

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**Table of Contents**

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Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Consultation Committee Meeting No 58, held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 17th January at 2.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Alderman H Connolly

PRESENT: **Aldermen**
C Cousley, MBE, Deputy Mayor
J Simpson

Councillors
J Finlay
R Halliday
B Kennedy, Mayor
M McCamphill
A Patterson
E Robinson
I Stevenson

APOLOGIES: **Aldermen**
F Campbell

Councillors
M Storey, MLA

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Head of Corporate and Development Services
Committee Clerk

Press
Alzheimer's Disease Awareness (Item 1)
Mr Adrian Friel, Dementia Outreach Worker,
Causeway Services
Mr P Doherty, Causeway Services

Planning Service(Item 3)
P Mc Grogan, Planning Officer

58.1 PRESENTATION – ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS

The representatives gave a presentation regarding Alzheimer's Disease Awareness. They spoke regarding the work achieved in the previous year and what they hope to achieve in the forthcoming year. A new booklet has been published placed in each of the hospitals in Northern Ireland to inform nursing staff regarding dementia diseases and the requirements of those patients suffering with dementia. Each member received a pack which included a shorter version of the NI Dementia Strategy Document which highlights the services that they provide.

* **Councillor Patterson arrived at 2.10 p.m.**

* **Councillor Simpson arrived at 2.14 p.m.**

Councillor Stevenson thanked the representatives for their presentation and enquired if they had approached any of the local businesses to seek support for their services and he reinforced their request for volunteers.

Mr Doherty explained that England, Scotland and Wales already have a current Dementia Strategy document in place however, Northern Ireland's was due to be published in January 2011 and has been put back to Spring 2011. Problems are implementation and funding. However, he hoped that members would assist in lobbying local MLA's in order to get the document published.

In answer to Councillor Simpson's question, Mr Doherty explained that currently there is no cure for dementia, it is unclear what is causing the disease, however current medication can help the condition from deteriorating for approximately three to five years.

In response to the Chair's request to give a presentation at the Millenium Centre in Loughgiel, Mr Friel agreed.

The Chair thanked the representatives for attending the meeting and the work that they are doing.

*** The representatives from Alzheimer's Disease Awareness left the meeting at 2.26 p.m.**

58.2 MINUTES - MEETING NO 57 – 20TH DECEMBER 2010

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 57 – 20th December 2010, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

58.3 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

3.1 Applications 1 – 4 were considered and the opinion of the Planning Service accepted except where stated otherwise.

Full details of applications can be viewed at:
<http://apps.planningni.gov.ukcouncilschedules/Ballymoney.aspx>

Item 1 – D/2010/0218/F – Approval

Item 2 – D/2010/0252/RM – Approval (previously refusal)

The Planning Officer advised that his office had received revised drawings on 17th January 2011, which had substantially addressed Planning Service concerns. If Council were to accept, Planning Service were willing to change their decision from refusal to an approval.

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

that Council support Planning Service's decision to approve the proposal.

Item 3 – D/2010/0273/O – Refusal

Letter of objection related to flooding.

The Planning Officer advised that a similar application on this site was refused and the decision upheld at appeal. The land was then zoned for development in the NEAP but is no de-zoned in the dNAP. Councillors Finlay and Stevenson queried by planners gave consideration to an anonymous objection. Planning Officer advised that such letters are filed but decisions are based on planning considerations.

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

that Council support the applicant if he wishes to make an appeal to the Planning Appeals Commission.

Item 4 – D/2010/0299/O – Approval

3.2 Applications Deferred from Previous Meeting

Items 1 – 5 were considered and the opinion of the Planning Service accepted except where stated otherwise.

D/2008/0417/CA – Consent

The Planning Officer advised that Planning issues have now been resolved enabling the application to be approved.

D/2008/0419/F – Approval

The Planning Officer advised that Planning issues have now been resolved enabling the application to be approved.

D/2009/0354/F – Approval

The Planning Officer explained that after taking into consideration amendments preserving the character of the building, the Planning Service approved the application.

D/2009/0397/O – Refusal

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

that the application be held for one month and an office meeting held.

NILGA would like to invite 1 officer and 2 elected members from each council to this event which will be crucial in informing the debate surrounding the transfer of planning powers to local councils.

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

that Alderman Connolly attend the Planning Bill Consultation Event in Cookstown.

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

that Councillor Stevenson attend the Planning Bill Consultation Event in Cookstown.

Councillor Robinson thanked the Chief Executive and his staff for providing the Summary of Key Issues in Planning Bill.

58.6 PLANNING PROCEDURES

The Chief Executive of the DOE Planning & Local Government Group has written to advise Council of a change in operational planning procedures. In order to ensure planning applications are dealt with efficiently it is critical to radically reduce the large number of backlogged applications. The economic downturn has accentuated the difficulties in progressing these backlogged major applications primarily because applicants are either unable or unwilling to provide the key additional information needed to progress the application to a decision. The consequence is that Planning Service can only progress these backlogged applications to a decision through refusals based on the absence of key information. Applicants/developers will be given sufficient time to either provide the outstanding material or withdraw these backlogged applications should they prefer to avoid refusal notices.

If Council requires clarification on any issues Planning Service will meet to discuss.

Councillor Finlay stated that he would like clarification on all of these issues.

Councillor McCamphill suggested that it would be advantageous if the agents' telephone numbers were included in future Planning Schedules.

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

that Planning Service will be invited to meet with Council, to advise on the change in operational planning procedures.

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

Council to write to Divisional Planning Manager to include the agents' telephone numbers on future Planning Schedules.

58.7 NIE ENERGY

NIE Energy has launched their BIG Energy Saving Challenge giving away over £100k to communities or groups of householders who come together to save energy. The BIG Energy Saving Challenge Roadshow will be visiting towns across Northern Ireland, including Ballymoney, throughout January to encourage communities to enter the challenge.

Groups will have until the 31st March 2011 to apply for the Challenge.

Entry forms and further information can be found at www.nieenergy.co.uk
Email energysavingchallenge@nieenergy.co.uk Tel 028 9068 5085

In response to Councillor Stevenson's question regarding highlighting this challenge through the local press, the Chief Executive advised that Council would not have the budget to cover this, however, the Press always receive a copy of the minutes.

58.8 SERVICE PERSONNEL & VETERANS AGENCY

The new Regional Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees (VAPC). The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has launched a new regional network to help veterans, serving personnel and their families access vital welfare support in their local area. The VAPCs replace the previous 'War Pensions Committees'. The regional Chairman will soon be contacting Council to provide further information.

58.9 AGE SECTOR PLATFORM'S NORTHERN IRELAND PENSIONERS PARLIAMENT

The Northern Ireland Pensioners' Parliament will allow older people from across Northern Ireland to have their say on the issues that matter to them. Organised by Age Sector Platform, the Parliament will empower older people to make their voice heard. The Local Parliaments will take place during March and April 2011 and will ensure that older people's view from every county in Northern Ireland are represented.

If you would like to attend please contact Age Sector Platform by phoning 028 9031 2089 or email info@agesectorplatform.org

58.10 PRESENTATION REQUEST

The Area Manager, Patient and Client Council Northern Office has requested an opportunity to attend a meeting to provide an update/overview of work throughout the Northern Area.

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

that the Area Manager, Patient and Client Council Northern Office be invited to a meeting to provide an update/overview of work throughout the Northern Area.

*Councillor Kennedy, arrived at 3.12 p.m.

*The Head of Corporate and Development Services arrived at 3.12 p.m.

58.11 10 YEAR REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (RDS) – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Department for Regional Development (DRD) is carrying out a consultation on the 10 Year Review of the Regional Development Strategy. The consultation period runs from 6 January to 31 March 2011.

The purpose of the RDS is to provide an overarching spatial framework to influence the future distribution of activities throughout the Region to 2035. The consultation document addresses key challenges on climate change, rebuilding and rebalancing the economy, population growth, the location of jobs and houses, infrastructure provision and the protection of our natural and built environment.

Copies of the consultation document, Executive Summary and the associated assessments are currently available on the Department's website at www.drdni.gov.uk/shapingourfuture/, and hard copies will be available in week commencing 17 January 2011. Please let us know if you require a hard copy by telephone (029) 90 540186, by textphone (028)90 540642 or by e-mail at shapingourfuture@drdni.gov.uk.

A copy of the Executive Summary is attached together with the list of questions at the back of the document, which offer a useful guideline to assist you in your response to the consultation.

A series of public consultation meetings are being held to provide information and clarification on the review. Details of the events are listed below.

Monday 24 January, 6pm, Canal Court Hotel, Newry
Tuesday 25 January, 10-30am, Burnavon Arts Centre, Cookstown
Tuesday 25 January, 2-30pm, Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh
Wednesday 26 January, 2pm, Waterfront Hall, Belfast
Wednesday 26 January, 6pm, Waterfront Hall, Belfast
Thursday 27 January, 2pm, The Braid Ballymena Town Hall
Thursday 27 January, 6pm, The Lodge Hotel, Coleraine
Monday 31 January, 2pm, The Millennium Forum, Derry
Monday 31 January, 6pm, The Millennium Forum, Derry
Tuesday 1 February, 10am, Downpatrick Cricket Club
Wednesday 2 February, 11am, The Clinton Centre, Enniskillen
Wednesday 2 February, 2pm, Strangford Arms Hotel, Newtownards

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

that all members attend one of the public consultation meetings in order to gain information and clarification regarding the 10 Year Review of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS).

58.12 BUDGET 2011/12

Councillor Stevenson indicated that he had further questions on various budgets and suggested it may be appropriate to have a further meeting before the final rates meeting on 9th February.

It was **AGREED:**

that a further meeting be held on 1st February at 7.00pm.

Councillor Stevenson undertook to submit the questions to the Chief Executive on 18th January to allow management to respond prior to the meeting on 1st February. Any other member who wished to submit questions could also forward these to the Chief Executive.

58.13 TRAFFIC CALMING ISLAND IN MAIN STREET, DUNLOY

Councillor McCamphill suggested that Council write to Roads Service regarding the traffic calming island placed in Main Street, Dunloy. He stated that there was no lighting and vehicles have crashed into the island. This was agreed.

Councillor Finlay advised that he had a site meeting arranged with Road Service to discuss this particular item and invited Councillor McCamphill to attend also.

The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.