

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Development Committee Meeting No 203 – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

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<b>203.4</b>	Business Plan	<i>Approved.</i>
<b>203.5</b>	Peace III Partnership	<i>MOU and Standing Orders for Joint Committee approved.</i>
<b>203.6</b>	Rural Development Programme	<i>Legalities being investigated on behalf of the Cluster Group.</i>
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<b>203.8</b>	Bain Report on Location of Civil Service Jobs	<i>Letter of support for Ballymena and Coleraine cases. Invite Chief Executive to attend a meeting.</i>
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<b>203.10</b>	Linenhall Street Redevelopment Scheme	<i>Update on implementation to be obtained.</i>
<b>203.11</b>	Improving Access to Employment	<i>Discussed.</i>
<b>203.12</b>	Town Twinning Project	<i>Explore funding opportunities. Contact Dr K Bishop for guidance. Research costs prior to Council meeting.</i>
<b>203.13</b>	Progress Report	<i>Report to be produced quarterly.</i>

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting No.203 held in the McKinley Room, Riada House, on Monday  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 3.30pm.

**IN THE CHAIR**                      Councillor I Stevenson

**PRESENT**

**Aldermen**  
F Campbell  
J Simpson

**Councillors**  
J Finlay  
M McCamphill  
E Robinson

**APOLOGIES**

A Patterson  
R Wilson  
B Kennedy

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Chief Executive  
Head of Corporate & Development Services  
Clerical Assistant

**203.1 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 202 - 16<sup>TH</sup> March 2009**

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

*that the minutes of Committee meeting, No. 202 on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.*

**203.2 FLOODING SUB-COMMITTEE**

Arising from representations about flooding in the Meadows Estate, Ballymoney, committee established a sub-committee to give consideration to how response might be better co-ordinated and improved. While responses have been received from all agencies, Rivers Agency consider our request to meet a senior official premature at the present time. Committee is invited to review the position.

In reviewing the position, Committee **noted** the involvement of the Environmental Health Department with Rivers Agency regarding the emergency plan.

It was **AGREED** that the sub-committee review correspondence from the Agencies involved, and a representative from Borough Services Directorate be invited to participate in the meeting.

**203.3. TOURISM DEVELOPMENT – Dark Hedges**

Committee is advised of a proposal by the Dark Hedges Preservation Trust to apply for funding to preserve and protect the "Dark Hedges". Council has been supportive of the case to conserve and maintain this historic landmark in our borough and on this basis a letter of support for the funding application has been provided.

The Environment is a key theme in the borough local integrated strategy. The vision under this theme is "to preserve our environment for generations to come and to maintain our own quality of life we need to protect & enhance our natural resources in a sustainable way".

It was **recommended** that Council lend its support to this funding application.

It was **AGREED**:

*to recommend that Council lend its support to the Dark Hedges Preservation Trust funding application.*

The Dark Hedges is a unique feature in the local environment of the borough. The trees attract a lot of interest from visitors to the borough and are featured in regional tourism publications. The TIC has handled many enquires requesting directions to the Dark Hedges. It is estimated that 75% of our enquires for directions is to the Dark Hedges, with some 2,652 enquires at the TIC and around 800 from emails and phone calls. Directions for visitors are a key issue and Committee also made representations for signage to "The Hedges". Roads Service have advised that it is not able to provide tourist signing as such signing can only be provided where there are adequate parking facilities on site or nearby. Where parking is located nearby, vehicular signing should be to the car park, with pedestrian signing from there to the site. There may be opportunities under the Rural Development Programme to prepare proposals to improve infrastructure at the Hedges and this is being explored.

It was noted that the Dark Hedges currently does not meet the criteria to warrant the provision of 'brown' direction signs. Members discussed avenues whereby the current difficulties regarding signage and infrastructure could be addressed, and awareness of the attraction could be raised and these were noted to be pursued.

**Councillor Finlay left the meeting during discussions at 3.55pm**

#### **203.4 BUSINESS PLAN**

The Head of Corporate and Development Services presented the Business Plan (attached as Appendix 1), and Committee was invited to approve.

It was proposed by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor McCamphill and therefore **AGREED:-**

***to recommend that the business plan for Development Services be approved.***

**Councillor Simpson left the meeting during discussions at 4.05pm, returning at 4.23pm.**

#### **203.5 PEACE III PARTNERSHIP**

The Peace III Partnership has submitted two documents for Council approval:-

[a] - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), drafted by Coleraine Borough Council Solicitor. The MOU is similar to that used by the NW Waste Management Group with a few amendments.

[b] – Standing Orders for Joint Committee

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

***to recommend that the Memorandum of Understanding and Standing Orders for North East Peace III Cluster Joint Committee be approved.***

A Peace III Partnership Animation Workshop Event was held in the Lodge Hotel on 2<sup>nd</sup> April to assist in the process of establishing the wider consortium delivery agents to bid for the development and delivery of the strategic programmes contained within the North East Peace III Action Plan. By the end of the workshop it was intended that delegates would be more knowledgeable about Peace III and have an outline of the Action Plan; be familiar with the action plan programmes they are interested in; know the ways in which they could be part of the delivery of the action plan and have an opportunity to meet potential partners to form consortia bids. A bid preparation programme which will facilitate the development of the delivery consortia is due to commence in mid April. SEUPB have raised some concerns about eligibility of the migrant workers and ethnic minorities support programme and at this point in time there is no clarity about what, if any, development work with ethnic minorities and migrant workers will be eligible for Peace III support.

#### **203.6. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

Consideration has been given to programme funding and administration costs taking account of the delay in the implementation of the programme; proposed support arrangements for village development; reporting across councils. Legal advice is being secured on behalf of the seven administrative councils on issues identified on the implementation of the programme with regard to roles, responsibilities and relationships

#### **203.7 INTERREG PROGRAMME**

##### **[1] - Environmental Call**

Discussions are taking place regarding potential local involvement in an ICBAN led Biodiversity Officer project to be developed and submitted to the competitive Interreg 4a fund. The key themes are grasslands, invasive species and education/awareness raising/training. The call for bids is expected to be announced in the next few weeks. CCGHT is also working up a project to be submitted under this call. The key point to be borne in mind is that bilateral and trilateral projects submitted need to be of a

strategic nature/significant size and scale. The Borough Services Director's comment on this project has been invited.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Campbell and therefore it was **AGREED**:-

***to recommend Council participation in the Biodiversity Officer project be supported in principle.***

**[2] - Potential Inland Waterways Project.**

A discussion meeting with representatives from Argyll & Bute Council is to take place to explore the involvement by councils along the Lower Bann in a potential Inland Waterways Village Project (towns and villages on inland waterways) under INTERREG (Rural Development measure). Cavan County Council has also indicated interest

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

***to recommend Council participation in the Inland Waterway project be supported in principle.***

**[3] - Project Search Atlantic Area**

The Transnational Co-operation Programme Atlantic Area 2007-2013 launched its second call for projects on 6<sup>th</sup> April, with closure on 5<sup>th</sup> June. A partner search is currently being conducted.

The four priorities for the programme are

- promotion of transnational entrepreneurial and innovation networks
- protection, securing of and enhancing the marine and coastal environment sustainability
- improving accessibility and internal links
- promotion of transnational synergies in sustainable urban and regional development.

No interest has been registered in this project due to resources limitations.

**203.8 BAIN REPORT ON LOCATION OF CIVIL SERVICE JOBS**

A meeting of council representatives supportive of the Bain Report took place on 30<sup>th</sup> March in Ballymena to prepare for the meeting with the DFP Minister's Office on 31<sup>st</sup> March and settle PR activity. Press release, 31/3/09, circulated.

While Council did not make a submission at the consultation stage and Ballymoney is not listed as one of the destinations for new Civil Service jobs Council are keen to support the Bain report. In this region Coleraine

and Ballymena are both listed as destinations for Civil Service jobs and Ballymoney will benefit if they succeed, so supporting their cases may be a better approach than trying to build a case for Ballymoney. Ballymena Borough Council have invited consultancy support to undertake the development of a comprehensive business case for the location of significant numbers of targeted relocation jobs in their borough area.

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

***to recommend that Council support the cases being made by Coleraine and Ballymena Councils.***

It was further proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Councillor Stevenson and **AGREED**:-

***that the Chief Executive of the Health Trust be invited to Committee to discuss location of Trust jobs and any proposals to change current operating arrangements.***

### **203.9. STREETScape SCHEME - BALLYMONEY**

Following the consultation meeting when proposals by DRD were agreed with the trade and the endorsement of Council on 6<sup>th</sup> April the scheme has now been costed and a funding bid has now been finalised for submission to DSD. A decision on an outcome is awaited.

The plan is to go on site in late April/early May. However, a formal contract cannot be entered into until the scheme is approved, and the letter of offer is issued by DSD to DRD. There is concern that the on-site timescale may slip.

### **203.10 LINENHALL STREET RE-DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

Committee was asked to consider representations regarding the unsightly appearance of substantial areas of dereliction in a key town centre location and access route at Linenhall Street / Charles Street / High Street

It has been suggested that Council might contribute to demolition of the buildings and enhancement of the area. However, Council does not have the resources to fund such works on private property. Committee **noted** proposed erection of murals on hoardings and derelict properties on key routes in the town. Organisations involved in fly-posting are also to receive communications regarding this illegal practice. It was **AGREED** that the scheme developer be contacted for an update on the scheme.

Arising from comments about potential danger from certain buildings in the Town Centre, it was **AGREED** that these would be referred for inspection under dangerous structures legislation.

### **203.11 IMPROVING ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT**

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) held a workshop 'Bridge the Gap – Improving Access to Employment' in Belfast on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. It addressed inequalities in employment and inequalities in education performance eg in GCSEs and under-representation of women in the workforce and in business.

The event identified strategies to tackle inequalities in employment and there were opportunities to update the understanding of barriers to employment for marginalised groups; see how some employers are addressing these issues and how it benefits their organizations and to network and engage with organisations which provide programmes and support to employers

There were keynote speakers from the Assembly Employment and Learning Committee, Confederation of British Industry, Irish Congress of Trade Union (ICTU), Business in the Community and a number of speakers demonstrating good practice initiatives, followed by workshop sessions which set about identifying issues including potential barriers to employment.

The Conference also saw the launch of the Commission's new 'Unified Guide to Promoting Equal Opportunities in Employment'. This publication amalgamates in one document practical guidance for employers on how to comply with their responsibilities under each of the anti-discrimination laws.

### **203.12 TOWN TWINNING PROJECT**

#### **[1] Douglas, IOM Economic Project.**

Our twinning partner in IOM have invited us to consider expansion of the twinning link to include an economic development perspective and the potential to advance the idea and secure a funding stream is being explored.



## **[2] Italy (Ripatransone) Town Twinning Project: Europe for Citizens Programme**

An Italian Town Twinning Project Manager who is keen to create a link between European Municipalities with European grants - "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" Programme 2007/2013 has approached the Mayor inviting our participation as the Northern Ireland partner.

The Municipality of Ripatransone, acting as the project applicant, is located in the Marche Region, in the province of Ascoli Piceno. Ripatransone has beautiful places to visit and it has many cultural attractions. Its territory is full of traditions linked to the specific features of the area and the city would like to be involved in initiatives which can foster new links with other Municipalities at a European level.

The "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" Programme gives a support to the European Municipalities that would like to start a co-operation. With this project, the Municipality of Ripatransone would like to invite a delegation from our Town (about 25/30 persons) and it would like to sign with your Municipality a Town-Twinning Act.

The Municipality of Ripatransone will cover all the organization costs, with us requiring to cover our travel costs. The next year we would be expected to organize a similar event in our Town and will receive the grant by the EC for the organization costs.

It is intended that business and community representatives from the two areas would take part in various activities in Ripatransone (seminars, tour visits, round table, citizens meeting, sport event) Youth is one of the priorities of this project and for this reason the delegation has to be composed in particular by many students.

Ripatransone has to submit the candidature to the European Commission by the 1<sup>st</sup> June of this Year for a Town-Twinning event of 7/8 days from the 1 October to the 31 December 2009.

No budget provision has been included for expansion of twinning links. Committee is invited to consider the proposal.

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

***that information on costs be researched and the matter further considered at the next Council meeting.***

**[3] Sister Cities Funding**

Sister Cities International has announced that it has been awarded a \$7.5 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to launch a major program to support urban communities in Africa. With this funding, approximately twenty-five U.S. cities will work with their sister city counterparts throughout Africa to address development issues over the next three years. This foundation grant represents the largest grant ever received by Sister Cities International.

**Councillors Simpson and McCamphill left the meeting at 5.09pm**

**203.13 PROGRESS REPORT**

This report will be produced in future on a quarterly basis, based on the business plan.

This being all the business, the meeting closed at 5.10pm

Appendices Attached: Appendix 1 - Business Plan 2009/10

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## APPENDIX ONE

### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE BUSINESS PLAN 2009/10

#### [1] – Local Economic Development Business Plan

#### SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

##### 1.1 Links to Corporate Plan

The Council's mission and values and principles have been developed to guide the Office of the Chief Executive in the services it provides.

The Council's mission statement is:

“to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Ballymoney Borough.”

##### Core Values

The Council has developed the following core values to underpin its mission and guide the Council in its business:

<b>Equality</b>	<b>All stakeholders treated fairly, while respecting their different needs</b>
<b>Partnership</b>	<b>Willing to collaborate internally and externally to achieve its goals</b>
<b>Innovation</b>	<b>We will embrace innovative and enterprising ways of meeting the needs of our citizens</b>
<b>Accountability</b>	<b>We will operate in a transparent way, reporting openly to our stakeholders on performance against targets on an annual basis.</b>
<b>Value for Money</b>	<b>We will promote quality services that meet the expectations of our customers at an affordable cost.</b>

**Section 2 – Services provided:****LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS PLAN 2009/2011**

<b>STRATEGIC AIM</b>	Encourage social and economic development in the borough (including in association with RPA Cluster Councils and regional consortia).
<b>ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT</b>	<p><b>Create new businesses and jobs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver business development programmes</li> <li>• Stimulate new competitive businesses on farms and in the rural area</li> <li>• Provide information and signpost existing and potential businesses to business support agencies</li> <li>• Participate in creative industries study of the RPA Cluster area</li> <li>• Develop economic linkages with twin towns</li> <li>• Promote business success through North Antrim Business Awards</li> <li>• Maintain business guide and economic profile</li> <li>• Promote local businesses through the business directory</li> </ul>
<b>TOURISM DEVELOPMENT</b>	<p><b>Create and Market New Tourism Product</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and market new tourism activity products / activity holidays</li> <li>• Develop events and festivals</li> <li>• Increase community activity in tourism</li> <li>• Development of Ulster Scots Connection – North Antrim/Scotland</li> <li>• Development of River Bann Corridor</li> <li>• Promote opportunities for hotel development capable of servicing local and imported function trade</li> <li>• Encourage high quality restaurants as a major source of tourist revenue and new jobs</li> </ul>
<b>TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT</b>	<p><b>Strengthen Town Competitiveness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and Deliver Town Action Plan in partnership with Ballymoney Town Centre Management and Ballymoney Regeneration Company in areas of environmental/streetscape improvement, marketing (residents, tourism &amp; investment sectors), trade communications, quality of life, access, signage, training &amp; development in retail and hospitality sectors.</li> <li>• Facilitate development of specialist shops</li> <li>• Enable increase in town centre living in high quality new or refurbished accommodation and</li> </ul>

	<p>promotion of Town Centre Living Initiative (living over the shop) in association with NIHE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support property regeneration proposals and rehabilitation of derelict property</li> <li>• Development of food and craft sectors through market opportunities and other initiatives</li> <li>• Market and promote town businesses through website directory and collaborative marketing initiative</li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNITY PLANNING</b>	<p>Enable community based groups to develop the necessary skills to tackle key economic regeneration, job creation and relationship issues in their communities, improving the quality of life (economically, socially and environmentally) for local residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Provide support for community regeneration projects in borough villages and hamlets</b></li> <li>• Encourage establishment of community businesses to create employment at community level that will promote opportunities for sustainability.</li> <li>• Maintain information on community economic funding opportunities, EU initiatives and programmes</li> </ul>
<b>ICT DEVELOPMENT</b>	Raise general level of e-commerce and stimulate new e-commerce based businesses
<b>BUSINESS CONTINUITY MANAGEMENT</b>	To review all business areas and prepare and implement a Business Continuity Management Plan in accordance with the principles of BS 25999.
<b>PARTNERSHIP WORKING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballymoney Community Resource Centre</li> <li>• Welfare to Work Consortium</li> <li>• A26 Lobby Group</li> <li>• Acorn Business Centre</li> <li>• Group 22 Natural Gas</li> <li>• Northern Corridor Railways Group</li> <li>• Just Say No Campaign (Lignite)</li> <li>• Ballymoney Town Centre Group</li> <li>• Ballymoney Regeneration Company</li> <li>• Business Education Partnership</li> <li>• Ballymoney Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North East Interreg Partnership</li> <li>• North East Rural Development Partnership</li> <li>• North East Peace III Partnership</li> </ul>
<b>RESOURCE INPUT</b>	Employees x 1 full time, 1 p/time Attend courses/seminars, as appropriate, to keep up-to-date with current legislation
<b>PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b>	Implement Strategy and Action Plan within overall cost limits and agreed timescale Statutory Returns/Funding Bids/Funding claims/Monitoring/Evaluation & Progress Reports Input into working groups supporting consortia
<b>EXTERNAL LIAISON</b>	Local businesses, enterprise agency, local development agencies, local partnership bodies, FE college, DETI family, DOE, DARD, DSD, Invest NI, tourism bodies, community groups.
<b>EXTERNAL STANDARDS</b>	Everything done in line with quality standards, legislative requirements and established good practice.