

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Development Meeting No 233, held in the McKinley Room, Riada House, Ballymoney on Wednesday 21st March 2012 at 4.30 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J Finlay

PRESENT:

Aldermen
F Campbell
H Connolly
B Kennedy

Councillors
W Blair
E Robinson

APOLOGIES: Councillor J Atkinson
Councillor R Halliday
Councillor M Storey, MLA

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

233.1 CONDOLENCE

Chair was saddened to learn of the passing of Councillor Robert Halliday's sister and conveyed Council's deepest sympathy to him and the entire family circle.

233.2 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 232 – 15TH FEBRUARY 2012

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

to recommend that the minutes of Meeting No 232 – 15th February 2012, as circulated, be approved.

233.3 EVENTS UPDATE

The Head of Corporate & Development Services updated members on events.

- a) **Torch Relay** Route has been announced. On Sunday 3rd June the Olympic Torch will pass through Glenariffe, Cushendall, Ballycastle, **Dervock** and Bushmills on its way to mark the start of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

* **Councillor Blair arrived at the meeting at 4.35pm during consideration of the above matter.**

- b) **2012 Inspired Events** Programme. Key events celebrating the Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics have been included in a County Antrim events guide. A number of other major community events being organised will be included in a local programme, with community events being added in the coming weeks to the website events guide..
- c) **The Jubilee 2012 Events Fund** has been announced and expressions of interest invited, with closing date of Friday 23rd March. Constituted community/voluntary groups operating in the borough can apply. Application process, including criteria has been developed.
- d) **Scottish Pipe Band Competition.** Plans for the hosting event, to take place on 2 June, have been finalised. The Chamber of Commerce has arranged a presentation to welcome the visiting teams and hope it will be successful event for the town.
- e) Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict Exhibition, which opened in First Derry Presbyterian Church, Londonderry on 6 March, will be hosted at Bell Architects from 12th April – 25th May.

* **Councillor Robinson arrived at the meeting at 4.41pm.**

***DECLARATION OF INTEREST** Chief Executive Declared an Interest as a Director of Acorn The Business Centre.

233.4 EXPLORING ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME

An application has been received from Acorn the Business Centre for continued funding of the Exploring Enterprise Programme, which Council supported in the current financial year. An evaluation report has been received. **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Council supports the programme in the 2012/13 financial year and makes a contribution of £5,000. Budget provision is available.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services confirmed that Acorn The Business Centre Manager will be attending a future meeting to update members on the work and activities of the centre. Initiatives and/or training schemes to encourage young people into enterprise were suggested and it was agreed that information be obtained for committee's consideration.

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

to recommend that Council grants Acorn The business Centre £500 towards the Exploring Enterprise Programme in the 2012/13 financial year.

233.5 JOBS BOOST

The Chair congratulated S J McAuley Engineering on their recent announcement of an investment of £3million which will see 32 new jobs created in the local area. Alderman Kennedy concurred with Councillor Finlay's comments.

233.6 CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS HERITAGE TRUST

A co-funders meeting was held on 27th February with NIEA, NITB and Officers from the constituent Councils to consider the current structure and funding of the Heritage Trust.

An application has been received from the Trust to re-join the organisation and make a contribution, currently £11,000 per annum.

Members discussed the new activities in which the Trust had become involved in recent years and projects which Council had signed up to become involved in.

It was **AGREED**:

to invite representatives from CC&GHT to address the committee on their work and activities and potential benefits to the borough.

233.7 INTERREG V LOBBY

Following on from the workshop on 24th January on the Interreg V lobby process a further meeting will be held on 3 April involving cross border partnerships.

233.8 PROJECT UPDATES

Head of Corporate and Development Services gave the following progress reports:

(a) Townscape Heritage Initiative

The final draft is to be presented to the Board at the end of March. A review will be presented to committee's next meeting. Council has committed to provide funding of £30,000 per year for the five year scheme and to support the work of the Initiative under a Service Level Agreement with Ballymoney Regeneration Company.

(b) Town Centre Development

The Retail Capacity Study on the town centre has been complete and a meeting arranged to review and agree the final draft of the Health Check had taken place. A review of the structure for town centre management has been considered and a report will be brought to committee and the Chair had agreed to host a Stakeholder workshop to facilitate discussion on key town centre issues.

(c) Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Partnership

Work is advancing towards the revision of memorandum and Articles of Association and the election of a new Board in May 2012.

(d) Tourism Area Plan

The draft report has been received and consultation has taken place with the sector and elected members across the region.

(e) Rural Development Programme

i) Strategic projects

Cluster Strategic projects involving each of the Councils have been submitted to DARD. The Ballymoney project is a rural tourism infrastructural development on the Lower Bann at Drumaheglis involving a further phase of development comprising three elements:

- Installation of camping pods;
- Creation and installation of interpretation panels and downloadable apps detailing the history and background to the culture in the rural area around the river;
- Development of an outdoor activity centre.

Total project costs are £555,000, with estimated rural development grant of £471,750 and a balance of £83,250 to be met by Council, funded by a loan.

Members expressed support for further development of the lower River Bann for tourism purposes and the enhancement of Drumaheglis Marina and Caravan Park. Councillor Robinson, describing the facility as a magnificent site, which was highly prized and had been the subject of many favourable comments, paid credit to those involved in operating the site.

ii) Food Tourism Project

A consultant has been appointed and stakeholder consultations held.

(f) Village Regeneration Programme

An economic appraisal has been commissioned on the Dervock community hall application.

(g) Social Enterprise Programme

Work is progressing with regard to establishment of limited companies, targeted to be complete, including adoption of limited companies, by beginning of April.

A draft social enterprise support programme has been developed targeted at office bearers of the management committees for the new community halls.

233.9 PEACE III CLUSTER

A new Partnership Agreement for the North East PEACE III Partnership, 2011, has been completed by the constituent councils (led by Coleraine Borough Council) and sealed by Council at its last meeting. The agreement defines the rules and procedure for the work to be carried out and the relations that shall govern them within the North East Peace III Partnership set up to carry out the implementation of the Peace III programme, priority 1.1 which is part of the EU Structural Funds Programme.

233.10 TRANSLINK CONSULTATION FORUM

Arrangements have been made to establish a forum of regular meetings with Translink, on a by-annual basis. It is intended that these be held under the auspices of the Development Committee. Members are invited to consider the membership of the transport forum. **IT WAS AGREED** that all members be invited to participate in the transport forum which would meet in daytime and report to committee.

233.11 ECONOMIC STRATEGY

The NI Executive has published, March 2012, its Economic Strategy, Priorities for Sustainable Growth and Prosperity – Building a Better Future. The strategy has been developed by the Executive to meet the particular needs of the economy. It follows two periods of public consultation where the Executive set out their vision and priorities for sustainable economic growth and prosperity. The overarching goal of the strategy is to improve the economic competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy.

233.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3rd Wednesday of the month at 6.30pm.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 5.29pm.