

# MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 13 MARCH 2023 AT 6.30 PM

In the Chair : Councillor J Gilmour

**Committee Members** 

(In person)

Councillors M Brady, J Burbank

M Cooper, P Dunlop, N McClelland, V McWilliam

and V Robinson

**Committee Members** 

(Remote)

Alderman P Michael

Councillors L Smyth and M Stewart.

Non Committee

Members (In person)

Councillor B Webb

**Non Committee** 

Members: (Remote)

Alderman L Clarke

Councillor A Bennington

Presenters in Attendance Rosemary Magill, Chief Executive Officer, Women's

Aid ABCLN

Janice Hagan, Vice Chair, Women's Aid ABCLN Arlene Creighton, Communications, Engagements

Officer, Women's Aid ABCLN

Officers Present : Director of Community Planning – U Fay

Deputy Director of Governance – L Johnston Head of Community Planning – R McKenna

Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events – S Goldrick

Tourism Manager - M McGrann

ICT Systems Support Officer ICT – C Bell Member Services Officer – E Skillen

#### CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the March meeting of the Community Planning Committee and reminded all present of the audio recording procedures.

#### 1 APOLOGIES

Alderman J McGrath Councillors P Bradley and R Lynch

#### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 4.1	Councillor N McClelland
Item 5.1	Councillor V Robinson
Item 5.2	Councillor M Cooper
Item 5.12	Councillor M Cooper
Item 5.14	Councillors M Brady, P Dunlop, M Cooper and L Smyth
Item 7.3	Councillor L Smyth

#### 3 INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

None

#### 4 PRESENTATIONS

## 4.1 WOMEN'S AID ABCLN

The Chair welcomed Rosemary Magill (Chief Executive Officer), Janice Hagan (Vice Chair) and Arlene Creighton (Communications and Engagement Manager) to the meeting. They updated Members on the work of Women's Aid ABCLN and their future plans for development of a new site in the centre of Glengormley.

After responding to Members' questions the Chair and Members thanked them for their presentation and they left the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed

## that the presentation be noted.

Having declared an interest as an Ambassador for Women's Aid Councillor McClelland left the chamber.

Following Members' questions, the Director of Community Planning provided clarification on the potential grant funding available for the Women's Aid Development Project.

Councillor McClelland returned to the Chamber.

## 4.2 ED/ED/173 UPDATE ON TOURISM ACTION PLAN

Members were reminded that the Corporate Plan 2019-2030 and Recovery Plan 2021-2023 were centred on the themes of Place, Prosperity and People.

As part of the Prosperity theme, a Tourism Action Plan was agreed in February 2020 to help develop the Borough as an attractive and successful tourist destination; a copy would be provided for Members' information updated with the current position.

The Tourism Manager presented an update to the Committee on the delivery of the Tourism Action Plan to date and future priorities.

After Members' questions the Tourism Manager confirmed that he would take into consideration items raised and would report back to a future meeting. The Chair and Members thanked him for his presentation and he left the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson Seconded by Councillor Cooper and agreed that

the presentation on the Tourism Action Plan be noted.

ACTION: M MCGRANN, TOURISM MANAGER

#### 5 ITEMS FOR DECISION

## 5.1 CP/GEN/047 IPB PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS 2023

Members were reminded of The Annual IPB Pride of Place Awards, in association with Co-operation Ireland which aimed to recognise the efforts and endeavours of communities throughout the Island of Ireland to make their place the best place in which to live.

Nominations were now open for the 2023 competition and this year there were 12 categories in total; 5 Population categories, 4 Single Issue categories with designated themes, a Housing Estates category, an Islands and Coastal Communities category and an Urban Neighbourhood category. The Council could nominate groups in up to a maximum of five categories in all and one entry only in any individual category. The categories were listed below for Members' consideration:

## **Population**

- 1. 0 300
- 2. 300 1,000
- 3. 1,000 2,000
- 4. 2,000 5,000
- 5. Over 5,000

#### **Theme**

6. Creative Place Initiative

- 7. Community Wellbeing Initiative
- 8. Community Resilience
- 9. Community Tourism Initiative

## Non Population

- 10. Housing Estates
- 11. Islands and Coastal Communities
- 12. Urban Neighbourhoods Defined Area of a City, town or suburban place.

Entry to the competition would be by way of Council nomination. To nominate a group, a short application form had to be completed by the Council and submitted along with a short resume of the groups work and how it met the entry criteria. The deadline for receipt of nominations for the 2023 competition was Saturday 13 May 2023.

Following submission, an assessment visit would take place during the Summer where nominees would demonstrate pride in their place by oral presentation, exhibition of community activities and culture and a tour of the area highlighting the aspects of which they were particularly proud. During this visit it was also important that the community demonstrated real partnership with their local Council and shows that all sectors of the community were included.

Successful nominees would be announced at a Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony the date of which had yet to be confirmed. At this event Category winners would receive a large trophy and a cash prize of €1,000 or sterling equivalent. Runners-up would also receive a trophy and a cash prize of €500 or sterling equivalent. The entry fee per Council this year is £500 per group, provision for which had been made within the Community Planning budget.

Officers would propose that the following three groups be nominated for the 2023 competition:

- All About Us ASD Teens (Population Category Over 5000)
- Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group (Housing Estates)
- Newtownabbey Men's Shed (Community Wellbeing Initiative)

A short summary of the work of each of the groups was circulated for Members' information.

Proposed by Councillor McClelland. Seconded by Councillor Smyth and agreed that

- a) the 3 groups proposed for nomination to the 2023 Pride of Place Awards be approved.
- b) any proposals for additional nominations from Members to be made to Officers for consideration by 21 April 2023.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Having declared an interest in the next Item Councillor Cooper left the Chamber.

# 5.2 CP/CD/445 QUEENS AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2023 – ROYAL GARDEN PARTIES

Members were reminded that three groups in the Borough were awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) in 2022, namely:

- Whiteabbey Community Group
- Monkstown Community Association and
- The River Bann and Lough Neagh Association Company

Members were reminded that it was agreed at the June 2022 Community Planning Committee to support the delivery of presentation events to each of the recipients. These events were delivered from September 2022 - January 2023.

Members were advised that a request had been received from River Bann and Lough Neagh Association Company requesting financial assistance for two representatives to attend a Royal Garden Party in Buckingham Palace on Tuesday 9 May 2023 to celebrate their success in receiving the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in June 2022.

Whiteabbey Community Group and Monkstown Community Association had also received invitations for two representatives to attend a Royal Garden Party in Buckingham Palace and had confirmed their willingness to attend the Party being held on Wednesday 3 May 2023.

The total approximate cost per person for flights, transfers and accommodation is £225.00 and it was proposed that Council contributed up to a maximum of £125.00 per person to attend.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop Seconded by Councillor Burbank and agreed that

provision of financial assistance of up to £225.00 be considered for attendance at 2 Royal Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace on either 3 or 9 May 2023 and this be brought back to the April Committee for consideration.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Councillor Cooper returned to the Chamber.

## 5.3 AC/EV/019 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AT SPRING PLANT FAIR ON 22 APRIL 2023

Members were reminded that delivery of a Spring Plant Fair at Hazelbank Park on 22 April 2023 was approved at the November 2022 Council meeting.

In order to safely and efficiently manage parking and traffic flow at this event, it was proposed that the Hazelbank Car Park is closed on 22 April to all traffic

apart from traders, blue badge holders, and those collecting purchases from a dedicated 'plant crèche'. A free Park and Ride service for all park visitors would instead run between both Northern Regional College and Ulster University and Hazelbank Park for the duration of the event, with local signage installed in the weeks preceding the event to advise people of the change. Local parking at Jordanstown Loughshore Park would be unaffected.

Proposed by Councillor McClelland Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

the proposal to close Hazelbank Car Park on 22 April 2023 and offer a free park and ride service from Northern Regional College and Ulster University be approved.

ACTION BY: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

#### 5.4 AC/ACG/011 SIXMILE FESTIVAL

Members were reminded that a number of large scale events delivered in Antrim Castle Gardens and the wider Antrim area were included in the Council Annual Events Plan with budgets allocated for each of the events. The events referred to are Antrim Live, Party in the Park, The Antrim Festival and the Northern Ireland Food and Craft Festival.

Consultations with the various stakeholders involved in the delivery of the events had been carried out with a view to combining all events into one weekend long festival over the summer. The intention of this was to maximise the economic impacts of the events by creating a weekend festival which appeals to both residents and also visitors who have an incentive to stay in the area for the duration of the event. This approach would also maximise the resources by combining budgets whilst achieving economies of scale and through delivery of an enhanced higher quality event which in turn would increase attendances and visitor engagement within the area.

The proposal was presented to the Antrim DEA Member Engagement meeting on 2 February 2023 and received the endorsement of all in attendance. An overview of the proposal had been circulated for Members' information with the provisional title of Six Mile Festival.

It was proposed to deliver an inaugural 'Six Mile Festival' over the weekend of 29 and 30 July 2023 in Antrim Town Centre, Antrim Castle Gardens, The Junction, The Gateway Visitor Centre and Antrim Loughshore Park. The Junction had proposed a contribution of £10,000 to support the delivery of the festival as well as in kind support. Antrim Festival group had proposed an 'in kind' contribution of volunteer support over the weekend to deliver the festival.

Town centre animation would extend from Ulster Bar Corner to Market Square continuing through to Antrim Castle Gardens with a wide range of programme activities to suit all ages, including centrepiece performances in Antrim Castle Gardens Events Field. Plans included four major music events

covering a range of musical genres, complemented by an exciting programme of entertainment throughout Antrim Castle Gardens.

Stakeholders were in agreement that the consolidation and delivery of the proposed festival would create a unique new flagship event for Northern Ireland, with the potential to create significant economic benefits. Combining these events allowed for increased quality and value for money, particularly through economies of scale.

Proposed by Councillor McClelland Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

the delivery of the Six Mile Festival on 29 and 30 July 2023 as proposed be approved.

ACTION BY: Samuel Hyndman, Culture and Events Manager

## 5.5 AC/EV/003 CRAFT NI PROPOSAL FOR GARDEN SHOW IRELAND 2023

Members were reminded that ongoing collaboration with Craft NI in relation to the continued development of craft in the Borough was approved at the June 2021 Community Planning Committee.

The involvement of craft makers in Garden Show Ireland was well-established, and craft stalls form an important part of the event.

Craft NI was the sector-led body for the promotion and development of the design-led contemporary craft industry in Northern Ireland. Craft NI supports and promotes the craft industry as an integral, entrepreneurial and vibrant part of the region's economic and cultural infrastructure. Its key partners include regional government and agencies, local government, cultural organisations, universities and colleges of further and higher education, private business and industry.

Members were advised that Officers had met with Craft NI to ascertain if they would be interested in sourcing and managing high-quality craft makers for Garden Show Ireland 2023 on a one-year trial basis. Craft NI had indicated that they would be keen to do this.

Under the terms of the proposal, Craft NI would be responsible for sourcing and managing 12-15 high quality craft makers who would offer their crafts for sale to the public and provide craft demonstrations. Craft NI propose to charge each craft maker £250 to participate, with 50% of this being retained by Craft NI as a management fee and 50% given to the Council to cover infrastructure costs. Craft NI had committed to ensuring that craft makers based in the Borough were encouraged to participate in the event.

The involvement of Craft NI in Garden Show Ireland would be reviewed after this year's event, with a report brought to the September Committee meeting.

In response to a question from a Member the Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events confirmed that Craft NI had made a commitment to work with local crafters.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam Seconded by Councillor Smyth and agreed that

# Craft NI's involvement in sourcing and managing craft makers at Garden Show Ireland 2023 be approved.

ACTION BY: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

## 5.6 ED/TOU/002 VISITOR SERVICES REVIEW

Members were reminded that a Tourism Action Plan for the Borough was approved in February 2020 prior to the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Within the Action Plan Visitor Information Provision was highlighted as a thematic area and it was proposed to review existing provision and distribute visitor information services across the Borough at locations of higher visitor footfall.

A review of the Borough's Visitor Information provision had been carried out with engagement of Tourism Northern Ireland and Visit Belfast – strategic tourism partners; a copy was circulated for Members' information.

It was proposed to implement the recommendations by enhancing existing visitor information and creating new visitor information points, which would position this service in areas of high footfall and more effectively distribute this service across the Borough on the following basis:

Existing Visitor Information Services would be refreshed and upgraded at the following locations:

- Mossley Mill
- The Old Courthouse
- The Junction
- Belfast International Airport

New Visitor Information Service points would be created at the following locations:

- Valley Leisure Centre
- The Abbeycentre
- The Gateway Visitor Centre
- Ballyclare Town Hall
- Antrim Castle Gardens
- Randalstown

The estimated cost of the digital equipment to carry out the proposed changes was approximately £35,000.

In response to a Member's question the Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events confirmed the rebranding work and all the information that was being used in the Visitor Information Centres would all follow Best Practise guidelines when it comes to accessibility.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and agreed that

the proposals for the provision of Visitor Information Services in the Borough with the inclusion of Hazelbank Park at an approximate cost of £35,000 be approved.

ACTION BY: Mark McGrann, Tourism Manager

## 5.7 AC/GEN/038 MOBILE CATERING UNITS AT THE GATEWAY

Members were reminded that a proposal to allow Loughshore Catering, operator of the Boathouse restaurant, to install additional mobile catering units at the Antrim Lough Shore Park was approved at the April 2021 Council meeting for a period of one year with a further 12-month extension. Rental payments were applied at the same cost per square metre as the Boathouse restaurant.

Within their contract for The Boathouse Loughshore Catering have the rights to food trading opportunities throughout Antrim Loughshore Park.

Members were advised that at present there were three mobile catering units on the site, all of which have been closed since last summer. A wooden fence had also been erected around these units to protect generators and other operational equipment and plant.

Officers had met the contractor to discuss the future of these units. They would like to remove two of the three units and all of the fencing and additional plant equipment, leaving only the Made in Antrim unit for which they would then need to apply for planning permission. Rental payments would be recalculated based on this single unit, and would continue to be charged at the same cost per square metre as the Boathouse restaurant for a contract period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 (with an option to extend by 12 months).

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop Seconded by Councillor Smyth and agreed that

permission to Loughshore Catering to operate a mobile catering unit in Antrim Loughshore Park from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 (with an option to extend by 12 months) be approved.

ACTION BY: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events

### 5.8 AC/MU/001 PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS

Members were reminded that a request to carry out a paranormal investigation at Mossley Mill by a paranormal group based in Newtownabbey was approved by the Committee in June 2021. The Group have now requested permission to carry out a similar investigation at Sentry Hill. As previously, the Group would be responsible for the provision of a risk assessment and insurance to cover this activity.

Members were also advised that correspondence has been received from the County Antrim Paranormal Research Association (CAPRA), requesting permission to carry out a paranormal investigation at Clotworthy House.

CAPRA had advised Officers that the organisation had investigated paranormal activity at other historic buildings including the Grand Opera House in Belfast. The investigation would take place over the course of one evening, and would involve the use of equipment which detects temperature and frequency anomalies. The Group would be responsible for the provision of a risk assessment and insurance for this activity.

Following a question from a Member, the Director of Community Planning advised the follow-up report on Mossley Mill would be shared with her.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

requests to carry out a paranormal investigations at Sentry Hill and Clotworthy House be approved.

ACTION BY: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts Culture, Tourism and Events

## 5.9 AC/EV/025 BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR

Members were advised that the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group resumed in October 2022 to commence planning for the May Fair which would be delivered from 20 to 27 May 2023. The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2023 were circulated for Members' information.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam Seconded by Councillor Cooper and agreed that

the minutes of the May Fair Working Group meeting of the 22 February 2023, be approved.

ACTION BY: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events

#### 5.10 CP/CD/453 ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST UPDATE

Correspondence had been received from the Reserved Forces and Cadets Association for Northern Ireland (RFCA) in relation to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust Update; a copy was circulated for Members' information.

Members were advised that RFCA (NI) confirmed that they had now appointed a dedicated support officer for the Veterans' Champions Community. He had engaged with the Borough Veterans' Champion with a view to developing an outreach programme that reaches out to the veteran community in the Borough.

There was funding available to support veteran outreach programming in the Borough as follows:

- \$1,454\$ per annum to deliver up to three local veteran community networking events in the Borough.
- £3,000 per annum for up to three veteran community social events in the Borough and
- £1,181 per annum to deliver up to three veteran community family half day activities in the Borough.

It was proposed to engage with the Borough Veterans' Champion to develop events and activities for veterans which were eligible for each of the funding strands and submit proposals to the Veterans' Champion Support Officer with an update brought to a future meeting.

Proposed by Alderman Michael Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

development of events and activities for veterans and application for financial support to deliver this programme be approved with an update brought back to a future meeting.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

## 5.11 CP/PP/006 PEACEPLUS PARTNERSHIP MINUTES

Members were reminded that the PEACEPLUS Partnership operated as a Working Group of Council.

As such the minutes of recent PEACEPLUS Partnership meeting held on 21 February 2023 were circulated for Members' consideration.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop Seconded by Councillor Smyth and agreed that

the minutes of the PEACEPLUS Partnership meeting held on 21 February 2023 be approved.

ACTION BY: Lynda Kennedy, Community Programmes Manager

### 5.12 CP/CD/456 BONFIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME 2023

Members were reminded that a review of the Bonfire Management Programme was completed in February 2022 and approved by the Council in March 2022 with a budget of £3,000 per site for family fun day/festival activities agreed. In 2022, 21 sites signed up to the Bonfire Management Programme.

On 2 March 2023 Officers met with Bonfire Representatives from across the Borough to receive feedback in relation to the 2022 programme and to identify any issues that may exist in advance of the registration of participating sites for the 2023 programme. A similar meeting was held with Elected Members at which feedback from the site representatives meeting was presented and discussed.

In summary, across both meetings, there was a general consensus that the aims and objectives of the programme, as outlined in the Framework Document (circulated) and the way in which it was currently delivered was still fit for purpose. Specific issues were raised at the meetings in relation to:

- Procurement of Inflatables Council should continue to ensure that value for money is being achieved.
- In light of the increased costs of insurance and equipment it had been proposed that the current level of financial assistance of £3,000 per site be increased by £500 to £3,500 in 2023, this had been provided for in the 23/24 estimates.

The Bonfire Management Programme was equality screened in May 2018 and since then there had been no material changes to the programme therefore this screening still applies.

#### **Programme Delivery 2023**

In preparation for the delivery of the 2023 Bonfire Management Programme, Officers were currently preparing online registration packs for completion by all potential participating sites. Sign up dates had been scheduled to take place in Antrim Civic Centre and Mossley Mill on Wednesday 19 April and Thursday 20 April 2023 respectively and the collection date had been proposed as Friday 12 May 2023.

Interagency site inspection dates which would be carried out by Officers and Statutory Partners, had been agreed as follows:

Pre-Collection – Thursday 11 May 2023 (Council Officer Only) First Inspection – Thursday 1 June 2023 Second Inspection – Thursday 22 June 2023 Final Inspection – Monday 10 July 2023

Early indications suggest that 22 sites would sign up to participate in this year's programme.

Two representatives from each site had been invited to attend a 4 week OCN Level II Course in Events Management commencing Thursday 9 March 2023.

Following the registration of sites on Wednesday 19 April and Thursday 20 April 2023 a further report would be brought to Council.

In response to a Member's question the Head of Community Planning confirmed that there was potential for other sites to be added.

The Director of Community Planning in response to a Member's question also advised that Officers were engaging with bonfire organisers responsible for delivery of bonfires on Council land. She also advised that Officers meet with Community Groups on an ongoing basis to engage and advise groups in respect of the safety of event management.

Proposed by Councillor Brady Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

- a) the proposed Bonfire Management Programme for 2023 be approved.
- b) the financial assistance provided be increased by £500 for 2023.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

# 5.13 CP/CD/457 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME SMALL GRANTS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS 2023/2024

Members were reminded of the Small Grants Programme, which was agreed by the Council in October 2014 as part of the Council's new Community Development Grant Aid Programme.

The purpose of the Small Grants programme was to provide financial assistance to groups within the Borough of up to a maximum of £1,000 (revised and approved by Council in October 2021) towards seeding costs and/or insurance or a small activity and/or insurance. Members were advised that groups who apply for a small grant were not permitted to apply for any other funding available under the wider Community Development Grant Aid Programme during the course of the 2023/24 financial year.

In December 2019 Members agreed that from 1 April 2020 all Small Grant requests of £500 (now £1,000) or less be assessed on the basis of Pass/Fail against eligibility criteria and not subjected to a scored assessment process. All proposed awards were subject to the receipt of a Group Constitution, List of Committee Members, Bank Statement, Annual Accounts and a signed disclosure from the group confirming that all other appropriate supporting documentation were in place and could be provided on request or the offer of funding would be withdrawn.

During the month of February, 2 applications totalling £1,100 were received and assessed by Officers as outlined below:

Group Name/Project Promoter	Project Description/Title	Pass/Fail	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Muck and More Allotments Association	Annual Public and Employers Liability Insurance	Pass	£400	£400
Neillsbrook Community Development Group	Annual Public and Employers Liability Insurance	Pass	£700	£700
Total				£1,100

Proposed by Councillor Robinson Seconded by Councillor Smyth and agreed that

the two Small Grant applications outlined above be approved at a total cost of £1,100.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

## 5.14 CP/CD/455 HIS MAJESTY THE KINGS CORONATION CELEBRATION EVENTS FUND GRANT-AID RECOMMENDATIONS 2023

Members were reminded of the motion declared carried at the Council meeting in October 2022 to establish a Sub Committee to plan for the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort.

Following a meeting of the newly established Sub Committee on 29 November 2022 it was agreed to provide financial assistance to support community and voluntary groups wishing to deliver events over the extended weekend of 5 - 8 May 2023 to celebrate this historic occasion.

A public call for applications to His Majesty The King's Coronation Celebration Events Fund opened on Wednesday 1 February 2023 with a closing date of Tuesday 28 February 2023 at 4pm.

A total of 95 requests for financial assistance totalling £89,340.87 had been received and assessed by Officers using eligibility criteria and scoring matrix as that used to assess applications under the Community Development Small Grant Aid Programme.

A summary of the application score sheets and funding recommendations were circulated for Members' consideration.

Following assessment all 95 applications requesting a total of £87,953.38 were eligible to be funded.

Due to the statutory holiday a number of groups had requested permission to host their events outside of the dates of the official Coronation weekend.

In response to Members' queries The Director of Community Planning advised that the groups that had received the Party Packs were not the same as the community grant funded groups. She also advised that this item had been added to the Agenda for sub-committee meeting on Tuesday 14 March 2023.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam Seconded by Councillor Robinson and agreed that

the 95 applications requesting a total of £87,953.38 be approved and that permission be granted to those groups wishing to hold their events outside of the dates of the official Coronation weekend.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

## 5.15 CP/CP/178 DEA ENGAGEMENT MEETING TERMS OF REFERENCE

New Terms of Reference for the DEA Engagement Meetings had been drafted and circulated for Members' approval. The Terms of Reference would provide the framework for the DEA Meetings moving forward. It outlined the roles and responsibilities of Officer's to ensure effective operation and reporting of the meetings.

The new Terms of Reference would also provide clear timelines for the operational side of the meetings to ensure Members were provided with the most up to date information at their DEA Meeting. The recently in post DEA Engagement Team would implement the new framework for the DEA Meetings and manage the process in collaboration with other service areas across the Council.

In response to Members' queries the Director of Community Planning agreed that terminology would be reviewed and amended.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop Seconded by Councillor Stewart and agreed that

the DEA Engagement Meeting Terms of Reference would be amended and brought to the Full Council Meeting in March.

ACTION BY: Conor Cunning, DEA Engagement Manager

#### 5.16 CP/CP/213 CORONATION OF HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III SUB COMMITTEE

Members were reminded that at the Council meeting in October 2022, it was agreed to the establishment of a Sub Committee to commemorate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to plan for the Coronation of King Charles III. The fourth meeting of the Sub Committee was held in Ballyclare Town Hall on Wednesday 22 February 2023.

The minutes of this meeting were circulated for Members' information.

Members were advised that a screening exercise on the Queen Elizabeth II commemorative programme had been carried out with the form circulated. An equality impact assessment was not recommended.

Proposed by Councillor Brady Seconded by Councillor Smyth and agreed that

- the minutes of King Charles III Coronation Sub Committee meeting of
   February 2023 be approved;
- b) the outcome of the Section 75 Screening exercise be approved.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

## 5.17 AC/GEN/010/VOL1 ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY PANEL

Members were reminded that the continuation of the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel, including the nomination of five Elected Members (one per party) and the recruitment of up to twelve independent voluntary members to serve for the term of the Council was approved by the Community Planning Committee in February 2019.

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel meet four times each year to provide advice, support and advocacy for the Borough's Arts and Cultural Service. Elected Member nominations to the Panel were refreshed each Council term at the Annual Meeting, while non-elected independent members serve a four-year term of office. Members were advised that the Panel currently had eight non-elected independent members.

It was proposed that current independent voluntary members be permitted to continue to serve on the Panel for the next Council term, and Officers begin a recruitment process to appoint new independent members to the vacant positions.

Members were advised that the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel Constitution had been updated and was circulated for Members' information.

Proposed by Councillor McClelland Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and agreed that

- a) the continued service of the current Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel independent members for the next term of the Council, be approved
- b) the recruitment of up to four additional independent members be approved
- c) the updated Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel Constitution be approved

ACTION BY: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

### 5.18 AC/GEN/086 PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NOW GROUP

Members were reminded that the Council was awarded the prestigious Autism Impact Award in 2019 in recognition of Council venues creating accessible and autism-friendly environments. Members were also reminded that the Council had a partnership with the NOW Group through to which it administers its JAM (Just a Minute of patience) card scheme, which allowed people with a hidden disability or communication barrier to tell others that they need extra time and understanding in a private and easy way. Accreditations and partnerships like these feed directly into the Council's Disability Action Plan 2020 – 2025.

The NOW Group is a not-for-profit organisation that provided a range of services that support people with learning difficulties and autism to realise their full potential and change their lives for the better. The Group's services focus on supporting people into employment, training, transition and volunteering. It also offers a family service to support new and expectant parents with a learning difficulty or autism. The NOW Group is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme, the Department for the Economy and the Department for Communities.

Members were advised that Officers had been approached by the NOW Group to explore further partnership opportunities to benefit people living with learning disabilities and autism.

The Group had suggested working with the Council to co-produce two drama productions each year at the Theatre at the Mill which would be performed by people with learning disabilities and autism. Non-acting front of house, backstage and technical roles would also be taken by members of the Group, who would receive tuition, mentoring and guidance from theatre staff and other professional theatre practitioners as part of the partnership in order to develop their skills and give them valuable practical experience to help them secure jobs in the creative industries. These productions would be presented to a professional standard, with friends, family and members of the public invited to attend the shows.

Subject to approval, this enhanced partnership could be announced during Autism Awareness Week, which runs from 27 March – 2 April 2023.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson Seconded by Councillor Smyth and agreed that

the proposal to further develop the existing partnership with the NOW Group through co-production of two theatre shows each year to support people with learning difficulties and autism, be approved.

ACTION BY: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

### 6 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

## 6.1 CP/GEN/019 COMMUNITY PLANNING SECTION - PARTNERSHIP MINUTES

Members were advised that the quarterly update Partnership Minutes as listed below could be viewed in the electronic folder called "Partnership Minutes for Members' information" on your Ipads.

Community Development				
File Ref	Date of Meeting	Name of Partnership		
D/Gen/91		Antrim & Newtownabbey Citizens Advice Bureau		
D/CSP/48	29/06/2022 28/09/2022	Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)		
D/DP/67	06/12/2022	Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership		
D/DP/67	-	Grange Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership		
	-	Joint Cohesion Group		
CP/GR/43	-	Traveller Issues Local Government Partnership		
CP/CP/	10/12/2019 15/09/2020 26/01/2021 28/09/2021 07/04/2022	Community Planning Partnership		

Proposed by Councillor Cooper Seconded by Councillor Robinson and agreed that

## that the Partnership Minutes be noted.

NO ACTION

## 6.2 CP/TD/025 COMMUNITY SECTOR SUPPORT – FUTURE PLANS

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from Department for Communities (circulated) outlining their intention to initiate a programme of work with the aim of refreshing both the policy and funding frameworks within which investment decisions relating to future support for the Community and Voluntary Sector would be taken.

The review would provide new opportunities to apply for funding through an open call, with multi-year, flexible grant funding arrangements in place. It was anticipated the transition to new arrangements would commence in 2024/2025 financial year (subject to relevant progress and necessary approvals being in place).

This programme of work would be progressed alongside the ongoing 'People and Place, Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy'.

Members were reminded 'People and Place – A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal' was launched in June 2003. It was aimed at targeting urban communities in Northern Ireland suffering the highest levels of deprivation by bringing together collective Government Departments in partnership to address disadvantage. People and Place encompasses Neighbourhood Renewal, Areas at Risk and Small Pockets of Deprivation programmes which had been in place since early 2000's. There had been subsequent evaluations of these programmes with limited change effected.

In February 2020 the Minister for Communities committed to a comprehensive and strategic review of the current People and Place strategy via an inclusive Co-Design process. Subsequently the People and Place Review Team presented the context to People Place Review and update on Co-Design process and Structures at Community Planning Partnership meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

The People and Place Review was ongoing with changes anticipated in 2024/2025 financial year. Further updates on both these programmes of work would be communicated to Members at the earliest opportunity.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper Seconded by Councillor Robinson and agreed that

the Department for Communities 'Community Sector Support Future Plans' update be noted.

NO ACTION

# 6.3 CP/TD/003 NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP FUNDING 2022/23 UPDATE

Members were reminded that funding for the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership for 2022/23 was approved at the April 2022 committee.

Members were advised Department for Communities had issued a revised funding contract for the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Programme 2022/23 (circulated) to reflect a cost of living payment for running costs and salaries. This had been accepted by the Council and returned to enable payments to be made prior to 31st March 2023.

Members were reminded that the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme had been operating in Rathcoole since 2006.

The revised offer of funding for 2022/23 of £80,462.32 for cost of living increase shows an increase of £1925 from the original offer of £78,537.32.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper

Seconded by Councillor Robinson and agreed that

the revised Letter of Offer from Department for Communities for £80,462.32 for Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership 2022/23 be noted.

NO ACTION

## 6.4 CP/CP/225 YOUTH SERVICE FUNDING APPLICATIONS 2023-24

Members were advised correspondence (circulated) had been received from the Education Authority regarding Youth Service Funding position for 2023-24.

Below is a funding breakdown for Antrim and Newtownabbey Council.

Total no of awards 2022/23	Amount awarded	Total no of awards available for 2023/24	Amount available	Increased provision (Compared to last year)
4	£185,051.00	5	£152,964.00	11 Sessions (increase of 1 session)

Following the funding application process, the Education Authority had informed applicants and Council of the outcome of the process. A summary of the outcome was listed below;

## **Core Funding Opportunities:**

Ballyclare – Conditional letter of offer had been released and checks were being carried out for 1st April contract start.

Rathenraw - Conditional letter of offer had been released and checks were being carried out for 1st April contract start

Rathfern – No applications

### **Targeted Funding Opportunities:**

Rathfern – No application for Street Based programme; this funding opportunity had been released in error was intended to be for Crumlin; decision would be taken after consultation (input from PCSP/Community Planning welcome) to decide where best to focus this and release a new funding opportunity.

Monkstown – no applicants; discussions ongoing with local providers, decision would be made to re-release or deliver the programme within EA.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper Seconded by Councillor Robinson and agreed that

### the report be noted.

NO ACTION

## 6.5 CP/CD/454 COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP FUND

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (circulated) regarding the launch of a new window to apply for the Community Ownership Fund.

Community groups could bid for up to £250k matched-funding to buy or take over local community assets at risk of loss to run these as community-owned businesses. In exceptional cases, up to £1m was available for sports clubs to buy a sports ground at risk of loss.

To apply, groups should submit an Expression of Interest. If successful, they would be invited to submit a full application during one of the bidding windows. The current window opened on 15 February and would close on 14 April 2023.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper Seconded by Councillor Robinson and agreed that

### the report be noted.

NOACTION

#### 6.6 CP/CD/433 CENSUS 2021

Members were reminded that at the June Community Planning Committee the first results from Census 2021 were reported following publication on 24 May 2022. The first release of data consisted of headline population statistics by age, sex, number of households with usual residents, and communal establishment population.

Further results from Census 2021 had been published on 21 February 2023. Census 2021 person and household estimates were published for the District Electoral Areas (80 areas), Super Data Zones (850 zones) and Data Zones (3,780 zones) in Northern Ireland.

Super Data Zones and Data Zones were the new statistical output geographies for the Census 2021. Further information on these output geographies were available via the NISRA Area Explorer <u>explore.nisra.gov.uk</u> and the NISRA website <u>www.nisra.gov.uk/census2021</u>.

Further results from Census 2021 would be released on 21 March 2023. The March release would cover topics such as sexual orientation, household composition, labour market, qualifications, communal establishments, migration and travel to work or study. The results would be available on the NISRA website and would include statistics at both Northern Ireland and Local Government District levels.

Other main Census 2021 statistics would be released in stages up to Summer 2023.

The results and further information on Census 2021 were available on the NISRA website; <a href="www.nisra.gov.uk/Census2021">www.nisra.gov.uk/Census2021</a>

Proposed by Councillor Cooper Seconded by Councillor Robinson and agreed that

## the report be noted.

NO ACTION

## 6.7 CP/CD/224 BEREAVEMENT POLICY CHANGE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from Department for Communities (circulated) regarding changes to the eligibility criteria for bereavement benefits.

The Department for Work and Pensions had announced that from 9 February 2023, cohabiting parents would be able to claim bereavement benefits, to help them bring up dependent children.

Families who had previously been unable to get support because they weren't married or in a civil partnership would be able to apply for retrospective payments going back to 30 August 2018. A surviving parent who lost their partner on or after 6 April 2017 may be eligible for Bereavement Support Payment. Those who lost their partner before 6 April 2017 may be eligible for Widowed Parent's Allowance(WPA).

Backdated payments of Widowed Parent's Allowance may be reduced by the amount of any other benefits paid in the period from 30 August 2018. For anyone who was in receipt of Universal Credit, the award of WPA may result in an historic overpayment of Universal Credit.

More Information is available on NI Direct: <a href="www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/benefits-and-financial-support/bereavement">www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/benefits-and-financial-support/bereavement</a>

Proposed by Councillor Cooper Seconded by Councillor Robinson and agreed that

#### the report be noted.

NO ACTION

#### 6.8 CP/CP/146 SMALL WORLDS EVENT

Members were advised that as part of the Good Relations Action Plan delivery of two Small Worlds workshops would be held on 20 March 2023.

To offer a variety of times for attendees the workshop would be held at 2-4pm, and 7-9pm in Corrs Corner Hotel.

Small Worlds were café-style events hosted by members of Belfast Friendship Club, aiming to change hearts and minds through offering a glimpse into real lives from around the world. The workshops provided a safe space for participants to encounter people from different backgrounds and parts of the world and were carefully managed by an experienced facilitator.

Participants would get a glimpse into the real lives of people who grew up in a different part of the world, a different culture or religious background, a different environment or climate living far away from their family and friends. Additionally, participants would hear of the challenges of being new to Northern Ireland and the variety of reasons for moving to here.

Alongside Small Worlds there would also be presentations from PSNI, Bryson Group, Barnardos, and MEARS Housing. With an opportunity for PSNI engagement, the event would also involve the Antrim and Newtownabbey Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP), The PCSP had a requirement within its Action Plan to deliver activities to address hate crime.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper Seconded by Councillor Robinson and agreed that

#### the report be noted.

NO ACTION

## 6.9 AC/MU/010 SENTRY HILL REOPENING ARRANGEMENTS

Members were reminded that Sentry Hill Historic House had been closed to the public since the Covid 19 pandemic, with the exception of pre-arranged school visits and tour groups.

Prior to the pandemic, Sentry Hill would open to the public annually from Easter to September. From October to March, Sentry Hill accommodated schools and group visits, events, and the delivery of classes and courses.

Members were advised that it was proposed to reopen Sentry Hill to visitors on Easter Sunday and Monday (April 9 and 10) from 2pm to 5pm. It was also proposed that Sentry Hill opens to visitors each weekend from 12pm until 5pm from Easter until the end of September. A launch event would take place to mark the venue's reopening, and additional animation events would be programmed throughout the summer.

Members were reminded of the visitor fees approved at the November 2022 Committee which will apply:

Adults £4.50 Children and concessions £3

Family groups £12Community groups £4Group concessions £2.50/£3

Members were advised that Sentry Hill would continue to be available for schools and other groups to visit, subject to advance booking, outside of these times.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper Seconded by Councillor Robinson and agreed that

### the report be noted.

NO ACTION

## 6.10 AC/GEN/083 ARTS COUNCIL OF NORTHERN IRELAND ANNUAL REVIEW 2021-22

Members were advised that a copy of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's (ACNI) Annual Review 2021-22 was received on 20 February 2023.

The report noted that although Covid restrictions were gradually eased during this year, the operating environment for the arts was extremely challenging. To help mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the sector, the ACNI produced a substantial body of research, which informed the design and delivery of a suite of Emergency Funding Programmes co-produced with the Department for Communities.

The report also noted that the long-term sustainability of small to medium-sized cultural organisations would be boosted with the introduction of the 'Blueprint' partnership programme designed to future-proof a number of arts organisations through training and mentoring initiatives.

Support for artists and arts organisations to manage new rules governing travel and trade with counterparts in the European Union (EU) was provided through a new pilot funding scheme called the Four Nations International Fund, which in turn had led to the creation of the Arts Infopoint UK, which provided information on practical issues relating to artist mobility and explores new bilateral initiatives with EU states.

In 2021-22 the ACNI established Minority Ethnic and Rural Deliberative Forums to ensure that under-represented groups not traditionally associated with decision-making were implicitly involved in decisions that affect them. Similarly, the Mentoring and Residency Programme for Minority Ethnic Artists awarded £107,000 to assist 27 artists with their careers through skills development.

The report further noted that the ACNI introduced three funding programmes to advance the development of the arts within the digital marketplace, and resumed their Creative Schools Partnership with the Education Authority and Urban Villages.

Further information about the ACNI 2021-22 Annual Review could be found at <a href="https://www.artscouncil-ni.org">www.artscouncil-ni.org</a>.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper Seconded by Councillor Robinson and agreed that

### the report be noted

NO ACTION

#### **ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

In response to a question from a Member in relation to the illumination of the Round Tower in Antrim the Director of Community Planning advised that arrangements were in place to deliver this.

#### PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Robinson Seconded by Councillor Cooper and agreed

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

## 7 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

## 7.1 IN CONFIDENCE CP/CD/289 DUNANNEY CENTRE – TENANCY RENEWALS

Members were reminded that there were a number of rentable offices in the Dunanney Centre. Rent was approved at a cost of per square metre per annum at the Council meeting on 26 February 2018.

In response to a Member's question the Director of Community Planning confirmed that all groups were key-holders.

It was proposed to renew tenancy agreements as follows:

Organisation	Rooms Requested for Rental Renewal	Tenancy Renewal Date and Term	Rental Income (per annum)
Barnardo's	Ground Floor Creche, Rooms 24 & 26.	1 April 2023 for 1 year	
Listening Ear	Rooms 23, 27 & 22	8 May 2023 for 1 year	
RATH	Room 21	1 May 2023 for 1 year	

Proposed by Councillor Robinson Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

- a) The tenancy and keyholder option for Barnardo's be approved from 1 April 2023 for 1 year at a cost of per annum.
- b) The tenancy and keyholder option for Listening Ear be approved from 8 May 2023 for 1 year at a cost of per annum.
- c) The tenancy and keyholder option for RATH be approved from 1 May 2023 for 1 year at a cost of per annum.

ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

## 7.2 IN CONFIDENCE ED/ED/080/VOL 4 CORPORATE EVENTS SPONSORSHIP

Members were reminded that corporate event sponsorship for the May Day Steam Rally, ISPS Handa World Invitational Golf and STATSports Supercup to the value of £15,000, £37,500 and £30,000 respectively for a three-year period to 2022 was approved at the January 2020 Council Meeting. In addition, the provision of £15,000 for the Antrim Game Fair was approved also for a three-year period at the February 2021 Council Meeting.

Members were advised that the organisers of the Irish Games Fair at Shane's Castle had postponed the event from June 2023 to August 2024 due to illness with their event operators. They were currently working with an events company in GB for 2024, with the view of them taking over in 2025. The organisers of the Irish Games Fair aim to update the Council in April 2023 on the new events company and plans for 2024 and Members would be updated accordingly.

Delivery of all events were prevented in 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic and Members were advised that an increase funding award of £50,000 for the ISPS Handa World. Invitational Golf was approved at the January 2021 Council Meeting.

The delivery of the events recovered in 2021 and organisers had confirmed they would like to deliver each of the events in 2023, the final year of the existing arrangement, as follows:

Event	2023 dates
May Day Steam Rally	30 April and 1 May
STATSports Supercup NI	23-28 July
ISPS Handa World	17-20 August
Invitational*	

All of these high profile large scale events form part of the Boroughs Tourism offer and bring economic and public relations benefits to the Borough, including a significant number of bed nights.

Officers were engaging with event organisers on an ongoing basis to support the delivery of these events. The organisers of STATSports Supercup had made a request that the funding support for their event in 2023 is increased from £30,000 to £50,000. This event in particular brings significant numbers of visitors to the Borough from GB, ROI and further afield and as a result generates

significant numbers of bed nights in the Borough. It was proposed to increase the funding support for this youth sport event as requested to £50,000.

Members were advised that Massereene Golf Club had hosted the ISPS Handa Golf in 2021 and 2022, however had decided not to do so in 2023. Officers were engaging with event organisers to identify an alternative venue in the Borough for this event in 2023 with Allen Park currently the most likely venue. A further report would be brought to a future meeting when there was a final decision in relation to the Borough venue for this event.

In response to a question from a Member the Director of Community Planning confirmed that if any future investment was required to upgrade Allen Park this would be brought back to Members for consideration within the ISPS Handa report.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop Seconded by Alderman Michael and agreed that

- a) the corporate event sponsorship update on events planned for 2023 be noted
- b) provision of £50,000 funding to support STATSport for delivery of their event in 2023 be approved.
- c) a further update on the venue for the ISPS Handa Invitational Golf in 2023 be brought to a future meeting.
- d) a further update on the Irish Games Fair at Shane's Castle 2024 be brought to a future meeting.

ACTION BY: Mark McGrann. Tourism Manager

### 7.3 IN CONFIDENCE - AC/GEN/037 ARTS AND CULTURE GRANT AID PROGRAMME

Members were reminded that the revised Arts and Culture Grant Aid programme was approved by the Committee in April 2022 and operates on a rolling basis.

Members were advised that the following applications had been made to the programme, and having been assessed by Officers had met the award threshold.

To be successful applicants must score a minimum of 50% in their application and all proposed awards were subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation or the offer of funding would be withdrawn.

## **Arts Grant Applications**

Group / Individual	Funding Category	Funding Purpose	Date of Event	Score	Proposed Award
Riverside Special School	The delivery of an event or festival which must be held in Borough and open to the public	Set up Glee Club, buy instruments, and engage facilitators to conduct classes.	30/3/2023 (application received on 3/2/2023)	60%	£1,000
Katie Robb	The attendance or participation in an arts event either by invitation or qualification.	Attend Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance Summer School in London from 24 July – 4 August	24/7/2023	65%	£1,000

## **Heritage Grant applications**

Group / Individual	Funding Category	Funding Purpose	Date of Event	Score	Proposed Award
Ballyclare High School Foundation	Production of a Heritage Product	Publication of 'A History of Rugby at Ballyclare High School up to 1973'	Ongoing	90%	£1,000.00
Muckamore Diamond LOL 1422	Delivery of a Heritage Event	Muckamore Centenary Event to commemorat e those who died in WW1	1/7/2023	95%	£1,500.00

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop Seconded by Councillor Robinson and agreed that

## the Arts and Culture grant awards be approved

ACTION BY: Leeann Murray, Arts Development Officer & Philip Magennis, Culture and Heritage Officer

## PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Alderman Michael Seconded by Councillor Brady 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 Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 8.20pm



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.