



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD
IN ANTRIM CIVIC CENTRE ON MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Alderman J McGrath
- Members Present** : Aldermen - T Burns, M Girvan
Councillors – J Archibald, A Bennington, M Cooper,
R Foster, J Gilmour, R Kinnear, J Montgomery,
N McClelland and S Ross
- Non Committee Members** : Councillors – M Goodman, P Michael, M Stewart, B Webb
- In attendance** : Six Mile Water Trust – Mr J Kerr, Chairperson
Six Mile Water Trust – Mr J Gregg, Vice Chairperson
- Officers Present** : Director of Operations - Ms G Girvan
Head of Leisure – Mr M McDowell
Head of Waste Management – Mr M Lavery
Head of Environmental Health – Mr C Todd
Head of Parks – Mr I McMullan
ICT Officer – Mr J Higginson
Media and Marketing Officer – Mrs J Heasley
Mayor and Member Services Officer - Mrs S Fisher

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the September Operations Committee meeting and reminded all present of recording requirements.

1 APOLOGIES

Councillors - N Kelly, A Logue and R Swann

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3.1 PRESENTATION BY SIX MILE WATER TRUST

Members were reminded that in March 2019, it was agreed that officers from the Six Mile Water Trust be invited to make a presentation to the Operations Committee.

Mr John Kerr, Chairperson and Mr Jim Gregg Vice-Chairperson made a presentation regarding the history of the club which is now ten years old. They set out their objectives and highlighted the work they do and the challenges they face.

Mr Kerr and Mr Gregg answered Members' questions and the Chair thanked them for the presentation and for the valuable work that they do, following which they left the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Kinnear and
Seconded by Councillor McClelland and agreed that

Officers work proactively with the Six Mile Water Trust on the work that it is doing, particularly litter picks and the other work being undertaken.

ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

It was noted that Councillor Montgomery felt this proposal was inappropriate as Council is already supportive of many of these initiatives.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

Officers liaise with external organisations to form a multi-agency group to include representatives from Cleansing, Parks, Roads, Six Mile Water Trust, Department for Infrastructure and NI Environment Agency to ensure that roads and gullies are maintained and cleaned and that grass is cut on a regular basis.

ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

In response to a query, the Director of Operations advised that the opportunity for residents to be able to report via the new Citizen app would be confirmed.

The Director undertook to liaise with the Trust and report back to Committee in relation to both proposals.

ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 EH/PHWB/12 UK AGE FRIENDLY

Members were reminded Council is the Action Lead for Age Well in Community Planning Partnership. Working with community planning partners and the public, the role of the Action Lead is to co-produce an Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan for the Borough. With funding provided by the Public Health Agency, Claudine Kelly, Age Friendly Co-ordinator had been in post since December 2018.

The co-ordinator was currently mapping Age Friendly activity already taking place in the Borough. She was also developing a programme of activities for Positive Aging Month in October, and starting to make contact with local groups. She worked with the rest of the team and partners to develop the Strategy and Action Plan.

The latest statistics (2018) indicated 16.59% (23639) of our population is over 65 years old and by 2030 was predicted to be 21.17% (30920.)

As more of our population lives longer the quality of life for older people and the ability to live independently becomes ever more important. There is an ongoing need to ensure that services, transport systems and community structures support measures aimed at early intervention, positive health and wellbeing and maximum personal independence.

Councils could demonstrate commitment to creating inclusive and accessible environments to benefit their ageing populations by becoming an Age Friendly City, Community or Borough. An age friendly community is a place where it is easier for older people to stay connected and participate in community activities and is one where everyone is treated with respect regardless of their age.

The Northern Ireland Executive Active Ageing Strategy 2016-21 contains the vision for:

“Northern Ireland being an Age Friendly region in which people as they get older are valued and supported to live actively to their fullest potential; with their rights respected and their dignity protected.”

Members were advised that the Department for Communities is responsible for implementation of this strategy and in order to make this vision a reality, the Department, Public Health Agency and Age Northern Ireland established a Northern Ireland Age Friendly Network in December 2018. The Council was represented on the network by Louise Moore, Head of Community Planning and Wendy Brolly, Environmental Health Manager (Health and Wellbeing).

The World Health Organisation also has a Global Network for Age Friendly cities and communities and any city or community that is committed to creating inclusive and accessible urban environments to benefit their ageing population can apply to join. The network was established to foster the exchange of experience and mutual learning between cities and communities worldwide.

To join the Network cities or communities must:

- Complete an online application form
- Attach a letter from the Mayor indicating their commitment to the Network cycle of continual improvement
- Commence the Network cycle of the following four steps:
 1. Establishment of mechanisms to involve older people throughout the Age Friendly cycle

2. Develop a baseline assessment of the Age-friendliness of their city or community
3. Develop a three year Borough wide action plan based on the assessment above
4. Identify indicators to monitor progress against the plan

Proposed by Councillor McClelland
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

the Council applies to become a member of World Health Organisation Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

ACTION BY: Wendy Brolly, Environmental Health Manager (Health and Wellbeing)

4.2 EH/PHWB/013 COMMUNITY RESUSCITATION WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Members were 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 18th June and the minutes were circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Councillor McClelland and agreed that

the minutes of the Community Resuscitation Working Group meeting of 18th June 2019 are approved.

ACTION BY: Wendy Brolly, Environmental Health Manager (Health and Wellbeing)

4.3 EH/GEN/009 CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (CIEH) EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2019

Members were reminded of the Environmental Health Service's success at the CIEH Excellence Awards 2018 when the Health and Wellbeing section picked up the Environmental Health Team of the Year award.

This year, the Food Safety Team had been shortlisted in the Environmental Hero (Food Safety) category, for their work in implementation of the Allergens Strategy. Council was the only representative from Northern Ireland shortlisted for this year's awards.

Category winners would be announced at the awards ceremony on Thursday 14th November at 12.00 noon at the Marriott Hotel, Regents Park, London.

The cost to attend the Excellence Awards is:

- Shortlisted nominees and up to 8 guests - £95 each
- Shortlisted nominees and 9 guests (party of 10) - £86 each

Travel Costs

A return flight (same day) from Belfast City Airport to London City Airport is approximately £200 per person.

Proposed by Alderman Girvan
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

the Mayor and Chair of Operations Committee, or their nominees, attend as an approved duty plus 1 officer.

ACTION BY: Colin Kelly, Environmental Health Manager (Commercial)

4.4 PK/GEN/030 BRITAIN IN BLOOM

Members were advised that both Antrim Town and Randalstown had been nominated for the Britain in the Bloom (BIB) competition and both were recently visited by the BIB judges.

The organisers have now invited representatives from both Council, and the community from each Town, to attend the prestigious Britain in Bloom Awards at RHS Lindley Hall in Westminster, London, at 5pm on Friday 25th October 2019. The deadlines for RSVPs is 27th August 2019, therefore provisional reservations have been made pending a Council decision. Tickets are free and strictly limited to 5 per town.

It is estimated that costs in the region of £250 per person will cover travel and accommodation for 1 nights stay.

Members were reminded, that both Antrim and Randalstown are previous winners; Randalstown, achieved a Gold and Overall Winner in the Small Town category in 2017. Antrim Town achieved Silver Gilt success in 2015 in the Town category.

Tidy Randalstown had requested that Council considers supporting the attendance of 3 of their representatives at the Awards Ceremony.

Proposed by Councillor Ross
Seconded by Councillor Montgomery and agreed that

- (i) **the Mayor and Chair of Operations Committee (or their nominees) attend as an approved duty, accompanied by at least 1 officer;**
- (ii) **Two relevant community representatives from Antrim and from Randalstown be supported to attend.**

Estimated costs per person estimated to be £250 each for travel and accommodation

ACTION BY: Member Services

4.5 PK/GEN/118 GROW VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEMES

Members were reminded that approval was given in January 2019 for Officers to explore the potential to develop community green space in the village of Killead. Having been identified in the Village Plan, funded through GROW, there was also potential that an application for development costs could be made to GROW.

In July 2019, it was agreed that this scheme, and three others would be the subject of applications to GROW for grant aid of 75% with Council meeting the balance in each case. The Killead project has an estimated cost of £70,000, as a first phase.

The project if completed will provide an area for local people to walk, run etc through improving the entrance and carrying out environmental improvements along a disused road.

The key issue in developing the project is securing permission from the landowner, Belfast International Airport (BIA). Discussions are ongoing with BIA, however these may take longer than anticipated as the decision may not be able to be made locally.

Consultants are to be appointed by GROW to support the development of these funding applications, so that the GROW timeframe can be met. In the event that the negotiations with BIA are protracted, a further piece of work, could be incorporated into the application and could be completed in the event that the bigger scheme cannot be delivered within the timeframe. Also identified in the Village Plan - environmental improvements along a strip of roadside towards Tully Road would not only enhance a key area in the village, but would provide a connection to the Environmental Improvement Scheme if it were to go ahead. This piece of work which is estimated to cost £25,000 would include:

- New hedging along the stretch of road.
- Replacement fencing – 1.2m high paladin fencing
- Row of specimen trees with planters – approximately every 5 metres
- Planting of mature trees

In tandem with this, DfI Roads is committed to resurfacing the entire stretch of footpath.

The land is owned by the local church, and officers it seems likely that permission would be given to carry out the proposed works.

In order to ensure that some works can be carried out using GROW funding, in the event of a successful application, Officers are seeking approval to include the works at Tully Road in the GROW application, conditional on the original project not being able to proceed.

Proposed by Alderman Girvan

Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

approval be given to include works in the Tully Road area as set out above in the application for funding to GROW South Antrim as a backup in the event

hat the environmental improvement scheme cannot be delivered to meet the required timeline.

ACTION BY: Elaine Upton, Countryside and Physical Activity Development Manager

4.6 PK/GEN/130: THREEMILEWATER CONSERVATION AND ANGLING ASSOCIATION

Members were reminded that at the June Council meeting, approval was granted for the extension of the Threemilewater Conservation and Angling Association's licence for Mossley Dam for a 12-year term, together with a change to day ticket sales for Mossley Dam, to be restricted to 'catch and release'.

Since the opening of the fishery, the Threemilewater Conservation and Angling Association had been extremely active both on-site (for example, the Mayor's Annual Charity Competition); and off-site, carrying out habitat improvement works along water courses, and delivering fly-tying events and awareness days with the local community.

The Association had also expressed concerns about the increasing threat posed to the fish population by cormorants, despite the recent introduction of larger fish. A meeting has taken place this month with DAERA's Inland Fisheries Division to obtain advice on how to improve the management of this issue.

DAERA had recommended the co-ordinated use of deterrents, taking into account the need to protect other local wildlife and the proximity of the water body to residential areas, details circulated of deterrents recommended.

The Association had committed to trialling an array of these approved methods over the coming winter months and recording data on the cormorants in order to gauge success rates of the various approaches trialled.

Proposed by Councillor Ross
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

permission be granted to adopt the deterrents on a trial basis.

ACTION BY: Elaine Upton, Countryside and Physical Activity Development Manager

4.7 WM/COMMS/01 WHEELIE BIG CHALLENGE

Members were aware that Council allocated approximately £4,500 of waste management funding to run the Eco School's Wheelie Big Challenge competition for the first time in the Borough.

The competition gave participating schools the opportunity to look at their impact on the environment, particularly through their waste management services, throughout the school year.

Each school completed an initial waste audit, carried out by the pupils in the eco-committee, to get a starting point. They were provided with teaching materials and received support from both Eco-schools and Council. The schools then made changes to how they managed their waste, in keeping with the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle approach and integrated environmental practices throughout their schools. At the end of the process a further waste audit was completed to measure the effect of the changes and these were submitted to Eco-schools for assessment.

The audit results from participating schools demonstrated an overall average 68% decrease in recyclables being put in the landfill bins as well as a 50% decrease in food waste as a result of waste reduction measures implemented. One school, Whitehouse Primary School, reduced the amount of dry recyclables and food waste in the landfill bins by a remarkable 99%.

Over 15 schools engaged with the challenge with the following schools reaching the Final on 30 May.

- Parkhall Integrated College;
- Greystone Primary School;
- Fairview Primary School;
- Mount St Michael's Primary School.

Judges on the day, Sue Christie (Chair of KNIB), Lynsey Daly (Council's Waste Strategy and Contracts Manager) and Billy Conway (Cookstown Textile Recyclers) had an extremely tough job. While all the schools reduced their environmental impact and saved money by reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, Fairview Primary School were named as overall winner.

The competition was extremely successful for both Council and the schools and it was proposed to allocate similar funding of £4,500 to run the competition again in 2019-20 for up to 15 schools to participate.

Proposed by Alderman Girvan

Seconded by Councillor McClelland and agreed that

£4,500 be allocated for the Eco-Schools Wheelie Big Challenge in 2019/20.

ACTION BY: Lynsey Daly, Waste Strategy and Contracts Manager

4.8 L/SAP/008/VOL 3 COUNCIL SPORTS AWARDS

Members were reminded that a working group was established to progress Council's Sports Awards event, scheduled for Thursday 14 November 2019 at Theatre at the Mill.

The first full meeting of the Sports Awards working group was held on Wednesday 12 June followed by a second meeting on 24 July 2019. Minutes of both meetings were circulated.

Nominations for the 2019 Sports Awards are now open via Council website and the deadline for receipt is 30 September 2019.

Copy minutes to be checked for accuracy.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the minutes of the meetings of the Sports Awards Working Groups on 12 June and 24 July be approved.

ACTION BY: Anna Boyle, Sport and Physical Activity Development

4.9 PK/GEN/126/VOL3 GREYSTONE ALLOTMENTS

In October 2018, approval was given for financial support to be provided to the Muck and More Allotment Association for provision of utility connections: - sewage, water and electricity - subject to confirmation of costs (estimated to be in the region of £8,000 - £15,000). This related to a portacabin, which the Association had acquired through a successful funding application to the Big Lottery Fund.

Electricity Supply

At the outset, Property Services had indicated that it was not feasible to connect the portacabin into the electricity supply at the adjacent Greystone Community Centre. The options considered therefore were (i) solar panels with a backup generator or (ii) a stand-alone generator.

Costings for each option are as follows:

i) £16,750

(ii) £3,820

It was therefore proposed that financial support be provided for Option (ii), a propane-powered generator. The Association would be able to meet the ongoing running costs of the generator, based on the current usage of the facility.

Sewage and Water Supply

To connect these amenities to the portacabin had been costed at £3,100.

Therefore, the total costings to provide all essential services were as follows: -

Water and Sewer Supply	£3,100
Generator Supply	£3,000
Generator Store	£820
TOTAL	£6,920

The Head of Parks responded to Members' queries around the potential to use solar panels.

Proposed by Councillor Montgomery
Seconded by Councillor McClelland and agreed that

approval be given for financial support in the amount of £6,920 to meet the costs of installing utilities, as set out above, in the Muck and More Allotment Association's portacabin at Greystone Allotments.

ACTION BY: Elaine Upton, Countryside Officer and Physical Activity Development Manager

5 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1 EH/GEN/011 LITTER CONTROL

Members were reminded that both the Environmental Health and Waste Services work together to deliver on the Corporate Objective 'We will improve the level of cleanliness of the Borough'.

In addition to its enforcement powers, the Environmental Health Service aims to educate the public and encourage responsible behaviour. A number of stencils had been developed that would be used to apply biodegradable paint to paths and car parks across the Borough.

These would be used in hotspot areas where complaints had been received and would be in addition to the full range of enforcement powers outlined in the Environmental Health Enforcement Policy.

Copies of the stencils were circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour

Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.2 EH/PHWB/015 PERMANENT SECRETARIES VISIT – MULTI AGENCY SUPPORT HUB

Members were reminded that the Environmental Health Service is a member of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Multi Agency Support Hub (MASH).

The aim of the Multi-Agency Support Hub is to help identify the most vulnerable people in our community, and engage them in the Hub, with the aim of assisting them through inter-agency working.

The Antrim and Newtownabbey MASH was the first in Northern Ireland to have the Environmental Health Service as a member – a model that has now been replicated in other Council areas.

In July 2019, a request was received from the Permanent Secretaries for the Department of Justice and the Department for Communities, Peter May and Tracey Meharg, to observe a meeting of the Hub at first hand.

This request was facilitated at short notice and Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health and Andrew Irwin, PCSP Manager and Chair of the

MASH met with the Permanent Secretaries for an hour to highlight the successful implementation of this multi-agency initiative in the Borough.

This was followed by a mock case study, in which the Permanent Secretaries were able to fully participate, and further discussions with the other partners to gain their perspectives on the Hub's success.

Both Permanent Secretaries have expressed their thanks for what they found to be 'a great visit' and that '*the opportunity to see the hub in action through the role play and then have a wider conversation about what made the hub work and what more could be done was very valuable*'.

Ms Meharg has subsequently highlighted that she would be using her experience at the MASH as an example of collaboration within Social Policy.

Dialogue continues with the Permanent Secretaries as to how the MASH can be further improved.

Proposed by Councillor McClelland
Seconded by Councillor Ross and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.3 EH/GEN/009 REGULATORY EXCELLENCE AWARDS NOMINATION 2019

Members were reminded that the Council's Food Safety Team was nominated as a finalist in the Innovation and Technical category at the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) Awards in May 2019. OPSS forms part of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in Westminster.

These Awards recognise regulatory organisations, individuals, businesses and trade associations that have achieved positive outcomes through good practice. The entry highlighted the work of the Food Safety Team in implementing the food allergen compliance strategy.

On 20 June 2019 Julie Neill, Principal Environmental Health Officer (Food Safety) accompanied the Deputy Mayor and Chair of Operations Committee to the awards ceremony in London.

Although the submission did not win the category, the event proved to be an excellent opportunity to network with other local authorities and highlight some of the unique work carried out by the Environmental Health Service.

Also shortlisted for an award was a collaborative project undertaken by Environmental Health staff from all 11 Councils in Northern Ireland, the Trading Standards Service for Northern Ireland and the General Dental Council. This initiative delivered a warning via social media of the risks associated with unsafe teeth whitening products and services.

This submission was successful and the video produced as part of the campaign can be viewed at: www.nidirect.gov.uk/tooth-whitening.

The Council had promoted the video through its website and social media as a reminder of the dangers of illegal tooth whitening products.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Councillor McClelland and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.4 EH/EHS/CP/004 TOBACCO TEST PURCHASE EXERCISE

Local Councils in Northern Ireland have a statutory duty to enforce the legislation relating to the sale of certain age-restricted products such as cigarettes and tobacco products. The Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 makes it an offence to supply any cigarettes or tobacco products to any person under the age of 18.

The Public Health Agency fund the employment of Tobacco Control Officers (TCO) who work on behalf of District Councils in Northern Ireland to promote compliance with tobacco control legislation and to provide advice on compliance.

During the year each TCO is required to carry out a minimum of 50 visits to tobacco retailers to carry out a test purchase in order to check compliance with age restricted sale legislation. A test purchase exercise for the sale of tobacco products was carried out in June 2019.

Environmental Health Officers, accompanied by a young person aged under 18 who attempted to purchase tobacco products, visited twelve retailers in the Borough. No sales were made in any of the retailers visited, therefore both the businesses and customer service staff involved demonstrated 100% compliance with the legislative requirements.

This is the first occasion since 2008 that no sales have been made during a Test Purchase Exercise and demonstrates improving compliance levels within the Borough. Environmental Health staff will continue with the programme of advisory visits that have secured this level of compliance and further test purchase exercises are planned for later in the year.

Further details were circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Ross
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.5 EH/PHWB/2 HOME ACCIDENT PREVENTION - OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PILOT

Members were reminded that the Environmental Health Service was piloting a unique initiative with the Northern Health and Social Care Trust Occupational Therapy Service. The aim was to establish if a mutually beneficial arrangement between the two services can provide efficiencies in the process of delivering minor adaptations for clients in their homes.

During the pilot phase, the Council's Home Safety Officer selected the appropriate minor adaptation from a list of options and made a referral directly to the fitting service. This reduced waiting times for clients who require only minor adaptations. Where the Home Safety Officer identifies requirements which do not fall within the remit of this initiative, these cases are referred for a full Occupational Therapy assessment.

As a result of this unique collaboration, Tom Durrant, Home Safety Officer was invited to make a presentation to the Royal College of Occupational Therapists in the Long Gallery at Parliament Buildings on Monday 24 June 2019. Nichola Mallon, MLA, sponsored the event and the purpose was to launch the report 'Adaptations without delay: A guide to planning and delivering home adaptations differently'.

The overall aim of the guide was to reduce delays in the delivery of occupational therapy adaptations.

Other presentations at the launch included:

- Ian Copeman, Housing Learning and Improvement Network: Role and Purpose of the Guide
- Dr Rachel Russell, University of Salford: Overview of content and application of the Guide
- Shane Elliott, Northern Health and Social Care Trust: Health and Social Care Perspective
- Richard Harper, Radius Housing Association: Housing Association Perspective

Tom's presentation included information on his role in Home Safety Assessments, his perspective of the pilot so far and its potential benefits to individuals, Council and the Northern Health Trust.

It was anticipated this ground breaking work would demonstrate the role of Council's Home Safety Officers in reducing waiting times for minor Occupational Therapy adaptations.

The three-month pilot commenced on 1 July 2019 and a report on the evaluation would follow.

Proposed by Alderman Girvan
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.6 L/LEI/SD/015 YOUR SCHOOL YOUR CLUB - FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Background

Your School Your Club is a Department for Communities (DfC) capital funding programme supported and administered by Sport Northern Ireland (Sport NI). The Programme aims to promote club and community use of school sports facilities, recognising that the opening of the schools sports estate to community and club use would have a major impact on the provision of sports facilities throughout Northern Ireland.

Funding of £1m is available for applications on a competitive basis in 2019/2020. In May a call was made by Sport NI for Expressions of Interest from schools interested in seeking funding. In order to be able to submit an Expression of Interest schools were required to meet the deadline of Tuesday 11th June. They must also have been able to demonstrate a range of 'state of readiness' indicators, e.g. planning approval, as funding needs to be spent in year.

Officers sent details of the call for Expressions of Interest to all schools in the Borough and as a result three schools submitted completed forms by the deadline: King's Park Primary School, St. Joseph's Primary School and St. Bernard's Primary School.

To note: Sport Northern Ireland has advised that King's Park Primary School has progressed to the next stage of the approval process.

Officers were aware of at least one other school in the Borough which would be interested in any future call, Hollybank Primary School.

In response to questions from Members, the Head of Leisure confirmed that all schools had been notified, and that Council would be working directly with the schools to advise them about the new funding round to encourage further applications.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Councillor McClelland and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.7 L/LEI/SD/016 PARKRUN - SIXMILEWATER PARK, BALLYCLARE

Members were reminded that in March, approval was given for a Parkrun at Sixmilewater Park, Ballyclare.

To note, officers were successful in securing funding to cover the £3,000 start-up costs for the Parkrun through the Northern Health & Social Care Trust.

The 5K Parkrun commenced on Saturday 20 July and recorded the highest number of runners at any event in Northern Ireland with over 500 participants.

It continues every Saturday morning, at 9.30am, Sixmilewater Park, Ballyclare.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald

Seconded by Alderman Girvan and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.8 L/LEI/SD/017 NATIONAL PLAY DAY

Members were advised that Playday is the national day for play, traditionally held on the first Wednesday in August. It is the biggest play sector event in the UK, and possibly Europe. As well as a celebration of children's right to play, Playday is a campaign that highlights the importance of play in children's lives.

Accordingly, on 7 August 2019 National Play day was celebrated through free family events at Sixmilewater Park and V36.

Over 200 families took part in the events which included athletics and football delivered by Council's Every Body Active coaches. Other activities provided were; assault courses, den building, kite workshops, messy play and face painting.

An inclusive play session was also delivered in partnership with the Mae Murray Foundation at Antrim Castle Gardens whereby participants had the opportunity to partake in inclusive games and activities such as; new age kurling, boccia and sensory play. Participants also had the opportunity to try out the trikes and bikes provided by the Disability Sports Hub.

In response to a request Officers agreed to provide information on play events in advance.

Proposed by Councillor McClelland

Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

the report be noted.

ACTION BY: Anna Boyle, Sport and Physical Activity Development Manager

5.9 L/LEI/GEN/2 REQUEST FOR SUPPORT – EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Members were reminded that funding, in the amount of £5,000 was approved at the Council meeting in July 2018 following a request for financial support from ZKJ Dojo, a Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) and Olympic Wrestling Club, based in Glengormley.

The Club was seeking support to help host the 2019 European Junior and Senior MMA Championships in the Borough planned for the Valley Leisure Centre. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond the control of the organisers, the event which was scheduled to take place in August 2019 has had to be deferred.

Officers had been advised that the organisers hope to reschedule the event to take place before the end of March 2020 and an accrual has been made for the approved budget.

Proposed by Councillor Montgomery
 Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.10 PK/GEN/057 GREEN FLAG AWARDS

Members were reminded that The Green Flag Award is an internationally recognised award which demonstrates an agreed standard of management, maintenance and community involvement in open spaces. To achieve 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. The Awards are judged annually by a panel of experts, who volunteer their time to assess the management plans and the applicant sites through a rigorous judging process.

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 76 Green Flag awards being presented in 2019, by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful which oversees the scheme.

In 2019, a total of 19 parks and green spaces within the Borough received their Green Flag Award for exceeding required environmental standards for green space management and visitor facilities. These are detailed below.

Park/Open Space	Green Flags Awarded by Type
Antrim Castle Gardens	Heritage
Antrim/Belmont Cemetery	Council - Parks
Ballynure Old Graveyard	Council - Parks
Ballyeaston Church Ruin	Community
Jordanstown LSP, Hazelbank Pk & Gideon's Green	Council- Parks

Kilbride Cemetery	Council- Parks
Lilian Bland Park	Council- Parks
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	Heritage
Sixmile Water Park	Council- Parks
Toome Linear Park	Council/Community
Valley Park (V36 and Glas-na-Braden Glen)	Council- Parks
Wallace Park	Council- Parks

Randalstown Viaduct and Riverside Walk was one of six new first-time winners this year across all participating organisations. Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful also celebrates "The Green Flag Community Award", where the sites are managed and maintained by loyal volunteers working at a local level. This year, Sentry Hill Community Garden received its first Green Flag Community Award.

Officers would look to submit the same sites in 2020, while continuing to review further opportunity sites and bring forward to Council for consideration, where appropriate.

Proposed by Alderman Girvan

Seconded by Councillor Ross and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.11 WM/WM/37 REPAIR CAFÉ UPDATE

Officers had been investigating whether it would be possible to organise Repair Cafés in the Borough. Repair Cafés had been widely established in the UK and aim to stop people throwing items away, when they break or stop working, by repairing them for further use.

Many people no longer have the skills, such as electrical, crafting or woodworking, to fix broken items. These items often end up discarded and replaced. The Repair Café offers a relaxed environment, where residents can get a tea or coffee, whilst having the opportunity to get their goods fixed by specialist volunteers for free. The type of items repaired can vary from bikes, kettles, to chairs and toys.

Officers had been working with the Antrim Enterprise Agency and representatives from Repair Café Belfast, to recruit skilled volunteers from across the Borough to help establish Antrim and Newtownabbey Repair Café group for the Borough. A number of volunteers had been recruited and they will be holding an information evening in early September in order to seek further assistance from the community.

The group's aim was to become sustainable and successfully hold Repair Café events across the Borough, with the first Repair Café in the Borough envisaged to occur in the autumn, launching in Ballyclare and Members will be advised to allow them to attend if they wish.

Following requests by Members, the Head of Waste confirmed that he would circulate a flyer giving details on the first meeting. He also confirmed that the Council has a support and advice role only and insurance matters, etc are taken on by the organisation who will be taking guidance from the existing Repair Café in Belfast.

Proposed by Alderman Girvan
Seconded by Councillor Montgomery and agreed that

the report be noted.

ACTION BY: Michael Laverty, Head of Waste

5.12 WM/WM/37 WASTE MANAGEMENT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018/19

(i) WASTE TREATMENT:

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 submits 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 waste data submission for 2018-19 had been submitted and the waste data for the year is shown below compared to the previous year:

	2017-18		2018-19	
Total Household Waste Arisings	77,607		80,994	
Household Waste Arisings to Recycling	40,519	52%	45,522	56%
Household Waste Arisings to Recovery	9,648	12%	12,165	15%
Household Waste Arisings to Landfill	27,440	35%	23,306	29%
Total Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Arisings	93,023		97,554	
Municipal Waste Arisings to Recycling	50,797	55%	57,750	59%
Municipal Waste Arisings to Recovery	11,331	12%	14,099	14%
Municipal Waste Arisings to Landfill	30,895	33%	25,705	26%

* 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.

The highlight points are as follows:

- The overall increase in municipal waste arisings is 5%, which is an increase from 1% in the previous year. While this may indicate continuing economic prosperity across the Borough, it does have an adverse impact on the Council's budgets as we handle and treat more waste;
- Significant increase in tonnage of both household and municipal waste recycled;
- Recycling rates up approximately 4% for both municipal and household waste. This appears to be attributed to the large-scale communications campaign run throughout the Borough, particularly in regards to food waste recycling campaign and the **#irecyclerright** campaign. Both campaigns highlighted the correct use of recycling and composting bins for recycled items and food waste;
- There has been a further significant reduction in the amount of waste landfilled.

In 2018-19 Council landfilled 11,217 tonnes of biodegradable waste which equates to 62.74% of its NILAS allocation. Overall in the arc21 region, all Councils met their NILAS obligations and therefore no transfer of allowances is required.

(ii) MISSED BINS:

Council has a Key Performance Indicator to ensure that 99% of bins are collected on the correct day. Every day Council and its contractors complete approximately 13,000 bin collections and this equates to nearly 3 million per annum. During 2018-19 Council collected approximately 99.9% of bins on the designated day.

Those bins recorded as missed are where the Council is deemed at fault and the bins will have been collected by the Waste Section or contractors if the resident reports the issue within 24 hours of their designated collection day.

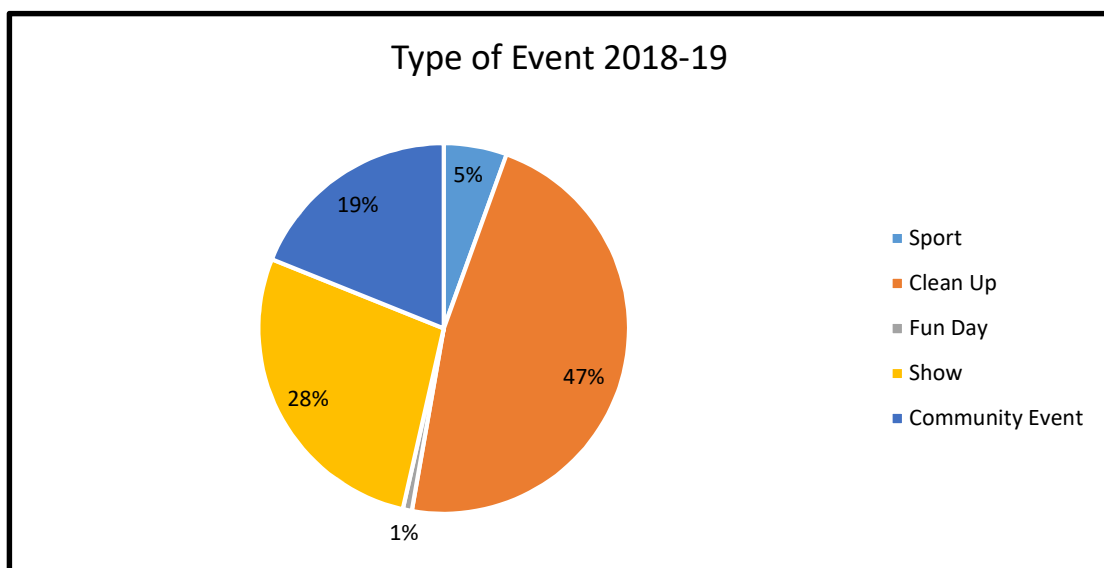
(iii) SUPPORT IN KIND REQUESTS:

The Waste Management section operates a Support in Kind scheme for local organisations or individuals. Members are reminded that this service provides litter pickers, black bags, gloves, etc for community clean-ups, assistance at events, etc. The applications generally relate to requests for waste collection and disposal activities, although portable toilets are also included in the scheme.

In 2018 -19, a total of 128 Support in Kind requests were approved, which was a 30% increase on the number of supported requests in 2017-18. The cost of Support In Kind scheme this year was £23,320.45 this is £400.32 less than the previous year, however this is mainly due to an increase in the number of clean-up activities requiring only returnable items, such as litter pickers.

The costs accrued are mainly from the provision of non-returnable items such as gloves and bags, waste disposal, post event sweepers and the hire of portaloos. The cost of delivering and collecting items, i.e. fuel and staff costs, are not included in this total.

The graph below shows the breakdown of the type of events that were supported through the Support in Kind scheme in 2018-19, with the largest proportion of the requests for assistance with environmental clean-ups in the Borough.



Proposed by Councillor Montgomery
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.13 WM/COMMS/01 COMPOST AWARENESS WEEK 2019

Members were advised that Compost Awareness Week (CAW) is a national campaign to raise awareness of composting organic waste to help reduce waste to landfill, improve or maintain high quality soil, to grow healthy plants, reduce the use of fertilizer and pesticides, improve water quality and protect the environment.

As part of Council's support and promotion of the CAW the following activities occurred in the Borough:

COMPOST GIVEAWAYS

Bags of compost produced from the food and garden waste collected through the brown bin collection service were provided, on a first-come-first-served basis, to residents at each of the Recycling Centres and Council allotments.

Free compost was also provided to local dementia support groups and offered to all schools in the Borough, with 22 schools accepting the compost. The schools used the compost to highlight CAW in a number of activities including planting out raised beds and poly-tunnels, sowing wildflower gardens, creating sensory gardens and outdoor learning spaces. The events were promoted on Council's social media channels.

COMPOST AWARENESS WEEK - GARDENING EVENTS

Council also ran two "Gardening at this time of year" events at Antrim Castle Gardens and Sentry Hill. The events included a horticultural talk from gardening expert, Keith Crawford, compost giveaways and tours of the two venues. The events were fully booked and everyone who attended gave positive feedback on the skills they had learnt to use in their own gardens and allotments.

The Head of Waste advised that consideration would be given to distributing the compost either loose or in paper bags.

Proposed by Councillor Ross
Seconded by Councillor McClelland and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.14 WM/WM/33 LIVE HERE LOVE HERE PROGRAMME UPDATE

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful's (KNIB) Live Here Love Here (LHLH) Programme has been operating in the Borough for the last five years with financial support from Council. LHLH is described as "a positive, people powered campaign focused on improving our local environment and building a sense of pride in our local communities".

Council has financially supported the Programme in the amount of £21,000 annually, with local groups benefiting from LHLH small grants scheme to improve their local communities to an approximate value of £10,000 per annum.

Since 2014, 88 applications have been received for LHLH funding in the Borough with 39 funded to a total value of £56,060. On average the projects involve around 500 volunteer hours per annum. LHLH also provides a range of promotional materials and a centrally coordinated publicity campaign and as a result of these initiatives there has been approximately £82,000 of media impact and value in the Borough since 2018.

KNIB has informed Council of its intention to seek further funding for 2020-2021 at approximately the same level of funding as previous years, although the official request is yet to be received. Officers will report any funding requests to Council when received.

In response to a query the Head of Waste Management advised that the media impact figure was provided by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

Proposed by Alderman Girvan
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.15 WM/COMMS/01 WASTE MANAGEMENT PROMOTIONS UPDATE REPORT Q1 2019-2020

In order to increase public participation in Council's recycling and environmental schemes, Officers carry out a range of awareness and promotional activities throughout the year. These include a range of educational talks to schools, youth groups, seniors groups, church groups and community groups on Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling, Plastics, Litter and Fairtrade.

This report has been developed to inform Members of the initiatives that have occurred in the last quarter (Apr–Jun 2019).

Environmental Messages:

32 Social Media Posts on issues ranging from Fairtrade (2), recycling (13), litter prevention (8), Eco Schools (3), Sustainability/Water (2) and general bin collections (4);

- 1 Internal communication message to Council staff advertising Community Litter Picks;
- 6 Borough Life articles;
- 2 Billboards/12 Ad-shels, covering the SORT your waste message before using the Recycling Centres;
- 2 press releases for Better Waste Service and the NI Water Refillution campaign.

Awareness Visits:

- 3 school visits (Ballynure PS, Whitehouse PS and Greystone PS) on recycling awareness;
- 7 schools visited by the arc21 waste education vehicle (Randalstown Central PS, St MacNissi's PS, Hill Croft Special School, Greystone PS, St James PS, St Joseph's PS Crumlin and Straid Primary School);
- 1 school visit, in partnership with NI Water, promoting their Refill Campaign (Earlview PS);
- 3 RADAR (Risk Avoidance Danger Awareness Resource) School Visits (Earlview PS, Hollybank PS and St MacNissi's PS);
- 4 community talks (Ballylinney Presbyterian Church, Newtownabbey Seniors Group, St Bernards Youth Club, and 5th Antrim Beaver Scouts) on recycling and litter awareness.

Environmental Education Events:

- Ballylinney Presbyterian Church Fair on Waste Reduction and Recycling;
- Compost Awareness Week Event "Gardening at this time of year" at Antrim Castle Gardens;
- Compost Awareness Week – Event "Gardening at this time of year" at Sentry Hill;
- Final of the Wheelie Big Challenge at Mossley Mill.

Support in Kind Litter Picks:

- 5 School Litter Picks (St MacNissi's PS, Belfast HS, Hillcroft PS, Mossgrove PS and Ashgrove PS);
- Community Litter Pick at Antrim Lough Shore Park & Rea's Wood.

Support of Environmental Campaigns:

- **National (UK) Campaigns**
 - Compost Awareness Week (05-11 May);
 - Big Spring Clean (April 2019 onwards).
- **Regional (NI) Campaigns**
 - HRC Waste Segregation and Recycling Campaign. Council received DAERA Funding of approximately £5,120 to produce information leaflets, posters, ad-shel adverts and a dedicated social media campaign, to encourage segregation of waste before residents visit the recycling centres in order to increase the recycling at the sites;

- HRC Recycling Optimisation Project. Council received approximately £69,000 for new signage and road markings, which is currently being rolled out across the Borough's Recycling Centres.
- **Local (ANBC) Campaigns**
 - Sustainable Packaging & Litter Project in the Three Mile Water DEA (see separate report).

Proposed by Councillor Montgomery
 Seconded by Councillor Ross and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.16 PK/CP/011 CAR PARKS UPDATE

Members were reminded that part of the transfer of 11 off street car parks to Council on 1 April 2015 included an Agency Agreement with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to manage enforcement and penalty charge processing.

Following a review of options and value for money in relation to the Agreement the council decided to give notice to the Department for Infrastructure of its withdrawal from the Regional Contract for Off Street Car Park Management from October 2019.

Members were advised that the issue of charging is nearing a conclusion and it is intended to bring a report on the matter to the next Operations Committee. In the meantime, temporary car park management arrangements will be put in place.

Proposed by Councillor Montgomery
 Seconded by Alderman Girvan and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

The Chair advised that the following Supplementary Reports would be taken at this point.

5.17 L/LEI/GEN/001 TOP TEAM SUCCESS

Members were reminded that in August 2018, a team of lifeguards from the Valley Leisure Centre won the inaugural Top Team event held at Olympia Leisure Centre, Belfast. Top Team is a daylong competition between teams of lifeguards from across Local Councils who are put through a rigorous assessment of their skills and knowledge in the form of live lifeguarding scenarios as well as theory based examination.

This year's competition was again held at Olympia Leisure Centre, Belfast with 13 teams competing, including a team from Valley Leisure Centre, Sixmile Leisure Centre, and Antrim Forum. In what was an outstanding achievement, Valley Leisure Centre was awarded the winning team for the 2nd successive year.

Members noted that the Mayor has requested Officers arrange a Mayoral reception to recognise the achievements of the Valley Leisure Centre lifeguard team.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Councillor Gilmore and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.18 L/LEI/152 BELFAST LIVE BEST NORTH BELFAST PLAYPARK – V36

The Belfast Live website ran a campaign in August seeking to determine Belfast's favourite Parks from a public vote. The categories were split on a North, South, East and West basis. The Northern area extends to Whiteabbey and Glengormley.

Correspondence has been received from the Belfast Live team indicating that V36 has received almost 60 % of the vote for the North Belfast area and is therefore the favourite Park in the Greater North Belfast area.

Further information is available at

<https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/whats-on/belfast-play-parks-citys-favourites-16758378>

Proposed by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

approval is given to place a small plaque (provided by Belfast Live) on the Pavilion at V36 to recognise the success.

NO ACTION

Following a request it was agreed that Officers would explore either uploading or emailing Supplementary Reports in future.

ACTION BY: Member Services

6. ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

Councillor Foster expressed concern about the new IFA regulations for Intermediate Football Clubs which he felt would compromise the finance of many clubs either currently in the Intermediate league or aspiring to become Intermediate.

The Head of Leisure advised that Council had been made aware of the changes in June at the Chief Leisure Officers' Association. They had already been agreed and ratified by the IFA at that stage. He confirmed that Officers were working on a report which would be brought to the next meeting.

ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Head of Leisure

Councillor Webb raised the issue of glyphosate weedkiller and its use within the Borough.

A proposal by Councillor Gilmour that the Council investigate if weedkiller using glyphosate is used by Council staff or contractors employed by the Council in the Council District and this cease in favour of a safer, more environmentally friendly product did not receive a seconder.

The Head of Parks indicated there was minimal use of products including glyphosate, with only certain invasive species requiring its use for eradication.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Councillor Ross that

The Head of Parks explore alternative products for use in this instance and otherwise for the products use to be avoided. A report be brought to Committee in due course.

ACTION BY: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Archibald
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and agreed that

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

6 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

6.1 IN CONFIDENCE WM/arc21/4 arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE PAPERS

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

- June 2019
- August 2019

There was no Joint Committee meeting in July 2019. 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. Following the retirement of the acting Chief Executive, Ricky Burnett, Tim Walker from Belfast City Council was recently appointed as the new acting Chief Executive from 1 October 2019.

The Director of Operations to invite the new arc21 Chief Executive to address members in relation to the Residual Waste Treatment project in the future.

Proposed by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Montgomery and agreed that

the papers be noted.

ACTION BY: Michael Laverty, Head of Waste Management

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Montgomery
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and agreed that

the remainder of Committee business be taken in Open Session.

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

There being no further committee business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting concluded at 8.17pm

MAYOR