

**Ballymoney Borough Council  
Consultation Meeting No 103 – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Consultation Committee Meeting No 103 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 7.00 pm.

**IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor A McLean

**PRESENT:** **Aldermen**  
F Campbell  
H Connolly  
C Cousley, MBE  
B Kennedy

**Councillors**  
W Blair  
A Cavlan  
J Finlay  
R Halliday  
R McAfee  
P McGuigan  
T McKeown  
C McLaughlin  
E Robinson, MBE  
I Stevenson

**APOLOGIES:** **Alderman**  
H Connolly  
**Councillors**  
J Atkinson  
A Cavlan  
P McGuigan

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive  
Head of Corporate and Development Services  
Business Support Officer

**Planning Service**  
J Lundy – Planning Officer

Press x 1

**103.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**103.2 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 103 – 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014**

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Alderman Cousley and **AGREED:**

*that the Minutes of Meeting No 103 – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.*

**103.3 PLANNING APPLICATIONS****3.1 New Applications**

Items 1-7 were considered and the opinion of the Planning Service accepted except where stated otherwise.

The content of the objections were summarised to members and may be viewed on public access at:

[http://epicpublic.planningni.gov.uk/PublicAccess/zd/tdc\\_home.aspx](http://epicpublic.planningni.gov.uk/PublicAccess/zd/tdc_home.aspx)

<b>ITEM NO 1</b>	<b>APPLICATION NO D/2014/0118/F -REFUSAL</b>
<b>APPLICANT</b>	Mr & Mrs T Pollock C/o Agent
<b>AGENT</b>	Simpson Design, 42 Semicock Rd, Ballymoney
<b>LOCATION</b>	110m SW of 10 Vow Road, Bendooragh, Ballymoney
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	New Dwelling and Garage
<b>It was AGREED:</b>	That an Office Meeting be held (Councillor Finlay)

<b>ITEM NO 2</b>	<b>APPLICATION NO D/2014/0120/F - REFUSAL</b>
<b>APPLICANT</b>	Mr Pat Reid C/o Agent
<b>AGENT</b>	CD Consulting, 83 Main Street, Lisnaskea
<b>LOCATION</b>	Lands 212m South East of 69 Tullaghans Road, Dunloy
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	Proposed installation of wind turbine on tubular tower up to 50m (hub height) with blades up to 69.5m (to tip height)
<b>It was AGREED:</b>	That an Office Meeting be held (Alderman Kennedy)

<b>ITEM NO 3</b>	<b>APPLICATION NO – D/2014/0149/F – REFUSAL</b>
<b>APPLICANT</b>	Tullaghan Wind Limited, Niall Doherty, 1st Floor McKendrick Place, Pearse Road, Letterkenny
<b>AGENT</b>	Quarryplan, Limited 6, Saintfield Road, Downpatrick
<b>LOCATION</b>	Lands 480 metres South West of 105 Tullaghans Road Dunloy
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	Erection of a single 250kw wind turbine with a hub height of 50metres.
<b>It was AGREED:</b>	That an Office Meeting be held (Councillor McLaughlin)

<b>ITEM NO 4</b>	<b>APPLICATION NO – D/2014/0158/F –APPROVAL</b>
<b>APPLICANT</b>	Torra Homes Ltd C/o Agent
<b>AGENT</b>	Moore Design, Market Court, 63 New Row, Coleraine
<b>LOCATION</b>	12 Kirk Rd, Ballymoney
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	Proposed side and rear single storey extension and detached garage
<b>OBJECTIONS (2)</b>	Boundary issues.
The Planning Officer advised that amended drawings were submitted and no comments were received following re-notification.	

<b>ITEM NO 5</b>	<b>APPLICATION NO – D/2014/0168/F –REFUSAL</b>
<b>APPLICANT</b>	Get Set Wet CIC C/o Agent
<b>AGENT</b>	Richard Millen, 76 Millbrooke Manor, Ballymoney
<b>LOCATION</b>	Land adjacent to 76 Burnquarter Rd, Ballymoney
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	Creation of a waterway for wakeboard instruction with ancillary building and car parking
<b>OBJECTIONS (1)</b>	Flooding and drainage issues.
It was <b>AGREED:</b>	That an Office Meeting be held (Councillor Finlay)

<b>ITEM NO 7</b>	<b>APPLICATION NO – D/2014/0196/O –REFUSAL</b>
<b>APPLICANT</b>	Mr Geoffrey Johnston, Ashwood's Garden Centre, Enniskillen
<b>AGENT</b>	N/A
<b>LOCATION</b>	1 Greenhill Rd, Town Parks, Ballymoney
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	Provision of 1 no dwelling to provide on-site residential accommodation for Centre Manager
<b>OBJECTIONS (1)</b>	Principle of the dwelling and potential increase in traffic
It was <b>AGREED:</b>	That an Office Meeting be held (Councillor Finlay)

### 3.2 Deferred Applications

Items 1-4 were considered and the opinion of the Planning Services accepted except where stated otherwise.

<b>D1</b>	<b>APPLICATION NO D/2010/0118/F - APPROVAL</b>
Issues were resolved following an office meeting. Alderman Kennedy expressed thanks to the Department for their decision to approve the application.	
<b>D2</b>	<b>APPLICATION NO D/2010/0190/F – REFUSAL</b>
Councillor Finlay expressed disappointment at the decision of the Department to refuse the application. The Planning Officer clarified the rationale for refusal based on change of ownership and the existence of nesting Peregrine Falcons.	
It was <b>AGREED:</b>	That the application be held for two weeks to enable the applicant to withdraw the application prior to issue of refusal.

<b>D3</b>	<b>APPLICATION NO D/2011/0232/F - REFUSAL</b>
The Planning Officer advised that information requested on traffic management plan and splays had not been received from the applicant. Councillor Finlay expressed his disappointment that the information had not been submitted.	
<b>D4</b>	<b>APPLICATION NO D/2013/0129/F - REFUSAL</b>
The Planning Officer advised that this application had been appealed and PAC had found it to be invalid because as Dervock had not been included in the site description at the time of advertisement. The case was re-opened and re-considered. At the request of Councillor Robinson the Planning Officer clarified the background and further issues relating to the application.	
It was <b>AGREED:</b> That the application be held for two weeks pending a meeting with MLA Mr J Allister.	

### 3.3 Streamlined Planning Applications

A schedule of decisions issued from 1.11.14 – 30.11.14 was circulated for members' information.

### 3.4 Office Meetings

Office meetings will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 10.00 am in the Lanyon Room, Riada House.

\* **The Planning Officer left the meeting at 7.15pm.**

## 103.4 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

### 4.1 Causeway Coast & Glens (& Mournes) Masterplan 2015

Ten councils have now confirmed towards delivering the Coastal Tourism Masterplan Report for both the Mourne Coastal Route and Causeway Coastal Route. There is therefore an overall budget allocation of £68,000 (excl VAT) for this piece of work.

NITB has engaged CPD and following discussions will procure through an open competition process and a Terms of Reference has issued. NITB wish to firm up the outputs in terms of being more specific on the outline and aspirational projects to ensure that the information provided is adequate enough to ensure the consultant is fully informed when drafting their submission and in particular their pricing. In addition, as this piece of work involves a clustering/bundling element it is necessary to be very specific that a multidisciplinary team, including a tourism expert, will be required.

CPD have suggested that local authorities list a few potential projects in their area under Strategic, Tactical and Clustering headings with a brief description of your project/plan/aspiration.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services suggested members consider enhancement works at Drumagheglis and trails projects which have been approved be put forward. At the request of Councillor Robinson, she clarified that due to reduction in budgets implementation of some projects had been deferred.

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Alderman Campbell and **AGREED:**

***that enhancement work at Drumaheglis Marina and trails projects, developed under a feasibility study, be put forward.***

### **Strategic**

In terms of strategic NITB have indicated in the TOR that they would reference and signpost the larger strategic projects e.g. Carrickfergus Castle, Gobbins, Dunluce Castle, Mourne Gondola etc so that they could form part of a future bidding document for NITB funding programmes.

### **Tactical**

This is where it is envisaged that the majority of the consultants work will be based. Projects such as infrastructure improvements either stand alone or linked to the strategic projects listed above e.g. visitor car park reconfigurations, visitor attractions, promenades, interpretation/public art, viewpoints, stop-off points, coastal paths etc. (3 or 4 projects per DC area) There may also be opportunities for a tactical potential project which could be linked to the strategic projects e.g. A potential coastal path project could involve the Gobbins cliff path being linked up with the Blackhead coastal path.

### **Clustering**

The consultant will be tasked as a secondary priority to outline opportunities for clustering/bundling of visitor experiences along both CCR & MCR . For example myths and legends public art trail for example.

Council does not currently have a strategic project in its immediate area, but consideration is being given to stand alone projects or opportunities to further develop or enhance or provide linkages with existing projects may be worth considering. Council's link to the Causeway Coastal Route is Drumagheglis and this has been put forward for further development. Council's comments are invited. The deadline is 13<sup>th</sup> December.

## **4.2 Budget Restrictions – NI Assembly Departments**

Implications of the 2015-16 draft Executive budget and Draft DoE spending plan impact specifically on current programmes/stakeholders who are delivering programmes for Council:

## 2.1 Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (DoE)

The Department of Environment Consultation on 2015-2016 Draft budget proposals has been published on DoE website (<http://www.doeni.gov.uk/doe-draft-budget-2015-2016-assessment-consultation.pdf>).

One of the implications (most relevant to CCGHT) if the current budget proposals for DoE were confirmed in the final budget would be the termination of a wide range of grant and other support programmes that are aimed at supporting key environmental programmes. These cuts will have immediate and significant implications, including the loss of jobs, for a wide range of voluntary, educational and private sector bodies across the North. Other contracted services provided by a diverse range of educational, public sector, voluntary, community based and private sector organisations would also be ended.

With approximately 50% of CCGHT's overall budget over the last 3 years received from NIEA Natural Heritage Grant Programme, termination of grant programmes would have a major impact on the future of the organisation.

The matter was considered at the CCGHT Board Meeting on 9 December.

Closing date for all consultation responses is Monday 29 December 2014.

## 2.2 THI Scheme (BRC)

A wide range of current grant programmes providing funding to community groups, environmental and other organisations include:

- Listed Building Grants
- UAHS (Ulster Architectural Heritage Society)
- Townscape Heritage Initiative Grant

The allocations proposed for the DoE in the draft budget would have significant adverse implications for Ballymoney's THI Scheme which in addition to the main funding from Heritage Lottery Fund, relies on its other key stakeholders DoE, NIEA, DSD (NIHE Lots & Urban Development Grant – both of which are not open for applications). DSD approach to urban regeneration will be to prioritise funding for those projects which demonstrate most effective delivery against the objectives of the programme. DSD's Urban Development Programme and LOTS (NIHE) were critical to the THI programme of work.



It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Alderman Kennedy and **AGREED:**

***that Council write to the Minister to express concern at the proposed DoE cuts and their implications.***

#### 4.3 Dark Hedges – Signage

Arrangements have been made to erect safety signs at the Dark Hedges and to secure planning permission and provide interpretive signage in the vicinity of the Hedges Hotel and the layby, the tender being taken forward by the CCHGT on behalf of the Dark Hedges Trust and the cost of safety signs, planning and 50% of the interpretive signs being met by Council. Est Cost: £3,000.

Transport NI have provided proposals for signing the Dark Hedges and Hedges hotel and the proposals are being considered by the project group. The estimated cost, to be met by Council, Moyle DC and the Hedges Hotel is estimated at £4399.27 including VAT.

It is **recommended** that the estimated costs be approved, to be met from existing budgets.

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Robinson and **AGREED:**

***that the estimated costs as detailed above be approved, to be met from existing budgets.***

#### 4.4 Ballymoney Revitalisation Programme

##### 4.1 WIFI – Main Street Shopping Destination

The Marketing Plan includes provision for WIFI. Limavady Borough Council led on a tender for provision of WIFI in designated shopping areas in Limavady town, Ballymoney town and Ballycastle town. The estimated cost for the Ballymoney element is £15,000, with £2,000 annual running costs. Tenders have been received and will be assessed in the current week. It is **recommended** that the estimated spend be approved and Council meet its share of the tender.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Robinson and **AGREED:**

***that the estimated spend of £17,000 for provision of WIFI in Ballymoney Town (Main Street shopping destination) be approved and Council meet its share of the tender.***

#### 4.2 Revitalisation Programme – Main Street

The Main Street programme is currently oversubscribed and it is **recommended** that Council apply to DSD for £55,000 of any year end slippage monies to enable additional critical projects which will enhance the streetscape to be delivered, with Council contributing £5,000.

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Alderman Kennedy and **AGREED:**

*that Council apply to DSD for an additional £55,000 year end slippage monies to enable additional critical projects which will enhance the streetscape to be delivered, under the Ballymoney Revitalisation Project, with Council contributing £5,000.*

#### 4.5 Rural Development Programme

##### 5.1 Nominations

Details of the nomination form for existing LAG members, if they wish to be considered for social partner nomination, can be found on [www.ruralnetworkni.org.uk](http://www.ruralnetworkni.org.uk)

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Alderman Campbell and **AGREED:**

*that Council ascertain what action the LAG Board will take to ensure there is balance, on grounds of religious denomination and gender, in the nomination of social partners.*

#### 4.6 Rural Tourism (RDP)

NITB has been offered the opportunity to discuss potential Strategic Rural Tourism Capital Projects (£10m pot) for the forthcoming 2014 – 2020 DARD RDP Fund.

While NITB may have some projects in mind they are keen to hear from Councils and others of any strategic rural tourism projects (minimum £500k grant) that Council would like to take forward or any private sector projects that may qualify. It is just a potential wish list at this stage. Council had no specific project identified. Closing Date 11<sup>th</sup> December.

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Stevenson and **AGREED:**

*that projects which meet the required criteria and which have already been agreed in the capital programme and are being considered by Causeway Coast & Glens, be put forward.*

#### 4.7 Economic Study into the Caravan, Motorhome and Camping Sector

ASM Chartered Accountants, Belfast have been appointed by NITB to undertake an economic study into the Caravan, Motorhome and Camping Sector.

The objectives of the assignment are: (1) to understand the contribution of the caravan, motorhome and camping sector to the local economy; (2) to identify opportunities for, and the barriers to, the future growth of this sector; and (3) to assess its role in helping tourism achieve the targets that have been established for it in 2020.

Arrangements have been made to meet with them to provide information on this sector in our area, with particular regard to Drumaheglis and studies relative to the sector undertaken by Council.

#### 4.8 Music/Teachers Centre, Ballymoney

In response to a question by Councillor Stevenson the Head of Corporate & Development Services reported that there had been no further communication from the NEELB on the disposal of this property. Councillor Robinson confirmed that the Board was not yet in a position to offer the property for disposal.

### 103.5 AMENITIES

#### 5.1 Select List re. Riverside Park, Ballymoney Improvement Scheme

**IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Council receives the evaluation report from its consultants: R. Robinson & Son on the contractors to make up the Select List for the above project and agree same.

The Chief Executive advised that 21 questionnaires were requested and sent out. Nine completed questionnaires were returned to Council by 12.00 noon on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from:

1. JS Dunlop Limited, Ballymoney
2. MP Coleman Limited, Stewartstown
3. Patrick Bradley Limited, Kilrea
4. William & Henry Alexander (Civil Engineering) Limited, Omagh
5. McAvoy construction Limited, Lurgan
6. Donaghmore Construction Limited, Dungannon
7. JPM Contracts, Dungiven
8. Earney Contracts, Lisburn
9. St Judes Plant & Civil Engineering Limited, Strabane

Council's Consultants have advised that submissions were evaluated and scored and **it is recommended** that the following six contractors who

received the highest score should be placed on a list from which tenders may be invited.

1. JS Dunlop Limited, Ballymoney
2. MP Coleman Limited, Stewartstown
3. Patrick Bradley Limited, Kilrea
4. William & Henry Alexander (Civil Engineering) Limited, Omagh
5. McAvoy construction Limited, Lurgan
6. Earney Contracts, Lisburn

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Councillor Finlay and **AGREED:**

***that the above six recommended contractors be placed on Council's select list from which tenders may be invited.***

## **103.6 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

### **6.2 MDR Contract**

The parties to this contract, that is the Councils which comprise the North West Region Waste Management Group and ReGen Limited, have agreed to invoke arbitration, with this scheduled to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> December. The NWRWM Group has intimated that Council officials attending the arbitration hearing should be given delegated authority to act on behalf of their respective Councils. **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Director of Borough Services be so authorized to act for Ballymoney Borough Council.

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Councillor Finlay and **AGREED:**

***that the Director of Borough Services be so authorized to act for Ballymoney Borough Council.***

## **103.7 CLOSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEW YEAR**

Riada House will be closed on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2015. Thanks are recorded to staff for agreeing to take leave to facilitate this.

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Robinson and **AGREED:**

***that Council note these arrangements.***

**103.8 DRD - PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTION AT JOHN STREET, BALLYMONEY**

A schedule and scale plan has been received from Transportni giving details of a proposed working day restriction at John Street, Ballymoney (circulated). The introduction of this restriction will ensure local residents have unhindered access to their properties as currently, difficulty is experienced during the working day.

Council's comments are requested.

Councillor Finlay and Councillor Stevenson welcomed the proposal.

\* **Councillor Finlay left the meeting at 7.55 pm.**

**103.9 THE SOMME ASSOCIATION**

Correspondence has been received from Mr EM Black from Cookstown to Dr Ian Adamson of the Somme Association regarding letters sent to members of Somme Groups, District Councils, City Councils and others requesting extra funding for events which will take place over the next five years commemorating First World War centenary events.

The writer states

*"There is widespread concern being expressed by many Somme Groups, District Councils and members of other organisations over the reluctance of the management of the Somme Heritage Association to furnish a breakdown of accounts to all groups who donate to The Somme Heritage Association, rather than audited accounts. A breakdown has been requested by many contributors to The Somme Association. No group or individual can go around with a begging bowl without publishing what has been collected and how the money was, or is being spent.*

*In order to dispel any rumours which are presently circulating in relation to The Somme Heritage Association, a breakdown of expenditure for the years 2010-2014 should be published on The Somme Association website and copies sent to all groups and persons who have made donations. A notice should be published in national newspapers stating that a detailed breakdown of expenditure, where donations came from and how donations were spent can be inspected at The Somme Heritage Centre, or any District Council Office".*

Councillor Stevenson expressed the view that the correspondence was offensive and questioned why this matter should have come before Council. He indicated that as a member of the Somme Association he was of the opinion that accounts are audited in the correct manner. The Chief Executive advised, following request by Councillor Robinson for clarity on the matter, on the rationale for tabling the correspondence which referred to a notice which might be inspected at Council's

offices. Councillor Robinson saw no reason why any Body or Association should not be accountable for the publication of its income and expenditure. Alderman Kennedy concurred with her remarks.

#### **103.10 DRAFT NILGA RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON PLANNING REFORM & TRANSFER TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT: PROPOSALS FOR SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION PHASE 2.**

DoE Planning Service has issued a consultation document as the second phase of a two phase exercise to bring forward the subordinate legislation necessary to exercise the powers contained in the Planning Act (NI) 2011.

This response was drafted in liaison with a number of council planning officers and highlights key issues for councils arising from the consultation. The NILGA Planning Working Group discussed the consultation, prior to consideration of this response by the NILGA Executive Committee.

Members are asked to consider the consultation document and NILGA's response, circulated, to this.

**A response is expected by the Department by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.**

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Alderman Kennedy and **AGREED:**

*that Council endorse NILGA's draft response to the consultation document.*

#### **103.11 COMMISSIONER FOR COMPLAINTS - CONSULTATION ON COMMISSIONER'S GUIDANCE ON THE NI LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS**

The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 introduced a new ethical standards framework for local government based on a mandatory code of conduct - The Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors ("the Code"). The Act gives the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Complaints, the authority to investigate, and to adjudicate on, complaints that councillors have, or may have, failed to comply with the Code.

Guidance has been provided on the Code to help councillors understand the obligations it places on them – and how and when it applies to them.

A copy of the draft guidance, together with further information, can be found at <http://ni-ombudsman.org.uk/Commissioner-s-Guidance.aspx>. Alternatively, a copy can be obtained from the Office of the Chief Executive.

Comments are invited on the draft guidance.

The closing date for responses is **30 January 2015**.

### **103.12 NILGA - GUIDANCE ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT - EVENTS**

As part of their Regional Elected Member Development Series, NILGA and the NAC (with support from the Local Government Training Group), will be hosting a series of events relating to Guidance on the Code of Conduct, the aim of which is to build on the introductory training that Members have received during their Council induction programme.

These free events are open to all elected Members and Officers. Dates are given below:

16 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Craigavon
13 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	Newtownabbey (Mossley Mill)
28 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	Omagh (Silverbirch Hotel)

If anyone wishes to attend any of these events, please contact the Office of the Chief Executive.

### **103.13 NILGA – CREATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY - EVENTS**

Hosted by NILGA and NAC with support from the Local Government Training Group, two events have been organised as part of NILGA's Regional Elected Member Development Services to look at what councils have done to innovatively reduce costs yet deliver better services. This free event is open to all Elected Members and Officers. Dates are given below:

14 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	La Mon Hotel and Country Club, Castelreagh
15 <sup>th</sup> January	Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Craigavon

If anyone wishes to attend any of these events, please contact the Office of the Chief Executive.

### **103.14 NORTHERN IRELAND LAW COMMISSION - CONSULTATION ON DEFAMATION LAW IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

The Northern Ireland Law Commission has advised that its Consultation Paper entitled "*Defamation Law in Northern Ireland*" which was presented before the Northern Ireland Assembly on 27 November 2014 has been published.

Topics considered in the Consultation Paper include the impact of the 2013 Act in England and Wales, discussion of the single meaning rule and the potential for additional forms of remedies.

On 28 November 2013, the Finance Minister for Northern Ireland, Simon Hamilton MLA, asked the Commission to examine whether the Defamation Act 2013, which

receive Royal Assent on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and whose provisions were brought into force in Great Britain on 1 January 2014, should be extended to Northern Ireland.

Mr Hamilton's Department noted that, "The Minister has no preconceived ideas about what [the Commission's] recommendations will be. As with any other Commission Report, the recommendations will have to be thoroughly assessed, with a view to making final policy recommendations."

This reference was formally approved by the Minister of Justice, Mr David Ford MLA, on 7 January 2014. It has since been included in the Commission's Work Programme.

The consultation will run for the statutory twelve-week period, during which time any member of the public or interested party can comment, with submissions to be made **no later than Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015**.

A copy of the Consultation Paper is available on the Northern Ireland Law Commission's website:

[http://www.nilawcommission.gov.uk/consultation\\_paper\\_-\\_defamation\\_law\\_in\\_northern\\_ireland\\_published](http://www.nilawcommission.gov.uk/consultation_paper_-_defamation_law_in_northern_ireland_published).

### **103.15 PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS – DRAFT BUDGETS 2015-16**

A number of Consultation documents were circulated from a number of Departments relating to draft budget proposals for 2015/16 for Members' consideration.

The Chief Executive stated that DoE plan to cut budgets next year which will be a matter for new Councils but other proposals will affect the everyday life of the citizens of the borough such as winter maintenance and the limited budget for repairs to street lighting. Party groups may wish to make their own arrangements to comment on these issues. Councillor Stevenson reiterated the importance of settling Welfare Reform to ensure that no further cuts to the budgets occur.

**Closing date for responses is 29<sup>th</sup> December.**

### **103.16 CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENTS**

A schedule of all other consultative documents is attached for member's information.

The Mayor wished Members and Officers a very Merry Christmas and extended an invitation to all to join him in the Parlour for refreshments.

**The meeting closed at pm.8.10 pm.**