

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Development Meeting No 232, held in the McKinley Room, Riada House, Ballymoney on Wednesday 15th February 2012 at 4.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J Finlay

PRESENT: **Aldermen**
F Campbell

Councillors
W Blair
R Halliday
R McAfee
I Stevenson
M Storey
E Robinson

APOLOGIES: **Alderman**
H Connolly
B Kennedy

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Head of Corporate & Development Services
Committee Clerk

232.1 MINUTES – MEETING NO 231 – 18TH JANUARY 2012

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 231 –18th January 2012, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

* Councillor Storey joined the meeting at 4.05 pm.

232.2 2012 OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities will be provided for key events including:

- Opening of Giant's Causeway Centre
- Titanic Anniversary Event
- Irish Open Golf Championship at Royal Portrush
- Peace camp on the coast

Marketing plan had been reviewed to take account of these opportunities.

£300M of investment in tourism infrastructure and the events would increase spend and underpin civic pride. Development Unit plan to work in partnership within the borough and region to achieve added value for Ballymoney. Training opportunities supported by DEL will be delivered.

The Chamber of Commerce will be holding a meeting in the near future to discuss potential from events and joint marketing activities. It would also address opportunities and challenges for the town. The Chair will host a workshop to facilitate consultation between stakeholders, town groups and statutory bodies. New investment in the town and property upgrading, particularly in this poor economic climate signals confidence by the investment community. Steps to attract further new investment are being progressed.

Plans for a shuttle bus and visitor marketing activity are planned for the International Bowling event at Ballybrakes Stadium in March and the Pipe Band Championship in June.

A suggestion by Councillor Finlay regarding an initiative to bring vacant properties into economic use is under investigation and a report will be brought to Committee.

232.3 EVENTS UPDATE

The Head of Corporate & Development Services presented update reports:

3.1 Scottish Pipe Band Competition

Arrangements for the Pipe Band competition to be held at the Rugby Club on 2nd June is progressing satisfactorily and a meeting will be taking place on 16th February to finalise arrangements.

3.2 Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

A number of ideas for music, sport, history and cultural activity themed on the Coronation year and Her Majesty's visit to Ballymoney in 1953 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee and 2012 Olympics are being developed and costed. Collaborative working with other groups is being explored.

The officer outlined proposal and criteria for a community grant scheme considered by Officer Group from Co Antrim Councils. Expressions of interest forms have been drawn up by Councils to ascertain the level of interest in the scheme.

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

- a) *expressions of interest be invited from properly constituted groups prior to call for applications.*
- b) *criteria should identify eligible spend and in accordance with existing policy for Community Support grants only one grant in any year will be awarded.*
- c) *A fund of £5000 be set aside to support community celebrations for 2012 Jubilee and Olympic celebrations.*

3.3 2012 Torch Relay

The street level route is to be announced shortly. Sporting events included in the Jubilee year programme will also celebrate the Olympic games and the torch relay celebrations in Dervock. Plans are in hand to recruit volunteers to support the celebration events.

An invitation to submit proposals to welcome the Paralympic torch run has been received. No budget provision is available.

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

to recommend that Council submit an expression of interest in welcoming the Paralympic Torch to the town.

- * **Councillor Robinson joined the meeting at 4.15 pm during the discussion.**

3.4 Peace through Remembering Exhibition

Ballymoney Regeneration Company had been successful in securing the exhibition for Ballymoney, to be displayed in a vacant shop during April/May. The touring exhibition is also to visiting Belfast, Londonderry, Omagh and Monaghan.

3.5 Twinning Association Events

The Twinning Association is to host a visit from a boxing club from Douglas while a team of young footballers will travel to Vanves to participate in a youth football tournament.

232.4 PROJECT UPDATES

The Head of Corporate & Development Services presented progress reports on projects.

4.1 Business Plan 2012/13

Arising from budget setting process and funding allocated, the programme of enterprise support is being reviewed.

4.2 Townscape Heritage Initiative

The THI Stage II application process is on target. It is **recommended** that services be provided by Council to Ballymoney Regeneration Company under a Service Level Agreement, in line with that approved under Stage I.

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

to recommend that a Service Level Agreement between Ballymoney Borough Council and Ballymoney Regeneration Company in line with that approved under Stage 1 of the scheme be approved.

4.3 Tourism Area Plan

Consultants have now been appointed and the first consultation workshop has taken place. A revised management structure has been implemented and a revised budget agreed.

4.4 Causeway Coast & Glens & Tourism Partnership.

The Partnership has developed a new website section on Myths and Legends.

A proposal to update Council's promotional DVD to add to Causeway Coast & Glens website and visitballymoney website is being explored.

4.5 Tourism Product Development

Recommendations on development of trails identified in the drives study funded by Rural Development Programme are being advanced and consultations are taking place with relevant bodies.

4.6 Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust

An update report was tabled and the following issues highlighted:

- The Trust seeks reconsideration of application to join noting that Councils proposed projects fit their plans. To be tabled at next meeting for consideration.
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- "Heart of the Glens" project to commence shortly.
- Scullion Hurls to be included in Economusse Project. Request for match funding from Council to be tabled at next meeting.
- Trust developing trails in the region, funded by Rural Development Programme.

4.7 Rural Development programme

- Cluster projects being developed with senior officers group in the region based on strategic themes.

- Food project study, led by Coleraine Borough Council, commenced. Consultant appointed, looking at best practice, food tourism, food trails and events, aimed at bringing more visitors into the area. A successful outcome would be two year Action Plan.

4.8 Village Regeneration Programme

Project Officer will assist in delivery of community projects on Council land and facilities. Council is submitting bids as lead applicant. The process will involve community liaison and consultation. As planning approval requires to be in place before projects can be assessed, funding to cover planning fees is required.

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

to recommend that Council proceeds with preparation of plans and estimates and submission of planning applications and fees be met by Council.

It was noted that there may be a shortfall in funding on some projects and Community Associations had indicated that they would be applying for further match funding.

Deadline is 16th February to have round II bids submitted.
The status of applications is as follows:

- Stranocum application not successful.
- Ballybogey - additional information received and application submitted.
- Rasharkin wellbeing project – Association requested amendment – application deferred to next call – further report to next meeting.

* **Councillor Stevenson left the meeting at 4.55 pm and returned at 5.05 pm.**

4.9 Social Enterprise Programme

A meeting of the Non Corporate Buildings and Facilities Working Group will be taking place on 16th February when it is anticipated that the Director of Central & Leisure Services will report on consultation with Community Hall Groups who are seeking legal status. Draft financial profiles on operating costs of the halls will be provided by Development Unit together with a training and policy development plan. A further social enterprise session will be delivered by Development Unit to support financial planning and management of facilities. Consideration will also be given to establishment of a network of all representatives from Management Committees to facilitate a programme of training and development and maximizing income.

232.5 DARD STAKEHOLDER ROADSHOWS

The Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD) is holding stakeholder roadshows throughout NI. Each roadshow will have a keynote address at 8 pm and will end at 9.15 p.m. A programme of the roadshows was circulated. There will be an opportunity to ask questions of and give your views directly to officials on topics including CAP reform, the development of a Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and EU Compliance.

232.6 CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Tabled are draft NILGA responses to the following:

- a) NI Economic Strategy 2012-13
- b) Investment Strategy NI 2011-2021
- c) Common Agriculture Policy Proposals 2014-2020

232.7 DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for development of Council land at various locations was discussed. It was agreed that a report and costings be prepared for consideration at a future meeting. The Chair indicated that with the Vice Chair, he was exploring investment opportunities and would keep Committee updated on progress.

232.8 PLANNING POLICY – TOURISM (PPS16)

Presentation by DoE Planning Policy Division on this policy indicating the main outcomes of the public consultation and amendments to the draft document, tabled.

The aim of the policy is to manage the provision of sustainable and high quality tourism developments in appropriate locations within the built and natural environment.

232.9 A26 DUALLING

The Chair tabled briefing note highlighting the key issues put to the Minister earlier in the day by the leaders of Councils in the cluster. He expressed the hope that the Minister would carefully consider the importance of this key point of the network infrastructure of the region and prodded funding to enable its upgrade.

232.10 TIMING OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The March meeting will take place on Wednesday 21st March at 4.30pm after which, meetings will take place on 3rd Wednesday in the month at 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 5.15pm.