

**Ballymoney Borough Council  
Consultation Committee Meeting No 71 – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012**

**Table of Contents**

<b>71.1</b>	Community Transport NI – North Coast Community Transport Partnership	<i>Presentation</i>
<b>71.2</b>	Minutes of Consultation Committee Meeting No 70 – 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2012	<i>Adopted</i>
<b>71.3</b>	Extension to Streamlined Planning Scheme	<i>Agreed on a six month pilot basis</i>
<b>71.4</b>	Planning Applications	<i>Response Agreed</i>
	4.1 New Applications	
	4.2 Deferred Applications	
	4.3 Decisions issued	
	4.4 Date of office meetings	
<b>71.5</b>	Loughgiel Shamrocks	<i>Write letter of congratulations</i>
<b>71.6</b>	The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (NI) 2012 S.R 2012 No 59	<i>Tabled</i>
<b>71.7</b>	Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) Consultations	<i>Tabled</i>
	6.1 Review of Variable Crewing Framework	
	6.2 Review of Flexi Duty Rota	
<b>71.8</b>	Roads Service Annual Report & Accounts 2010-11	<i>For information</i>
<b>71.9</b>	CIWM Conference 12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	<i>Councillor Robinson to attend</i>

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Consultation Committee Meeting No 71 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012 at 6.30 pm

**IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor A Cavlan

**PRESENT:****Aldermen**

F Campbell

C Cousley

B Kennedy

**Councillors**

J Atkinson

W Blair

J Finlay

C McLaughlin

E Robinson

I Stevenson, Mayor

**APOLOGIES:**

Alderman Connolly

Councillor Halliday

Councillor McAfee

Councillor McKeown

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive

Committee Clerk

**Item 1 – North Coast Community Transport**

Mr B Moore – Manager – North Coast Community Transport

Ms K Armstrong – Director of Community Transport Association NI

**Items 3-4 – Planning Service**

H O'Toole – Area Planning Manager

J McMath – Planning Officer

**71.1 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT NI – NORTH COAST COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**

The Chair welcomed representatives from North Coast Community Transport and the Community Transport Association for Northern Ireland to give a presentation to Council on the services provided and current funding issues.

Mr Moore (NCCT) advised members that the service is operated in a professional manner by MIDAS trained operators to provide a value for money transport solution. 16 seater minibuses are used to provide group transport; a 'dial a lift scheme' is operated by volunteers; and; by working in collaboration with private operators, larger minibuses are available if needed. Mobility problems can be addressed by passenger assistance training and training is provided for emergency evacuation. The service provided assistance to 134,000 passengers, young and old, in 2011.

Ms Armstrong advised that the Community Transport Association provides advice and support to ensure delivery is appropriate and that staff and passengers remain at the forefront. She highlighted the difference in rural and urban provision of transport services stating that the Community Transport service has seen a growth in demand over its six year period of operation and there is a large demand for services particularly in rural areas. Currently, there is no provision for passengers to use the service for hospital or medical appointments. Ms Armstrong urged Council to ascertain the responsibility of statutory organisations in provision of services to those needing to attend hospitals and GP surgeries outside operating times of local services. NCCT is a not-for-profit enterprise delivering community-led transport solutions in the Ballymoney and North Coast area. She asked Council to consider funding or financial support for community transport services and to work in partnership with the organisation to inform citizens about the service using its website and other social media.

In concluding the presentation, Ms Armstrong extended an invitation to members to visit NCCT to gain further insight into the work of the service and its volunteers. The representatives responded to questions from members relating to:

- Training for other community bodies in addition to Community Transport staff
- Access NI checks for those staff working with children or vulnerable adults
- Benefits for volunteers to enable them to return to the workplace
- Provision of service particularly for the elderly in attending hospital and other medical appointments.

The Chair thanked Mr Moore and Ms Armstrong for their presentation which concluded at 7.00 pm. The representatives left the meeting at this time.

\* **Alderman Kennedy, Alderman Cousley Councillor Robinson, Councillor Atkinson and Councillor Stevenson joined the meeting at 6.40 pm during the presentation.**

## **71.2 MINUTES – CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING NO 70 –**

**20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2012**

It was proposed by Councillor Atkinson, seconded by Alderman Kennedy and **AGREED:**

***that the minutes of Consultation Committee Meeting No 70 – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2012, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.***

- \* **The Planning Officer and Area Planning Manager joined the meeting at 7.00 pm.**

**71.3 EXTENSION TO STREAMLINED PLANNING SCHEME**

Area Planning Manager Ms Helena O'Toole, attended the meeting to update members on the proposed extension to the streamlined planning scheme which has been successful, Ballymoney Borough Council being one of the best performers in the scheme.

She explained that based on the success of the streamlined consultation reporting system, the Minister had convened a steering group to look at how it might be extended and what other categories of applications might be incorporated into the scheme. The group was made up of people from CBI, NILGA, RSPB and the Director and HQ staff from Planning Service. The outcome of the proposal is to include all minor and intermediate applications up to 25 units and office accommodation to a maximum of 200 sq metres in the streamlined process. In this instance, 75% of all applications will be dealt with via the streamlined route resulting in the Department dealing with the majority of applications in 50 days on average compared with 187 days for applications that are not streamlined. Applications to which objections are attached and those that the Department is proposing to refuse would still come before Council for consideration. An application can be removed on request from the streamlined list which will continue to be provided on a weekly basis with a three week window for removal.

At the request of Alderman Kennedy, Mrs O'Toole advised that extending the service will address complaints that the planning process is time consuming and problematic. It will enable schemes to be up and running faster, thereby creating more in the way of employment. It will also provide an opportunity for the Department to consider major schemes more fully and enable smaller developers and householders to progress plans in a speedier manner.

The Chief Executive requested clarification on recent figures produced across 26 Councils indicating a variation in the percentage of applications processed within six weeks via the streamlined consultation process in different areas.

Ms O'Toole recorded a variety of reasons why performance has fluctuated relating to certain types of applications such as removal of single wind turbines from the

streamlined process, the impact of wind turbines on telecommunications and lengthy response times to consultations with agencies.

It was proposed by Alderman Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Cavlan and **AGREED:**

***that Council agree to accept the proposed extension to the streamlined planning scheme on a six months pilot basis from a date to be advised by the Planning Department.***

\* Councillor Finlay left the meeting at 7.15 pm.

## 71.4 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### 4.1 New Applications

Items 1-5 were considered and the opinion of the Planning Services accepted except where stated otherwise.

Full details of applications can be viewed at:

[http://apps.planningni.gov.uk/council\\_schedules/ballymoney.aspx](http://apps.planningni.gov.uk/council_schedules/ballymoney.aspx)

#### **ITEM NO 1 – APPLICATION NO D/2011/0052/F**

<b>DOE OPINION</b>	<b>REFUSAL</b>
<b>APPLICANT</b>	Mr Thompson
<b>LOCATION</b>	411m West of 21 Landhead Road, Ballymoney,
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	A Single Wind Turbine with a tower height of 30m.
<b>OBJECTIONS (3)</b>	<b>Potential impact on bats (not addressed). Visual impact, local character, impact on view, shadow flickering, impact on wildlife, noise generation and upgrade to power lines.</b>

The applicant considered an alternative site to address concerns of Environmental Agency – see item 5.

Speaking on behalf of Councillor Finlay, Alderman Campbell requested an office meeting. The Planning Officer agreed to hold the issue of the decision for one week.

#### **ITEM NO 3 – APPLICATION NO D/2011/0226/O**

<b>DOE OPINION</b>	<b>REFUSAL</b>
<b>APPLICANT</b>	Donna McFadden c/o Agent
<b>LOCATION</b>	70m West of 68 Carncullagh Road, Stranocum, Ballymoney
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	Site for New Dwelling

It was **AGREED:** that an office meeting be held (Alderman Campbell on behalf of Councillor Finlay).

**ITEM NO 5 – APPLICATION NO D/2011/0244/F**

**DOE OPINION APPROVAL**

**APPLICANT** Mr Thompson c/o Agent

**PROPOSAL** A Single Wind Turbine with a Tower Height of 30m -  
Relocation of Turbine under existing Application  
D/2011/0052/F

**LOCATION** 204m West of 21 Landhead Road, Ballymoney

**OBJECTIONS (1)** **Visual impact and noise.**

**Noise impact submitted which has been cleared and visual impact is now acceptable. There is no detriment to the ‘bat corridor’ and therefore no concerns by Environmental Agency.**

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

***that Council approves the decision of the Department.***

#### **4.2 Deferred Applications**

Items 1-5 were considered and the opinion of the Planning Services accepted except where stated otherwise.

**D1 - APPLICATION NO D/2011/0072/O - Refusal**

The Planning officer advised that no further information has been received in relation to a proposed, alternative site.

At the request of Alderman Campbell (on behalf of Councillor Finlay) for an office meeting with the MP the Planning Officer advised that a second deferral cannot be accommodated.

The Planning Officer will record the opinion that Council disagrees with the decision and will hold the issue of any decision to facilitate the office meeting to be organised by Councillor Finlay.

**D2 - APPLICATION NO D/2011/0121/O – Refusal**

At the request of Alderman Campbell (on behalf of Councillor Finlay) for an office meeting with the MP the Planning Officer advised that a second deferral cannot be accommodated.

The Planning Officer will record the opinion that Council disagrees with the decision and will hold the issue of any decision to facilitate the office meeting to be organised by Councillor Finlay.

**D3 - APPLICATION NO D/2011/0160/F - Approval**

Further negotiations have taken place with the Agent and description changed. Consultations with DARD confirm farm is active for six years. Roads Service has cleared amended access. Neighbour notification sent and no objections received. The Department is now able to approve the application.

Alderman Kennedy thanked the Department for their decision.

**D4 - APPLICATION NO D/2011/0162/F - Refusal**

The Planning Officer advised that the Agent/Applicant did not attend the office meetings arranged and no further information has been submitted.

It was **AGREED**:

***that Council agree with the decision of the Department to refuse the application.***

**D5 - APPLICATION NO D/2011/0223/O - Refusal**

It was proposed by Alderman Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Cavlan and **AGREED**:

***that Council's disagreement with the decision to refuse the application be recorded.***

**4.3 Decisions Issued**

A schedule of decisions issued from 01/02/12 to 29/02/12 was circulated for information.

**4.4 Date of Office Meeting**

Office meeting will take place on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00 am in the Lanyon Room, Riada House.

**4.5 Application D/2010/0346/F. 225KW wind turbine on 30m tower at Anticur Road, Dunloy.**

This proposal was presented at the November Meeting with an opinion to approve. As the certificate on the application form was incorrect the Department required to re-advertise and re-neighbour notify. The statutory advertisement period has expired and the Department is now in a position to issue approval.

\* **The Area Planning Manager and Planning Officer left the meeting at 7.45 pm.**

## 70.5 LOUGHGIEL SHAMROCKS

The Chair congratulated Loughgiel Shamrocks hurling team on their success in the All Ireland Club Finals at Croke Park on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March. She advised members that Alderman Connolly was delighted with their win and she also paid tribute to him as a lifelong member of the Club. She thanked the Mayor for attending the match and for agreeing to hold a reception for the team. Councillor McLaughlin concurred with the Chair's remarks. Alderman Kennedy, Alderman Campbell and Councillor Stevenson added their congratulations to the Club on their win.

It was proposed by Councillor Cavlan, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin

***that Council write a letter to Loughgiel Shamrocks congratulating them on winning the All Ireland Club Final.***

- \* **Alderman Cousley, Councillor Robinson and Councillor Atkinson left the meeting at 7.50 pm, Alderman Cousley returning at 7.53 and Councillor Robinson at 7.55 pm during discussion of the above.**

## 70.6 THE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2012 S.R 2012 NO. 59

The Department of Environment has made the above mentioned Regulations which will come into operation on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

The draft Regulations amend and consolidate the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 ("the 1999 EIA Regulations") which apply Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, as amended ("the EIA Directive"), to the planning process in Northern Ireland. The EIA Directive requires an assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment before development consent is granted.

The key amendments:

- require the reasons for negative screening decisions to be made available on request
- apply the thresholds in Schedule 2 to the development as a whole once modified (where there are changes or extensions to existing development)
- remove the requirement for consultation on the environmental statement (ES) at each stage of a multi-stage consent process where the ES provided at outline stage is still adequate for purpose at the later stage
- amend the procedures for publicity in respect of additional environmental information received for the purposes of a public inquiry



- require the Department to advertise details of the holding of a public inquiry or hearing under Article 31 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991 and of public access to inquiry information
- require the Planning Appeals Commission to afford to anyone who so requests a reasonable opportunity to inspect and, where practicable, take copies of any information provided for the purposes of an inquiry or hearing
- apply the amendments to the EIA Directive made by Directive 2009/31/EC on the Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide by adding new categories of development to Schedules 1 and 2 to the Regulations.

Consolidation of the 1999 EIA Regulations is an appropriate way to give effect to the above amendments in the interests of clarity and ease of use.

Copies of the Rule viewed online at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr>.

## **70.7 NORTHERN IRELAND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE (NIFRS) CONSULTATIONS**

### **7.1 Review of Variable Crewing Framework**

NIFRS is continuously seeking to improve service delivery to the community and to improve firefighter and public safety. It is currently reviewing the operational Firefighter cover currently deployed in its 'Variable Crewed' Fire Stations. The aim of this review is to ensure NIFRS implement the most proficient crewing model on these Stations.

There are currently 7 Variable Crewed Fire Stations across Northern Ireland in **Antrim, Carrickfergus, Coleraine, Newtownards, Omagh, Portadown and Armagh**. These stations are staffed by Firefighters on the Variable Crewing shift system (11.00am to 11.00pm every day) with additional cover provided by Retained (part time) Firefighters in that area. By reviewing the existing Variable Crewing model NIFRS believes it will further its contribution to community safety. The review is also concerned with the existing shift pattern within Variable Crewing and how it can be improved from a family-friendly working hours perspective, without compromising on its obligations to the community.

Views are invited in relation to this review of the Variable Crewing Framework.

**The closing date for receipt of comments is 9 April 2012.** A summary of consultation responses will be available online during May 2012.

### **7.2 Review of Flexi Duty Rota**

Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) is continuously seeking to improve service delivery to the community and to improve Firefighter and

public safety. It is currently reviewing its Flexi Duty Rota as part of our on-going service improvements, with a view to targeting the available duty time for Supervisory Officers towards their key areas of responsibility.

There is currently one set pattern of working for all Flexi Duty Officers, regardless of place of work, or specific responsibilities. As a result of this review, there are two key changes.

1. The number of Flexi Duty Officers by role and location that must be maintained on duty 24/7, in order to meet statutory requirements under the Fire & Rescue Services (NI) Order 2006 is specified. This number was arrived at by looking at specific incidents in NIFRS Districts and also by using professional judgement.
2. Previously, NIFRS had one pattern of working, regardless of location or job responsibilities. Under the review, the proposed Flexi Duty Rota now suggests three patterns – one for Area commands, one for District Commands and one for Headquarters. The reviewed Flexi Duty Rota now includes the scope for flexible working arrangements.

Views in relation to this review of NIFRS' Flexi Duty Rota are invited. For stakeholders who require clarification or would like to discuss the document further, meetings with the appropriate staff can be arranged or telephone discussions facilitated on request.

**The closing date for receipt of comments is 27 April 2012.** A summary of consultation responses will be available online during May 2012.

## **70.8 ROADS SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2010-11**

Roads Service Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11 has been published and is available on DRD website [www.drdni.go.uk](http://www.drdni.go.uk). The report describes how Roads Service performed against the commitments contained in the 2010-11 business plan, in particular the published performance targets set by the Minister. At the request of Councillor Robinson, the date of the next presentation to Council by Roads Service will be obtained.

## **70.9 CONFERENCE APPLICATION**

CIWM Conference – 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> June 2012 - A request has been received from Councillor E Robinson to attend the CIWM 2012 conference 'Shaping the Future' taking place in London on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June. The Conference cost is £423.00 + VAT with travel costs estimated at £100.00.

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

***that Councillor Robinson be authorised to attend the CIWM Conference on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June at a cost of £423.00 + Vat and estimated travel cost of £100.00.***

**The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.**


Appendices attached:

Appendix 1     Community Transport NI – North Coast Community Transport Partnership

## APPENDIX 1



North Coast  
Community Transport  
Partnership Ltd



## History

- Roe Valley Rural Transport - Est. 2000
- Current Premises since 2006
- 4 employees, 2 minibuses.
- Membership – 3 groups, 3 individuals
- Oct 2010 – Moyle & B'mena
- Apr 2011 – Coleraine & B'money



## Current

- Membership – 500+ community groups, 2000+ individuals
- Employ – 16 full time, 19 casual, 25 volunteer car
- 20 minibuses
- 25 Volunteer Car driver's



## Funding

- Department for Regional Development – Rural Transport Fund
- Department of Agriculture & Rural Development - DARD
- Public Health Agency

**NCCT is a not-for-profit, social enterprise delivering community-led transport solutions in the Ballymoney and North Coast area**



## Quality with Care

- All drivers (paid and volunteer) are trained to deliver safe driving and to care for all our passengers whatever their physical or personal needs
- All staff who work with children or vulnerable adults are vetted (enhanced AccessNI checks)
- NCCT have achieved liP, liV and the company has completed both financial and governance training to ensure we operate a professional, well managed, effective organisation whose ethos is to deliver a value-for-money transport solution



## Services

- Group Transport
- Dial a Lift Scheme
- Training




# Group Transport











---

# Dial a Lift









# Training



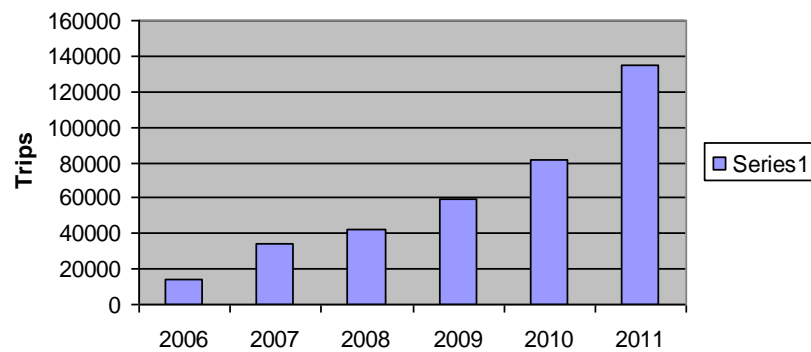




## Passenger Trip



Passenger Trips per Year



## Support - Advice



- Community Transport Association - CTA
- Department for Regional Development – DRD
- Department of Agriculture & Rural Development – DARD
- Public Health Agency - PHA
- Translink



Community Transport Association

## CTA

- Community Transport Association
  - Kellie Armstrong, Director for Northern Ireland
- Independent Charity providing legal advice, support and training for community transport operators delivering socially necessary transport across NI



Community Transport Association

## Community Transport

- In Northern Ireland there are over 200 community transport operators
- Majority are small or operated by charities whose transport is ancillary to their main purpose
- Majority are not funded
- Pressures are increasing for the community transport sector to deliver more and more local transport solutions



## Pressures in the Ballymoney Borough Council Area



- Access to local services
- Access to Health
- Access to Further Education
- Access to religious activities particularly at weekends
- Failure of statutory agencies to support community solutions
- Pressure from the public to deliver more than can be provided with current resources

## How you can help?



- Work in partnership with NCCT
- Ask questions from Health and DEL to establish where their responsibilities lie
- Create a local transport plan in partnership with the community (part of community planning)
- Encourage funding and financial support for community solutions



## Finally

- Ensure the Council's own community advice services provide appropriate information about NCCT
- Encourage your community to seek solutions from Health and DEL as well as NCCT
- Visit NCCT and take a trip on one of the vehicles

## Any questions?

**North Coast Community Transport**

**Tel: 028 7776 2552**

**Email: [billy@northcoastcommunitytransport.com](mailto:billy@northcoastcommunitytransport.com)**

