

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 360 – 23rd April 2009****Table of Contents**

360.1	Presentation: Balnamore & District Community Association	<i>Received</i>
360.2	Minutes LAC 358, 18 th March 2009 – Matters Arising 2.1 Cloughmills Community Facility	<i>Members updated</i>
360.3	Girlguiding UK Centenary	<i>Facilitate request by means of signage & planting</i>
360.4	Presentation: Lower Bann Advisory Committee	<i>Received</i>
360.5	Electrical Inspection Contract	<i>Invite applications for a Tender Select List and then ask those contractors who are so selected to tender for this essential work</i>
360.6	Balnamore Community Facility	<i>Engage Council's Consultants to draw up specification and progress planning application</i>
360.7	Use of Riverside Park, Ballymoney for Cancer Research UK Charity Fun Run event	<i>Approved</i>
360.8	Amenities Sub-Committees/Working Groups	<i>Working groups reconstituted</i>
360.9	Ballymoney Cemetery Memorials	<i>Grant permission</i>
360.10	Dervock Re Imaging Communities Proposals	<i>Progress planning application and write to Arts Council</i>
360.11	Ballymoney Connect2 Project	<i>Information</i>
360.12	Countryside Walks Programme 2009	<i>Information</i>
360.13	Rasharkin Playgroup Request	<i>Withdrawn</i>
360.14	Request for Use of Riverside Park Car Parks	<i>Grant use of designated areas at Riverside Park, Ballymoney</i>

- | | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| 360.15 | Path Collapse at Riverside Park,
Ballymoney | <i>Information</i> |
| 360.16 | Causeway Coast And Glens
Heritage Trust – Causeway
Coastal Route Signature Project
proposal re. Drumaheglis Marina
& Caravan Park | <i>Project proposal decision
deferred – to be discussed
again at the May Committee
meeting</i> |

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 360 held in the Dalriada Room, Riada House on Thursday 23rd April 2009 at 10.00am.

IN THE CHAIR: F Campbell

PRESENT: **Aldermen**
H Connolly
J Simpson

Councillors:
J Finlay
M McCamphill
E Robinson

APOLOGIES: Alderman C Cousley, MBE, Deputy Mayor
Councillor Patterson

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Borough Services
Louise Watson {Balnamore & District
Margaret Gibson {Community Association
[Item 1]
Committee Clerk

360.1 PRESENTATION: BALNAMORE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Louise Watson, Balnamore and District Community Association, made a verbal presentation to committee regarding the urgent need for a new community building. She informed members that the present building, due to a number of health & safety issues [fire door swollen/inoperable, water heater/alarm problem, holes in the floor, damp spots on ceiling] had not been able to be used from 26th February 2009. Members were also advised that the present building was too small for the numbers attending the various groups [such as parent/toddler, youth, over 50's] and that the activities which could be organised were, as a consequence, severely restricted due to the lack of space. Louise also made reference to the possibility of siting a community building on the Council's land at Fulton Park. She emphasised that there were limited facilities in the village, no public transport after 6pm and that there was very good support within the community for the work being undertaken. Louise also drew attention to the fact that there were almost 400 homes within the village limits, with more planned.

In response to questions from Councillor Robinson, Louise clarified that the Association had a lease from the NI Housing Executive for the present Burnside Park site until June 2015 and that it was probable that this would be extended. She stated that the Community Association was not requesting a permanent structure due to the timeframe of the lease.

* **Councillor Finlay arrived at the meeting at 10.15am.**

She also confirmed that Community Association representatives had accompanied Councillor Finlay and viewed a temporary metal structure which was almost vandal proof and although it was not the best looking building, Louise confirmed that the Community Association were content with this concept and were seeking a building twice the size of the present one.

Alderman Simpson asked about the Community Association making use of the local primary school for its activities. Louise advised that the school would be in use when the mother/toddler group met and cost for evening use were this to be granted was likely to prove to be too expensive.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation and advised that the Director would contact them in due course.

- * **Representatives from Balnamore and District Community Association left the meeting at 10.25am.**

(Decisions on this matter can be found at 360.6)

360.2 MINUTES LAC 358, 18TH MARCH 2009 – MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Cloughmills Community Facility

In response to a question from Councillor Robinson the Director advised that following the Council's meeting on 6th April he had conveyed its decision to the Council's consultants who had instructed the person identified to commence the Industrial Heritage Impact Assessment sought as soon as possible.

AMENITIES

- * **Alderman Campbell adjourned the meeting at 10.40am and returned to the meeting at 10.50am.**

The question of Member interest as regards the presentation to be made to Committee by the Lower Bann Advisory Committee was raised. The Director gave advice that it was only a pecuniary interest which Members ought to declare. When the matter engendered further discussion, the Director sought the Chair's leave to take further advice and when he returned to the meeting shortly afterwards, he again stated the position as regards Members and their declaration of pecuniary interest .

360.3 GIRLGUIDING UK CENTENARY

Correspondence has been received from Irene Robinson, District Commissioner, enquiring "if the Council would plant a centenary flower bed with the girl guiding emblem in the town perhaps opposite First Ballymoney Presbyterian Church". It is the case that, in the past, Council has sought to accommodate such requests in some way and latterly this has been via signage.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee consider the matter with a view to making a recommendation to Council.

Initial designs for the Girl Guiding UK Centenary flowerbed were circulated at the meeting. Councillor Robinson expressed her desire to endorse the request as a means of recognising this very worthwhile organisation.

The Director outlined a number of options to Committee, which would range in cost he estimated from approximately £2,500 to £500 – (1) plant the complex design received, (2) plant a simplified design or (3) use both signage and own planting scheme.

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

to recommend to Council that the Girl Guiding UK Centenary be marked by both signage and planting as outlined at the Director's third option above.

Councillor Robinson portrayed messages of thanks from her constituents to the Director and the staff of Borough Services for the very pleasing flowerbed recently planted at Trinity/Rodeing Foot.

360.4 PRESENTATION: LOWER BANN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chair welcomed Victor Hamill, Chair and Caroline Marshall, Liaison Officer from Lower Bann Advisory Committee and invited them to make their powerpoint presentation (slides circulated) to Committee.

*** DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Alderman Simpson declared an interest that he was a member of the Lower Bann Advisory Committee; he did not leave the meeting.

Victor Hamill and Caroline Marshall, dealt with the work of the Lower Bann Advisory Committee, its background, issues and provided a funding update (attached as Appendix A) with a view that Council would reinstate funding to the organisation of £5,000 for 2009/2010.

The representatives welcomed Members' questions.

In response to a question from Councillor McCamphill, Mr Hamill confirmed that the Seaplanes project part funded by the Lower Bann Partnership Company was going ahead, an airfield having been sourced and work had begun on a temporary hanger. Councillor Finlay enquired if the Lower Bann Advisory Committee was not in place as to which body would regulate the Lower Bann. Mr Hamill stated that without the LBAC the work would be more fragmented with the various bodies having an interest in the river corridor pursuing their own agendas. He stated the he saw the LBAC as a key player in making the Lower Bann corridor a better place for everyone. Councillor Robinson asked about the LBAC track record of making Waterways Ireland accountable. Mr Hamill stated that LBAC, due to its co-ordinational role, was as effective a voice as possible given that Waterways Ireland was a Cross-Border Body.

- * **Representatives from Lower Bann Advisory Committee left the meeting at 11.40am.**

Following the withdrawal of the LBAC representatives, a discussion ensued as to the position found itself in as regards the very difficult situation Council faced in setting its budget for 2009-2010 in February and different Members expressed their individual views as regards contribution decisions and recommendations made subsequently at both Council and the recent Leisure Committee meeting.

Councillor McCamphill asked that his view that Council ought to re-instate the funding of £5,000 to the Lower Bann Advisory Committee for 2009-2010 out of reserves be noted.

- * **Alderman Simpson left the meeting at 11.55am.**

360.5 ELECTRICAL INSPECTION CONTRACT

The contract relating to the periodic inspection and testing of the fixed electrical installations, portable appliances, fire alarm systems, emergency lighting and lightning protection systems in Council properties has expired.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council invite applications for a Select Tender List and then ask those contractors who are so selected to tender for this essential work both this year, next and with the option of a third year.

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

to recommend that Council invite applications for a Select Tender List for the Electrical Inspection Contract and then ask those contractors who are so selected to tender for this essential work both this year, next and with the option of a third year.

360.6 BALNAMORE COMMUNITY FACILITY

As Members are aware Committee has considered on a number of previous occasions how it might progress an improved community facility at Balnamore, but has yet to reach a conclusion on the question of a 'community hall'.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee determines its position and make a recommendation to Council on the matter.

Members, having heard the presentation made earlier in the meeting by the representatives of Balnamore and District Community Association, again discussed the community hall project. Councillor Finlay suggested that Council ought to progress the project as it was doing in other cases, by drawing up the necessary plans and submitting a planning application. He stated that Council ought to proceed with the metal type temporary building, which the Community Association representatives had indicated would be acceptable and locate the structure at the present Burnside Park site the Association leased from the NI Housing Executive. The Director reminded Members that the cost estimate for

the type of building being considered was £70,000 [£50,000 for the building itself and a further £20,000 for necessary site works].

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

to recommend that Council engage its consultants to draw up a specification for a metal type building and the necessary ground works at the existing community building location and that a planning application also be progressed.

- * **Alderman Campbell left the meeting at 11.55am and returned to the meeting at 12noon during consideration of the above matter.**

360.7 USE OF RIVERSIDE PARK, BALLYMONEY FOR CANCER RESEARCH UKCHARITY FUN RUN EVENT

Members are informed that a written request was received from Mervyn Ferris, Chairman of the Ballymoney Local Committee for Cancer Research UK, on 17 March 2009, seeking permission to again use Riverside Park as the venue for the annual charity fun run to raise funds for Cancer Research UK. As event organiser Mr Ferris has requested use of the Park on Friday 22nd May 2009 for the event, as well as a PA system on the evening. As a change to the usual event, permission to extend the route beyond Rodeing Foot Wood and out to the A26 via Greengage has also been sought.

The fun run has been held annually in Riverside Park for a number of years very successfully. It is managed professionally with a clearly marked route for participants to follow and is very well marshalled on the evening. The event also attracts many high profile runners from a wide area. Given the event's history of being well planned and organised and the charitable status of the fun run, **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Council gives its approval and support to this request.

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

to recommend that Council approve the use of Riverside Park and also provide its PA system for the Cancer Research UK Charity Fun Run event to be held on Friday 22nd May 2009.

- * **Alderman Connolly left the meeting at 12.13pm.**

360.8 AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS

Council has agreed that the extant four Amenities Sub-Committees and Working Groups be replaced by two Working Groups - one looking at future proposals and schemes and the other addressing existing facilities and operations. The membership of extant Sub-Committees/Working Groups was circulated.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee consider (1) the number of members to appoint to each of the two new Working Groups and (2) appoint members to serve on both the Future Amenities Working Group and the Existing Amenities Working Group.

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

to recommend that the Chair and 6 Leisure & Amenities Committee members, namely Councillor Finlay, Councillor Robinson, Councillor Stevenson, and one member each from SF, UUP and SDLP serve on the Future Amenities Working Group and that the Chair and 6 members, namely Alderman Cousley, Councillor Patterson, Councillor Wilson and one other member each from SF, SDLP and UUP serve on the Existing Amenities Working Group.

It was further agreed that the Director would write to the respective party leaders of SDLP, SF and UUP seeking their nominations to the two newly established Amenities Working Groups and that a meeting of the Future Amenities Working Group be arranged if possible prior to the Next meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee to discuss Megaw Park.

360.9 BALLYMONEY CEMETERY MEMORIALS

Applications have been received as undernoted for the erection of memorials in Ballymoney Cemetery.

Section B No. 69

Ms Annie Doreen Hazon, 30 Castle Street, Ballymoney
All Polished Black Granite Headstone and Base

Section 3 No. 65

Mr William Taggart, 72 Ballybogey Road, Ballymoney
All Polished Black Granite Headstone

Section H1 No. 61

Mr William McConaghie, 16 Donaghbrook Crescent, Ballymoney
Black Granite Headstone and Base

Section H2 No. 99

Mrs. Olive Archibald, 4 Headlands Avenue, Ballymoney
All Polished Black Granite Headstone & Base

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council grant permission to the above applicants to erect memorials in Ballymoney Cemetery, subject to usual requirements.

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

to recommend that Council grant permission to the above applicants to erect memorials in Ballymoney Cemetery, subject to usual requirements.

360.10 DERVOCK RE-IMAGING COMMUNITIES PROPOSALS

It was agreed that this project would be further discussed at the Committee's April meeting. By then a further meeting will have been held with those responsible for the scheme and the Director hopes then to be in a position to provide further information to Members.

At the meeting the Director informed members that he had met with Mr Cunningham, Dervock Community Association and Ross Wilson, Artist and the Head of Amenities at the Council's land at the Fairhill, Dervock and advised that an agreed site had been identified. The proposed site was identified to Members by means of a plan, which was circulated. The Director also circulated an outline plan of the suggested artwork for the image proposed [which was probably sufficient for planning purposes] the piece to celebrate "Dervock band culture". He then advised that the estimate for the 'in kind work' sought from Council, that is, the sculpture base, granite setts and floodlighting via 4no. uplighters was £2,500, an amount that had not been allowed for in this year's budgets. He also advised that there would be an on-going commitment as regards the cost of electricity the floodlighting would consume when in use.

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

to recommend that Council progress a planning application for the Dervock Re-Imaging Communities Project and also write to the principal funder – the NI Arts Council endorsing the project.

360.11 BALLYMONEY CONNECT2 PROJECT

As Members may be aware on Thursday 31st March 2009, Councillor Finlay, on behalf of Council, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with other key project partners – Sustrans and Translink. The Ballymoney Connect2 Project will receive £350,00 from the Sustrans' Connect2 lottery award to provide the bridge which will connect walkers and cyclists between Seymour Street and Riverside Park, Ballymoney. The bridge and its connecting network of paths will effectively link the north and south of the town for journeys by foot and bike, allowing the removal of the existing unmanned level crossing at Fairhill.

360.12 COUNTRYSIDE WALKS PROGRAMME 2009

The Council's organised Countryside Walks Programme has now been finalised for 2009 and was circulated at the meeting. Members are asked to commend the programme to their constituents.

360.13 RASHARKIN PLAYGROUP REQUEST

The Director advised Members that he was withdrawing this item, but that the business would be addressed at a future Committee meeting.

360.14 REQUEST FOR USE OF RIVERSIDE PARK CAR PARK

The Director advised that correspondence had been received on behalf of Ballymoney Gospel Hall advising that the fellowship was hoping to hold some open air gospel services at a number of locations in June 2009 and requesting the use of the Riverside Park car parks on Wednesday 3rd June Monday 8th June 2009 from 7.00 to 7.30 pm. Members were advised that it would be possible to accommodate the requests on land adjoining the specific locations sought.

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

to recommend that Council grant the use of areas within Riverside Park designated by the Director for open air Gospel services to be held on Wednesday 3rd June and Monday 8th June from 7.00 to 7.30 pm.

360. 15 PATH COLLAPSE AT RIVERSIDE PARK, BALLYMONEY

The Director informed members that a section of pathway, including safety railings, had suddenly collapsed at Riverside Park, Ballymoney, on the evening of Sunday 19th April and circulated photographs showing the damage which had occurred. He advised that the area, which was unsafe, had been fenced off and a temporary path provided meantime to ensure that connectivity within the park was maintained. He stated that it may be necessary to undertake further preliminary work at the site to remove collapsed material from the river and then advised that the Council's consultants had been asked to both investigate what had happened and make recommendations for the necessary reinstatement work. Members were also told that the cost of reinstatement of the damaged pathway would not be something which could be undertaken within existing resources.

360.16 CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS HERITAGE TRUST – CAUSEWAY COASTAL ROUTE SIGNATURE PROJECT PROPOSAL AT DRUMAHEGLIS MARINA & CARAVAN PARK

The Director advised that correspondence had been received on 7th April from the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust via the Council's Tourism Officer drawing attention to its Causeway Coastal Route Signature Project, which included a proposal in respect of the Council's Drumaheglis Marina and Caravan Park. The proposed project included new entrance signage; 2 finger post signs; 6no. way markers for the nature walk; a double-sided information board and the design & print run of 10,000 promotional leaflets at an overall site cost of £10,940. He advised that the Trust were seeking a commitment from Council that it would match-funding half of the proposed project cost i.e.

£5,470, half of which would be committed in 2009-2010 (£2,735) and half in 2010-2011 (£2,735).

Councillor Robinson reminded Members that Council would not be making a contribution to the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust in 2009-2010. The Director confirmed that this Council decision had been conveyed to the Trust. He advised that, notwithstanding that Council decision, it was necessary to bring the proposal relating to Drumaheglis to Committee in order that Council might determine its position on the matter, given that there was no funding provision made in the Council's budget for 2009-2010.

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

to recommend to Council that the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust's Causeway Coastal Route Signature Project in respect of Drumaheglis Marina & Caravan Park again be discussed at the May meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 1.05pm.

Appendix A: Lower Bann Advisory Committee presentation.

APPENDIX A:

Lower Bann Advisory Committee presentation.

