

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING NO 172 – 10th July 2006**

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting No 172 held in the McKinley Room, Riada House on Monday 10th July 2006 at 2.30 pm.

In the Chair: Councillor I Stevenson

Present: **Aldermen**
F Campbell
H Connolly
C Cousley
J Simpson

Councillors
J Finlay (Mayor)
B Kennedy
M McCamphill
A Patterson
R Wilson

In Attendance: Chief Executive
Head of Corporate and Development Services
Committee Clerk

Apologies: **Councillor**
E. Robinson
M. Storey MLA

172.1 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING NO. 171 – 12/6/06

It was proposed by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Alderman Campbell and
AGREED:

*that the minutes of the Committee's meeting No 171 on
12th June 2006, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.*

172.2 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (NI) 2007-2013

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has released a draft NI Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 for public consultation.

The aim of the programme is to give detailed proposals of a range of rural development support measures as part of the overarching DARD Rural Strategy. The programme will be aligned to the requirements of the European Commission regulation on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EC 1698/2005).

The measures contained within the programme are divided into three main axes:

1. improving the competitiveness of the Agricultural and Forestry Sector;
2. improving the environment and the countryside through land management;
3. improving the quality of life in rural areas through diversification of the economic activity

The fourth axis covers the use of a Leader Approach in delivering elements of the Programme.

The consultation builds on the review of rural development policy undertaken by the Department to look at the economic, environmental, cultural and social needs of rural communities, to establish a rationale for Government intervention and to assess the effectiveness of the policy and delivery mechanisms in place.

Comments on the consultative document, which runs to some 112 pages, are invited by Monday 14th August, 2006.

A draft response to the consultative document, prepared by the Development Officer as circulated, was discussed.

Committee, at its last meeting had the benefit of a presentation from North Antrim Leader+ Manager on the success of Leader in developing rural business and on rural strategy issues. The Rural Development Council will attend a future meeting to make a presentation to Council.

As the RPA will directly affect DARD's work from 2009 its Rural Development Division had a meeting with Chief Executives in the proposed RPA regional grouping on 5th July to provide more information on Axis 3 of the new Rural Development Programme as Councils will play a key role in partnership with the private and community/voluntary sectors to develop and deliver area based regeneration strategies. Subject to consultation responses the Department has an initial view that the six measures of axis 3 might be more appropriately delivered through the LEADER methodology. A copy of this report was circulated and the Head of Corporate and Development Services commented on RPA and funding and delivery issues, Council's involvement in the initial strategy development phase, the programmes strategic priorities and the guidance and consideration of the particular needs of women, young people and older workers. She also outlined the series of measures identified by DARD that could form part of the programme, in particular the measures under Axis 3 which DARD consider, subject to consultation, might be more appropriately delivered through the leader methodology. These included: -

- Diversification into non-agricultural activities
- Business creation and development
- Encouragement of tourism activities

- Basic services for the economy and rural population
- Village renewal and development
- Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage
- Skills acquisition and animation – training

DARDs Rural Development Division have facilitated regeneration initiatives through EU funded initiatives such as Leader+, Natural Resource Rural Tourism Initiative, Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity, Interreg and Peace II. In the development and implementation of the programmes the Department worked closely with Councils. In fact the programmes would not have been successful had it not been for the financial support and on-going commitment from the Councils. A copy of papers on financing and delivery of the NI Rural Development Programme were also discussed.

After discussion it was agreed given Council's views on RPA references to "the seven delivery structure areas" should be revised and that the adoption of the response questionnaire be deferred until the Council Meeting on 7th August.

Councillor McCamphill entered the meeting during this discussion at 2:40 pm
Councillor Kennedy entered the meeting during this discussion at 2:45 pm

172.3 BALLYMONEY MUSIC CENTRE

The Head of Corporate and Development Services updated the meeting on progression of the Council's application for the transfer of the property, improvement plan issues, funding and prospective tenants. Following clarification of issues with NEELB a full report will be made to Committee.

Councillor Finlay entered the meeting during this discussion at 2:48 pm

172.4 NORTH EAST PARTNERSHIP – PROJECT IDEAS: CO-OPERATION AND COLLABORATION POST

The North East Partnership have sought input from Council in identifying a range of project ideas from the North East Region to help the partnership devise its future strategy. Responses are invited by the end of August. A report will be made to the committee's next meeting.

172.5 RDC PEASE II EXTENSION APPLICATIONS

The RDC are currently assessing applications under Measure 1.11 of the EU Peace II Extension. Integral to their criteria is the project's ability to demonstrate complementarity with appropriate and sectoral development strategies. Two projects from the Borough, as undernoted, are supported.

- "Dunloy Development Vision" (Dunloy Development Association) – a publication to provide a luncheon club and organise theatre outings and other social outings. Invite key agencies to give talks and presentations on health and arts. £47,247.00

- North Antrim Agricultural Association – A community consultation and feasibility of developing a purpose built centre at Ballymoney Showgrounds and to produce a commemorative booklet and seminars £25,579.00

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

to recommend that Council support Dunloy Development Vision and North Antrim Agricultural Association in their bid for funding.

172.6 CORE JOINT COMMITTEE

It was the intention to stand down CORE at the end of June 2006. However the following issues are not yet fully resolved:

- financial accounts
- product transfer programme
- audit investigation – Ballymena Borough Council's Auditors have been commissioned by Councils in the group to undertake extended testing of the programme. Cost to Council is £3500.

The staff contract has been extended to the end of July and it is the intention to hold a meeting in September 2006.

The Chief Executive responded to questions about the audit procedure, costs and the finalisation of accounts and programmes.

172.7 REPORTS

1. North Antrim Leader+ - Funding - £10,000 for the current year paid.
2. Future Cross Border Tourism Funds from EU - BTS report circulated.
3. International Links - Recent trip to Vanves reported on.

172.8 TOWN ADVERTISING

Alderman Campbell congratulated the Town Centre Management on their radio and television advertising for promoting Ballymoney.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 3:10 pm