

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 14 JUNE 2022**

Table of Recommendations

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
1.	Apologies	Councillors Wilson and Hunter
2.	Declarations of Interest	None
IN COMMITTEE (Items 3-4 inclusive)		
3.	Variation of Concessionary Trading Terms & Conditions – Second Legal Opinion	Deferred to Full Council meeting
4.	Review of Private Litter Enforcement Contract	Recommend to Council the continuation of the enforcement partnership with WISE for another 12 months with quarterly updates brought before Committee and a further review of the service carried out towards the end of the contract period; A Directive be set that enforcement does not take place within supermarket grounds
5.	Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 10 May 2022	Signed as a correct record
6.	Entertainment Licensing Report	To recommend that Council approve recommendations 4.1- 4.9
7.	Grant of Approval of a Premises as a Venue for Civil Marriage	To recommend to Council that the

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
		<i>premises be Granted Temporary Approval for Civil Marriage, subject to compliance with any recommendations of the Councils licensing section</i>
8.	Regulation of Cosmetic Treatments	<i>To recommend to Council that a letter be sent to the Health Minister to ask for better regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland, along with the introduction of a licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures</i>
9.	Building Control Vacant Property Inspections Project in Collaboration with Land and Property Services	<i>To recommend that Council grant (i) Approval for Building Control to participate in the 2022/23 Property Inspection Exercise; (ii) Signing of the Data Sharing Agreement (subject to approval of the DSA by Council's Information Governance Manager) and that authority be given to Head of Health and Built Environment to sign on behalf of Council; (iii) That the project be resourced by the extension of a Building Control Technical Officer's agency contract for the duration of the project subject to quarterly review</i>

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
10.	Consideration of Proposed Dog Control Order Excluding Dogs from Lands	To recommend that Council does not progress the procedure to introduce a Dog Control Order excluding dogs from these lands
11.	Repair of West Bay Promenade and Revetment	To recommend that Council grant officers permission to proceed with the design and subsequent public tender of this urgent repair (stage 2 of the procurement gateway). Note: the results from the tendering exercise shall be brought to Members for the final investment decision (stage 3)
12.	Amusement Permit Renewals	Information
13.	Approval of Premises as a Venue for Civil Marriage	Information
14.	Approval of Premises as a Venue for Civil Partnership	Information
15.	Entertainment Licence Renewals	Information
16.	Licences Issued Under Delegated Authority	Information
17.	Society Lottery Registrations	Information
18.	Pavement Café Licence Renewals	Information
19.	Petroleum Spirit Licence Renewals	Information
20.	Poisons Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983 Registration of Persons Entitled to Sell Non-Medicinal Poisons included in Part II of the Poisons List	Information
21.	Street Trading Licence Renewals	Information
22.	Private Contractor Litter Enforcement Statistics (WISE) and Easter Cruise Patrols	Information

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
23.	The Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022 – Notice to Quit	Information
24.	Installation of Water Bottle Refill Station at Rathlin Island	Information
25.	Any Other Relevant Business (notified in accordance with Standing Order 12 (o))	
25.1	Trading at Ballintoy Harbour (Alderman Baird)	To recommend that the matter of Rights of Way at Ballintoy Harbour be tabled under Any Other Relevant Business at the next Leisure and Development Committee
25.2	Repairs at Cottage Wood (Councillor MA McKillop)	Update from Director
25.3	Weeds at Playparks (Councillor MA McKillop)	Update from Director
25.4	Plants Growing on Coleraine Town Hall (Councillor Holmes)	Update from Director
25.5	DFI Weed Spraying on Pavements (Councillor Holmes)	Update from Director
25.6	Depot Strategy Update (Councillor McQuillan)	Update from Director
25.7	Grass Cutting Cemeteries (Councillor McQuillan)	Update from Director
25.8	Summer Opening Hours Amenity Sites (Councillor Bateson)	Update from Director

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
IN CIVIC HEADQUARTERS AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE, ON
TUESDAY 14 JUNE 2022 AT 7:00 PM**

- In the Chair: Councillor McAuley (C)
- Members Present: Alderman Boyle (R), Baird (C), Fielding (C), Hillis (C)
Councillors Bateson (R), Beattie (R), Chivers (R),
Holmes (C), MA McKillop (R), McLaughlin (R),
McLean (C), McQuillan (C), Wallace (C)
- Non-Committee Members
In Attendance: Alderman Duddy (C)
- Officers Present: A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services (C)
J Richardson, Head of Capital Works, Energy and
Infrastructure (C)
G Doyle, Head of Estates (R)
S McAfee, Head of Health and Built Environmental
(R)
W Hall, Capital Projects Manager (R)
T Vaults, Car Parks Manager (C)
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)
- In Attendance: A Lennox, ICT Mobile Operations Officer (C)
C Thompson, ICT Operations Officer (C)
- S Geoghan and J Flanagan Solicitor, A&L
Goodbody Solicitors (C) (Item 3)
- Press (2 no.) (R)
- Substitutions: Alderman Baird substituted for Councillor Hunter.
Alderman Hillis substituted for Councillor Wilson.

Key: (C) Attended in the Chamber
(R) Attended Remotely

The Director of Environmental Services undertook a roll call.

The Chair advised of a change to the Order of Business and that 'In Committee' Items would be taken at the beginning of the meeting to include a presentation from A&L Goodbody Solicitors in relation to Agenda Item 3 - Variation of Concessionary Trading Terms and Conditions – Second Legal Opinion

The Director of Environmental Services presented each of the reports.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Councillors Hunter and Wilson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Councillor Wallace
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

AGREED – that Committee move '*In Committee*'

The information contained in the following items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

- * **Members of the press and public were removed from the meeting at 7.05pm.**

3. VARIATION OF CONCESSIONARY TRADING TERMS AND CONDITIONS - SECOND LEGAL OPINION

- * **Councillor Bateson joined the meeting during consideration of this Item at 7.10 pm.**

Confidential report, previously circulated.

Purpose of Report

Members requested (April 2022) that officers obtain a second legal opinion to explore options in relation to the requests from traders who wish to alter their terms and conditions to sell items outside of their agreement and how this can be achieved legally and to the satisfaction of the NIAO. The opinion has been obtained and will be presented to Members by the author on the evening of the Environmental Services committee meeting as requested.

The Chair invited S Geoghan and J Flannagan from A&L Goodbody Solicitors to present to Committee.

The Solicitors presented by power point and provided commentary on Options available to Elected Members.

Confidential Opinion was presented.

Four Options were presented to Committee.

The solicitors answered questions from Elected Members.

- * **At the request of an Elected Member, in advance of reaching a decision, the Chair called a short recess at 7.55 pm.**

- * **The meeting reconvened at 8.05 pm.**

The Chair advised, as there were no further speakers who had not already spoken, the matter would be automatically deferred to Council as there was no recommendation from Committee.

All in attendance were in agreement.

The Chair thanked S Geoghan and J Flannagan for their attendance and presentation.

* **S Geoghan and J Flannagan left the meeting at 8.10 pm.**

4. REVIEW OF PRIVATE LITTER ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT

Confidential report, previously circulated.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update members on the private litter enforcement contract pilot and to consider whether the partnership should be continued. This report also explores the option of providing such a service in house using agency staff.

Background

Further to committee report ES210810 and CM210907 members will be aware that the private litter enforcement service provided by Waste Investigations Support & Enforcement (WISE) commenced on 2nd August 2021. This partnership was established to provide an additional resource to tackle the ongoing issues of littering and dog fouling throughout the Borough. It was agreed that the partnership would initially run for 12 months and a review would be carried out into the effectiveness of the partnership with consideration then given to whether to continue that partnership.

Conclusion

The partnership with WISE has massively increased enforcement outcomes Council. There has been a huge increase in the numbers of Fixed Penalty Notices for the offences of littering and dog fouling.

This partnership and increase in outcomes has not only been achieved at no cost to Council, but has also generated an additional income for Council of £15,323.

Council could consider using agency staff to replicate this service however there are definite costs to this option and there is a significant risk that Council could move away from an income generating service to a service that is a cost to Council.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Committee recommends to Council the continuation of the enforcement partnership with WISE for another 12 months with quarterly updates brought before Committee and a further review of the service carried out towards the end of the contract period.

Councillor McQuillan raised the ongoing issue of littering in rural areas and dog fouling in town centres and suggested that non Council owned supermarket car parks should not be included in enforcement.

The Director of Environmental Services advised he believed the message was getting out regarding littering, as a result of recent enforcement, and informed Elected Members it was more difficult to enforce litter being thrown out of car windows in rural areas.

The Head of Health and Built Environment advised that WISE did not have access to legal keeper details of vehicles in order to enforce, but it was envisaged Council will manage the identification of vehicles involved in littering going forward.

At the request of Elected Members, the Director of Environmental Services advised that hotspots are identified by Council Officers and WISE enforcement and that the use of an App was a viable option going forward. The Director also confirmed there was widespread press coverage and that businesses and organisers of events were encouraged to help reduce problems with littering.

At the request of Elected Members, the Director of Environmental Services agreed to provide a detailed breakdown of enforcement statistics for WISE.

Proposed by Councillor McQuillan
Seconded by Alderman Baird and

AGREED -to recommended to Council the continuation of the enforcement partnership with WISE for another 12 months with quarterly updates brought before Committee and a further review of the service carried out towards the end of the contract period;
A Directive be set that enforcement does not take place within privately owned grounds.

The Chair put the Proposal to the Committee to vote.
9 Members voted For; 5 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained.
The Chair declared the Motion Carried.

- * **Alderman Duddy left the meeting at 8.30 pm during consideration of this item.**

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Councillor Holmes
Seconded by Councillor Wallace and

AGREED – that Committee move '*In Public*'

- * **Members of the press were re-admitted to the meeting at 8.40 pm.**

5. MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 10 MAY 2022

Summary previously circulated.

AGREED – that the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 10 May 2022 were signed as a correct record.

6. ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING REPORT

Report, previously circulated.

6.1 GRANT OF INDOOR ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE

Licence No: EL416

Premises: Kilraughts Young Farmers Club, Armoy Livestock Mart, Armoy

Application: Grant of an Occasional Indoor Entertainments Licence

Days and times on which it is applied to provide entertainment:

Saturday 30th July 2022 9:00hrs to 01:00hrs

Representations: To be received by 28th June 2022

PSNI & NIFRS: To be received by 21st June 2022

Recommendation

It is recommended to grant an Occasional Entertainments Licence subject to compliance with any recommendations of the Council's Licensing Department and no objections being received from Representations, PSNI or NIFRS.

6.2 GRANT OF INDOOR ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE

Licence No: EL346

Premises: Limavady Rangers Supporter's Club, 92 Main Street, Limavady

Application: Grant of an Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence

Days and times on which it is applied to provide entertainment:

Saturday 11:00 hrs to 01:00 hrs

Representations: No objections

PSNI & NIFRS: No objections

Recommendation:

It is recommended to grant an annual entertainments licence subject to compliance with any recommendations of the Council's Licensing Department

6.3 GRANT OF INDOOR ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE

Licence No: EL164

Premises: Carrick-A-Rede Bar, 21 Main Street, Ballintoy, Ballycastle.

Application: Grant of an Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence

Days and times on which it is applied to provide entertainment:
Friday to Sunday 21:00 hrs to 01:30hrs

Representations: No Objections

PSNI & NIFRS: No Objections

Recommendation

It is recommended to grant an Occasional Entertainments Licence subject to compliance with any recommendations of the Council's Licensing Department.

6.4 GRANT OF INDOOR ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE

Licence No: EL130

Premises: The Shed, 70 Ballinteer Road, Coleraine

Application: Grant of an Occasion 14 day Specified Indoor Entertainments Licence

Days and times on which it is applied to provide entertainment:
Saturday 6th August 2022 19:00hrs to 01:30hrs
Sunday 7th August 2022 19:00hrs to 01:30 hrs

Representations: To be received by 23rd June 2022

PSNI:

NIFRS: No Objections

To be received by 9th June 2022

Recommendation

It is recommended to grant an Occasional Entertainments Licence subject to compliance with any recommendations of the Council's Licensing Department and no objections being received from Representations or NIFRS.

6.5 VARIATION OF ANNUAL INDOOR ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE

Licence No: EL388

Premises: The Well Bar and Grill, 2 Plantation Road, Limavady

Application: Variation of Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence to include: An extension of hours on the following dates:

Every Saturday from 7th May 2022 to 17th December 2022 11:30hrs to 03:00hrs

Every Saturday from 31st December 2022 to 29th April 2023 11:30hrs to 03:00hrs

Friday 3rd June 2022, 28th July 2022, 26th August 2022, 28th October 2022, 25th November 2022, 2nd December 2022, 9th December 2022, 16th December 2022, 23rd December 2022, 30th December 2022, 31st March 2023, 7th April 2023, 28th May 2023 11:30hrs to 03:00hrs

Monday 11th July 2022, 26th December 2022 11:30hrs to 03:00hrs

Tuesday 12th July 2022, 27th December 2022 11:30hrs to 03:00hrs

Wednesday 28th December 2022 11:30hrs to 03:00hrs

Thursday 29th December 2022 11:30hrs to 03:00hrs

Sunday 27th November 12:00hrs to 03:00hrs

Representations:

PSNI No Objections

NIFRS No Objections

The Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Act (NI) 2021 became law on 26th August 2021. The Act amends both the Licensing (NI) Order 1996 (the Licensing Order) and the Registration of Clubs (NI) Order 1996 (the Clubs Order). Section 3 of the Act allows pubs and hotels (which already have an Article 44 order) to apply to the courts for later opening for an additional hour, up to 104 nights in any year. Food and/or entertainment must continue to be provided during late opening.

As a result of the changes to the above legislation, this premises has applied to vary the entertainment licence hours to coincide with the hours permitted in the above Act.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council consider the grant of the variation to the entertainments licence for the premise subject to compliance with any recommendations of the Council's Licensing Department.

6.6 GRANT OF INDOOR ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE

Licence No: EL331

Premises: Corner Bar, 41-43 Main Street, Limavady

Application: Grant of an Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence

Days and times on which it is applied to provide entertainment:

Monday to Saturday 11:30 hrs to 01:30hrs Sunday 12:30hrs to 00:30hrs

Representations: To be received by 15th June 2022

PSNI & NIFRS: To be received by 21st June 2022

Recommendation

It is recommended to grant an Occasional Entertainments Licence subject to compliance with any recommendations of the Council's Licensing Department and no objections being received from Representations, PSNI or NIFRS.

6.7 GRANT OF INDOOR ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE

Licence No: EL 062

Premises: Manor House and Golf Club, 69 Bridge Street, Kilrea

Application: Grant of an Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence

Days and times on which it is applied to provide entertainment:

Monday to Saturday 11:30hrs – 01:00hrs

Sunday 12:30hrs to 00:00hrs midnight

Representations: To be received by 23rd June 2022

PSNI & NIFRS: To be received by 21st June 2022

Recommendation

It is recommended to grant an Occasional Entertainments Licence subject to compliance with any recommendations of the Council's Licensing Department and no objections being received from Representations, PSNI or NIFRS.

6.8 GRANT OF INDOOR ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE

Licence No: EL 023

Premises: Coleraine Football Club , 61-65 Ballycastle Road,
Coleraine

Application: Grant of an Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence

Days and times on which it is applied to provide entertainment:

Monday to Saturday 11:30hrs to 23:00hrs

Sunday 12:30hrs to 22:00hrs

Representations: To be received by 23th June 2022

PSNI & NIFRS: To be received by 21st June 2022

Recommendation

It is recommended to grant an Occasional Entertainments Licence subject to compliance with any recommendations of the Council's Licensing Department and no objections being received from Representations, PSNI or NIFRS.

6.9 GRANT OF INDOOR ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE

Licence No: EL415

Premises: Moycraig Young Farmers Club, Armoyn Rugby Club Grounds, Drones Road, Armoyn

Application: Grant of an Occasional Indoor Entertainments Licence

Days and times on which it is applied to provide entertainment:

Saturday 9th July 2022 21:00hrs to 01:00hrs

Representations: To be received by 26th May 2022

PSNI

NIFRS No Objections

To be received 31st May 2022

Recommendation

It is recommended to grant an Occasional Entertainments Licence subject to compliance with any recommendations of the Council's Licensing Department and no objections being received from Representations or NIFRS.

The Head of Health and Built Environment agreed to provide further details to Councillor McQuillan regarding one of the applications above.

Proposed by Councillor MA McKillop
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve recommendations 4.1- 4.9 above.

7. GRANT OF APPROVAL OF A PREMISES AS A VENUE FOR CIVIL MARRIAGE

Report, previously circulated.

THE MARRIAGE (NI) ORDER 2003

TEMPORARY APPROVAL OF A PLACE AS A VENUE FOR CIVIL MARRIAGE

Reference Number: TMA 003/2022

Premises: Ballycastle Beach

Application: Application has been received for the above premises to be Granted Temporary Approval, as a place of Civil Marriage.

Date 3rd September 2022

To be received by 8th June 2022

Representations:

PSNI

No objection

NIFRS:

To be received by 20th June 2022

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the premises be Granted Temporary Approval for Civil Marriage, subject to compliance with any recommendations of the Councils licensing section.

Proposed by Alderman Baird
Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and

AGREED – to recommend to Council that the premises be Granted Temporary Approval for Civil Marriage, subject to compliance with any recommendations of the Councils licensing section.

8. REGULATION OF COSMETIC TREATMENTS

Report, previously circulated.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a request to write to the Health Minister to seek better regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland.

Background

In October 2021 the Botulinum Toxin and Cosmetic Fillers (Children) Act 2021 came into force in England making it illegal to administer botox or a filler by way of injection for a cosmetic purpose to a person under 18 years of age. No such law exists in Northern Ireland.

The UK Government recently confirmed its intention to introduce a licensing regime for non-surgical cosmetic procedures to better regulate the cosmetic industry in England through an amendment to the Health and Care Bill.

The licensing scheme in England will introduce consistent standards that individuals carrying out non-surgical cosmetic procedures such as lip fillers, botox etc must meet, as well as hygiene and safety standards for premises. It will focus on those cosmetic procedures which, if improperly performed, have the potential to cause harm.

In recent years there has been a significant rise in the number and type of non-surgical aesthetic procedures available, with many practitioners performing treatments without being able to evidence appropriate training and the required standards of oversight and supervision.

The existing legislation available to Environmental Health Officers to regulate this sector in Northern Ireland is considered no longer fit for purpose and no

licensing scheme (similar to that being introduced in England) exists in Northern Ireland.

The Local Authority Health and Safety Liaison Group (HSLG) is a subgroup of Environmental Health Northern Ireland (EHNI). HSLG is seeking the support of all Councils by requesting that consideration be given to writing to the Health Minister to ask for better regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland, along with the introduction of a licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee consider the request and recommends to Council that a letter be sent to the Health Minister to ask for better regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland, along with the introduction of a licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures.

Proposed by Councillor MA McKillop
Seconded by Councillor McQuillan and

AGREED - to recommend that a letter be sent to the Health Minister to ask for better regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland, along with the introduction of a licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures.

9. BUILDING CONTROL VACANT PROPERTY INSPECTIONS PROJECT IN COLLABORATION WITH LAND AND PROPERTY SERVICES

Report, previously circulated.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to consider participation in a Property Inspection exercise, which has the potential to generate rates income, in conjunction with Land & Property Service and agree the Data Sharing Agreement for the project.

Background

Land & Property Service (LPS) engage with Northern Ireland Councils to assist in the inspection and validation of the status of vacant non-domestic properties and collect the information required to start a rate account if occupied. The aim is to meet Department of Finance (DoF) and LPS' statutory duty to levy and collect rates under Article 9(4) of the 1977 Order.

Inspections are usually undertaken by a council's Building Control Department and is controlled and governed by Central Investigation Team (CIT) on behalf of LPS. CIT will, when requested by a council, issue a list of properties that need to be visited in the council area. The available resources and workload of the Building Control Department will determine how promptly the list of properties can be worked through.

This exercise would help to maximise the non-domestic element of the "district rate" and raise revenue for the Council.

Correspondence dated 20th May 2022 (attached as appendix 1) has been received from LPS seeking Council's participation in the 2022-23 Property

Inspection Exercise. Council has undertaken this work previously before it was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) (attached as appendix 2) sets out the legal basis of how data would be exchanged and controlled by LPS and the Council, The DSA also defines the nature of the data to be collected.

If Council is minded to participate in the exercise, Building Control would be provided with an initial list of 30 properties for inspection. Upon completion further lists of 30 properties can be provided once this initial list has been evaluated.

A dedicated resource would be required to carry out this project however it is anticipated that the additional revenue to Council will cover the additional staff costs.

Data provided by LPS in relation to the 2015/16 Vacant Property Rating exercise indicated a benefit to council of approximately £56,000. Additional rates income raised from such exercises are compounded year on year.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee recommends to Council approval for Building Control to participate in the 2022/23 Property Inspection Exercise.

It is recommended that the Committee recommends to Council signing of the Data Sharing Agreement (subject to approval of the DSA by Council's Information Governance Manager) and that authority be given to Head of Health and Built Environment to sign on behalf of Council.

It is further recommended that the Committee recommends to Council that the project be resourced by the extension of a Building Control Technical Officer's agency contract for the duration of the project subject to quarterly review.

At the request of Elected Members, the Head of Health and Built Environment advised Land and Property Services would continue to check vacant buildings and that on a monthly basis, batches of 30 would be sent to Council for checking/processing.

Proposed by Alderman Hillis
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

AGREED to recommend to Council:

- (i) Approval for Building Control to participate in the 2022/23 Property Inspection Exercise;
- (ii) Signing of the Data Sharing Agreement (subject to approval of the DSA by Council's Information Governance Manager) and that authority be given to Head of Health and Built Environment to sign on behalf of Council;

- (iii) That the project be resourced by the extension of a Building Control Technical Officer's agency contract for the duration of the project subject to quarterly review.

10. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED DOG CONTROL ORDER EXCLUDING DOGS FROM LANDS

Report, previously circulated.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is for members to consider a request for a Dog Control Order excluding dogs from lands between Ballintoy Harbour and Whitepark Bay.

Background

Further to committee report ES220412 and CM220503 a decision was taken to defer consideration of a request to impose a Dog Control Order to enable further evidence to be provided.

The request is from a landowner seeking a Dog Control Order to be imposed on his lands where an asserted Right of Way footpath is located. The path runs from Ballintoy Harbour to Whitepark Bay. The lands in question are private lands where livestock are kept however the public use the pathway for recreation and for walking dogs.

The landowner claims that members of the public do not exercise proper control of their dogs by keeping them on a leash and as such the landowner has suffered loss due to dogs worrying the livestock.

The request is that Council impose a Dog Control Order to exclude dogs from this land.

Existing Legislative Provisions

Legislative provisions to control dogs on land where livestock is kept exist within the Dogs (NI) Order 1983. Regulation 25 of this Order requires anyone with a dog on land where livestock is kept to keep that dog under control by means of a leash. Any person who contravenes this regulation shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £200.

Regulation 28 of the Dogs (NI) Order 1983 states that if a dog worries livestock, or attacks and injures any other animal owned by another person, the keeper of the dog and the person in charge of the dog shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 (£1,000) on the standard scale.

Power to make Dog Control Orders

Under Part 5 Article 40 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011 a district council may make an order providing for an offence or offences relating to the control of dogs in respect of any land in its district to which this Part applies. An order under this subsection shall be known as a "dog control order".

Although the land in question here is private land used to keep livestock the power to make a Dog Control Order applies as it is land to which the public are entitled to access due to the asserted Right of Way path.

Considerations of imposing a Dog Control Order

The Department of the Environment (NI) produced guidance for District Councils to refer to when considering imposing Dog Control Orders called 'Guidance on Part 5 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011' which can be found at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/guidance-dog-control-orders.pdf>

The following excerpts are from that guidance on general principles:

- Paragraph 1.3 District councils may make dog control orders, provided that they are satisfied that an order is justified, and they have followed the necessary procedures.
- Paragraph 1.5 However, enforcement of the legislation is just one tool that is available to district councils to deal with dogs. Councils should bear in mind that the introduction of a dog control order may not always be the most appropriate course of action and that education also has an important part to play in promoting responsible dog ownership.
- Paragraph 2.2 The council needs to balance the interests of those in charge of dogs against the interests of those affected by the activities of dogs, bearing in mind the need for people, in particular children, to have access to dog-free areas and areas where dogs are kept under strict control, and the need for those in charge of dogs to have access to areas where they can exercise their dogs without undue restrictions. A failure to give due consideration to these factors could make any subsequent dog control order vulnerable to challenge in the Courts.
- Paragraph 2.3 District councils should also consider how easy a dog control order would be to enforce, since failure to enforce properly could undermine the effect of an order. This is particularly the case for orders that exclude dogs completely from areas of land.

Procedures for making a Dog Control Order

The 'Guidance on Part 5 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011' also sets out the procedures for making a dog control order. The following excerpts are from that guidance:

- Paragraph 2.5 The Procedures Regulations require that before it can make a dog control order, a district council must publish a notice describing the proposed order on the council's website and in a local newspaper circulating in the same area as the land to which the order would apply and invite representations on the proposal.

The notice must:

- (a) identify the land to which the order will apply;
- (b) summarise the order;

(c) if the order will refer to a map, say where the map can be inspected. This must be at an address in the district council's area, be free of charge, and be available at all reasonable hours during the consultation period;

(d) state that representations about the proposal may be made to the council and give the date by which they must be made. The final date for representation must be at least 28 days after the publication of the notice.

- Paragraph 2.6 At the end of the consultation period the council must consider any representations that have been made. If it then decides to proceed with the order, it must decide when the order will come into force. This must be at least 14 days from the date on which it was made.

Outcome of Further Monitoring and Assessment of Current Situation

Further monitoring was carried out by officers from the Enforcement Team in order to ascertain the extent of ongoing offences relating to persons taking dogs onto these lands and not keeping them under control by means of a leash while livestock are present. Monitoring was undertaken during a period when there was potential for increased use by the public and their dogs in good weather.

Monitoring was carried out on weekdays from 29th April to 27th May 2022. In total 10 monitoring visits of monitoring was carried out at the lands in question. In order for an offence to be committed under Regulation 25 of the Dogs (NI) Order 1983 livestock must be present on the land in question and dogs must be off leash and not under control. In summary the findings are:

- Of the 10 visits livestock was present once
- Of the 10 visits dogs were observed not under control once
- Of the 10 visits no offences were detected whereby livestock was present and dogs were off leash

A previous monitoring exercise was carried out by officers from the Enforcement Team and the Senior Environmental Health Officer for Enforcement during the week and at weekends from 31st January to 22nd February 2022. In summary the findings were:

- Of the 37 visits livestock was present 5 times
- Of the 37 visits dogs were observed not under control 6 times
- Of the 37 visits no offences were detected whereby livestock was present and dogs were off leash

An elected member visited the area on two occasions and reported the following:

- 14th April 2022 - 3 walkers with dogs off leads and livestock present. 1 dog observed making an attempt to chase but was restrained by the owner.
- 3rd May 2022 – No dog walkers observed.

Environmental Services engaged with the person who made the request for the Dog Control Order to provide a written witness statement indicating the extent of the problem in their experience and to provide supplementary evidence to support any losses incurred such as veterinary records.

The complainant provided a witness statement confirming their general complaint of the land being used by dog owners but there are no specific details of number of incidents of dogs attacking livestock, no details of numbers of livestock lost and no veterinary evidence of treatment of livestock following dog attacks.

Considerations for Council

- There already exists legislation whereby dogs must be under control by means of a leash on lands where livestock is present.
- The relevant guidance requires that the introduction of any Dog Control Order must be justified.
- Councils must take into account the interests of dog owners to be able to exercise their dogs without undue restrictions.
- Any proposed Dog Control Order must have a public consultation and the responses from this consultation such as objections to the Dog Control Order must be considered.
- The introduction of any Dog Control Order is subject to legal challenge and may fail if Council cannot demonstrate that such an Order is required and justified.
- The Environmental Health Department have no recorded complaints of any incidents of dogs worrying livestock on these lands.
- From the total of 47 monitoring visits undertaken by the Enforcement Team no relevant offences were detected.
- From 2 visits undertaken by an elected member, 3 dogs were observed off lead while livestock present.
- The witness statement by the complainant does not provide any supporting evidence in relation to the complaint.

Recommendation

It is recommended that members of the Environmental Services Committee make a recommendation to Council that Council does not progress the procedure to introduce a Dog Control Order excluding dogs from these lands.

Proposed by Councillor McQuillan

Seconded by Councillor McLean

-to recommend that Council does not progress the procedure to introduce a Dog Control Order excluding dogs from these lands.

Alderman Baird spoke of her disappointment with the proposal and wished make a proposal to the contrary referring to the fear which some individuals have of dogs and the impact of dog fouling on the coastal path and beaches.

Councillor McLean said there were laws in place for enforcement for out of control dogs and that many walkers were accompanied by their dogs and this would disadvantage them.

The Chair put the Proposal to the Committee to Vote.
9 Members voted For; 3 Members Voted Against; 1 Member Abstained.
The Chair declared the Motion Carried.

- * **Councillor Bateson left the meeting during discussion of this Item at 9.00pm.**

11. REPAIR OF WEST BAY PROMENADE AND REVETMENT

Report, previously circulated.

Purpose of Report

To request Members permission to proceed with the design and tendering for the urgent repair to a section of West Bay revetment and promenade (stage 2 of the procurement gateway).

Background

A section of West Bay Sea defences has been compromised as per the area shown in appendix 1, previously circulated. A section of the existing steel sheet piles has detached from the revetment capping beam and have sunk further into the earth, exposing the sea to the underside of the revetment, which has caused an extensive void as shown within appendix 2&3. The photos within appendix 2 show the steel sheet piles that have detached and slipped compromising the sea defences. A precautionary barrier has been put in place to ensure pedestrian safety along the prom.

Proposal

Initial surveys and concept repair procedure strategy has been prepared (appendix 3), which consists of placing a row of new steel sheet piles in front (seaward side) of the compromised piles (shown in appendix 3) and filling the compromised void with a concrete grout to prevent collapse. A new capping beam at this area would also be required. A cost estimate is in progress and it not available for Members at present, however it is critical to progress the design and tender documentation during Council's summer break. Note: it is important to expedite this repair ASAP to prevent further damage and possible collapse of the revetment.

A much larger project exists to examine the West Bay Prom Sea defences to establish the useful life of the remaining steel sheet piles, capping beam and revetment from Castle Erin to Black Rocks. Another report on this wider project and options shall be brought to Members at a later date.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members consider the proposal and grant officers permission to proceed with the design and subsequent public tender of this urgent repair (stage 2 of the procurement gateway). Note: the results from the tendering exercise shall be brought to Members for the final investment decision (stage 3).

Alderman Fielding referred to the reporting timeline and timescale for completion of works. The Director of Environmental Services advised the damage was caused only a few months ago and it was hoped the works would be completed around December.

Proposed by Alderman Fielding
Seconded by Alderman Hillis and

AGREED - to recommend that Council grant officers permission to proceed with the design and subsequent public tender of this urgent repair (stage 2 of the procurement gateway). Note: the results from the tendering exercise shall be brought to Members for the final investment decision (stage 3).

12. AMUSEMENT PERMIT RENEWALS

For information report, previously circulated.

THE BETTING, GAMING, LOTTERIES AND AMUSEMENTS (NI) ORDER 1985 RENEWAL OF AN AMUSEMENT PERMIT

The undernoted application for renewal of an amusement permit has been received and processed during the report period.

<u>Licence No:</u>	<u>Name of Premises</u>
AP005	Station Arcade

13. APPROVAL OF PREMISES AS A VENUE FOR CIVIL MARRIAGE

For information report, previously circulated.

MARRIAGE REGULATIONS (NI) 2003 THE MARRIAGE (NI) ORDER 2003

Approval of premises as a venue for Civil Marriage.

The undernoted application for renewal as an approved place for Civil Marriage was received, acknowledged and processed during the report period.

<u>Unique Reference Number</u>	<u>Premises Name</u>	<u>Approval Type</u>
MA003	Portstewart Golf Club	Civil Marriage Approval

14. APPROVAL OF PREMISES AS A VENUE FOR A CIVIL PARTNERSHIP

For information report, previously circulated.

THE CIVIL PARTNERSHIP REGULATION (NI) 2005 THE CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

Approval of premises as a venue for Civil Partnership.

The undernoted application for renewal as an approved place for Civil Partnership was received, acknowledged and processed during the report period.

<u>Unique Reference Number</u>	<u>Premises Name</u>	<u>Approval Type</u>
CP003	Portstewart Golf Club	Civil Partnership Approval

15. ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE RENEWALS

For information report, previously circulated.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) (NI) ORDER 1985 ENTERTAINMENT LICENCES

The undernoted applications for an entertainments licence have been received, acknowledged and processed during the report period.

<u>Unique Reference Number</u>	<u>Name of Premises</u>
EL240	The Robinson Hall
EL268	Roseyards Presbyterian Church Hall
EL148	Portstewart Presbyterian Church Hall
EL019	The Bridge Bar
EL088	Coleraine Royal British Legion
EL304	Fullerton Arms
EL341	Owen's Bar
EL354	Dromboughill Community Association
EL328	Gortnaghey Community Centre
EL342	Limavady United Football & Athletic Club
EL361	Benedy Community Outreach Training and Social Centre
EL323	Largy Community Hall
EL012	Bertha's Bar
EL070	Old Point Inn
EL240	The Robinson Hall
EL225	Ballyweaney Presbyterian Church Hall
EL371	Our Lady of Lourdes

16. LICENCES ISSUED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

For information report, previously circulated.

The below licences were issued under Delegated Authority during the last report period:

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985

<u>Ref No</u>	<u>Premises:</u>	<u>License</u>
Circus 001	Tom Duffy Circus Limavady Show Grounds Ballymoney Show Grounds	Grant of annual indoor entertainments licence Days and times on which it is applied to provide entertainment: Monday – Friday 16:00hrs to 22:00hrs

	Field between Bushmills Road Roundabout and Ballycastle Road Roundabout, Coleraine	Saturday – Sunday 13:00hrs to 19:00hrs
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Consultations with PSNI and NIFRS regarding the above application resulted in no objections being received.

No representations were received regarding the above application.

Delegated authority was used to issue licences for the above applicants due to time constraints and to enable the business to provide entertainment. Decisions to grant or vary entertainment licences will continue to be brought before Council with delegated authority used only in exceptional circumstances.

Caravans Act (NI) 1963

Ref No	Premises	License
MDC/2018/002	Ballyness Caravan Park, 40 Castlecatt Road, Bushmills	Grant of a transfer of the Caravan Site Licence

17. SOCIETY LOTTERY REGISTRATIONS

For information report, previously circulated.

**THE BETTING, GAMING, LOTTERIES AND AMUSEMENTS (NI) ORDER 1985
REGISTRATION OF A SOCIETY**

The undernoted applications for society lottery registrations have been received, acknowledged and processed during the report period.

<u>Registration No:</u>	<u>Name of Society</u>
SL038	Limavady Wolfhounds GAC
SL032	Coleraine Rugby, Football, Cricket and Hockey Club

18. PAVEMENT CAFÉ LICENCE RENEWALS

For information report, previously circulated.

LICENSING OF PAVEMENT CAFES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2014

The undernoted application for a pavement café licence has been received, acknowledged and processed during the report period.

<u>Unique Reference Number</u>	<u>Name of Premises</u>
PC03	Pear Tree

19. PETROLEUM SPIRIT LICENCE RENEWALS

For information report, previously circulated.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1929 AND 1937 PETROLEUM SPIRIT LICENCES

The undernoted applications for renewal of petroleum spirit licence have been received, acknowledged and processed during the report period.

<u>Licence No:</u>	<u>Name of Premises</u>
PL027	PSNI Coleraine
PL016	Asda Stores Ltd
PL018	Ivan Wilson Filling Station

20. POISONS REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1983 REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ENTITLED TO SELL NON-MEDICINAL POISONS INCLUDED IN PART II OF THE POISONS LIST

For information report, previously circulated.

POISONS REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1983 REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ENTITLED TO SELL NON-MEDICINAL POISONS INCLUDED IN PART II OF THE POISONS LIST

The undernoted registration of persons entitled to sell non-medicinal poisons has been received, acknowledged and processed during the report period.

<u>Registration Number</u>	<u>Name of Business</u>
P/24/2022	James Delargy Farm Supplies

21. STREET TRADING LICENCE RENEWALS

For information report, previously circulated.

STREET TRADING (NI) ACT 2001

The undernoted applications for a street trading licence have been received, acknowledged and processed during the report period.

<u>Unique Reference Number</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Type of Licence</u>	<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Location</u>
SST 007	Robert James Laverty	Stationary	Hot Food	One Pitch Ref: No 5 In Car Park At Harpurs Hill Shops, Coleraine.
SST 009	Deborah Brown	Stationary	Hot Food	One Pitch Ref: No. 4 At Newbridge Lay-by On North East Side Of A26 (two Mile Bridge) As Detailed On Attached Map.
SST 016	Malachy Sweeney	Stationary	Hot Food and Drinks	Dunhill Road, Macosquin
MST 012	Robert King	Mobile	Ice cream and confectionery	Borough of Causeway Coast and Glens.
MST 005	Jonathan O'Kane	Mobile	Ice cream, ice lollies, confectionery and drinks	Borough of Causeway Coast and Glens.

22. PRIVATE CONTRACTOR LITTER ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS (WISE) AND EASTER CRUISE PATROLS

For information report, previously circulated.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update members on the private contractors' actions from August 2021 to May 2022 including patrols during the Easter Cruise in Portrush.

Background

Further to report ES210810, members will be aware that this service commenced 2nd August 2021.

Statistical information for the period 2nd August 2021 to 31st May 2022 of operation are provided in Tables below

Table 1. No of Fixed Penalties per Month (August 2021 – May 2022), previously circulated.

Table 2. Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) Issued by Offence type (Aug 21 – May 22), previously circulated.

Table 3. Fixed Penalty Notices issued by town/area (Aug 21 – May 22), previously circulated.

The figures detailed in table 2 include fixed penalties issued during the Easter Cruise 2022. See Appendix 1 for report provided by WISE on their attendance at this event.

Officers continue to be deployed across the Borough, 7 days per week to detect offences with the aim of reducing the amount of litter across the Borough.

Members are reminded that should they wish to accompany any of the officers on patrol to observe first-hand how they engage with the public, that may be arranged.

All those that have been given a FPN have the right of representation directly to the company to challenge the issue. Details are provided on the FPN and on the Councils website. <https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/live/health-and-built-environment/environment-health-and-well-being/environmental-health/litter-enforcement>

For those who do not have internet access an address for written representations can be provided.

Council officers will continue to work with WISE officers targeting litter hotspots and promoting anti-litter initiatives such as the Butt Ballot boxes, use of litter bins, and the Green Dog Walker scheme.

Litter Composition Report 2019/20 compiled by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful produced the graphic below which highlights the categories of littered items and the amount of litter that could be on our streets at any one time.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Environmental Service Committee recommends to Council to note the above.

The Director of Environmental Services agreed to provide a breakdown on specific areas patrolled by WISE Enforcement Officers for the next Environmental Services Committee meeting.

23. THE PRIVATE TENANCIES ACT (NI) 2022 – NOTICE TO QUIT

For information report, previously circulated.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of new legislative requirements in relation to Notice to Quit periods in the private rented sector.

Background

Further to committee report ES220111 and CM220201 Council was consulted upon the Private Tenancies Bill in relation to Notice to Quit periods for landlords and tenants in the private rented sector and provided a consultation response.

The Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022 received Royal Assent on 27th April 2022 and made a number of changes to the Private Tenancies Order (NI) 2006. A number of provisions within the new Act will require further Regulations and Commencement Orders to be made by the Department of Communities however the requirements relating to the length of notice to quit that landlords and tenants are required to give took effect immediately.

The minimum notice to quit period is dependent upon the length of tenancy. The notice to quit periods set out in the tables below apply from 5th May 2022.

Minimum notice to quit period a landlord must give their tenant:

Length of tenancy	Notice to quit
Tenancy not been in existence for more than 12 months	No less than 4 weeks' written notice
Tenancy has been in existence for more than 12 months but not more than 10 years	No less than 8 weeks' written notice
Tenancy has been in existence for more than 10 years	No less than 12 weeks' written notice

Minimum notice to quit period a tenant must give their landlord:

Length of tenancy	Notice to quit
Tenancy not been in existence for more than 10 years	No less than 4 weeks' written notice
Tenancy has been in existence for more than 10 years	No less than 12 weeks' written notice

Recommendation

It is recommended that the report be noted.

24. INSTALLATION OF WATER BOTTLE REFILL STATION AT RATHLIN ISLAND

For information report, previously circulated.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the supply and installation of the first water bottle refill station at Rathlin Island.

Background

Rathlin Development and Community Association (RDCA), assisted by Council Environmental Resource Officer, submitted an application to Sea Changers for the supply and installation of a water bottle refill station at Rathlin Island.

Sea Changers is a UK marine conservation charity which provides grant funding to UK based charities and not-for-profit organisations to carry out marine conservation related activities.

Funding from Sea Changers aims to address the increasing problem of plastic bottles, left behind along the coast as marine litter, which damage the marine environment and associated species.

The project ties in with the PlasticSmart element of council's LiveSmart initiative, in particular, the H2O on the Go water bottle refill scheme.

Grant Award

Rathlin Development and Community Association has been successful in receiving a grant award of £2,000. Total cost of the project is £2,590. Council to fund project costs in excess of grant award.

Rathlin Development and Community Association is one of only two applicants to date in Northern Ireland to receive funding from Sea Changers.

Sea Changers anticipate that the provision of water bottle refill stations will significantly reduce the number of non-reusable plastic drinks bottles on our beaches and coastline.

The water bottle refill station will be located at the council-owned toilet block at Rathlin Harbour and will be accessible to use at all times.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee note the award of grant funding, supported by council, to Rathlin Development and Community Association to supply and install the first dedicated water bottle refill station on the island.

25. ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS (NOTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 12 (O))

25.1 Trading at Ballintoy Harbour (Alderman Baird)

Following my previous representations regarding the high volume of traders operating from Ballintoy Harbour in summer 2021 can Officers give Council an update on action taken to date and plans for further controls? In particular, the report should focus on risks to Council posed by uninsured coasteering and water sports providers and the negative impact this is having on the goodwill which Council relies on from adjoining landowners. The National Trust have now acted to minimise risks and Council should do likewise.

Alderman Baird raised concern about traders at Ballintoy Harbour who were adding to traffic congestion and questioned individuals partaking in water sports in conjunction with a trader which was potentially not Insured.

The Director of Environmental Services confirmed that Council had no legal standing to act on third party land and further advised the Coastguard had limited powers, it appeared that trading did not take place within the car park. The Director of Environmental Services commented that to make best efficient use of carparking, enforcement could be instigated for out of bay parking and advised that resurfacing and repainting of the lines by Department for Infrastructure would take place after the peak Summer period.

The Director of Environmental Services advised that Rights of Way sat within Leisure and Development Directorate and suggested Elected Members may wish to bring the matter to that Committee through Any Other Relevant Business.

Proposed by Alderman Baird
Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin and

AGREED - to recommend to Council that the matter of Rights of Way at Ballintoy Harbour be tabled under Any Other Relevant Business at the next Leisure and Development Committee.

25.2 Repairs at Cottage Wood (Councillor MA McKillop)

Repairs at Cottage Wood

Councillor MA McKillop referred to works required at Cottage Wood including handrails, steps, cutting hedges and trees, clean up and suggested the cleansing sweeper be deployed to this location.

The Director of Environmental Services advised an element of work on handrails and on the steps would be carried out as soon as possible and that the cleansing sweeper would be on site next week.

25.3 Weeds at Playparks (Councillor MA McKillop)

Weeds at playparks

Councillor MA McKillop raised the issue of weeds in Waterfoot Playpark some of which was growing through equipment.

The Director of Environmental Services said this was being addressed as training was being provided to playground inspectors so they could treat weeds on identification and agreed to monitor this problem going forward.

25.4 Plants growing on Coleraine Town Hall (Councillor Holmes)

Could the committee receive an update on the work to clear plants growing on Coleraine town hall?

The Director of Environmental Services advised the location of the weeds was at a high level on the Town Hall and were difficult to access. Twenty percent of the work would require erection of scaffolding in order to remove the weeds safely. Costs for completion of works had been passed to the Premises Manager to approve the spend.

25.5 Department for Infrastructure Weed Spraying on Pavements (Councillor Holmes)

Can council ask DFI for a town by town update on weed spraying along pavements?

The Director of Environmental Services agreed to write to Dfi in this regard.

Councillor Wallace raised the issue of grass growing in the vicinity of Kingsgate Street in Coleraine and wished to commend the work being undertaken on a Thursday in Ballymoney by Fuse FM and The Royal British Legion removing weeds and litter from the streets in the Town Centre.

Councillor McAuley concurred with Councillor Wallace and said that he felt grass cutting and weeds across the province, not only in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area, was the worst he had ever seen.

25.6 Depot Strategy Update (Councillor McQuillan)

Could I have an update on the Depot strategy please?

The Director of Environmental Services advised the baseline data for this had been captured but that a consultant was required to complete the work. At the request of Councillor McQuillan, the Director of Environmental Services advised that SIB Project Officers did not have the capacity to undertake this project and it would be Autumn before an outcome was expected.

25.7 Grass Cutting Cemeteries (Councillor McQuillan)

Could I have an update on the lack of grass cutting at our local cemeteries?

The Director of Environmental Services advised the labour market at present resulted in difficulties for the Agency to recruit staff. The Director of Environmental Services stated grass cutting was slightly behind target and available staff were working overtime to resolve the matter.

The Director of Environmental Services advised that staff were required to have a 7.5 tonne licence to drive a van and trailer and that enquiries were being made to consider reducing requirements to get staff on board more easily.

25.8 Summer Opening Hours Amenity Sites (Councillor Bateson)

What are Summer opening hours at Amenity sites?

The Director of Environmental Services advised that Amenity Sites would be open late in July and August on a Wednesday night until 8 pm and an update would be posted on Council's website as soon as possible.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 9.45 pm.

Chair