

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
Leisure and Amenities Committee
Meeting No. 322 – 4th October 2006**

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- 322.1** **2006/07 Budget** – *Supplementary letter of offer to be issued.*
- 322.2** **Draft Action Plan 2006/07** – *to be revised and tabled at meeting on 17th October 2006.*
- 322.3** **Members' Questions and Responses** - *noted*
- 322.4** **Killyrammer Community Centre – Capital Grant** - *noted*

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No.322 held in Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre, 33 Garryduff Road, Ballymoney on Wednesday, 4th October 2006 at 6.30 pm

IN THE CHAIR Alderman F. Campbell

PRESENT **Aldermen**
H Connolly
C Cousley

Councillors
A Cavlan
J Finlay
M McCamphill
D McKay
T McKeown
A Patterson
E Robinson

IN ATTENDANCE Director of Central and Leisure Services
Community Relations Officer
Clerical Assistant
Mr Drew Haire – Head of Community Relations Unit

322.1 2006/07 BUDGET

The Director reminded members that the budget for 2006/07 submitted to the Community Relations Unit had been cut in their letter of offer and invited Mr Haire to explain the reasons.

Mr Haire gave an overview of the total budget for the year and the number of organisations supported. He explained that there was a pattern of under spend over a few years which resulted in the Unit receiving less of a budget.

In order to utilise the underspend last year Councils' were asked to quantify any underspend and offer it back to Community Relations Unit so that they could make it available to other projects. Council's were not to be penalised the next year if there were justifiable reasons for the underspend. He admitted that in Ballymoneys case the budget was cut but this was a mistake. He informed members that the budget for 2006/07 would be increased to the same as last years and that a supplementary letter of offer would be issued.

322.2 DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2006/07

The Director explained that the draft action plan would be revised to take account of the additional funding and will be tabled at the next meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee.

Mr Haire commended the Community Relations Officer on the quality of the action plan and advised that it was rated in the top third of all the Councils' action plans.

322.3 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS/ISSUES

- i. *Why will CRU not fund environmental improvements e.g. hanging baskets, plants, shrubs, etc? Community Associations were able to claim up to £1,000, which was grant aided.*

Mr Haire explained that Community relations grants were to support community relations work and not horticultural work. There had to be evidence that the project/event to be funded was to improve community relations and/or create good relations. Mr Haire gave details of a new programme launched by the Arts Council – Re-imagining communities – and made available leaflets for members.

- ii. *Why are cross border trips not funded? Educational trips across the border e.g. the Boyne could help improve community relations.*

Mr Haire explained that Community Relations Unit was established to improve Community Relations within Northern Ireland. However if a trip/event was organised that would produce a positive good relations outcome then funding would be considered.

- iii. *A number of recently established groups e.g. Ulster Scots/Orange Cultural & Heritage are being restricted in applying for grants due to new criteria.*

Under the revised criteria groups are required to satisfy two out of four conditions. Groups must demonstrate that the purpose of their event is to improve community relations or create good relations and that it is open to everyone.

- iv. *In most communities there is only one venue to hold events. To have to go to a 'neutral' venue is taking the event out of the community and adding to the cost.*

Mr Haire accepted that in some rural communities there was only one venue. He explained that every effort must be made to ensure that the venue is open to all as there was a perception that certain venues were either one or other community.

322.4 KILLYRAMMER COMMUNITY CENTRE – CAPITAL GRANT

Mr Drew Haire informed the Committee that he regretted that the Capital Grant for the building was withdrawn but advised that the Management Committee were not in a position to satisfy the conditions of the grant.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm