Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

PEACEPLUS Northern Ireland - Ireland
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PEACEPLUS PARTNERSHIP MEETING

The Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney – Thursday 17th April @ 2pm

Table of Approvals/Recommendations

No.	Item	Summary of Key Approvals/Recommendations
	Welcome	The Chair welcomed everyone.
1.	**Apologies & Roll Call**	Cllr C McQuillan/Cllr Y Boyle/Cllr J Wisener/Marion Walker/Deirdre Bradley
2.	**Conflict of Interest Statement**	No conflicts raised.
3.	**Minutes of Previous Meeting 20th March 2025**	Agreed. Proposed by: S McFall Seconded by: A McNickle
4.	**Matters arising from Minutes**	No matters arising.
5.	**Update on Implementation of PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan:** **Strand 1 – Capital Projects Update** **Strand 2 & 3 Update** **Communications**	 LH gave an update on Capital Projects under Strand 1 – Local Community Regeneration and Transformation theme and progress made. LH gave an overview on Strand 2 & 3 – update on contracting and tenders. LH gave update on monthly digital Newsletters and higher level PEACEPLUS Communications Plan
6.	**Social Partner Recruitment**	Patricia McQuillan has stepped down and will be replaced by reserve candidate. Thanks to Patricia for her services.
7.	**Sub-Committee Update**	Appointed staff leads for each group will reach out to determine frequency and means of meetings.
8.	**Signing of Partnership Agreement**	Two signatures outstanding.
9.	**AOB**	Re-formatting of future Meetings and Partnership Development Programme
10.	**Next Meeting**	Thursday 15th May 25 – Online (Teams) - 1pm

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In the Chair: Cllr Anderson (C)
Members: Alderman Knight-McQuillan (R), Cllr Stirling (R), Cllr Nicholl (C), Cllr Schenning (R), K Heaney (C), K Campbell (R), S McFall (C), B Cooper (C), P Crossley(C)
Statutory Agency: None

In Attendance: Liam Hinphey (Funding Unit Capital Projects Officer)
Graham Todd (PEACEPLUS Finance & Verification Officer)
Karen Moses (PEACEPLUS Finance & Admin Officer)

Apologies: Cllr C McQuillan/Cllr Y Boyle/Cllr J Wisener/M Walker/D Bradley/P O'Brien/C McIntaggart

Welcome
Cllr Anderson welcomed all members online and in person to the meeting.

Item 1. Apologies & Roll call
As noted above.

Item 2. Conflict of Interest Statement/Respect & Dignity Statement
The Chair read out Statement, no conflicts of interest were declared.

Item 3. Draft Minutes of Previous Meeting 20th March 2025
The Chair referenced previous minutes.

- Approved as a true and accurate record.
  Proposed by: S McFall
  Seconded by: A McNickle

Item 4. Matters arising from Minutes.
The Chair asked the members for any matters arising, none were raised.

Item 5. Update on Implementation of PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan

- Strand 1 – Capital Projects progress update on Local Community Regeneration & Transformation (LCRT) theme programmes was given by Liam Hinphey, FU Capital Grants Officer. LH covered recent progress following site visits with appointed architect, Catherine Blenkinsop, (Department for Capital Works, Energy & Infrastructure) and presented her drawings to illustrate proposed potential works for each project:
    - Altnahinch Dam Project: extending walking paths around dam and open path across dam. Meeting with NI Water at end of April.

- Girona Programme: repairs to footpaths, boardwalks and bridges. Liaising with key stakeholders for planning and approval.
- Mountsandel Project: planning works are more complex regarding boundaries and stakeholders, architect is continuing to liaise with them on this.
- Benbradagh Project: establishing areas to be included for trail path stiles, gates and pathways. Further engagement required with landowners concerning permissions.
- Layd Path Project:
  - Cottage Wood: straightforward repairing boardwalks and steps, replacing handrails so can progress quickly on this.
  - Ronan's Way: permitted access development agreed with landlord.
  - Layd Path: getting landowner permission for access and installation of new WC facilities on site.

The architect continues with further work on surveys and designs.

- Strands 2 & 3 Update – LH referred to the winning tenderers: one is currently contracted and the other seven will be receiving theirs by the before the end of this month. Regarding the next cohort of tenders, LH advised there is a currently a delay – SEUPB have "paused" publishing tenders on OJEU pending further guidance from NI Departments in relation to UK Procurement Act 2023 which is in force. This impacts the procurement process for notices which are above the EU threshold or have an EU element, three in current pending batch. An update will be shared with partners when available. Those tenders not impacted by the pause should be ready to publish in the next couple of weeks. The final four projects are in development for tender.
- Communications Update – the April Newsletter has been disseminated to the PEACEPLUS mailing list and CCGBC Elected Members. The May Newsletter is in progress. LH asked if any members had any content ideas to get in touch. CMcI has also progressed the development and strategizing for the higher level PEACEPLUS Communications Plan. A Gantt plan for the next two years was shared, mapping the Programme/Projects milestones and communication activity such as tender publications, press releases, workshops, website updates. The Plan should be finalised soon and will be shared with members. LH reminded those in the Communications Sub-Committee they can input to the plan.

Item 6. Social Partner Recruitment

The Chair informed members that Patricia McQuillan has stepped down and that a reserve candidate from the previous recruitment exercise, a like for like Social partner, will replace her. Both the Chair and LH thanked Patricia for her greatly appreciated efforts and input to the Partnership.

Item 7. Sub-Committee Update

a. LH invited the members to inform the PEACEPLUS team should they be interested in replacing Patricia's role within the LCRT or Communications Sub-Committee groups.
b. LH advised where a PEACEPLUS team member had been appointed to a Sub-Committee group, they would be reaching out soon regarding the frequency and means of the meetings, this would be an agreed group-led decision. (LH for LCRT and CMcI for Communications and Monitoring and when appointed, the new Programme Coordinator will assume this role for BPTC and CCD). The Chair raised concerns over how well these would be attended and that he would like to discuss with POB before "reaching out" took place.

Item 8. Signing of Partnership Agreement

The Chair referenced one outstanding member signature to be obtained by start of May, after which the Chief Executive can add their final signature in order to send to SEUPB.

Item 9. Any Other Business

- The Chair raised poor attendance at the monthly partnership meetings as a concern and asked for feedback on the current hybrid format. He proposed trialling an alternating format, one month the meeting would be hosted fully online via Teams and the next month it would be in-person. Comments raised were: current format not inclusive (times and location); poor sound quality where not hearing full conversations from room; no variety in location of meeting. Members agreed to trial alternating format for upcoming meetings (see Item 10 - time change applied as it coincides with a Town Team Meeting on 15th May). Attendance at meetings was discussed further and reference was made to decision taken in a previous meeting that if any member of the partnership failed to attend 3 consecutive meetings they can be removed from the Partnership. The Chair confirmed this. DN commented reinforced that where Elected Members/Councillors had committed to the Partnership but are no longer able to fulfil that commitment, they should step down. The Chair agreed to look into records of attendance.
- The Chair referred to implementation of the Partnership Development Programme (PDP) as still ongoing regarding a Residential with Cavan Partnership.
  PC suggested site visits regarding the LCRT Capital Works Projects, others in attendance were in agreement, potentially building the PDP around this. Potential dates discussed by all in attendance and the Chair concluded the dates of Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st August were most suitable.

The Chair will speak with POB further on both points raised in AOB and communication to be sent to the Partnership.

Item 10. Next Meeting

- Thursday 15th May 2025 - MS Teams Online only at 1pm
- Meeting closed at 2.50pm.