



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD  
AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 4 APRIL 2022 AT 6.30 PM**

**In the Chair** : Councillor A Logue

**Members Present:** Aldermen - F Agnew, T Burns, L Clarke and J Smyth  
Councillors - A Bennington, M Brady, R Foster, J Gilmour,  
N Kelly, J Montgomery and R Swann

**Non Committee:  
Members** Councillors – P Dunlop and N McClelland

**Officers Present** : Deputy Chief Executive of Operations - G Girvan  
Deputy Director of Operations (Leisure & Parks) - M  
McDowell  
Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health,  
Building Control and Property) - C Todd  
Deputy Director of Operations (Waste and Fleet) – M Lavery  
Head of Property and Building Services – S Hipkins  
ICT System Support Officer – Colin Bell  
ICT Helpdesk Officer - J Wilson  
Mayor & Member Services Officer – S Fisher  
Member Services Officer – A Duffy

**CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

The Chairperson, Councillor Logue welcomed Committee Members to the April Operations Committee meeting and reminded all present of the audio recording procedures.

Although the COVID restrictions had been relaxed, to manage numbers and minimise risk, members of the public and press continue to access those parts of the Council meetings which they are entitled to attend through the livestream on the Council's website.

**1 APOLOGIES**

Aldermen Girvan and McGrath  
Councillor Wilson

## 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

## 3 ITEMS FOR DECISION

### 3.1 EH/EHS/FC/017 APPROVAL OF PREMISES AS A COOKED MEATS READY MEAL MANUFACTURER – TASTY GRUB CLUB LTD 108B HILLHEAD ROAD, BALLYCLARE

Members were reminded that since 1 June 2006, it has been a legislative requirement to approve product specific food establishments under regulation EC 853/2004.

If a food business, prepares or handles food of animal origin for supply to other businesses, the business and its activities require approval by Council. All products made in approved premises must display a Health Mark with an Identification Number.

Premises	Address	Identification Number
Tasty Grub Club Ltd	108B Hillhead Road Ballyclare Co. Antrim BT39 9LN	UK(NI) ZJ 025 EC

The Council's Environmental Health Service as the relevant enforcing authority, had inspected the following premises in accordance with Regulation EC 853/2004 and other relevant regulations.

The premises had been inspected and fully comply with current legislative requirements. Full approval was therefore deemed appropriate.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington  
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

**full approval be granted to Tasty Grub Club Ltd as a Cooked Meats Ready Meal Manufacturer.**

*ACTION BY: Colin Kelly, Head of Environmental Health & Wellbeing*

### 3.2 L/LEI/002 LEISURE GRANT AID PROGRAMME

Members were advised that following the fourth call for applications to the Leisure Grant Aid Programme (January and February 2202), a total of 37 applications were submitted. All 37 applications had been scored with a table setting out details and recommendations was circulated.

This was the final call of the Leisure Grant Aid Programme for 2021/22 and should approval be given for the grants listed, a total of £146,338 grant

aid will have been approved for the year against an annual budget of £170,000. This compares to a commitment of £127,374 approved spend for the year 2019/20 (the 2020/21 programme having been suspended due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic). There had been significant interruption to sports – clubs, individuals, competitions, events, etc, during the financial year and, in addition, Council's decision to provide a hardship fund, gave clubs an opportunity to secure grants for COVID related needs.

Overall however, despite the challenges the uptake had been very encouraging.

Category	Approved to date 2021/22			Applications this call (1/01/2022-28/02/22)		Funding Balance remaining (subject to approval of applications listed)
	No. of apps	Budget	Approved spend to date 21/22	No. of apps.	Grants proposed (£)	
Capital Grants	1	£40,000	£20,000	1	£20,000	£0
Grants to Clubs	14	£50,000	£40,001	3	£2,175	£7,824
Grants to Athletes	28	£30,000	£19,335	12	£6,700	£3,965
Grants to Coaches and Officials	4	£5,000	£1,100	12	£3,255	£645
Sports Event Grant	6	£40,000	£21,886	5	£7,378	£10,735
Defibrillator Grant	4	£5,000	£4,508	0	£0	£492
<b>Allocation total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>£170,000</b>	<b>£106,830</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>£39,508.50</b>	<b>£23,661</b>
Fitness Suite Gold Card	3	20 Applications	3	4	3 eligible	14 applications
<b>Total spend to date including this call, if approved: £146,338</b>						

Proposed by Councillor Bennington  
 Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**the grant awards set out in the enclosure be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Anna Boyle, Sport & Physical Activity Programmes Manager*

### **3.3 L/LEI/2 MARY PETERS TRUST – REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE 2022/23**

Correspondence, circulated, had been received from the Mary Peters Trust requesting financial support for its sporting awards to upcoming athletes.

Members were reminded that the Trust provides encouragement and financial support to young sportsmen and women from across Northern Ireland. Within the Borough the range of sporting disciplines supported in 2022/23 includes: archery, golf, athletics, para triathlon, boxing, netball and canoeing.

The Trust celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mary Peters' Gold Medal for Pentathlon at the 1972 Munich Olympics this year and plans to support as many young athletes as possible as they prepare for the 2022 Commonwealth Games and to provide essential support for young people coming out of the pandemic and back into competition.

Council support for the last 5 financial years had been £2,000 per annum. A list of those athletes from the Borough who had received support is set out in the letter.

Committee was advised that it may wish to consider sending congratulations to Dame Mary Peters on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her historic gold medal win.

Proposed by Councillor Montgomery  
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that

**a contribution of £2,000 be made to support the work of the Mary Peters Trust within the Borough for 2022/2023.**

*ACTION BY: Deaglan O'Hagan , Head of Leisure Operations*

### **3.4 PK/GEN/1078/VOL2 REQUEST FROM CRUMLIN AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION**

Members were advised that correspondence, which was circulated, had been received from Crumlin and District Angling Association, enquiring about the potential to utilise the disused toilet block at Crumlin Glen on the basis of a lease, at a peppercorn rent. The intention would be to use the building as a hub for angling and conservation work giving anglers somewhere to meet and providing space for storage of equipment.

The toilet block was closed over 10 years ago due to the high levels of anti-social behaviour resulting in extensive vandalism. The building is in a considerable state of disrepair although water and electricity supplies are still connected. It would be the intention of the Association, if granted use of the building, to use volunteers from the group to do some refurbishment through their own funding streams. All works carried out would have to be of an acceptable standard as vouched by Property Services.

The Association had set out in its correspondence that it had worked collaboratively with Council for several years on various conservation and community initiatives, and its members see the proposal as the next step in furthering this relationship. They also anticipate that if they are granted use of the building that it will help to reduce anti-social behaviour in the Glen through there being a more consistent presence on site.

If approved, Officers will progress leasing arrangements and report to Committee in due course.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**approval is given to progress discussions with Crumlin and District Angling Association for the lease of the disused toilet block at Crumlin Glen as an angling hub, with Committee updated as appropriate.**

*ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Deputy Director of Operations (Parks and Leisure)*

### **3.5 WM/WM/37 PILOT OF SOFT PLASTICS KERBSIDE COLLECTION SERVICE**

Bryson Recycling was currently examining the potential to collect soft plastics and have made an approach to pilot collections as part of their wheelie box collection service. The pilot proposed would be initially to a small sample of 200 houses. The pilot will allow analysis of collection methods, establish the type of soft plastics to be collected and possible end markets.

Members were reminded of the impending Extend Producer Responsibility regulations which are likely to require the collection of soft plastics like bread, crisps and fruit bags. At present there are a number of small pilots taking place in England and Wales and the findings from this scheme in the Borough will help shape future collection arrangements.

Bryson Recycling had identified 200 households in Richmond/Abernethy area highlighted in the map, circulated, with a projected start date in early June 2022 for a six month pilot period. This area has been chosen for the demographics, participation rates and crew management. The residents participating in the pilot would be provided with full guidance on what can be recycled and a team visiting the homes as well as leaflet distribution.

There would be no cost to Council for the pilot and the results will be reported to Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington  
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

**Council approves a kerbside collection pilot by Bryson Recycling for collection of soft plastics at 200 houses in Glengormley DEA, as set out above.**

*ACTION BY: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts*

### **3.6 PBS/PS/001 ON STREET RESIDENTIAL CHARGING SCHEME (ORCS) UPDATE**

Members were reminded that approval was given for submission of 14 locations as part of a collaborative application to the On Street Residential Charging Scheme (ORCS), coordinated through the Department of Transport in England. The purpose of the scheme is to increase the availability of on-street charge points in residential streets where off-street parking is not available, thereby ensuring that on-street parking is not a barrier to realising the benefits of owning a plug-in electric vehicle.

Each of the maximum of 15 locations listed in the application had to be submitted to NIE in the first instance for suitability. Members recalled that of

the first batch of locations submitted to NIE Networks, a total of 6 were deemed as viable:

Cashel Drive, Monkstown	Threemilewater DEA
Carn Way, Newtownabbey	Threemilewater DEA
Queens Avenue, Glengormley	Glengormley Urban DEA
Parkmount Road, Mallusk	Airport DEA
Thyme Park, Antrim	Antrim DEA
Firmount Drive, Antrim	Antrim DEA

A further revised list of 8 potential locations was then submitted, following approval in March, in order that the application included options in each DEA. From the 8 locations submitted the following had been deemed as viable by NIE Networks:

Wallace Park Carpark	Airport DEA
Toome Play Park Carpark	Dunsilly DEA

As the final date for submission of the application to the Department of Transport was the end of March, Officers got agreement from NIE to review the suitability of a further 6 locations in the Borough as a priority to optimise the locations listed in the application:

New Street layby	Dunsilly DEA
Harrier Way carpark	Ballyclare DEA
Mill Road carpark	Ballyclare DEA
Sixmile Leisure Centre carpark	Ballyclare DEA
Whiteabbey carpark	Macedon DEA
Farmley carpark	Glengormley Urban DEA

Only 2 of these were deemed to be suitable - Harrier Way carpark and Sixmile Leisure Centre, details circulated. The additional locations were selected on the basis of the same criteria as previously.

This means that the complete list of locations included in the final application was:

Parkmount Road, Mallusk/Wallace Park, Templepatrick	Airport
Thyme Park/Firmount Drive, Antrim	Antrim
Cashel Drive, Monkstown/Carn Way	Threemilewater
Queens Avenue	Glengormley
Toome Playpark, Toome	Dunsilly
Rosslea Way, Rathcoole	Macedon
Harrier Way carpark/Sixmile Leisure Centre	Ballyclare

When the funding programme re-opens in April 2022, a further application to the Department of Transport will be developed and additional set of locations presented to Committee for consideration.

Proposed by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**retrospective approval be given for the additional two locations approved by NIE Networks, for inclusion in the joint application for funding for On-street Residential Charging facilities, namely, Harrier Way Car park and Sixmile Leisure Centre, and that details of EV charge points be included in DEA Engagement Forum meetings going forward.**

*ACTION BY: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations, Environmental Health, Property and Building Services*

### **3.7 PK/BIO/041 LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN – CONSULTATION**

Members were reminded that in 2020, Officers conducted a biodiversity audit to establish key information on local habitats and species. The results of the audit informed the development of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. A consultation on the draft Plan had been completed with responses received from Department for Infrastructure, Belfast Hills Partnership, The National Trust, The Woodland Trust, the Northern Ireland Badger Group, together with some local residents.

In summary, the key feedback from the consultation is as follows:

- Increase rewilding of Council land
- Replant trees and hedgerows lost to diseases such as Ash dieback
- Consider new wetland as part of sustainable underground drainage or flood alleviation schemes
- Promote riparian planting projects along rivers to reduce bankside erosion and improve water quality
- Provide additional protection for our ancient woodlands by encouraging buffer planting and the removal of invasive species
- Plant locally sourced and grown trees to mitigate against the introduction of new pests and diseases
- Include additional target species - Badger, Pine Marten, Lesser Butterfly Orchid, Cryptic Wood White, Latticed Heath, Hen Harrier, Merlin and Kestrel

Taking into account the consultation comments, circulated, a number of amendments have been made to the draft Action Plan, marked in red on the relevant Section of Plan, circulated, entitled Key Objectives and Actions. If approved, the final draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan would be completed for Committee consideration and subsequently, made available on the website and issues to relevant partner organisations.

Members noted that NIHE, DfI Roads and relevant Officers have established a Biodiversity Group through the Place Outcome Delivery Group (Community Planning Partnership) to work jointly on biodiversity issues. Members would be kept informed of outcomes.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke

Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

**the draft Actions and Objectives be approved for inclusion in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.**

*ACTION BY: Elaine Upton, Countryside Officer*

### **3.8 PK/GEN/035/VOL4 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES SUB GROUP**

At the most recent Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting on 15 March 2022, Members considered a detailed report. Arising from the meeting a series of recommendations were made for consideration by the Operations Committee and the minutes of the meeting were circulated.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

**the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting held on 15 March 2022 be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Angela Ross, Parks Development Officer*

### **3.9 AC/EV/025 REQUEST FOR CAR PARK CLOSURE – BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR**

Members were reminded that the Ballyclare May Fair Festival will take place from Saturday 21 to Saturday 28 May 2022. To facilitate this event, it will be necessary to use car parks at Council facilities and for the temporary closure of the Car parks at Harrier Way and The Square, Ballyclare as outlined below.

<b>CAR PARK</b>	<b>DATE/TIME</b>
Harrier Way	10.00pm on Saturday 21 May 2022 through to midnight on Sunday 29 May 2022.
Sixmile Leisure Centre	10.00pm on Saturday 21 May 2022 through to midnight on Sunday 29 May 2022.
The Square	Tuesday 24 May (from 6.00am to midnight) and Saturday 28 May (from 6.00am to midnight)
Ballyclare Town Hall	Tuesday 24 May (from 6.00am to midnight) and 6.00am on Friday 27 May through to midnight Saturday 28 May 2022.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

**in order to accommodate the May Fair, approval be given for the use of Harrier Way, the Square and Sixmile Leisure Centre car parks for the time periods outlined above.**

*ACTION BY: Natasha Donald, Economic Development*



### 3.10 L/LEI/001 ULSTER HOCKEY 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

A request had been received for Council support to help to recognise Ulster Hockey's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary year in 2022 by having the local clubs - Antrim, Randalstown, Mossley, Parkview (ladies and men) and Ballyclare, stage an exhibition on their histories. The request is that Council provides suitable location(s) for such exhibitions through as well as display boards.

It is feasible to provide exhibition stands and designate a space in Antrim Forum, Six Mile and Valley Leisure Centres for use by local Hockey Clubs. The clubs would be responsible for the content. If approved, it was anticipated that the exhibitions would commence in early June for a period of 6 weeks.

Proposed by Councillor Kelly  
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

**approval be given for provision to offer display space and boards for the hockey clubs, as set out above, to stage exhibitions at Antrim Forum, Sixmile and Valley Leisure Centres and Mossley Mill marking Ulster Hockey's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary and that former clubs also be accommodated through a call by Ulster Hockey.**

*ACTION BY: Anna Boyle, Sport & Physical Activity Development Manager*

### 3.11 WM/WM/40 CONSULTATION ON THE INTRODUCTION OF MANDATORY DIGITAL WASTE TRACKING

Members were reminded that a consultation on the Introduction of Mandatory Digital Waste Tracking was jointly published by all UK governments to enable regulations to be put in place to establish a digital waste tracking system and require those who produce, handle, dispose of or make products from waste, to enter information onto it. The consultation document can be found at: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/waste-tracking/>

Officers had liaised with colleagues from arc21 and the other arc21 constituent councils, to develop the draft response to the consultation, which was circulated.

The consultation document layed out options for the potential introduction of mandatory waste recording, including proposed tracking of all waste materials, from all sectors and from all licenced premises, including residents using the Household Recycling Centres.

In summary, the draft response is in favour of having a waste tracking system relating to waste and recyclables that move between brokers which can be difficult to track and trace. A move to digital tracking will make this easier for regulators but also makes system more transparent for the public. In theory people will be able to track any of their waste.

Council believed that controlled waste managed by Local Authorities is already managed and reported in a comprehensive manner and by

creating these proposed restrictions on residents and Council commercial waste businesses using our services it will result in significant adverse financial and resource implications and potentially lead to further illegal dumping of waste;

It highlighted that the proposed method lacks detail on the IT system, who will be required to use it, and the overall benefits of the system. It was suggested that the proposed system would also impose significant financial and resource burdens on Councils. As with previous consultations, there are questions that are aimed at specific sections of the waste industry, especially in relation to dangerous and hazardous goods, and as a result, the draft response states Council is unable to respond or provide detail in relation to these.

The other key points of the draft response are as follows:

- Introducing the system to classify waste to enable tracking to waste producers, such as small to medium businesses, will be expensive, complex to use and may not result in the Government's intended aim of a better regulated waste industry;
- The consultation lacks detail on the proposed new tracking system which will replace the current Waste Data Flow (WDF) reporting mechanism. Clarification is required as to whether management and analytical reports similar the ones currently available on WDF will be available from the new system;
- Proposed timeframes for recording waste movements and end destination are unrealistic as many processors are unable to provide waste information until materials are sold through brokers into a global market;
- There will be a significant additional financial and resource burden placed on all sectors of the Waste Management industry (producers, carriers, processors and Local Authorities) to implement the hardware, software, administration and staff training for the proposed system.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**the draft response to the Introduction of Mandatory Digital Waste Tracking Consultation be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts*

### **3.12 PBS/PS/016 CAPITAL FUND FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN COUNCIL PROPERTIES**

Members may wish to note that in December 2021, the Northern Ireland Executive published its Energy Strategy – The Path to Net Zero. The strategy outlines a roadmap to 2030 aiming to deliver a 56% reduction in Northern

Ireland's energy-related emissions, on the pathway to deliver the 2050 vision of net zero carbon and affordable energy.

Council's Property Energy Strategy aims to guide future strategic management decisions in relation to energy and water use and to effectively control carbon emissions. In tandem, Council has developed a Climate Change all party working group to progress Council's aspirations with regard to Climate Change and environmental sustainability.

A Property Energy Strategy Action Plan for 2022-2025 is the next step in Council's commitment to tackling the climate crisis, championing the case for the adaptation of our assets and the implementation of mitigation actions that will reduce our emissions.

Key aspects of the Energy Strategy/Climate Change Action Plans focus on the need to improve the performance of existing buildings in terms of energy efficiency and to reduce the use of fossil fuels as an energy source. While there are significant challenges across the Council's built and natural environment to decarbonise, there are also opportunities to improve our performance through setting standards, best practice and strategic decision making.

Energy use in some of Council's buildings is significant as are carbon emissions and whilst progress has already been made, there is more to do both in retrofitting existing buildings, as improvements are being implemented, and through proactively seeking alternative energy solutions. Retrofitting provides an opportunity to achieve both operational carbon (reducing energy consumption) and significant embodied carbon savings (retention and renewal of existing properties as opposed to demolition and new build). An energy efficient building fabric is needed to be both effective in cost savings and emissions reductions. This is more significant currently as energy costs continue to increase significantly given the current economic situation in the commodities market.

In order to plan ahead and prepare for improvements to building stock, it is proposed that consideration be given to establishing an annual capital fund. This would support the decarbonisation of Council building stock as well as being a tangible commitment to the implementation of the Council's Energy Strategy and associated Action Plan.

This would enable Council to make strategic climate change decisions related to its building stock, through sustained funding which could deliver a package of energy improvement measures.

At present, the Council spends approximately £2 million annually on utility bills and in the current climate this will increase, potentially significantly. A capital fund, representative of 15%, for example, of the current annual utilities expenditure, would provide £300,000 of capital expenditure to deliver improvements to Council buildings across the Borough. This could be included in the Capital Programme presented annually at the Corporate Workshop.

Having established a baseline of data relating to energy use within our building stock, the Property Services team aims to adopt a more holistic approach to assessing the performance of a building, by continuing the collation of data in relation to the carbon footprint of each building. The creation of a capital fund, if approved, would help to deliver energy efficiency initiatives that would provide significant reductions in energy use and by association, its carbon footprint.

Proposed by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**approval is given for the creation of a Capital Fund to facilitate energy efficiency improvements to Council building stock equivalent to 15% (approximately £300,000) of the average cost annual cost of utility bills based on the 2021 – 2022 baseline cost.**

*ACTION BY: Stephen Hipkins, Head of Property & Building Services*

### **3.13 PBS/PS/016 ENERGY MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN 2022-2025**

Members were reminded of last month's presentation on energy use across the Council estate highlighting the challenges that exist in reducing energy consumption, carbon emissions and the finances. These issues are exacerbated by current market volatility due to the situation in Ukraine, making the Action Plan even more important.

Efficient and effective management and usage of the Council's energy and water resources are extremely important both from a climate and financial perspective. Council has previously established an Energy Strategy which guides the future strategic energy and water management decisions. Having realised the targets set out in the initial Energy Management Action Plan (2019-2022), Property Services have prepared an updated Action Plan that sets further targets for the next three years, 2022-2025, circulated.

The Action Plan aims to establish baseline energy use across Council buildings through a programme of energy and water audits, which will provide recommendations to reduce both energy and water consumption.

The Action Plan recognised the need for Council to develop its capability with regard to energy purchasing in order to obtain energy from renewable sources and to benefit from competitive tariff levels that reduce exposure to market volatility.

The establishment of an annual capital budget for energy efficiency improvements in Council buildings is an important part of realising future improvements and a proposal regarding the establishment of a capital fund is set out in a separate report for Committee's consideration. If approved, this would allow energy and water saving investments where the capital cost is less than or equal to the anticipated savings over the life of the asset.

On a separate, but related note, Members were advised that Council's current energy contract, in partnership with a range of other Northern Ireland Councils, is due to end in April. Due to the volatility of the market, no suppliers are currently willing to lock into a long term contract. The only option available, therefore, is a monthly pricing option mirroring the market value which is set by the regulator. Therefore, prices will be set and agreed monthly until there is a full supplier agreement in place. Prices are therefore expected to fluctuate monthly in what is currently a supplier led market which offers no budget stability. Councils will be forced to adapt to this new approach to budgeting.

A number of steps have been taken to try to mitigate the effects of currently increasing prices of gas and electricity. This is in addition to savings realised through the work of the recently appointed Energy Performance Officer. These include, adjusting timing of heating systems, issuing communications to remind staff to switch off lights, printers etc. and keeping windows closed (whilst observing COVID related guidance). This is in line with the commitments in the Environmental Management System (ISO 14001). In addition, the 5 biggest energy users: Valley Leisure Centre, Mossley Mill, Sixmile Leisure Centre, Antrim Forum and Antrim Civic Centre have been prioritised for assessments of biomass, CHP, heating systems, etc. so that energy usage and costs are minimised.

From a fleet perspective, the cost of fuel is also an issue in the current market. The planned replacement of a number of vehicles this year, the majority of which will be electric, will result in significant savings. Despite electricity costs also increasing, the differential between the cost of electricity and diesel means that there will still significant savings.

A report will be brought to Committee each month to update Members during this period of unprecedented price rises.

In response to a question from a Member, the Deputy Director of Operations (Waste and Fleet) confirmed that the switch from red to white diesel was underway and that costs following the changes would be analysed.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

**the Property Energy Management Action Plan 2022-2025 be approved and actions to address current price increases noted.**

*ACTION BY: Stephen Hipkins, Head of Property & Building Services*

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

### **3.14 PK/CP/001/VOL 4 REQUEST TO CHANGE CAR PARK CHARGES**

Members were advised in order to accommodate visitors to Garden Show Ireland from 29 April to 1 May 2022 the use of town centre car parks will be

promoted. Railway Street car park in Antrim is a charging car park and it was therefore proposed that car parks charges be waived for Railway Street car park for the duration of the event.

Proposed by Councillor Montgomery  
 Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**approval is given for car parking charges at Railway Street car park, Antrim to be waived from 29 April to 1 May 2022 to accommodate visitors to Garden Show Ireland in Antrim Castle Gardens.**

*ACTION BY: Glenda James, Administration Supervisor, Parks*

#### **4 ITEMS FOR NOTING**

##### **4.1 L/LEI/004/VOL 2 SUMMER SCHEMES 2022**

Members were reminded that Council delivers a series of Summer Schemes and Sports camps as well as providing funding for a number of inclusive schemes through the Special Schools in the Borough. Due to restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, the schemes in 2020 and 2021 were delivered virtually. For the summer of 2022 it was proposed that the normal pre pandemic delivery model will resume as follows:

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Dates 2022</b>	<b>Times</b>	<b>Age groups</b>
Six Mile Leisure Centre (Ballyclare)	18 July –19Aug	10am -3pm	6-12yrs
Valley Leisure Centre	18 July –19Aug	10am -3pm	6-12yrs
Ballyearl Arts and Leisure Centre (Arts and Crafts)	18 July –19Aug	10am – 3pm	6-12yrs
Merville and Rathfern	18 July – 12 Aug	10am – 1pm	6-12yrs
Lilian Bland	18 July –19Aug	10am – 3pm	6-14yrs
Thompson Primary School	18 – 22 July	10am – 3pm	6-12yrs
Kilbride Church/St Brides	25 July – 29 July	10am – 3pm	6-12yrs
Ballynure Methodist	1-5 Aug & 8-12 Aug	10am – 3pm	6-12yrs
Hydepark Church	15 - 19 Aug	10am – 3pm	6-12yrs
Crumlin Leisure Centre	19-21 July	10am – 3pm	5-14yrs
Antrim Forum Sport & Physical Activity week	26– 28 July & 2-4 Aug	10am – 3pm	5-14yrs

Castle Gardens Outdoor Sport & Physical Activity Camp	9-11 August	10am – 3pm	5-14yrs
Inclusive Summer Schemes	tbc	tbc	4yrs+
Sports Specific Camps (Athletics, Dance, Tennis & Football) Various centres	July & August	10am – 1pm	5yrs +
Special School Summer Scheme Programmes			

Inclusiveness is an important part of Council's provision and the £5,000 grants to each of the 5 Special Schools in the Borough will be offered to enable delivery of a Summer Scheme/Programme.

Following the successful pilot Special Summer Scheme in 2019 at Allen Park, catering for the personal care needs of children with complex disabilities and medical conditions, this will be incorporated into the summer scheme programme going forward. Delivered in partnership with the Mae Murray Foundation, the pilot scheme provided one to one care for 17 children providing sensory play, inclusive wheelchair games, inclusive biking and arts and crafts. Provision at both sides of the Borough is planned going forward.

In addition, the Accessibility and Customer Services Officer provides support to the Council run schemes, to ensure that individual care needs and adjustments are met.

Proposed by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

#### **4.2 L/LEI/648 DARKNESS INTO LIGHT 2022**

Members were reminded that there has been a charity walk event in partnership with the Darkness into Light charity since 2016, until it was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event encourages people to walk in memory of loved ones lost through suicide and in doing so to raise awareness about suicide prevention services as well as supporting charities involved in this vital work.

The return of a worldwide programme of in person events is scheduled this year starting at sunrise on Saturday 7 May 2022 at V36 at the Valley. The event would be promoted by the Darkness into Light Charity and through Council's social media and website.

Proposed by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

NO ACTION

#### **4.3 PK/GEN/001/VOL3 COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAMME**

**Update on Commemorative Programme Sponsorship of Benches and Trees.**

##### **Benches**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Location</b>
Qtr 3 2021	2	Crumlin Cemetery (1), Threemilewater Park (1).
Qtr 4 2022	3	Antrim Castle Gardens (1), Gideons Green (2).

##### **Trees \***

**Tree planting is only carried out Qtr 3 & 4 (Nov to Feb)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Location</b>
Qtr 4 2021	2	Hazelbank Park (1), Jordanstown Loughshore Park (1)
Qtr 1 2022	2	Sixmilewater Park (2)

All requests were compliant with Council policy.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

NO ACTION

*The Chairperson advised that Any Other Business would be taken at this point.*

#### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

In response to an issue raised by a Member regarding health and safety issues with some jet-ski users at Antrim Lough Shore Park and the Sixmilewater River, the Deputy Director of Operations (Leisure & Parks) advised that the matter had been raised and that measures would be put in place to address this.

*ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Deputy Director of Operations (Leisure & Parks)*

In response to a query from a Member, the Deputy Chief Executive of Operations reassured Members that action was being taken following concerns raised around dog control and anti-social behaviour in Belmont Cemetery.

*ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Deputy Director of Operations, Parks and Leisure / Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations, Environmental Health, Property and Building Services*



## **PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'**

Proposed by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

**the following committee business be taken in Confidence and the livestream and audio recording would cease.**

### **5.1 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/QUO/703 QUOTATION FOR THE RIGHT TO SELL FOODSTUFFS AND DRINKS IN COUNCIL PARKS**

Members were reminded that Council has mobile catering provision in several parks across the Borough through third parties, a list of which was circulated.

A total of 5 existing opportunities are due to be renewed by 30 April, namely, Wallace Park, Sixmilewater Park (ice cream), Hazelbank Park (ice cream), Crumlin Glen and Lillian Bland Park (hot drinks/light snacks). Two further locations – Lillian Bland (ice cream) and Sixmilewater Park (hot drinks/light snacks) will be renewed in the summer while Hazelbank Park (hot drinks/light snacks) will be renewed in the autumn.

In the meantime, a further opportunity has been identified at the car park adjacent to the Valley Park. This would provide an enhanced experience for visitors to this part of the Valley Park which has seen a significant increase in usage due to the new dual use paths and the opening of a dog park.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington  
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

**the process to renew existing contracts is noted and the additional opportunity at the car park in Valley Park be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Glenda James, Parks Administration Supervisor*

### **5.2 IN CONFIDENCE WM/arc21/4/VOL9 arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE PAPERS**

The papers for the arc21 Joint Committee Meeting were circulated for:

- March 2022

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

Proposed by Councillor Bennington  
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

**the papers be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

**5.3 IN CONFIDENCE CCS/CEA/013, PK/GEN/197 CEMETERY BURIAL CAPACITY UPDATE**

The burial capacity within Council cemeteries was set out in the table below as at 28 February 2022.

<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>No. of plots remaining</b>	<b>Average no. of plots sold (based on 3yr average)</b>	<b>Estimated remaining burial capacity (years)</b>
Carnmoney	0	156	0
Ballyclare	760	30	25.3
Rashee	407	9	45.2
Sixmile	2,240	53	42.3
Crumlin	461	10	46.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3868</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>14.99</b>

The estimated burial capacity for the entire Borough was currently just under 15 years.

<b>Garden of Remembrance Plots/Columbarium (for burial of ashes only)</b>	<b>No. of plots remaining</b>	<b>Average no. of plots sold (based on 3 year average)</b>	<b>Estimated remaining burial capacity (years)</b>
Ballyclare	128	5	25.6
Mallusk	15	1	15
Carnmoney - GoR	73	40	2
Carnmoney - New Columbarium/Family caskets	39 plots/124 urns	N/A	Unknown

Members were reminded that there is both a Garden of Remembrance and a Columbarium in the Crematorium site and Officers are currently finalising a proposal to develop a Garden of Remembrance in Sixmile/Belmont Cemetery, Antrim.

Members were reminded that Officers are in correspondence with colleagues in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Belfast City Council and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council as these authorities are also seeking potential sites for cemetery provision and therefore the potential to work in partnership is being explored. Members will be kept updated on any progress.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth  
 Seconded by Councillor Montgomery and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

NO ACTION

5.4 **IN CONFIDENCE** PK/GEN/157 BALLYNURE - POTENTIAL TO DEVELOP CIRCULAR WALKING ROUTE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Proposed by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

**approval is given for Council to meet the cost of a preliminary ecological assessment at £3,000, as a necessary prerequisite to planning and funding applications for the development of a circular walking route** [REDACTED]

*ACTION BY: Elaine Upton, Countryside Officer*

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

Proposed by Councillor Bennington  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth 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 7.19 pm.

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**MAYOR**

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