



**Minutes of the Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting on
Thursday, 8 September 2016 at 10.30am in Kilcooley Community Centre**

Present:

Dee Stitt – Chair (KCF)
Esther Millar (EA)
Ralston Perera (SEH&SCT)
Desy Clayton (KCF)
Alison Blayney (KWC)
James McKerrow (AGENDA)
Karen McGuire (KPS)
Pauline Brown (KPS)
Jim Dunbar (EA)
Jim Rea (KCF)

ANDBC Officers in Attendance:

Lisa Roulston (NRO)
Debbie McKinney (Community Development)
Laura Mccamley (CD Admin)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Dee Stitt (DS) thanked members for their attendance and welcomed Alison Blayney back to the Partnership, DS informed members that AB will be representing Kilcooley Women's Centre. DS also welcomed Ralston Perera, representing the Trust and Laura McCambley (LMC) from the Council. DS informed members that LMC will be recording the minutes of the partnership meetings. DS informed members that apologies had been received from Andrew Petrie, Lynda Vladeanu, Gail Malmo and Cllr Alan Leslie.

No further apologies were noted.

NOTED.

2. CONFLICTS OF ISSUES

DS invited members to review the agenda and advise if any item could give rise to a potential conflict of interest. No conflicts of interests were declared.

NOTED.

3. MINUTES OF THE PARTNERSHIP MEETING ON 16 JUNE 2016

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED

DS invited members to review the minutes and advised members that items from the previous meeting will be addressed on the agenda. DS requested members' comments or amendments.

Members were happy with the content of the minutes. The minutes were proposed by James McKerrow (JM) and seconded by Desy Clayton (DC) and agreed by members.

AGREED.

4. COMMUNICATION

4.1. Draft Annual Report (PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

The NRO advised members that the annual report had been submitted to the Department of Communities (DfC) as a draft report in August 2016. The report provides background into Kilcooley as a Neighbourhood Renewal Area, the structure and governance of the Partnership and identifies the Neighbourhood Renewal Projects supported through the funding. The Annual Report outlines project spend and achievements between the timeframe of March 2015- March 2016. The NRO informed members that the Annual Report is brought to the Partnership for final ratification. If members are happy with the report, the NRO will inform the DfC.

DS invited members for comments on agenda item 4.1. JM commented that the report had been; "Very well put together and very factual." Members were happy with the content and structure of the report and no further comments were made.

The Annual Report 2015-2016 was proposed by Ralston Perera (RP), seconded by Pauline Brown (PB) and agreed by members.

AGREED.

Action	Person
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advise the DfC that the annual report has been ratified by the Partnership.	NRO

4.2. Post Project Evaluations (PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

The NRO advised members that at the request of the DfC, she will be contacting the Neighbourhood Renewal projects to arrange a site visit to complete a post project evaluation. Once completed the evaluations will be forwarded to the DfC for review. The NRO advised members that a draft copy of the evaluations will be presented to members at the next partnership meeting.

DS invited members for comments on agenda item 4.2

In response to a query posed by Jim Dunbar (JD) regarding the difference between the post project evaluation and quarterly progress reports, the NRO advised that the evaluation of each project is a grant requirement outlined in the projects Letter of Offer. The NRO informed members that the main difference between the post

project evaluation and the progress report, is that it provides the projects with the opportunity to put forward any challenges, successes and extra information which is currently not recorded in their quarterly progress report.

NOTED.

4.3. Newsletter (Verbal update)

The NRO reminded members that they previously agreed that the newsletter should be produced twice annually. The NRO informed members that she had hoped to have a draft layout for review but due to workload and holiday constraints, it is now envisioned that the draft layout will not be completed until the end of October 2016. The NRO advised that the newsletter would encompass an introduction to the partnership, a who's who within the Community and an introduction into the project work currently being completed as part of the partnership. The NRO invited members to pose for a full partnership photograph for the newsletter, a date of this photography shoot will be arranged in due course.

NOTED.

Action	Person
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange photo of all Partnership members for the release of the Kilcooley Community Newsletter. 	<i>NRO</i>

4.4. Showcase Event (Verbal Update)

The NRO advised members that a project showcase event had been mentioned at the previous meeting. The aim of the showcase event is to celebrate the work of the Neighbourhood Renewal projects to date. The NRO proposed a date in January 2017 for the showcase.

DS invited members for comments on agenda item 4.4

In response to queries made by members regarding the audience of the showcase, the NRO advised that the showcase event would be for the Partnership members, project partners and other stakeholders. The NRO said the structure of the showcase event should be discussed further with the Partnership.

DC suggested to the Partnership that the showcase should be an informal meeting of parties involved and that this showcase event would be a great opportunity for project partners to meet all involved.

In response to a query posed by a member regarding presenting project work, the NRO confirmed that short presentations would be a great way to give an insight into the work being delivered as part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.

The NRO suggested that Kilcooley Primary School could be suitable venue to host the event. A lunch will also be provided.

NOTED.

5. PROJECT PROGRESS REPORTS

Bangor Alternatives: January – March 2016 (PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

DS referred members to the Project Progress Report and asked members for comments on the report.

Members were happy with the content of the report. The progress report was proposed by JM and seconded by RP and agreed by members.

AGREED.

6. EARLY INTERVENTION LOCALITY PLANNING GROUP (Verbal update)

DS referred members to RP to provide members with an update on the Kilcooley Intervention Locality Planning – SOC group.

RP advised members that the first meeting of the new Ards and North Down Locality Planning Group had been scheduled for 19 September 2016. Members of the SOC group have been invited to attend. RP advised that at this point it is unclear what the group will look like however but that it will operate across the Ards and North Down area. RP indicated that by the time the PEACE IV projects are open for tendering applications, it is hoped that the new group will be best placed to make a bid for the funding.

The NRO advised that a further update on the progress of the Ards and North Down Early Intervention Group would be provided to members at the next Partnership meeting. The NRO put forward her concerns about progressing the work previously undertaken by the SOC group and the National Children's Bureau (NCB), but acknowledged the need for further discussions with the new group and the Partnership on how the issues raised by the SOC group would be addressed.

NOTED.

7. EDUCATION WORKING GROUP (Verbal update)

The NRO advised members that a Turning the Curve workshop had taken place in June 2016. This workshop was facilitated by the National Children's Bureau and focused on three key areas around Educational attainment as identified through the SOC group. These priorities included school readiness, parental engagement and attendance at post-primary education. The NRO advised that representatives from the community, voluntary statutory organisations were present at the workshop. As part of the workshop participants were asked to suggest low/ no costs activities for the community which could be implemented quickly. The NRO advised that one of the suggestions agreed upon was to introduce a Couchto5K programme within the community. Although this programme does not directly link to education, it has improved community spirit and the mental and physical health of participants.

Alison Blayney (AB) informed members that a Couchto5K programme will begin on 22 September 2016 and will run for 9 weeks within the community.

Several members raised concerns over the output of reports produced by the NCB as part of the early intervention locality planning process. RP agreed to follow up with the NCB on the development of the final report. To facilitate further discussions on the educational priorities identified by the SOC group and the solutions discussed at the Turning the Curve workshop. The NRO agreed to contact Joanne Garrett from the Trust to ask for a copy of the report produced as part of the Turning the Curve workshop on the educational priorities. Members will review the Turning the Curve report at the next Education Working Group meeting.

DC advised members that 13 students recently graduated from the Unblocking Potential course delivered by the University of Ulster. Four of the 13 students have since progressed to the Undergraduate Community Development course at the University of Ulster. A second Unblocking Potential course is being arranged to encourage further developing the skills and educational aspirations of the local community. The NRO suggested a celebratory breakfast or brunch for the 13 graduates and possibly the Mayor to recognise their achievements. DC requested further discussions regarding a potential date for this breakfast.

NOTED.

Action	Person
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up with NCB on the final report produced as part of the early intervention locality planning workshops/partnership. • Contact Joanne Garrett from the Trust to ask for a copy of the report produced as part of the Turning the Curve workshop on the educational priorities. This report should be included on the agenda at the next Education Working Group meeting. 	<p><i>RP</i></p> <p><i>NRO</i></p>

8. SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

8.1. Upgrade of Shop Fronts (Verbal Update)

DS advised members that the application for the upgrade of shop fronts in Kilcooley Square has been approved and that a tendering process will be underway in the coming weeks. DS informed members that he has been working closely with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and that a further update will be provided at the next meeting.

NOTED.

8.2. 3G Pitch (Verbal Update)

The NRO updated members on the progress of the 3G Pitch. The NRO reminded members that the lead partner for the project was Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and that a letter of offer had been received. Within the letter of offer there are number of conditions which need to be met before funds will be released. The NRO informed members of the conditions and outlined the progress of land transfer from NIHE to Council. The NRO also advised that she met with the Education

Authority (EA) to discuss the overflow car park. The EA confirmed that the previously agreed work to the school car park would go ahead but unfortunately due to budget constraints at this time, the front refurbishment of the primary school is on hold.

Members discussed the suitability of the school as a working teaching facility, commenting on the disrepair and lack of disability access within the building. Members suggested approaching local MLAs for support to encourage investment to refurbish the front of the school. PB compared the recent refurbishment of Bangor Central School (through Fresh Start Funding) to the lack of funding experienced by Kilcooley Primary School, advising that the Minister for Education was scheduled to visit the school and the investment into the school premises is on the agenda for discussion.

PB also commented on the need for a community hub where the school and other community facilities, including a childcare centre, adult education and early intervention services would be at the heart of the community. Members discussed the potential opportunities for a community hub and the limitations it may have with regards to an income element. Members acknowledged the Multi-functional centre and its potential to provide a better community service and that the roadside location may entice more private investment such as a coffee shop and pharmacy.

Members agreed that the Partnership should discuss this further at a different time to agree on the best way forward.

NOTED.

8.3. Early Intervention (Verbal Update)

DS referred members to RP for an update on SIF projects. RP advised members that the Together for Families Partnership responsible for the delivery of the projects had recently taken place. Members were concerned about the engagement of parents within the programme. RP advised that programmes have been slow in starting back up after the summer recess.

In response to query's posed by AB and DS regarding programme worker involvement within the community, RP said he would feed concerns back to the partnership for consideration.

NOTED.

Action	Person
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback comments from members of the Partnership regarding the SIF programmes. 	<i>RP</i>

9. PEACE IV Programme (Verbal Update)

The NRO updated members on the status of PEACE IV programme, stating that the first stage of the application had been submitted for approval but as yet no response had been received from SEUPB. The NRO informed members that

SEUPB previously stated that the funding (approximately 3.2m) had been ring-fenced for the Councils. As a result of Brexit, the funding is now based upon the merit of the application and subject to a competitive process. The NRO advised members that the first PEACE IV Partnership meeting had recently taken place and that the social members of the Partnership had been appointed. The NRO also updated members on the timeframe for delivery, stating that the project will end earlier than previously expected, most likely in the fall of 2018. She also noted future submission dates and briefly explained projects which had been proposed in the first stage submission. Members will be updated on the progress of the Ards and North Down Borough Council's PEACE IV application at the next Partnership meeting.

NOTED.

10. MEETING DATES 2016/2017

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED

DS advised members of the previously circulated meeting dates and requested that members provisionally book these dates their diaries. If members are unable to attend a meeting, please ensure the NRO is informed prior to the meeting taking place.

NOTED.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DS raised concerns over the Housing Executive's attendance at the Kilcooley Neighbour Partnership meetings. Members agreed that a letter should be sent to Owen Brady as a matter of urgency informing him of the issue and asking for a nominated representative from the NIHE to attend the Partnership. The NRO agreed to write a letter on behalf of the Partnership and update members at the next meeting.

DS also informed members of the community clean-up which is ongoing throughout the estate. He said that the local men's group met in June and completed approximately about ¼ of the estate, picking weeds and completing general cleaning of the area. The response to the first 'estate tidy' day had been extremely positive and it was great to see members of the community engaging in a community-self-help activity.

DS advised that a second clean-up day had been scheduled for 25 October 2016 and the rest of the estate would be completed in spring 2017. DS requested members who work within the community to encourage participation amongst the local community. Information on the clean-up event is available on the Kilcooley Community Forum's Facebook page.

The NRO, Lisa Roulston informed the Partnership that she has accepted a new post in the Community Planning department of the Council. The NRO advised members that she will be taking up her role new as Community Planning Officer on the 10 October 2016. The NRO thanked the members of the Partnership for their support and wished the Partnership every success in the future.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was set for Thursday, 20 October 2016.

The meeting terminated at approximately 12 noon.