

May 6th, 2026


Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 6th May 2026** at **7:00 pm** in **2 Church Street, Newtownards.**

Agenda

Agenda

(Attached)

 *EC 06.05.26 Agenda.pdf*

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1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

Reports for Approval

3. Notice of Motion 655 Additional Names for Comber War Memorial

(Attached)

 *3. Notice of Motion 655 Additional names on Comber War Memorial.pdf*

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4. HRC Extended Opening Hours

(Attached)

 *4. HRC Extended Opening Hours.pdf*

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5. Notice of Motion 330 Donaghadee Swim Shelter

(Attached)

 *5. Notice of Motion 330 Donaghadee Swim Shelter.pdf*

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Reports for Noting

6. Notice of Motion 616 Donaghadee Harbour and Parade

 *6. Notice of Motion 616 Donaghadee Harbour and Parade.pdf*

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 *6. Appendix 1 - Response from DfI Minister.pdf*

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 *6. Appendix 2 - Response from DfI Consultancy Service.pdf*

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 *6. Appendix 3 - Further Response from DFI Consultancy Service.pdf*

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8. Greenways Update

(Attached)

 *8. Greenways Update.pdf*

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7. Portavogie and Portaferry 3G Pitch Projects

(Attached)

 *7. Portaferry and Portavogie 3G Pitch Projects.pdf*

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9. Notice of Motion 707 Removal of Planting at The Commons, Donaghadee

(Attached)

 *9. Notice of Motion 707 Removal of Planting at the Commons, Donaghadee.pdf*

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 *9. Appendix 1 - Response from DEARA Minister.pdf*

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10. Reusable Nappy Trial Update

 *10. Reusable Nappy Trial Update.pdf*

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11. Notices of Motion

11.1 Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman Graham and Councillor Gilmour

Council notes the extension to the platform at Helen's Bay Station to enhance the safety of high numbers of visitors at peak times. To cope with such influxes of visitors, Council writes to Translink and requests that it provides toilet facilities at the railway station.

11.2 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cochrane and Councillor Thompson

That this Council notes the need for adequate coastal defences and the ongoing issues affecting Donaghadee Harbour.

Council further acknowledges the continued work and contribution of Donaghadee Sailing Club and Donaghadee Community Development Association in seeking solutions to these challenges. It further notes that significant engagement has already taken place with some public representatives and government bodies to this regard.

Council therefore, agrees to instruct officers to engage with counterparts in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to explore the potential for Shared Island Funding as a means of supporting the delivery of

necessary coastal defence infrastructure.

12. Any Other Notified Business

*****IN CONFIDENCE*****

Items Delegated for Decision/Approval (In Confidence)

13. Contract Extension for Grounds Maintenance Support Services

(Attached)

 **13.1 Tender Extension for Grounds Maintenance Support Services.pdf**

Not included

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

29 April 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a hybrid meeting (in person and via Zoom) of the Environment Committee of Ards and North Down Borough Council in the Council Chamber, 2 Church Street, Newtownards on **Wednesday, 6 May 2026** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Yours faithfully

Susie McCullough
Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest

Reports for Approval

3. Notice of Motion 655 Additional Names for Comber War Memorial (Report attached)
4. HRC Extended Opening Hours (Report attached)
5. Notice of Motion 330 Donaghadee Swim Shelter (Report attached)

Reports for Noting

6. Notice of Motion 616 Donaghadee Harbour and Parade (Report attached)
7. Portavogie and Portaferry 3G Pitch Projects (Report attached)
8. Greenways Update (Report attached)
9. Notice of Motion 707 Removal of Planting at the Commons, Donaghadee (Report Attached)
10. Reusable Nappy Trial Update (Copy attached)
11. Notices of Motion

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Council therefore agrees to instruct officers to engage with counterparts in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to explore the potential for Shared Island Funding as a means of supporting the delivery of necessary coastal defence infrastructure.

12. Any Other Notified Business

***** IN CONFIDENCE*****

Items Delegated for Decision/Approval (In Confidence)

13. Contract Extension for Grounds Maintenance Support Services (Report attached)

MEMBERSHIP OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (16 Members)

Alderman Adair	Councillor Douglas
Alderman Armstrong-Cotter	Councillor Edmund
Councillor Ashe	Councillor Harbinson (Vice Chair)
Councillor Blaney	Councillor Kendall (Chair)
Councillor Boyle	Alderman McAlpine
Councillor Brady	Alderman McRandal
Alderman Cummings	Councillor Newman
Councillor Cathcart	Councillor Wray

Unclassified

ITEM 3

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	06 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Estates
Report title	Notice of Motion 655 Additional Names for Comber War Memorial
Attachments	
File Reference (if applicable)	65377 / NOM 655
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Resource Implications	Budget Narrative: No Impact. Can be funded from current budgets.
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of decision not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 3: Social 1. An engaged Borough with citizens and businesses who have opportunities to influence the delivery of services, plans and investment If multiple:

Background

In March 2025, Council agreed the following Notice of Motion

That this Council brings back a report outlining the design, cost and positioning of an additional plaque on the War Memorial in Comber, to accommodate a list of historically researched names, currently being collated as per War Memorial Trust guidelines, of the fallen in the Great War 1914-1918, which were previously not included.

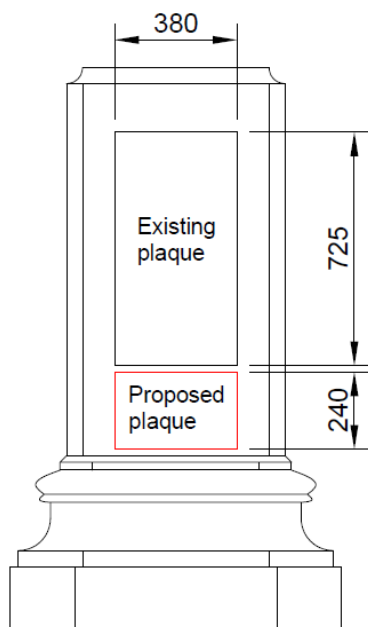
At the meeting, it was pointed out that the Comber Branch of the Royal British Legion had been provided with a historically researched and compiled list of individuals believed to have been omitted from the town’s War Memorial. The list relates to casualties from the First World War, covering the period 1914–1918.

Upon receipt of this information, the Branch agreed to initiate a process in accordance with War Memorial Trust Guidelines. This included the establishment of a working group to undertake detailed scrutiny of the names and to commence a formal verification process.

Key Issues

Officers have since been collaborating with the working group and all missing names are now believed to have been collated and verified.

In total, 123 names have been collected and verified by the working group. It is proposed that these names will be distributed over three plaques, situated on the existing war memorial as shown below.



Side Elevation

- Notes:
1. 3 plaques to be installed on 3 sides of the monument.
 2. 123 names in total. Roughly 41 per plaque.
 3. Font type and size to match existing plaque.



Photo of Existing

Next Steps

Officers have approached a local foundry for the production of the plaques. Initial budget costs indicate an approximate total cost of £5000 for the three plaques and can be procured.

Summary

A list of individuals believed to have been omitted from the town's War Memorial has been identified. The list relates to casualties from the First World War, and can be added to the Comber War Memorial as described in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council agrees to progress with the production of the three plaques as outlined above, utilising existing maintenance budgets.

Unclassified

ITEM 4

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	06 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Waste and Cleansing Services
Report title	HRC extended opening hours
Attachments	
File Reference (if applicable)	
Legislation	Other Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
Resource Implications	Budget and Staffing Narrative: Extending HRC opening hours will require additional staff costs.
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of decision not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 2: Environmental 2. An environmentally sustainable and resilient Council and Borough meeting our net zero carbon targets If multiple:

Background

The Household Recycling Centre (HRC) extended opening hours trial was a response to a proposal by Council to revert to pre-COVID seasonal opening times with the aim to increase accessibility for residents.

Key Issues

Scope of the trial:

It was agreed that the trial would run over the brighter months of June, July, August and September. The trial involved alternating additional evening opening hours across the nine HRCs from Monday to Friday.

Extended Opening Hours were agreed as follows for 1 June to 30 September, 8am to 8pm.

- **Monday** - Donaghadee and Holywood HRCs
- **Tuesday** - Comber and Kircubbin HRCs
- **Wednesday** - Portaferry and Newtownards HRCs
- **Thursday** - Balloo, Bangor HRC
- **Friday** - Millisle and Ballygowan HRCs

The last bookable appointment was 7:40pm.

The trial was heavily publicised using Council social media platforms and the Bin-ovation app.



Figure 1.0 HRC extended opening hours social media post

Results of the trial:

The trial measured the number of booked slots as a percentage of the total additional number of slots made available. The table below is a summary of site usage during the extended opening hours between 1 June to 30 September 2025.

Total - Extended Opening							
1 June to 30 September 2025	Extra slots available	Bookings created	% of extra slots booked per site	No shows	% of no shows per site	Bookings completed	% of extra slots used per site
Baloo	3,060	1,163	38%	111	4%	1,052	34%
Newtownards	3,060	381	12%	16	1%	339	11%
Comber	2,448	215	9%	15	1%	185	8%
Hollywood	800	112	14%	8	1%	100	13%
Ballygowan	1,530	117	8%	5	0%	106	7%
Millisle	1,836	121	7%	5	0%	109	6%
Kircubbin	1,224	106	9%	4	0%	90	7%
Portaferry	1,224	103	8%	3	0%	97	8%
Donaghadee	864	65	8%	1	0%	62	7%
Total	16,046	2,383	Avg. 12%	168	Avg. 1%	2,140	Avg. 11%

Summary

The trial of extended opening hours at nine Household Recycling Centres demonstrated a lack of significant demand for the additional operating times.

Only one of the nine sites managed to utilise over 15% of its extended booking slot availability, while the remaining eight experienced notably low attendance.

This outcome suggests that while extended hours might cater to a specific localised need, without increased public engagement a broader service implementation could result in an inefficient resource allocation with minimal public benefit. In order to inform next steps, Members are advised that budget exists for any of the three possible options as set out below.

Next Steps

Recommended options:

Officers would suggest consideration of the following three potential options:

1. As in the 2025 trial, extend HRC opening hours to provide one late opening evening per week at each site from 1 June to 30 September. Resourcing this option would cost an estimated additional £45,000
2. As in the 2025 trial, extend HRC opening hours to provide one late opening evening per week, but only at five sites - Baloo, Newtownards, Comber, Millisle, and Portaferry in order to balance demand and geographical access. Resourcing this option would cost an estimated additional £38,500.
3. Do not extend HRC opening hours, retaining consistent opening hours. This option would have no additional staffing or budgetary implications.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council Approves Option 2.

Unclassified

ITEM 5**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	05 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Report title	Notice of Motion 330 Donaghadee Swim Shelter
Attachments	
File Reference (if applicable)	NoM 330
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Resource Implications	None
	Narrative:
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of decision not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 1: Economic 4. A vibrant, attractive, sustainable Borough for citizens, visitors, businesses and investors If multiple:

Background

In March 2019 a decision was taken on a notice of motion as follows:

That Council brings back a report on providing a shelter or sheltered area near the slipway in Donaghadee which would provide cover for the growing numbers of open

water swimmers that use the area on a daily basis. It is important that we recognise the many benefits that such activity brings to those that take part - enhancing peoples physical and mental wellbeing. The fact is that a significant number of our residents are swimming in the waters around our coast - we as a Council should not be seeking to deter them in any way, instead we should be looking how we can assist them and in doing so encourage others to improve their lifestyles. As part of the report, the Council will engage with the community in Donaghadee to hear views and ideas on possible solutions.

Key Issues

Previously Assets and Property Services (now Estates) had been progressing this and Officers had met with Donaghadee Sailing Club and the local open water swimming group, the Chunky Dunkers, shortly after the notice of motion was submitted to inform the design and preferred location. Below is a design concept that was drawn up based on those discussions.

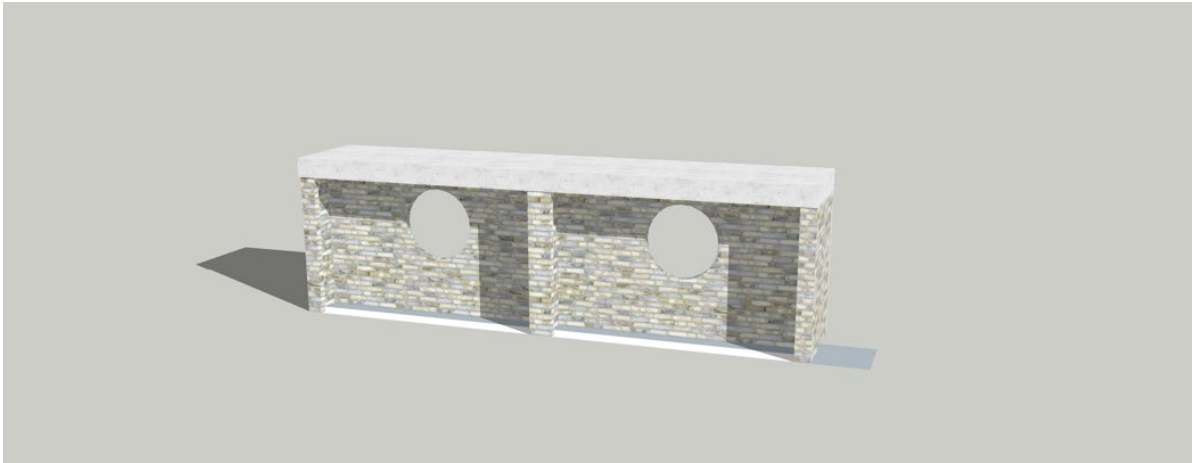
The Parks and Cemeteries Service are now progressing this project and it is proposed to submit a planning application for the shelter and as part of that, full detailed designs will be prepared with associated costs estimated. In addition, a business case will be required to progress the installation of the proposal.



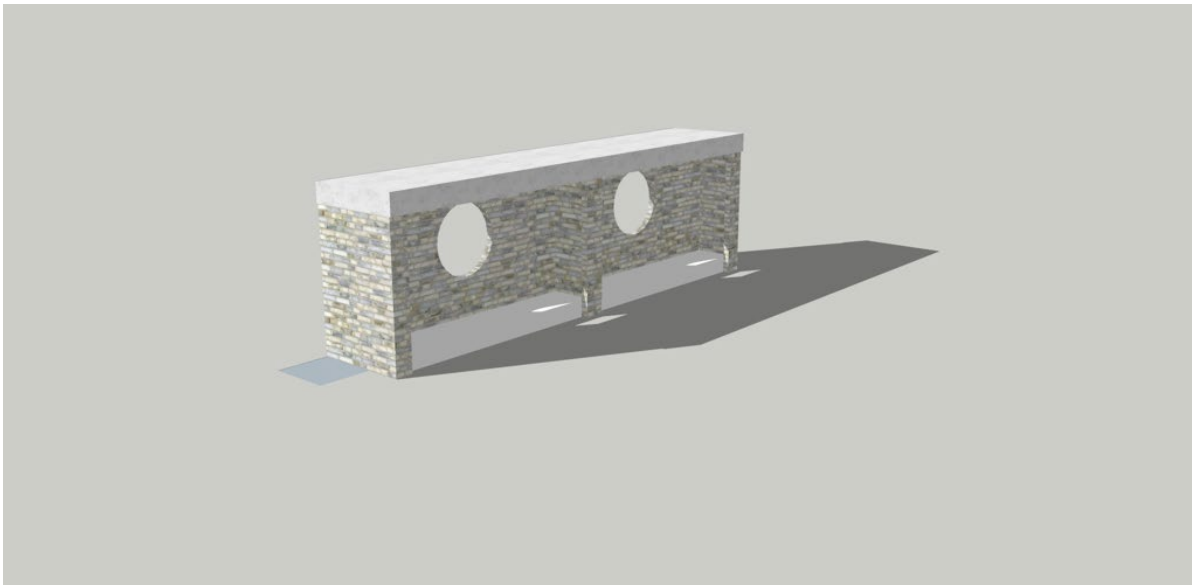
Proposed swimming shelter

In 2025 Donaghadee was designated as a Designated Bathing Water Site by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

The provision of a modest shelter would respond directly to the Notice of Motion and would support an established and growing open water swimming community in Donaghadee. It would provide a practical facility for swimmers using the area, improve comfort and amenity at the site, and demonstrate Council's support for healthy outdoor recreation. The proposal would also align with the increased profile of Donaghadee as a recognised bathing water location.



Rear view which will face the road



Seating will face towards the sea

Next Steps

The next stage will be to develop the proposal to a level suitable for submission of a planning application. As part of this work, detailed design drawings will be prepared and more accurate capital cost estimates will be established. In parallel, a business case will be required to assess the justification, affordability, deliverability and ongoing implications of the proposal before any decision is taken on installation.

Summary

The Donaghadee swimming shelter proposal has its origin in a Council Notice of Motion and has already been informed by engagement with local stakeholders. Given the continued popularity of open water swimming and Donaghadee’s formal designation as a bathing water site in 2025, there is a clear basis for progressing the scheme to the next stage through detailed design, planning and business case development.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Agrees** to submit a planning application for the proposed swimming shelter.

Unclassified

ITEM 6

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	06 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Estates
Report title	Notice of Motion 616 Donaghadee Harbour and Parade
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Response from DfI Minister Appendix 2 - Response from DfI Consultancy Service Appendix 3 -Further Response from DfI Consultancy Service
File Reference (if applicable)	65368 / NOM 616
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Resource Implications	Budget Narrative: No budgetary implications if report recommendations are agreed.
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening carried out – Screened out
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 2: Environmental

If multiple:

	<p>2. An environmentally sustainable and resilient Council and Borough meeting our net zero carbon targets</p> <p>If multiple:</p>
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Background

As a result of a significant report into the opportunities for development of Donaghadee Harbour in 2020 by RPS, a further Council decision was taken in April 2024 as follows, as a result of a Member's motion.

“That this Council recognises the significant opportunities which the redevelopment of Donaghadee Harbour could bring to the local economy in terms of leisure sailing and tourism and thus instructs officers to work with local groups to scope potential operational facilities which could enhance the offering in the Harbour and further brings back a feasibility report on the various options, including costings and possible funding streams.

Further, that this Council recognises the issues associated with high winds and coastal change and reviews the original 2020 Harbour Study conducted by RPS including the necessity for an offshore breakwater and agrees to bring back a report in time to be presented to Council in September 2024, outlining the budget required to undertake this work, any key considerations, next steps and identify which stakeholders would need to be involved.”

An update report was presented to the Council in September 2024 providing information on works completed to date which included the following concerning the first part of the motion.

“Officers met with representatives from the Sailing Club and other relevant groups on 9 May and discussed a number of potential small-scale operational improvements to the harbour. Officers felt the meeting was productive and a number of low or no-cost improvements have been implemented.”

As Members are aware a number of reports have been returned to Committee, most recently in March 2026, when officers recommended that the report be noted given the costs involved compared to outcomes that may be achieved. In March 2026, Council agreed as follows.

1. That the option of an outer breakwater should not be dismissed outright. The RPS Harbour Study (2020) indicated that an offshore breakwater could moderate wave conditions within Donaghadee Harbour to a more acceptable level and potentially reduce wave impacts along the adjacent shoreline. While Council recognises that it does not have the financial resources to deliver such infrastructure independently, officers should continue to explore potential external funding opportunities.
2. That Council writes to the Minister for Infrastructure calling on her Department to invest in improved coastal defences for Donaghadee, recognising the Department's responsibility for flood risk management and sea defence infrastructure in Northern

Ireland, particularly in relation to coastal erosion and flooding along the town's seafront.

Key Issues

A letter was issued under point two of this decision a response has now been received, attached at appendix 3. Previous responses are also attached for context and Members' information.

In relation to point one that referred to the RPS Harbour Study (2020) which indicated that an offshore breakwater could moderate wave conditions within Donaghadee Harbour to a more acceptable level and potentially reduce wave impacts along the adjacent shoreline, a further report was commissioned by Council and presented to Members in 2025 to test this possibility. Members will recall that this confirmed that in relation to the potential of a break water reducing wave impacts along the adjacent shoreline, this was not the case. This would require as pointed out in the report instead, other means of enhancing costal protection schemes, other than a breakwater.

Members are also reminded that it is Council responsibility only to ensure protection of property it owns, and that DFI are responsible for the integrity of its assets, including public highways that would benefit from such works.

Next Steps

From the work done to date, continuing to pursue a breakwater project would be very difficult to justify financially and so officers recommended initially that no further activity should be embarked upon in relation to this matter. However, further research will be undertaken in relation to sourcing possible funding in relation to point 1 of the decision taken in March 2026.

Summary

The latest response from the Department is brought to Members' attention through this report.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council Notes this report.



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

Department for

Infrastructurewww.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

16

From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
LIZ KIMMINS MLA

Ms Susie McCullough

Susie.McCullough@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Private Office, 3rd Floor,
James House, Gasworks Site,
2 - 4 Cromac Avenue,
Belfast, BT7 2JA

Telephone: (028) 9054 0540

Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:

Our reference: COR-0558-2025

24 July 2025

Susie, a chara,

SEA DEFENCES DONAGHADEE

Thank you for your email of 8 July 2025 and a copy of Donaghadee Coastal Flood Study dated 2 April 2025.

As you are aware, within Donaghadee my Department is responsible for a short section of sea wall that supports road infrastructure and is considered to be separate from the harbour. My Department has no other assets within the area for which we are responsible.

I welcome sight of your report and will consider its contents, however, at the moment, my Department currently has no plans to install rock armour, recurve walls or alter the alignment of the small section of sea wall for which it is responsible.

Is mise le meas,

LIZ KIMMINS MLA
Minister for Infrastructure



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

Department für

Infrastructurewww.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Consultancy Services

Mr Michael Steele
Acting Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council
City Hall
The Castle Bangor
BT20 4BT
lorna.watson@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

DfI TRAM
Rathkeltair House
Market Street
Downpatrick
BT306AJ
Email:
consultancysecretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your ref:
Our ref: **TOF-0142-2026**
Date: 19/02/2026

Dear Mr Steele

RE: Sea Defences – Donaghadee

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 February regarding sea defences in Donaghadee. As previously outlined by the Minister in her response to Ms Susie McCullough (COR-0558-2025), the Department's responsibility is limited to the short section of sea wall supporting the public road between Bridge Street and Townhall Lane, and this position remains unchanged.

Following the recent weather-related damage, prompt repairs were carried out to the small affected section of wall to ensure public safety. Subsequent inspections confirmed that the remaining Department-owned wall is in good overall condition, and there is no evidence to suggest that additional strengthening or enhancement measures are required.

While we acknowledge the concerns raised in the Council's report, the Department has no plans to introduce rock armour, recurving of the wall, or other enhancement measures to the section within our ownership.

I trust you find this reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,

IAN MCCLUNG

Head of Consultancy Services

Consultancy Services

Susie McCullough
Susie.McCullough@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk



DfI TRAM
Rathkeltair House,
Market Street,
Downpatrick
BT306AJ
Email:
consultancysecretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: XXXX
Our reference: **TOF-0293-2026**
Date: 19 April 2026

Dear Ms McCullough,

RE: SEA DEFENCES - DONAGHADEE

Thank you for your letter of 8 April 2026 regarding sea defences at Donaghadee. As responsibility for structures such as sea walls falls within my remit, I have been asked to respond on the Minister for Infrastructure's behalf.

The Department's position on this matter, as set out in Minister Kimmins response to you in July 2025 (COR-0558-2025), has not changed. While the Department has a strategic role in flood risk management and is responsible for sea defence assets where these form part of, or protect the public road network, its responsibilities at Donaghadee relate specifically to the short section of sea wall that supports the public road. The harbour and the wider coastal defences remain outside the Department's remit.

In light of this, the Department has no current plans to take forward new or improved coastal defence schemes at Donaghadee beyond maintaining the road-supporting section of wall for which it is responsible. That section will continue to be inspected and maintained, with repairs carried out where necessary, to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

More generally, the Department, alongside DAERA, local councils and other relevant stakeholders, engages through the Coastal Forum to consider issues relating to coastal erosion and coastal management. A 2026–2031 work programme is currently being drafted by the Coastal Forum's Working Group and when finalised will be considered at a meeting of the Coastal Forum. While this does not alter the Department's direct

responsibilities at Donaghadee, it provides a mechanism for such issues to be considered collaboratively at a strategic level.

I trust this clarifies the Department's position.

Yours sincerely,

IAN MCCLUNG

Head of Consultancy Services

Unclassified

ITEM 8

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	06 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Report title	Greenways Update
Attachments	
File Reference (if applicable)	CW30 / 88005
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Resource Implications	Contractual Narrative: Contract in place to deliver Greenway
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of decision not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 1: Economic 4. A vibrant, attractive, sustainable Borough for citizens, visitors, businesses and investors If multiple:

Background

The new Whitespots Line of the Comber Greenway is nearing completion with an expected opening at the end of May / start of June 2026. This will be a transformative 5.4-kilometre active travel route linking Newtownards and Bangor.

The Department for Infrastructure Minister Liz Kimmons visited the project in March 2026 and was given a further update of the progress to date. A group of students from the West Winds Primary school who came along on their bikes assisted by the PSNI and some Elected Members, the acting Chief Executive, Director, officers and Deputy Mayor were also in attendance.



Key Issues

The Greenway contractor Charles Brand Ltd has almost completed the following sections:

- The Floodgates Park section
- The section from Bangor Road to SERC
- The section from Green Road through Breezemount
- The section through Londonderry Park

The above sections are still under the control/responsibility of the contractor until such times as the outstanding snags have been addressed and it is formally handed over to Council.

The remaining sections are still being finished:

- The boundary at Breezemount to Drumhirk Way
- Drumhirk Way down towards Ark Farm/The Somme/Whitespots
- Ark Farm along the rear of Belvedere back down to the Bangor Road
- The Floodwall over to Ballyrickard Waste Water Treatment Works.

Next Steps

Welcome signage and wayfinding signage is currently being produced and will be installed in due course. The branding follows the design of existing sections of the Comber Greenway in Comber, Dundonald and Belfast. A map is also being produced for installation at key entry points and will be added to the website also when finalised. The planting, fencing and addition of bins and benches is also being finalised.



Welcome Signage

The Comber to Newtownards section of the Greenway that will connect the existing Comber Greenway, was granted planning approval in January 2025.

The discussions to connect the Greenway from the section at Ballyrickard Waste Water Treatment Works through Comber to connect with the existing Comber Greenway are ongoing. A planning application to deliver the section along the A21 is still required. Draft drawings are currently with DFI for its input prior to the submission of the planning application for that one missing section.

A feasibility study for the proposed Green Road to Donaghadee Greenway will be instigated later this year.

Summary

The new Whitespots Line of the Comber Greenway is nearing completion with an expected opening at the end of May / start of June 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Notes** the progress the delivery of the Greenway network.

Unclassified

ITEM 7**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	06 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Report title	Portavogie and Portaferry 3G Pitch Projects
Attachments	None
File Reference (if applicable)	CW74 / 88005
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 Recreation and Youth Services Order (1986)
Resource Implications	Budget Narrative: Updated budgetry approval to be sought should projects proceed beyond planning statge.
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of decision not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 3: Social 6. Opportunities for people to be active and healthy If multiple:

Background

In February 2024, Council agreed to the following:

“That Council notes the closure of the training area at Portavogie Football Pitch due to health and safety concerns, recognises the negative impact this has on local provision and sports development and tasks Officers to bring forward a report on options to provide temporary training facilities in the village in the short term and repairs to the pitch in the long term. As a matter of urgency Council tasks Officers to bring forward a bimonthly progress report on the development of the Portavogie 3G Pitch, Portaferry Sports Centre and Portaferry 3G Pitch to this committee.”

The last report of this nature was reported to the Community and Wellbeing Committee in September 2025, and since then, in relation to the two 3G pitch projects, Members and primary stakeholders have only been updated by other means of communication including email and telephone calls. Whereas the pitches will continue to be reported to the Environment Committee, the update on the Portaferry Sports Centre is now a matter for the Active and Health Communities Directorate.

Formal bi-monthly reporting was temporarily paused to allow time to deal with some sensitive issues pertaining to land, access, property and confidential matters, which have now largely been resolved. The pattern of reporting using the RAG status will recommence from September 2026, and information updates on the two projects will be provided as required.

Key Issues

Portaferry Pitch Project

An application for planning approval was submitted in February 2026 following a period of design that took account of, amongst many other things, an extensive period of consultation and stakeholder and partner collaboration. An updated business case will be developed should planning permission be granted in due course to allow Members to make decisions in relation next steps regarding this project.

Portavogie Pitch Project

Planning approval was granted on 31 March 2026 therefore all matters pertaining to planning have now been either agreed by that service and its statutory consultees, or conditions have been attached that must be discharged before development can begin.

In order for Council to proceed to the next stage, which is the appointment of an Integrated Supply Team (IST) completion of final design packages, discharge of any planning conditions, and construction, Council will need to consider an updated business case which includes all elements required by HM Treasury's Green Book Five Case Model. An update to costs is being formalised by the Council's consultants and QS and a partner is currently being procured to develop this business case which will be brought to Members when completed.

Next Steps

Both project teams will continue to develop the projects in accordance with Council's capital project governance requirements. In the short term, the priority is to complete the business case for the Portavogie 3G project to allow this to be presented to Council at the earliest opportunity, and to work on any necessary liaison with planning colleagues as the Portaferry project passes through the Planning application process.

Summary

Both projects continue to be developed as required by Council processes.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council Notes this update.

Unclassified

ITEM 9

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	06 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Report title	Notice of Motion 707 Removal of Planting at the Commons, Donaghadee
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Response from DEARA Minister
File Reference (if applicable)	NOM 707 / PCA151
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Resource Implications	Budget
	Narrative: None - for noting only
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of decision not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 2: Environmental 2. An environmentally sustainable and resilient Council and Borough meeting our net zero carbon targets If multiple:

Background

In March 2026, Council agreed to the following Motion:

“That this Council notes with deep concern the recent destruction caused to bushes, trees and wild grass in The Commons, Donaghadee.

Further to this, Council agrees to write to the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, calling upon him to designate The Commons, Donaghadee as either an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), or another appropriate form of protected status, in order to help safeguard this important green space.”

Key Issues

The main concern that was discussed was the unapproved removal of a wide range of grasses and bushes from the commons by a local resident, leaving the Council land in an unacceptable state. Council have since been working along side natural processes to restore the lands as quickly as possible. A complaint was made by Council to the PSNI in relation to that, and depending on that outcome, a civil case may then also be considered for damages and compensation for losses that occurred. A letter was also sent to the Minister for DEARA asking that the area be designated for future protection. A response to that letter was received on 21st April 2026 and is appended to this report.

Next Steps

Members are being asked to consider the contents of the letter and decide if any further actions are appropriate at this time.

Summary

A letter in response to the Councils request to DEARA to consider an environmental designation of the commons has been received for members consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council Notes this report.

**From the Office of the
Minister of Agriculture,
Environment and Rural Affairs**



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

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Our Ref: COR-0249-2026
Date: 21 April 2026

Dear Susie,

DESIGNATION OF THE COMMONS, DONAGHADEE

Thank you for your letter dated 8th April 2026 regarding the Notice of Motion seeking my support to designate The Commons under environmental law. I understand the Council's desire to safeguard this important green space following recent damage to the area.

My Department has a statutory duty under the *Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002* to protect areas of land as Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) if they meet the criteria for designation due to flora, fauna, geological, physiographical, or other interest.

The nearest protected area to The Commons is the Outer Ards Special Protection Area (SPA) and ASSI. This site was designated as an ASSI, for its habitat and species interest, in December 2001 and an SPA, for bird interest, in December 2002. The boundaries delineating these sites can be viewed at: [Natural Environment Map Viewer | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#).

The area known as The Commons was not included within either of these designations as the area did not meet the criteria needed for designation. However, Article 22 of the *Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order (1985)* gives district councils the power to acquire, declare and manage Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). Under the same Article, district councils may also make by-laws for the protection of local biodiversity areas. My Officials in NIEA would be happy to advise on possible options under this Order.

To deliver our international biodiversity commitments and targets set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) for NI, my Officials are currently working on a

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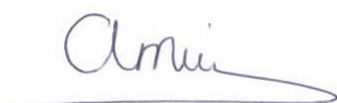
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draft framework to inform and progress delivery of the EIP Outcome 3: **“By 2030: At least 30% of land and freshwater protected, connected and managed for nature”** ([EIP for NI](#)).

This target is based on the acknowledgement that nature recovery will rely on much bigger, better managed, connected areas for biodiversity. It will comprise both formal Protected Areas, such as ASSIs, and a variety of other geographically defined areas, such as local nature reserves, country parks, sustainably managed private or public lands, to deliver long-term biodiversity outcomes.

This work is in an initial exploratory phase but my officials in NIEA would welcome engagement with Ards and North Down Borough Council when the delivery framework is more advanced to seek its input and possible exploration as to whether areas such as The Commons, or indeed other significant non-designated nature-rich areas within the Council area (and under their control/management) could meet the criteria for inclusion as a 30by30 area. For further information, please contact Mark Wright (Head of Nature Recovery Areas) at Mark.Wright@daera-ni.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Muir', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ANDREW MUIR MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Unclassified

ITEM 10

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	13 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Waste and Cleansing
Report title	Reusable Nappy Trial Update
Attachments	
File Reference (if applicable)	69001
Legislation	Other Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
Resource Implications	Budget Narrative: If officers identify a new provider of cloth nappy services, this could incur a cost.
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of report not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 2: Environmental 2. An environmentally sustainable and resilient Council and Borough meeting our net zero carbon targets If multiple:

Background

Disposable nappies comprise 4.9% of Northern Ireland's kerbside collected waste (NI Kerbside Waste Composition, DAERA 2018). This material is not currently recyclable and is sent for pre-treatment and incineration.

Modern reusable cloth nappies provide a zero-waste alternative to disposables and can work out cheaper in the long run. However, washing cloth nappies requires water and energy and some users can find them less convenient than disposables. The cost of investing in a 'cloth nappy kit' is a barrier to parents and carers trying reusable nappies.

The Cloth Nappy Library

Ards and North Down Borough Council officers introduced a modest incentive scheme whereby cloth nappy 'trial kits' would be purchased and administered from The Library Group (a cloth nappy 'library'). The Library Group provided information and support to parents and carers wishing to use cloth nappies and slings with their children. Those kits would allow up to 30 people/year to be loaned a nappy trial kit from The Library Group and that would in turn give insight into which cloth nappy style would suit the user before making their own personal financial commitment to buying cloth nappies for use as an alternative to disposable nappies.

The Library Group offered trial packs which were supplied on a two-week basis so parents could "try before they buy" and see what was on offer in terms of styles and materials. Trial kits were mailed out to participating families and The Library Group supplied all instructions (both written and video) via email. The kit was then returned at the end of the trial period and sanitised before being loaned to the next family. The participants could watch the videos back at any time during the trial and if they had questions, they could contact The Library Group for further advice and information.

It was agreed that a budget of £1,080 would be allocated to the scheme, from within existing revenue budgets. The kits would only be available to loan to Ards and North Down residents. The administration of the kits would be the responsibility of The Library Group.

Key Issues

The scheme was promoted via the following methods:

- Five heavily shared Facebook posts spread out over the financial year
- Bin-ovation Push Notification
- Bin-ovation News/Info
- ANDBC website
- Recycling and Waste Minimisation educational presentations
- Recycling information stalls



Figure 1.0 Reusable cloth nappy trial social media post

A total of 42 expressions of interest were completed via the online application process, the breakdown is as follows:

- 17 applicants engaged with the scheme
- 25 applicants didn't respond to reach outs
- 14 applicants completed trials

At the end of the financial year officers were informed that due to increased charges with Companies House, increases in insurance, postal, electricity and heating costs impacting running costs, The Library Group Ltd did not consider it viable to offer a renewal quote.

Summary

Officers have engaged with the Northern Ireland Resource Network and will continue to research suitable alternative suppliers or methods of supporting householders to test reusable cloth nappies.

Next Steps

Council is asked to note the content of this update and that alternative suppliers are being investigated.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council Notes this report.