up Award – Best Lit Street
- Rockin Around the Christmas Tree Award
- The Reason for the Season Award
- The Making an Entrance Award
- Traditional Christmas Award
- North Star Award
- Mayors Award – Awarded at the discretion of The Mayor

A more detailed description of the categories was outlined in the draft nomination form which was circulated for Members' consideration.

It was proposed to brand the competition as the 'Spirit of Christmas Awards' 2021.

The 'Spirit of Christmas Awards' would be launched by the Mayor and the nomination process will open online on Monday 15 November 2021 and will close on Friday 10 December 2021 at 4pm.

Judging will take place week commencing Monday 13 December 2021 and awards will be presented on Friday 17 December 2021. Officers will work with the local business community to secure sponsorship for the awards.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam  
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

#### **4.2 CP/CD/106 QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2022**

Members were advised that subsequent to the report presented to Council in August 2021 seeking nominations for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service a total of five Groups had been nominated for the 2022 awards as follows:

- Lough Neagh Rescue
- Monkstown Community Association
- Newtownabbey Arts and Cultural Network
- River Bann and Lough Neagh Association Company
- Whiteabbey Community Group

Listening Ear had also been proposed, however the group had not been in existence for three years, prior to the nomination deadline and therefore were not eligible to be nominated this year. Their nomination would be carried forward to 2023.

In recent weeks Celebration Events for 2021 award recipients; Rathfern Community Regeneration Group, A Safe Space to be Me and the Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens, took place.

All three events were successfully delivered, recognising over 100 volunteers across the three organisations. Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for County Antrim joined the Mayor at each event, presenting the Queen's Award to Rathfern Community Regeneration Group and A Safe Space to be Me. Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens had already been presented with their award by HRH The Princess Royal during her visit to Antrim Castle Gardens on 2 July 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Ross  
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*



### 4.3 CP/CP/181 THE REPORT OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND EMBEDDING WELLBEING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME

The Embedding Wellbeing in Northern Ireland Programme ran from 2017 to 2021, providing financial and in-kind support to three Community Planning Partnerships in Northern Ireland; Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council.

The activities supported included development of the infrastructure for co-production, participatory budgeting and citizen engagement; opportunities for improving shared leadership across public services; and improving use and communication of evidence and data.

Members were advised that the findings from the Carnegie UK Embedding Wellbeing in Local Government Programme were published on 08 September 2021.

There are three publicly available documents:

- The full report (circulated)
- The summary report (circulated)
- A toolkit on co-production in community planning (circulated)

The report highlights that after the experience of the pandemic response, the future of community planning as a model is more significant than ever before, and Carnegie UK experience of working alongside Community Planning Partnerships, provided a unique opportunity to develop recommendations on how community planning could be strengthened in the Northern Ireland context.

The report calls on Northern Ireland Executive to legislate, as a matter of urgency, to protect the wellbeing of current and future generations, replicating the duties on local government for all departments and agencies and to hold a Citizens' Assembly on collective wellbeing as part of the post-COVID recovery plan.

The full and summary reports conclude with 18 recommendations for improving Community Planning and more broadly for improving wellbeing in Northern Ireland. The 18 recommendations were tabled below for Members' information.

Recommendation Theme		Recommendation
Funding	1.	All statutory Community Planning Partners (including agencies and central departments) should contribute to a fund for the administration of community planning,

Powers and Responsibilities	<b>2.</b>	Northern Ireland Executive should amend the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 to include regeneration among the portfolio of powers for local government
Building Relationships between Central and Local Government	<b>3.</b>	The First Minister and Deputy First Minister should issue a directive to all departments, statutory bodies, and arms-length bodies to participate fully in the community planning process.
	<b>4.</b>	Ensure that those representing their organisations at community planning meetings have sufficient authority to commit resources (human and financial) to actions designed to deliver on agreed CPP outcomes.
Pooled Budgets	<b>5.</b>	The Department of Finance should urgently issue regulations on pooled budgets under the Children's Services Co-operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 and make it clear how this can be applied to a broad range of public service areas.
	<b>6.</b>	Identify a number of pathway projects on pooled budgets resulting in high quality guidance that can be applied across all public services.
Building Relationships with the Community and Voluntary Sector	<b>7.</b>	Community Planning Partnerships should co-design, co-deliver and co-manage public services with the Community and Voluntary Sector at all levels of service delivery, as part of a new relationship and way of working with the sector.
	<b>8.</b>	Community Planning Partnerships should invest in building the capacity of Community and Voluntary Sector to allow their members to share leadership in the delivery of the Community Plan, and to co-produce services within it.
	<b>9.</b>	Community Planning Partnerships should review the model used to secure community and voluntary sector representation in community planning, to ensure that it supports the flexibility and responsiveness of the sector and capitalises on the energy in local communities realised during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Building Relations with Citizens	<b>10.</b>	Community Planning Partners should co-ordinate their citizen engagement strategies and activities, including Participatory Budgeting, to avoid duplication, ensure coherence, and maximise the impact on collective wellbeing.

Improving Leadership in Evidence	<b>11.</b>	NISRA and NILGA should work together to review support to local Community Planning Partnerships on sourcing and analysing data, including consideration of a pool of statisticians that CPPs could access.
	<b>12.</b>	The Northern Ireland Executive should provide guidance on the sharing of administrative data that can support the delivery of Community Planning, to ensure that local partners apply legislation on data protection appropriately and consistently.
Space to Reflect and Learn	<b>13.</b>	The current Community Planning Officers Network should be supplemented with a larger network to provide a supportive environment in which all members of the Partnerships (including non-statutory members) can discuss key areas of community planning to improve their practice.
Re-Commit to the Wellbeing Approach	<b>14.</b>	All Northern Ireland Executive Ministers should demonstrate collective leadership in ensuring the delivery of the wellbeing approach.
Host a Full Citizens' Assembly on Collective Wellbeing in a Post-COVID-19 Society	<b>15.</b>	The Northern Ireland Executive should hold a Citizens' Assembly on collective wellbeing in a post-COVID-19 society and build a strategy for ongoing public engagement in the framework and recovery.
Legislate to Protect the Wellbeing of Current and Future Generations	<b>16.</b>	The Northern Ireland Executive should legislate, as a matter of urgency, to protect the wellbeing of future and current generations by placing the wellbeing outcomes and indicators on a statutory footing.
Legislate for a Duty to Co-operate	<b>17.</b>	The Northern Ireland Executive should introduce a Duty to Co-operate for services for the whole population, requiring departments, agencies and councils to work together to improve social, economic, environmental and democratic wellbeing outcomes.
Build a Multi-sectoral Leadership Community to Deepen Wellbeing Practice	<b>18.</b>	The First Minister and Deputy First Minister should launch and fund a multi-sectoral leadership forum that brings people together across sectoral groupings and professional boundaries to explore how partners work collaboratively to improve wellbeing.

Proposed by Alderman McGrath  
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

**5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

In response to a query from a Member, the Director of Community Planning advised that she would review the protocol and timing in terms of reports being sent to Council rather than the Committee.

*ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning*

There being no further committee business the Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7.02 pm.

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**MAYOR**