

**Ballymoney Borough council**  
**Development Committee Meeting No 176 – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2006-11-14**

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Development Committee Meeting No 176 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

**IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor I Stevenson

**PRESENT:** **Aldermen**  
H Campbell  
H Connolly  
J Simpson

**Councillors**  
A Patterson  
E Robinson  
R Wilson

**APOLOGIES:** **Aldermen**  
C Cousley, Deputy Mayor

**Councillors**  
J Finlay, Mayor  
M McCamphill  
P McGuigan, MLA  
T McKeown  
M Storey, MLA

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

**176.1 MINUTES OF MEETINGS NO. 174 – 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER & 175 - 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2006**

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

*that the minutes of Meeting No 174 – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2006 and 175 – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2006, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.*

**176.2 START A BUSINESS PROGRAMME**

Council provided top-up funding in the last financial year 05/06 and any under spend was rolled forward into the current year. Based on programme performance to date, it is unlikely that top up funding will be required this year. Currently £1,100 is being held for the Ballymoney programme.

It was **AGREED**:

***to recommend that any unexpended balance be carried forward to the next financial year.***

**176.3 DECEMBER MEETING OF COMMITTEE**

The committee's December meeting, on 11<sup>th</sup>, falls on the same evening as the Annual Carols Together Event, supported by Council's Community Relations Programme.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED**, after consultation with the Chairman, that the committee's meeting be convened for 2.00 p.m.

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

***that the meeting of Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2006 be held at 2.00 pm.***

**176.4 LEADER ACTION 2 LAUNCH**

A North of Ireland venue was sought for this launch if Imeall Trá Teo (ITT), a limited company set up in March 2005 by North Antrim Leader+, MFG (Equivalent Leader Company –Donegal) and Údarás na Gaeltachta (the main economic development agenda for the Gaeltacht) to build on existing linkages between North Antrim and West Donegal. Their mission statement is "To facilitate a range of cross border linkages, programmes and networks which will promote reconciliation and advance the economic, social and cultural regeneration of North Antrim and the Donegal Gaeltacht." Ballymoney has been invited to host the event.

Following consultation with the Mayor, **IT IS RECOMMENDED**, that the event be hosted in Ballymoney Town Hall and that Council provide a welcome reception for guests. The cost will be met from existing budget.

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

***to recommend that Ballymoney Council host the Leader Action 2 Launch and provide a welcome reception for guests, the costs being met from the existing budget.***

## **176.5 LIVING OVER THE SHOP (LOTS) INITIATIVE – NIHE**

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive has advised that Council's bid for Town Centre Living Initiative Area Status has been successful. The LOTS initiative will run for a period of five years from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the promotion and communication activities for the initiative Council is required to undertake, be managed on Council's behalf by the Town Centre Management Group, who have agreed to set up a steering group for this purpose.

Alderman Campbell requested advice concerning uptake of the initiative. The Head of Corporate & Development Services explained the background to the bid in further detail, advising that expressions of interest have been received from qualifying candidates. Support has also been received from associated Agents and Architects. A meeting will take place in the near future to discuss further arrangements.

Councillor Wilson congratulated the Head of Service and the team on successfully securing this initiative. Councillor Stevenson associated himself with Councillor Wilson's remarks and added his congratulations to the Director.

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

***To recommend that the promotion and communication activities for the LOTS initiative be managed by Council's Town Centre Management Group and that the group will formulate a steering group to undertake this work.***

## **176.5 INTERNATIONAL LINKS**

### **5.1 Twinning - Douglas, Isle of Man**

Arrangements have been confirmed for Council's delegation to travel to Douglas from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November, for the Twinning Ceremony on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the draft twinning agreement (attached) be approved.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised members that the only change in the Agreement was the change of wording from 'Friendship' to 'Twinning'. She also confirmed that the Agreement would be signed by the Twinning Chairs.

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

***To recommend that the draft Twinning Agreement, as circulated, be approved.***

The Head of Corporate and Development Services also requested members to consider the timing of the reciprocal ceremony. Following discussion, the Chief Executive suggested the month of February for the visit.

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

***To recommend that Council arrange a reciprocal twinning ceremony for representatives from the Isle of Man during the month of February 2007.***

## **5.2 Sister City Link – Benbrook, Texas**

The Mayor has received a letter from Mayor Jerry B Dittich, City of Benbrook, formally notifying him of a decision by Benbrook City Council on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006 to terminate the existing Friendship Agreement between Benbrook and Ballymoney as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006. He explains that the failure of Benbrook's friendship programme to gain backing within their community and to become a financially viable operation has resulted in diminished support among some Council members. Their decision in no way reflects negatively on Ballymoney.

The Mayor has responded to Mayor Dittich, expressing his bewilderment and disappointment, at the decision by Benbrook City Council to break off their association with Ballymoney Borough without warning or consultation.

A communication from some members and community representatives in Benbrook gave assurances that the majority of Benbrook citizens, Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, businesses, churches, media, students and parents support the link strongly and are dreadfully embarrassed by the actions of the Council.

At the request of Councillor Wilson, the Chief Executive confirmed that the Mayor's response was forwarded on 27<sup>th</sup> October and that to date, a reply has not been received from Mayor Dittich.

Members agreed that Council should await the response of Mayor Dittich before taking any further action.

#### **176.6 PROJECT UPDATES**

The Head of Corporate and Development Services circulated to members, a progress report outlining the status of projects currently under development. She advised of meeting with the Community Resource Centre regarding identification of several potential new premises following termination of their current leasing arrangements. Including the Music Centre, or the possibility of available accommodation within Riada House.

The Head of Corporate & Development services advised members that the new Interreg programme 2007-2013 has been announced for consultation. Work had commenced on development of project ideas for this and the EU Improving Competitiveness Programme.

It was noted arrangements had been made to announce the results of the Hotel Study and to present certificates to successful participants in the Tender Support Programme.

**This being all the business, the meeting closed at 8.00 pm**

**D R A F T  
(BBC COAT OF ARMS)**

**(DBC COAT OF ARMS)**

**TWINNING AGREEMENT**

The Borough of Ballymoney, represented by the Mayor ....., according to the mandate given through deliberation of the Council on ..... and the Borough of Douglas, Isle of Man, represented by their Mayor, ..... according to the mandate given through deliberation of the Council on .....

**Article 1:** The two districts agree to support the exchange of groups, families and individuals of all ages and backgrounds, in the areas of: education, culture, sport, economic development, tourism, agriculture and development of social and friendship links between our people.

**Article 2:** The common actions will develop mutual understanding and friendship between our people, without any form of discrimination.

**Article 3:** The two districts assume responsibility for the twinning link and the Councils of Ballymoney and Douglas pledge to lead in policies in this domain, while listening to the views of local people and associations.

**Article 4:** This is why we, Councillor ..... and Councillor ....., Mayors of Ballymoney (Northern Ireland) and Douglas (Isle of Man) freely elected by vote of our fellow citizens, confident that we are responding to the deeply felt aspirations and real needs of our townspeople, believing that the work of history must be carried forward in a larger world, but that this world can only be on a truly human scale where its people live their lives freely in free cities,

**We give solemn pledge:**

to maintain permanent ties between the Councils of our two communities, to foster exchanges between their inhabitants in every area of life so as to develop the living sense of brotherhood through a better mutual understanding and to join forces to help secure, to the utmost of our abilities, a successful outcome to this vital venture of peace and prosperity:

**Date:** .....

.....  
**For the Borough of Ballymoney  
The Mayor**

.....  
**For the Borough of Douglas  
The Mayor**

.....  
**For Ballymoney Borough Twinning  
Association  
Chair**

.....  
**For Douglas Borough Twinning  
Association  
Chair**