

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**Development Committee Meeting No 202 - 16th March 2009****Table of Contents**

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting No. 202 held in the McKinley Room, Riada House, on Monday 16th March 2009 at 3.30pm.

IN THE CHAIR Councillor I Stevenson

PRESENT

Aldermen
F Campbell
C Cousley, MBE, Deputy Mayor

Councillors
J Finlay
B Kennedy
M McCamphill
P McGuigan
E Robinson
I Stevenson
R Wilson

APOLOGIES J Simpson
 A Patterson

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

202.1 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 201 - 16TH FEBRUARY 2009

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

*that the minutes of Committee meeting, No. 201 on 16th February 2009,
as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.*

Matters Arising:

1.1 Welfare to Work Initiative

The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised of support and participation in this initiative for placements in local businesses and Council.

- * **Councillor McGuigan arrived at 3.35 pm**

202.2 REQUEST FOR OLYMPIC MARATHON, DERVOCK

The Minister for Cultural, Arts & Leisure has responded to the Chair's request for a meeting to discuss the possibility of bringing an Olympic Marathon to Dervock. This is a private initiative by the Chair and Council is not involved.

202.3 OVERVIEW OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OPPORTUNITIES

The Head of Corporate & Development Services presented an overview of the programme opportunities and identified support Council could give with limited resources, to lever money into the area. She responded to questions from members and advised of support available from the programme body and Ballymoney Community Resource Centre for community applicants as well as awareness sessions organised by partnership. The presentation is attached as Appendix 1.

- * **Councillor Finlay arrived during the discussion at 3.36 pm.**
- * **Councillor Kennedy left the meeting during the discussion at 4.00 pm**
- * **Councillor McGuigan left the meeting at 4.05 pm.**

202.4 TOURISM PRODUCT LITERATURE QUOTATIONS

Quotations have been invited for the updating and reprinting of tourism product information on cycling, walking and fishing, funded from existing budget. **It is recommended** that the lowest quotations be accepted as follows:

- Cycle Ballymoney £3,450.00
- Fish Ballymoney £840.00
- Walk Ballymoney £3450.00

Committee has been granted Council powers to deal with this business.

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

that Council accept the lowest tenders, as detailed above for updating and reprinting tourism product information.

- * **Alderman Cousley arrived at 4.10 pm.**
- * **The Chair left the meeting at 4.10 pm to attend to other duties and the Vice Chair, Councillor McCamphill, assumed the Chair in his absence.**

202.5 GRANTFINDER FUNDING DATABASE

Grantfinder, an internet-based database of sources of financial support has been reviewed to assess the benefits to Council and local groups wishing to access funding. It contains details of over 4,000 funding programmes, which is constantly growing and is constantly updated. As well as local, regional, and national UK funding, it provides details on European funding, private initiatives, charitable trusts and corporate sponsorship. Benefits of using GRANTfinder includes:

- User-friendly interactive systems.
- Access to over 4,000 funding sources, which will make it useful in identifying other sources of funding such as match funding for programmes such as the Rural Development Programme.
- Speeds up and facilitates funding searches
- Provides 3 levels of reports on funding, which are: [1] An overview of potential schemes; [2] A detailed summary of schemes identified; and [3] A detailed report including what is required to enable a bid to be prepared.
- Gives a fast track route to the latest information on new initiatives (provides a system to alert users of new funding opportunities as they arise.) and advises of impending deadlines.
- Provides access to papers on specialist subjects relating to topical developments within the funding environment.

There are three main products available:

1. GRANTfinder – for internal use.
2. GRANTnet – enables community groups or small businesses to access the database through the host organisation's website.
3. GRANTnet plus – software template that allows the host organisation to publish information relevant to local funding activities on its website.

Benefits to Ballymoney Borough Council

- Enables the Council to identify sources of additional funding for Council activities.
- Enables the Council to assist organisations looking for match funding that it may not be able to provide.
- Reduces the need to make extra demands on current staffing resources or the requirement for additional staff resources (time spent looking on the internet, ringing potential sources for information, ensuring the information is in a suitable format to keep staff and members up to date, etc.).

Prices are for the use of the product for a period of time. Prices for contracts of more than 3 years are via negotiation.

Product	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years
1. GRANTfinder	£1,500.00	£2,800.00	£3,900.00
2. GRANTnet	£1,500.00	£2,800.00	£3,300.00
3. GRANTnet Plus	£500.00	£1,000.00	£1,500.00
4. GRANTfinder+GRANTnet	£2,800.00	£5,200.00	£7,200.00
5. GRANTfinder+GRANTnet GRANTnet Plus +	£3,300.00	£6,200.00	£8,700.00
6. GRANTnet web-enhancement	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00

It is recommended that GRANTfinder be acquired for one year at a cost of £1,500.

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

to recommend that GRANTfinder be acquired for one year at a cost of £1,500.

202.6 SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2009 (NI)

A further meeting has taken place to consider programme/speakers, update on registrations, funding/sponsorship, SCI Washington Marketing & SCI Host Committee Marketing, social programme, youth conference and tours.

The next meeting will take place on 2nd April at 10.30 am at the Tourist Board Office. Councillor Robinson advised of proposals by Twinning Association for exchange visits between schools in Stranocum and Isle of Man.

202.7 INVEST NI PROGRAMME WORKING GROUP

It has been decided that membership of the SABp (Start A Business Programme) Working Group be extended to represent the New Council Structures and to keep the Councils informed on progress and content of the locally focused programmes that are due to transfer to Councils through RPA – The Start A Business Programme and the New Small Business Support Programme, due to be launched at beginning of April 2009. It is anticipated this Group will meet once a quarter. The Causeway Cluster will be represented by two officers (Limavady & Coleraine).

202.8 RAIL NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS

Engineering work being carried out by Translink NI Railways on the railway line between Ballymena and Coleraine continues to progress on schedule. The next phase will see the closure of the line between Ballymena and Coleraine between 30th March and 28th

June to facilitate the track relay between Ballymena and Ballymoney. The closure will extend to Antrim from Coleraine on the following weekends 13/14 June, 20/21 June and 27/28 June. A communication plan for passenger information is in place.

202.9 NORTHERN CORRIDOR RAILWAYS GROUP

The group has published its draft Development Study the content of which is being reviewed by contributors. The document is available from the Office of the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive reiterated the importance of the submission following the commitment to the study by the Minister and reminded members of the meeting on Wednesday 18th March at 10.30 am at Flowerfield, the purpose of which is to finalise Council's submission.

202.10 PROGRAMME UPDATE

A programme update, attached as appendix 2 was circulated.

202.11 STREETSCAPE SCHEME – MAIN STREET

The Head of Corporate & Development Services updated members on a meeting that has taken place with DSD/DRD to discuss draft plans for the upgrading of Main Street, now being finalised by Roads Service who had appointed a contractor. She advised that funding had been committed by the Department of Social Development and the bid was now being finalised for the scheme which it was hoped would be on site in early April 2009. She gave a general overview of the main works under the proposed scheme, which included upgrade to Main Street footways and traffic calming features (including the "Diamond" junction – Charlotte Street/High Street/Main Street/Church Street) and Seymour Street and some environmental improvements in association with Council. Works by Roads Service under the town Connect2 Railway Bridge & Links Project, which aims to create a promenade from the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre to the town centre at Castlecroft, making use of the Riverside Park green corridor along the way would also be incorporated. The focus of the route will be a new railway bridge over the railway.

A consultation meeting to report further to the business community and local residents has been arranged to seek their views on the plans and the implementation programme for the works. Draft plans are available to view at the Council Reception of Riada House from Tuesday 24th March from 10.00 am.

Committee recommended that Council lend its support in principle to the concept of the Ballymoney Streetscape Scheme and agreed that a further report would be given to Council at its April meeting following the outcome of the consultation meeting.

202.12 CASTLECROFT SQUARE AMENITY AREA – LICENCE AGREEMENT

Members may recall that DRD Roads Service agreed to permit Council to utilize a section of the car park adjoining its amenity area at Castlecroft Square to facilitate the erection of the roof area. This was on the basis of a licence agreement.

For some reason DRD did not finalise the licence agreement and the matter has now come to light following a review of files. They now advise that in November 2004 the Valuer assessed the amount payable at £1,300 per annum based on a 25 year licence agreement with a rent review every five years. They now wish to get the licence agreement finalized. The monies due by Council from the commencement of the use to date is £6,500.

It is recommended that the licence agreement be formalised

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson seconded by Councillor Finlay and **AGREED**:

to recommend that the licence agreement be formalised to permit Council to utilise a section of the car park adjoining its amenity area at Castlecroft Square and that the Department be asked to reconsider amount payable given the extent of car parking facility at this location and the delay in processing the licence.

202.11 BAIN REPORT

Correspondence has been received from the Chief Executive of Ballymena Borough Council regarding the Adjournment Debate on the Bain Report, which took place in the Legislative Assembly.

It was noted that there was cross party support from speakers for the Bain recommendation. Some key points and observations in the debate, it was suggested, would be welcomed by the constituent Councils of North Antrim:

- (1) *“Public sector jobs are key to sustaining rural areas such as North Antrim”.*
- (2) *“There are almost 250,000 public sector workers in Northern Ireland of which 6,400 are engaged in Ballymena, with a further 2,000 in the rest of the constituency. That makes about 8,000 people employed in the public sector in North Antrim. Not a lot of jobs I think it is important that we target some of the 4,000 new jobs that will come on stream as a result of the changes in government, and have them established in the North Antrim constituency.”*
- (3) *“Not only people who live in Ballymena will be affected but people who live in the further ends of the North Antrim constituency. Many people from places such as Moyle and Ballymoney come to work in Ballymena, and if these jobs are lost, where will these people go?”*
- (4) *“One of Bain’s key statements is that there should be a presumption against housing (new bodies) in Belfast.”*
- (5) *“Mr Dodds, during the Assembly debate on the Bain Report was distinctly cool about its outcome. He foresees that it will give rise to many financial and value-for-money problems rather than seeing it as an opportunity to achieve quality.”*

Given the concerns voiced in unison by North Antrim MLAs, that the recent loss of jobs in North Antrim makes the “capture” of public sector jobs even more important, it is proposed North Antrim Councils should positively declare their support for the Bain Report by sending a delegation to Stormont to make their views known. This proposal, it was hoped, would be supported by Chambers of Commerce, and the other eight Councils mentioned in the Bain Report as possible locations for public sector jobs.

The Minister will not see a delegation before he makes his position clear to the Assembly but is prepared for a delegation to see his officials. Arrangements were being made to fix a date for a meeting, possibly week commencing 23 March 2009.”

Ballymena Borough Council has requested the support of North Antrim Councils by sending a delegation to Stormont to make their views known.

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

to recommend that Council support the proposed initiative and that the Mayor, Chair of Committee and an Officer from the Office of the Chief Executive will attend Stormont to meet with the Minister’s officials on a date to be arranged.

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm.

Appendices Attached

Appendix 1 Rural Development Programme

Appendix 2 Programme Update

APPENDIX 1



Overview of Rural
Development Program

APPENDIX 2**PROGRAMME UPDATE @ 11th March 2009 (DC16.3.09)**

Programme	Status
Peace III	Registers of Interest recorded Procurement of animation programme and nine of the ten strategic programmes proceeding. Councils, subject to legal advice, will deliver on programme 9.
Rural Development	Update meeting 25 th March.
EU competitiveness programme (DETI)	Coleraine led, Think Big Think Trade, cluster-wide programme, stage 2 application has been submitted to DETI. Revised programme being developed.
Town Centre Programmes	Town Streetscape (Main Street/Seymour Street) – plans in final phase of preparation. Consultation planned in March 09 LOTS scheme ongoing Property Regeneration Scheme for Old Church School (community use) – grant application being facilitated Linenhall Street Service Area – proposals to rationalise the site management progressing. Easter FunDay in Riverside Park Media Marketing campaign being delivered in Midlands (ROI) (holiday supplement/feature) and Irish News Spring Breeze. Vandalism in Riverside Park Tourist Information Points – options for repair/replacement being investigated Trade consultation on marketing programme arranged . Event workshop to develop Shiels Festival to mark anniversary.
NEP - Interreg	SUEPB intends to appoint a lead partner, with project partner(s) to develop, manage and deliver the Creative Industries Theme of Priority 1.1 (Co-Operation for a more sustainable cross-border region of the EU INTERREG IVA programme. An information session is being held for interested organisations.