

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING NO 173 – 14<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2006**

**Table of Contents:**

- 173.1** Minutes of Meeting No 172 – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2006 - *adopted*  
1.1 Rural Development Programme – *comments submitted*
- 173.2** North East Partnership – Product Transfer Project – *recommend provision of funding for one place on the programme. £1400*
- 173.3** North East Partnership – EU Territorial Co-operation Programmes 2007-2013 – *recommend endorsement of submission of themes to NEP*
- 173.4** International Links – *recommend formal twinning agreement with Douglas, Isle of Man.*
- 173.5** Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) – *refer to Town Centre Group*
- 173.6** Expanding the Strategic Road Improvement Programme 2015 – *refer to Consultation Committee*
- 173.7** Reports  
7.1 Project Updates  
7.2 Bus and Rail Services – Ballymoney  
7.3 Freedom to Farm - UFU  
7.4 Village Action Plans
- 173.8** Claimant Count - *noted*
- 173.9** Planning Proposal for Industrial Estate – *letter to be sent to Planning Service*
- 173.10** Conference – From Localism to Globalism - *noted*

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting No 173 held in the McKinley Room, Riada House on Monday 14<sup>TH</sup> August at 2.30 pm

**In the Chair:** Councillor I Stevenson

**Present:** **Aldermen**  
F Campbell  
H Connolly  
C Cousley, Deputy Mayor  
J Simpson

**Councillors**  
J Finlay, Mayor  
B Kennedy  
M McCamphill  
T McKeown  
A Patterson  
E Robinson  
R Wilson

**Apologies:** P McGuigan, MLA  
M Storey

**In Attendance:** Chief Executive  
Head of Corporate & Development Services  
Committee Clerk

**173.1 MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 172 – 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2006**

**Matters arising:**

**1.1 Rural Development Programme 2007-2013**

The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised members that Council has approved comments on the proposed new Rural Development Programme and that these have been submitted. A copy of the comments submitted by UFU was circulated to members on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

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

*that the minutes of Committee meeting No 172 on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2006, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.*

### 173.2 NORTH EAST PARTNERSHIP – PRODUCT TRANSFER PROJECT

The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised members that the call for participants for the second tranche of the Product Transfer Project will be advertised in the near future and that the programme is scheduled to commence week commencing 4th September, with SMES recruited by the end of the month. Members were advised that match funding would not be available and the cost would need to be met from existing resources should a Ballymoney-based company be selected.

The delivery agent is IBI Ltd, a highly focused consultancy specialising in business formation and company expansion. Participants must be committed to the expansion of their business within the next 12 months. Participating companies will benefit from access to business opportunities, market research, cross-border networking and overseas visit and are matched with overseas companies, resulting in business relationships which leave both partners more competitively placed in their respective markets. At the request of Councillor Kennedy, the Head of Corporate and Development Services confirmed that the offer was open to any business in the borough.

**\* Councillor Kennedy and Councillor Patterson arrived, the time being 2.35 pm**

It is recommended that Council provide funding of €2,000.00 (circa £1,400.00) for one place on the programme for an appropriate Ballymoney-based company.

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

***to recommend that Council provide funding of €2,000.00 (circa £1,400.00) for one place on the Product Transfer Programme for an appropriate Ballymoney-based company.***

### 173.3 NORTH EAST PARTNERSHIP - EU TERRITORIAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMMES 2007-2013

**\* Councillor McCamphill arrived, the time being 2.40 pm**

The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised that, based in Ballymena, the North East Partnership (NEP) is a collaborative body between the eight local authorities<sup>1</sup> and representatives from various social partners including trade union, community, education and private sectors authorities in the NE region of Northern Ireland. The NEP seeks to facilitate the development of the region through co-operation and collaboration and the upcoming round of European 'Territorial Co-operation' (TC) Programmes 2007-2013 is seen as a significant opportunity to develop joint initiatives and projects that benefit the North East e.g. involve a range

---

<sup>1</sup> NEP Council Area: Antrim, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Carrickfergus, Coleraine, Larne, Moyle & Newtownabbey

of NE partners from community through to private sectors. Essentially, the EU funding post 2006 will afford opportunities through;

No.	Programme
1	The Cross Border Co-operation Programme between N Ireland and the six Border Counties in the Republic of Ireland (worth some €180m? – need for at least one partner in each country)
2	The Cross Border Programme between N Ireland, the six Border Counties in the Republic of Ireland and the South & West of Scotland (worth some €25m? – need for at least 1 project partner in each country)
3	The Trans-national Co-operation Programmes within the EU member states e.g. through the future North West Europe, Atlantic Arc and Northern Peripheries programmes (collectively worth some €500m? – need for at least 3 to 4 project partners from relevant EU member states)
4	Other All Island Cross Border Programmes supported by InterTradeIreland, Co-operation Ireland and others will continue to provide a range of cross border development support and funding eg SMT trade development support
5	Other International linkages and programmes

Whilst at present, there is no clear-cut list of activities and actions that will be supported; the likely broad themes are as follows;

- Entrepreneurialism, SME's, tourism, culture and cross border trade
- The protection and joint management of the environment & coastal resource
- Improving access to transport, information and communications networks and cross border waste, water and energy systems
- Collaboration, capacity and joint use of health, cultural and education infrastructures

The NEP is keen to gauge the potential level of interest from the NE in these co-operation programmes as well as help identify any previous experience they have in 'collaborative' projects. In so doing Council would like to identify a 'pipeline' of potential projects that can be further nurtured and developed leading up to the formal announcement of the funding programmes.

***The closing date for expressions of interest is 28<sup>th</sup> August 2006.***

It is recommended that expressions of interest be lodged under the following themes:

#### **Environment & Energy**

- Waste Management and Recycling & Energy systems

#### **Training**

- Delivery of superior levels of customer care in the hospitality sector

#### **Cultural**

- Development of events/festivals

#### **Tourism**

- Scotland & North Antrim – Ulster Scots Connection
- Product Development

- Development/River Bann Corridor

At the request of Alderman Simpson, it was agreed that under the proposals for the development of events/festivals, an historical event should be included in the submission.

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

***to recommend that Council endorse the submission of the themes listed above, including an historical event to the NEP by 28<sup>th</sup> August 2006.***

#### 173.4 INTERNATIONAL LINKS

**\* Councillor McKeown arrived, the time being 2.45 pm.**

Representatives from Council and Twinning Association met with Douglas Borough Council during a visit 25/28 May to discuss formal twinning between the two areas. A formal request was subsequently received from Douglas Borough Council advising that the Council had approved the principle of twinning and their Policy and Resources Committee is developing the Friendship Agreement with Ballymoney signed in 2002. A Twinning Working Party is progressing the matter.

No budget provision had been made in the current year to fund a Twinning Ceremony. It is recommended that:

- (a) Council agree to establish a formal twinning with Douglas Borough Council, based on the Friendship Agreement signed in 2002;
- (b) A twinning ceremony is held towards the end of the current financial year in Ballymoney, with provision being made in the 2007/08 budgets for this and for a visit to Douglas early in the next financial year, by a delegation comprising two members, one officer and one member of the Twinning Association, the estimated cost of which is £1,500.
- (c) Budget provision is made for twinning signage to be added to the borough gateway signs (estimated cost £100.00 x 25 signs).

**\* The Chief Executive arrived, the time being 2.50 pm.**

The Head of Corporate and Development Services responded to a number of questions from members relating to the additional cost of replacement and additional signage, stating that some of the cost would be offset by the funding provision by DSD for new welcome signs for the town centre where Douglas has been included.

Councillor Kennedy expressed the view that twinning plans with Douglas should proceed in the current financial year. Alderman Campbell concurred with Councillor Kennedy.

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

***to recommend that Council establish a formal twinning with Douglas based on (a), (b) and (c) above within the current financial year, with the cost being met from reserves.***

### **173.5 PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 5 (PPS5) – RETAILING, TOWN CENTRES AND COMMERCIAL LEISURE DEVELOPMENTS.**

The Regional Planning and Transportation Division of the Department of Regional Development has published Draft Planning Policy Statement 5 – Retailing, Town Centres and Commercial Leisure Developments, along with its accompanying draft EQIA and Environmental Report, for public consultation. The consultation period ends on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2006.

The draft Policy Statement 5 has been prepared to assist in the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy to guide the future pattern on retailing and commercial by managing future growth and distribution, support urban renaissance and achieve balanced communities.

The draft PPS5 sets out the main planning policies for retailing and commercial leisure developments in cities, towns, other centres and settlements throughout Northern Ireland. It will influence the future pattern of retailing by redressing the balance between out of town and town centre shopping.

The key objective of PPS5 is:

- to sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of town centres in a manner consistent with achieving the strategic objective of the Regional Development Strategy for NI 2025.

Other objectives which will be taken into consideration include:

- to promote more sustainable development ensuring that new developments are located where there are good public transport services and better access for those walking and cycling and less dependence on access by car;
- to promote quality of design of both buildings and spaces around buildings which contributes positively to townscape and is sensitive to surrounding areas;
- to encourage an efficient, competitive and innovative retail and commercial leisure sector offering commercial choice consistent with commitment to town centres.

It was **AGREED:**

***that this policy statement be referred to the Town Centre Group to consult with stakeholders and that a report be prepared for committee's October meeting.***

## 173.6 EXPANDING THE STRATEGIC ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2015

DRD Minister, David Cairns, has issued for public consultation, a proposed £400M package of major road upgrades. **Responses are invited by 29<sup>th</sup> September.** The Minister will consider comments submitted before finalising the programme in the autumn. A copy of the consultation document has been circulated.

The package of improvements is part of the ongoing investment being undertaken in Northern Ireland's infrastructure. It is being funded as part of the Investment Strategy for NI in which an extra £400M has been earmarked for major roadworks to the trunk road network during the period up to 2015. This is over and above the £1B already in the pipeline and means that proposed investment in Northern Ireland's strategic road network now stands at £1.4B – the highest in real terms for over 30 years.

Included in the additional schemes proposed to deal with bottlenecks on highly trafficked routes is the dualling of the A26 from Ballymoney to Coleraine (7km of standard dual carriageway between the Portrush Road Roundabout at Ballymoney to Windyhall, Coleraine). The current programme includes 7 km of standard dual carriageway A26 Glarryford – A44 dualling.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services invited members to decide on whether they would like to offer any comments relating to the A26 dualling.

It was **AGREED:**

***that the matter be referred to the Consultation Committee for further discussion prior to submission of comments.***

## 173.7 REPORTS

### 7.1 – Project Updates

Report, circulated, was tabled and the following items discussed.

#### 7.1.1 Ballymoney Music Centre

The Head of Corporate & Development Services updated members on progress and responded to a number of questions from members relating to the potential purchase of the Centre, its future use and upkeep, and conditions of transfer. It was confirmed that, following clarification of a number of issues with the Education Board, a report would be submitted for Council's consideration prior to final submission to DoE for the transfer of the property.

The Chief Executive assured members that no decision to purchase has yet been made. Further information would be made available when received.

#### 7.1.2 Streetscape

The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised on discussions with the DSD relating to further funding for environmental works at Main Street.

It was suggested by the Head of Corporate & Development Services that a visit to other towns to see what they have done prior to Council finalising its scheme for Ballymoney would be beneficial. Further discussions will also take place with Council's Town Centre Group.

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

***that a visit be arranged to towns where public realm improvements had recently been undertaken and that further discussions be adjourned until Committee's meeting in October.***

\* Councillor Kennedy retired from the meeting, the time being 3.20 pm.

### **7.1.3 Reserve Projects**

The Head of Corporate & Development Services reported on planned stakeholder workshops to renew strategic plans for business development, tourism and town development and to discuss gaps on provision of reserve projects.

It was **AGREED:**

***that to facilitate this, the September meeting of Committee be abandoned and a report be made to the October meeting.***

### **7.2 Bus and Rail Services – Ballymoney**

Translink has advised that it has no immediate plans to develop an integrated facility at Ballymoney but will bear Council's views in mind as it develops future corporate plans.

### **7.3 Freedom To Farm (UFU)**

UFU's Vision for Rural Development 2007-2013 "Freedom to Farm" was tabled. A copy is available.

### **7.4 Village Action Plans**

The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised that the Rural Development Council had invited submissions for village action plans. This is currently being examined. Since such work would be delivered by the Borough Services Directorate, any proposals would be progressed via LAC (Borough Services).



### 173.8 CLAIMANT COUNT

The claimant figures for Ballymoney appear to have turned a corner as, for the first time in almost a year, the number of claimants in the borough has decreased. Claimant numbers are down by 23 or 5.5% on May 06. Further monitoring over the next few months will however be required to ascertain whether or not this is a seasonal issue.

- In the same period the claimant count in Northern Ireland fell by only 1.0%

**Total claimant numbers in the borough are however still 24.1% (23) higher than this time last year, during which period claimant numbers in NI fell by 2.7% (754).**

Table, circulated, June 2006.

### 173.9 INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

Councillor Finlay expressed his concern that a housing development is planned on a disused industrial site on Ballymena Road and suggested that every effort is made to ensure that the area remains available for industrial use and that Council work to attract further industry to Ballymoney. A number of other members supported this view. Issues such as noise pollution, smell and traffic issues, which a mix of industry and residential development would create, were highlighted.

Following discussion, it was **AGREED:**

***that a letter be sent to the Planning Service indicating Council's concerns about any change of zoning from present industrial use, this stance being in line with the Council's response to the Area Plan Consultation exercise.***

### 173.10 CONFERENCE – FROM LOCALISM TO GLOBALISM

The Head of Corporate and Leisure Services brought members' attention to a Local Government International Bureau Conference arranged in association with Cookstown District Council and NILGA, to be held in Cookstown on 8<sup>th</sup> September. The event is free of charge and booking forms are available from the Chief Executive's office on request.

**This being all the business, the meeting closed at 3.29 pm.**