

## BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Development Committee Meeting No 220, held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 2.45 pm.

**IN THE CHAIR** Councillor J Finlay

**PRESENT**

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

**Councillors**  
A Cavlan  
R Halliday  
M McCamphill  
A Patterson  
E Robinson  
I Stevenson

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor  
M Storey, MLA

**IN ATTENDANCE** Head of Corporate & Development Services  
Committee Clerk

**NEP III Joint Committee (Item 1)**  
Mrs P McCallion - Manager

**220.1 PEACE III ACTION PLAN 2011-13**

The Chair welcomed Mrs Patricia McCallion, Manager of the North East Peace III Joint Committee to the meeting to give a presentation on the Phase 2 of the NEP III Action Plan 2011-2013 which has been approved by the Joint Committee and endorsed by Council. The plan has been presented to all six Councils in the North East cluster for approval. The presentation is attached as Appendix 1.

Mrs McCallion responded to questions from members relating to:

- Differing level of participation and resource allocations resulting from varying provisions of support structures and assistance provided
- Cross border engagements and geographical weaknesses. Mrs McCallion stated that within each of the programmes there has to be 30% cross border participation and that specific cross border programmes are envisaged for phase 2 of the action plan.
- Location of worker.

The Chair thanked Mrs McCallion for her presentation which concluded at 3.13 pm. Mrs McCallion left the meeting at this time.

- \* **Councillor Robinson left the meeting at 3.15 pm.**

## **220.2 MEETING NO 219 – 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010**

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

***that the minutes of meeting No. 219 on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2010, circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.***

A copy of Development Committee addendum, adopted by Council on 4<sup>th</sup> October (CM927 refers) is appended to minutes (Appendix 2).

- \* **Alderman Cousley joined the meeting at 3.22 pm.**
- \* **Councillor Robinson rejoined the meeting at 3.22 pm.**

## **220.3 TOWN DEVELOPMENT**

### **3.1 Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) – HLF**

Ballymoney Regeneration Company are progressing the development of the stage 1 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) with support from the Princes Regeneration Trust and are working to identify funding sources to support the stage 2 application. It is **recommended** that council consider setting aside up to £16,000 (to include contribution in kind by way of resources and facilities) for the development of the stage 2. Match funding will also have to be identified for the delivery of the five year programme.

The Head of Corporate and Development Services advised that the amount recommended to proceed with stage 1 of the bid is a one off contribution. She also highlighted the advantages of the scheme which provides an opportunity for local businesses to enhance the appearance of properties in the town. Other issues which engaged members included:

- Timescale of financial commitment for submission of phase 1 of the bid
- Extent of designated conservation area in Ballymoney town
- Identification and number of properties eligible for participation
- Financial contribution and commitment of shop owners
- Input of Regeneration Company in delivering the scheme
- Anticipated level of funding required over the five year programme

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

***that Council, in principle, support the phase bid and that the financial contribution of £16,000 be taken to Council's rates meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and 8<sup>th</sup> November.***

### 3.2 N.I. Town Centre Partnerships Group

The group is addressing the proposed legislation to enable the creation of business improvement districts in NI, including legislative process and timetable.

## 220. 4 NORTHERN AREA PLAN

A household shopper interview survey, which has been developed as part of the retail capacity study, being undertaken under the Coleraine Masterplan exercise recently commissioned.

## 220.5 RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### 5.1 RDI application approval

DARD has granted approval to our application for a Business ID Category 2 (RD1). This will allow work to be advanced on deferred approved projects -

- IndiGENous Rural Tourism Product Knowledge
- Easter Bunny Festival
- Bygone Ballymoney Shiels

The Head of Corporate and Development Services advised that due to constraints imposed by DARD in relation to contributions in kind, it may be necessary to forego one of the projects to allow sufficient match funding to be available to support the projects. It is hoped that the Bygone Ballymoney (Shiels) festival, incorporating the Abbey Theatre links, would become a sustainable and annual event. Therefore in any reduction in funding this project would be favoured.

### 5.2 Village Renewal Projects

Council has been advised of 4 no. applications for village action plans requiring match funding totaling £7,000 (tabled at Council Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October). Applications for a maximum of 4 village regeneration projects will require match funding totaling £82,667.

Village renewal applications are to be scored by the steering group on 12<sup>th</sup> October. Successful applications agreed by the LAG will be invited to submit a full RDP application.

As no budget provision has been made for the project, members noted the applications.

Members discussed the ongoing delays in commencement of projects, difficulties being experienced with agreeing contributions in kind, monitoring and audit control.

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

***to recommend that Council write to the DARD Minister and OFMDFM highlighting the delays and difficulties being experienced with rolling out rural development funding and asking for their assistance in resolving the matter.***

Councillor Finlay requested that the correspondence be copied to Andrew McAllister, Manager Rural Development Partnership.

## **220.6 TOURISM DEVELOPMENT/MARKETING**

### **6.1 Giants Causeway Project Update**

The new temporary visitor centre within the Causeway Hotel is due to open on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and visitor facilities will include Craft & Souvenir shops, networked TIC with Bureau de Change and accommodation booking service. Additional external toilets and catering facilities will also be provided and the hotel will continue to operate as normal throughout the construction period which is expected to last approximately 18 months. Due to limitations in space there it is no longer possible to offer interpretation in the form of an audio-visual presentation but guided walking tours will be available (advance booking essential) and a “meet & greet” service will be provided for coach tour arrivals.

### **6.2 North West 200**

An economic impact report commissioned by the Coleraine & District Motor Club, organizers of the NW200, has revealed that the 2010 event attracted 90,000 bikers and spectators and generated around £4.5M for the local economy. The consultants who undertake the report estimate that the benefit of this event to NI is in the region of £7.79M and creates around 150 jobs. Members welcomed the valuable contribution that this international event made to the local economy.

### **6.3 Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust**

Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust are having a Directors focus workshop on 26/27 October to look at the future of the Trust, the Causeway Coast & Glens area and how delivery of key priority targets can be achieved. The objective of the workshop is to help the group focus on its views and needs, to work with the new Strategy and Business plan 2010-2013 and to produce a vision for the Trust and its partners.

\* **Councillor Patterson left the meeting at 4.15 pm.**

## **220.7 NORTH ANTRIM REGION ULSTER SCOTS HUB**

An information session was held on 6<sup>th</sup> October in the former Courthouse building when members of the Narush Committee set out their vision for an Ulster Scots Cultural Tourism Centre for the North Antrim Region. The project involves the refurbishing and extension of existing buildings on the site of the former Music Centre. An economic appraisal for the project, which sees an investment of £2.9M, is currently underway.

## **220.8 NORTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE – BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The college has advised that its Governing Body has now considered all of the responses received and made its decisions on each of the proposals. Details of these proposals will be made available shortly on their website [www.nrc.ac.uk](http://www.nrc.ac.uk). It has offered the following comments in relation to the specific points Council raised:

- The college is keen to work with Council to investigate partnership arrangements and future developments for the local learning partnership.
- The college has submitted Strategic Outline Case to DEL regarding the future development in the Coleraine/Ballymoney area. A further investigation, including further consultation with interested parties, will be carried out when the plan reaches full business case. The full business case will identify siting options for the development.
- Whilst the changes are designed with changes of local government in mind, this is not the driving factor behind the proposals and a delay in local government reform will not impact the proposals significantly.

Following publication of the proposals arrangements will be made for further discussion with local interests.

## **220.9 UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER**

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ulster, Professor Richard Barnett, will attend a meeting of the Committee in early 2011 to brief members on the work of the University. He will be accompanied by Professor Robert Hutchinson, Provost of the Coleraine campus.

## **220.10 JOB CREATION**

It is pleasing to note that All-Tex recyclers, who took ownership of the former Reid Transport Factory in Cloughmills over two years ago, have actively developed their business and now employ 180 people in Ballymoney Borough. The company has recently installed the first Gaia Wind Turbine in Ireland. The Company has just announced the creation of 50 new jobs as part of an expansion plan throughout Ireland. This will be recognised by a visit from Councillor Finlay as Chair of the Development Committee to the company.

## **220.11 INTERNATIONAL LINKS**

### **11.1 Vanves**

The Mayor of Vanves and a delegation from the town visited Ballymoney 15-18 October to attend the North Antrim Sports Awards at Lissanoure Castle, view plans for the new visitor centre at the Causeway and attend a business meeting to advance the schools sporting project. The Head of Corporate & Development Services updated members on the visit and particularly the business meeting which took place with representatives from Vanves,

Ballymoney Borough Twinning Association, Ballymoney High School and members of Council to discuss the development of a framework for youth/schools/sports exchange visits. The Officer recorded thanks to the Chair, Council and other representatives from the Twinning Association for their assistance with the visit.

### **11.2 Douglas**

Arrangements are being made for a visit by 5 delegates from Douglas to Ballymoney in November 2010.

### **11.3 Belgium**

The Chair and Councillor McCamphill had a useful meeting with representatives from the town of Heuvelland, Belgium, on 6<sup>th</sup> October to explore their interest in twinning with Ballymoney on the basis of the historical link provided by Private John Meeke. We are grateful to European office of MEP Diane Dodds for facilitating the meeting in the Offices of the European Parliament.

Councillor Finlay and Councillor McCamphill updated Committee on their visit stating that there was a strong Irish influence in Belgium and the Heuvelland civic representatives were very interested in progressing a link with Ballymoney, identifying 2014 as an appropriate time in view of the anniversary of World War I. It was agreed that the Head of Service maintain contact with the Heuvelland authority and report further to a future meeting. Councillor Robinson undertook to explore with NILGA the availability of European funding to develop this link. The Head of Corporate and Development Services will send a letter to Diane Dodds thanking her for facilitating the meeting.

## **220.12 LIGNITE**

### **12.1 Collective Objectors to Lignite Development**

The Collective Objectors to Lignite Development Ltd (C.O.L.D) have been advised, in response to an inquiry as to Council's current plans and future stance on the protected lignite area, as to Council's role in the examination in public to the Northern Area Plan and its plans to review and agree the list of objections to be pursued at the Examination in Public of the draft Northern Area Plan.

### **12.2 Presentation**

Following a suggestion by the Economy Minister, arrangements have been made for Gareth Earls, Geological Survey NI, to address Committee at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November on "Lignite in Northern Ireland".

**220.14 FARM MODERNISATION PROGRAMME (DARD)**

DARD has responded to the points raised by Council on the EQIA of the farm modernisation programme, tranche 2. A copy is available, together with the final report on the EQIA on the programme.

**220.15 NORTHERN CORRIDOR RAILWAY**

The Head of Corporate and Development Services advised that a letter has been sent by Coleraine Borough Council Chief Executive to the DRD Minister, Conor Murphy, mindful of the imminent announcement on the comprehensive spending review and the resultant impact that is likely to have on public sector finances, and seeking an assurance that the importance of developing the railway corridor will be maintained and that within the capital programme bidding for appropriate funding will be made. It was pointed out that the role of the rail network in this part of Northern Ireland will become increasingly important now that Derry has been awarded City of Culture status and an effective and modern rail network will be of vital importance for those visiting the region up to, during and after 2013.

Coleraine Borough Council express the view that it may be of benefit for Council, as a member of the Group, to write to the Minister along the same lines. This was agreed.

**The meeting closed at 4.30 pm.**



## APPENDIX 1



Presentation to  
Ballymoney Borough C

**NE Peace III Joint Committee**

**APPENDIX 2**

COUNCIL MEETING 927 – 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2010

**DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
ADDENDUM, 29/9/2010**

Agenda Item 2.3.1.

**2.3.1.[a] - VILLAGE RENEWAL PROGRAMME (RDP)**

A number of villages within the area of the regions rural development programme, following information sessions, have indicated that they are going to submit a preliminary application for village renewal programme. The closing date for preliminary applications is 4<sup>th</sup> October.

Villages in our borough area who have been in contact with the Village Renewal Facilitator to indicate that they intend to submit applications for village plans are Ballybogey, Stranocum, Dervock and Dunloy, while Rasharkin and Cloughmills have indicated that they will submit submit projects.

The following Associations have written to Council requesting Council to consider match funding of 25% (£1,750) towards the development of a village action plan.

- Ballybogey & District Community Association
- Stranocum & District Development Group
- Dervock & District Community Association

The applications are submitted for Council's consideration. While Council has committed to contribute towards the Village Renewal Facilitator, no budget provision has been provided to support applications under the village renewal programme.

**2.3.1.[b] – MAXIMISING THE IMPACT OF EU FUNDS – ENERGISING GROWTH**

NILGA have invited Council to nominate five representatives (elected members and offices) from Council to attend a conference on the above subject on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October in the Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick**. Closing date for nominations is 11<sup>th</sup> October.

The purpose of the event is to explore not only current EU funding opportunities but also to start discussion on future European Programmes post 2013. Importance will be placed on identifying those funding areas within the current round of EU funding programmes that are under represented by local government and to encourage councils to draw down these monies while the opportunity still exists. There will be a number of practical workshops on dealing with funding obstacles and the benefits of working in partnership.

E Johnston  
Head of Corporate & Development Services  
29/9/2010