Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

Notes of Women's Working Group
Monday 19th October 2026 at 6.00pm
Via MS Teams

Present Members: **Alderman Boyle,**
Councillor N Archibald, Chivers, Mairs (Chair), McQuillan, McShane,

Officers: **A Hamilton, Democratic and Central Services Manager**
L Scullion, Community Development Manager
A McCloskey, Community Development Officer

Agenda No.	Item	ACTION
1.	**Apologies**	
	Apologies were received from Councillor Elder and Councillor Peacock	
2.	**Declarations of Interest**	
	There were no Declarations of Interest.	
3.	**Minutes of the last meeting 22.09.26**	
	Proposed by Councillor Mairs Seconded by Councillor Chivers and Agreed that the Notes of the Women's Working Group meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2026 are confirmed as a correct record.	

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4.	**EVAWAG presentation – update on Creative Messaging Campaign progress**	
	The Chair invited The Community Development Officer to present. The Community Development Officer advised that the report was circulated for feedback and no further comments received to date. An update was provided advising on the White Ribbon training arranged for staff, initially to be provided as a Member's workshop, then all staff, with targeted training for park staff. Continuing the creative messaging and social media outreach, and working through the Good Relations team linking in with Museums, and Arts services to incorporate primary schools into the outreach. She also advised that there was a plan to work with the Events team for potential events that they could attend, particularly male-dominated events such as the NW200. Ther Local Change Funds programme has been launched, and has had an increased uptake with 15 of 31 groups meeting the threshold. An uplift was acquired to fully fund these groups, which include activities such as theatrical pieces and counselling. The Community Development Manager provided feedback on the events and advised that there was a report due to the next Leisure and Development Committee on the work from Sequoia. Councillor McQuillan asked what training was available for newcomers and particularly in the Dunloy area? The Community Development Officer advised that there were 8 providers in the region and that White Ribbon is available to everyone at no cost.	

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5.	**Action Plan for International Women's Day (IWD) March 2027**	
	The Democratic and Central Services Manager shared a recap of the IWD 2026 events. Feedback included the request from Elected Members for larger event such as a conference. Therese Hogg of Blu Zebra was recommended by Alderman Boyle as a speaker at the next WWG meeting in light of her involvement with Council's Peace Plus Partnership and the Women's Development Programme. The Democratic and Central Services Manager advised that she had had a meeting with Therese Hogg and had updated her on the work of the WWG. As part of Therese's role in the PeacePlus partnership, she is interested in running a conference which she is now keen to tie in with International Women's Day and have the conference jointly with the Women's Working Group (WWG). She has been in contact with the Facilities Manager regarding the possible use of Coleraine Town Hall in March 2027 as part of a joint venture with the Women's Working Group. The official theme of IWD 2027 is "How much longer?" with a focus on lack of transparency on public spending, unfulfilled promises and gender inequality. The Democratic and Central Services Manager asked members for their thoughts on working with Therese Hogg. Alderman Boyle advised that she was interested in a collaboration and that she was aware Therese Hogg sought to leave a legacy women's network in the area. The Community Development Officer advised that they also had a conference planned and would ensure that there was no duplication. The Chair asked what the next steps would be in this plan, and asked if all agreed that Ms Hogg would be invited to the next WWG meeting? Members agreed. The Democratic and Central Services Manager advised that Ms Hogg could provide a presentation that would benefit Members, and that Members could provide input into her plans.	DCSM to invite Ms Hogg to the next meeting of the WWG

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	Councillor McShane advised that she had also been in contact with Ms Hogg in her role as Diversity Champion, and advised that Councillor Peacock had also been enthusiastic to have a headline IWD 27 event. Councillor McShane asked if the Democratic and Central Services Manager could provide a report on Council's Corporate Communications coverage for IWD 2026 for Council for the next meeting. The Democratic and Central Services Manager agreed.	DCSM to provide a report on Council's Corporate Communications coverage for IWD 2026
6.	**Group Members' ideas for Women's Working Group activity 2026-2027**	
	The Democratic and Central Services Manager shared the Draft Action 2024-2027 for the WWG which included items such as an Annual event for staff; a workshop open to all staff, male and female, to explore and discuss gender issues; Events or exhibits; identification of support and financial support opportunities. She asked for Members' questions and input. Alderman Boyle stated that the shadowing of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor was a good idea and should be repeated. Alderman Boyle stated that the Mayor had specified a school last time, and suggested doing the same this next year.	DCSM to follow up Mayor shadowing DSCM to query building light up

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	Councillor N Archibald advised that the NIHE had launched their Domestic Violence awareness week and would like to suggest that Council buildings be lit up purple in support. Councillor McShane queried if it would be appropriate to suggest shadowing of senior female staff such as the Director of Leisure and Development, as shadowing Councillors is not always possible during daytime. The Community Development Manager suggested reaching out to the Youth Voice group so see if they might suggest young women who might shadow. The Chair advised that she could raise this with the Education Authority and report back to the next meeting.	DCSM to follow up shadowing of senior female staff Cllr Mairs to feed back to WWG on Youth Voice group
7.	**Any Other Relevant Business**	
	There was no Other Relevant Business.	-
8.	**Date of next meeting**	
	The date of the next meeting was discussed and inconclusive. Democratic and Central Services Manager to send an email poll to Members with potential dates and advise of results.	DCSM

This being all the business the meeting closed at 6.51pm