

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 393 held in the Committee Room, Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre on Tuesday 20th March 2012 at 7.00pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Alderman F Campbell

PRESENT: **Aldermen**
B Kennedy

Councillors
J Atkinson
W Blair
J Finlay
C McLaughlin
E Robinson

APOLOGIES: **Aldermen**
H Connolly
C Cousley, MBE

Councillor
R McAfee
R Halliday

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Borough Services [Items 1-9]
Deputy Director Borough Services [Items 1-9]
Director of Central and Leisure Services [Items 10-20]
Committee Clerk

393.1 MINUTES MEETING NO 392 – 21ST FEBRUARY 2012

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

to recommend that the Minutes of Meeting No 392 – 21st February 2012 as circulated, be approved.

1.1 Matters Arising 392.1

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

to recommend that Council move the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting from Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre to Riada House.

AMENITIES

393.2 DERVOCK & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION REQUEST

Recent correspondence has been received from Dervock & District Community Association seeking permission to erect a sculpture and associated interpretative panel on the Council's land at Riverside Park, Dervock. The sculpture etc would celebrate Dervock's links with the linen industry.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council grant the permission sought subject to the proviso that Dervock & District Community Association be responsible for all project costs.

Director circulated a sketch of the proposed sculpture and advised members that it was the intent also to provide an associated interpretative panel. He intimated that permission ought to be subject to Council approval of the final proposals.

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

to recommend that Council grant Dervock & District Community Association permission to erect a sculpture and associated interpretative panel on the Council's land at Riverside Park, Dervock, subject to the provisos that the Association be responsible for all project costs and obtains Council approval for its finalised proposals.

393.3 DRD ACTIVE TRAVEL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS FUNDING

Members are informed that, following the establishment of the Department for Regional Development (DRD) Active Travel Forum in March 2010, the Department is currently inviting applications from local councils to take forward demonstration projects over the period April 2012-March 2015, with a closing date of Friday 18 May 2012.

- These projects should be tailored to demonstrating innovative ways of providing opportunities for active travel and its promotion to help people choose more sustainable and active transport modes such as walking and cycling, linked to public transport
- DRD envisage providing capital funding totalling approx £3million to support 3-6 key demonstration projects and a number of smaller projects as funding permits
- DRD require a high level of political and senior officer commitment to the programme

Ballymoney has already shown a commitment to active travel through the Oscar Faber Cycling Feasibility Study 1999 and the subsequent off- road shared use path development, culminating more recently in the Connect2 project currently underway. Members may recall in March 2011 expressing an interest at the RTPi "Place Matters" conference in Belfast towards Ballymoney being part of a pilot scheme aimed at reducing car usage, increasing use of public transport and environmentally friendly modes of transportation including walking and cycling.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee/Council agreed to a funding bid being submitted to the DRD Active Travel Demonstration Projects incorporating the following aspects:

- the bid to comprise a capital infrastructure element to build upon the shared use network already established, to complete the vision of a Ballymoney Wheel radiating out from the public transport network to communities, schools and workplaces;
- a bid in conjunction with partners including Coleraine Borough Council, Roads Service, Sustrans and the Public Health Agency in consideration of drawing down funding for a "Bike It" Officer to work between both Council areas; and

- to include a range of revenue projects alongside a Bike It officer to encourage, educate and enthuse on the benefits of active travel for well being, quality of life the environment and the economy.

The Director intimated that when the outcome of the funding bid process would be known the matter would again be brought to Committee / Council to determine how it wished then to proceed.

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

to recommend that Council agree, in principle, to a funding bid being submitted to the DRD Active Travel Demonstration Projects incorporating the aspects outlined above.

393.4 REQUEST FOR USE OF RIADA STADIUM

Correspondence has been received from Ballymoney Royal Black District Chapter No. 5 seeking use of “the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre Car Park, toilet facilities and the Riada Stadium for the County Antrim Grand Black Chapter demonstration to be held in Ballymoney on Saturday 31st August 2013”. Although it will be necessary to clarify a number of matters, **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Council accede to the request subject to the usual provisos of traffic management, site tidy-up and the provision of additional toilet facilities on the part of the organisers.

The Director advised that the requestee had been made aware that the Stadium had to be available for use by either of the two teams who could only fulfil their respective league fixtures by playing at the venue and that it was unlikely that the 2013-2014 fixtures would be known prior to May 2013. This had been accepted

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

to recommend that Council accede to the request to use its Riada Stadium, etc for the County Antrim Grand Black Chapter demonstration to be held in Ballymoney on Saturday 31st August 2013 on the understanding that the venue is not required for a fixture which could only be played there, subject to the usual provisos of traffic management, site tidy-up and provision of additional toilet facilities on the part of the organisers.

393.5 TRANSLINK ULSTER IN BLOOM COMPETITION 2012

As in previous years **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Council enter Ballymoney town in the 2012 Translink Ulster in Bloom competition.

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

to recommend that Council enter Ballymoney town in the 2012 Translink Ulster in Bloom competition.

* Councillor Finlay left the meeting at 7.17pm.

393.6 DERVOCK 2012 JOINT WORKING GROUP

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee adopt the Minutes of Meeting No. 10 of the Dervock 2012 Joint Working Group held on 15th March 2012, attached as Appendix A.

Councillor Robinson raised an issue that had been raised at this meeting and the Director advised that he would clarify matters by meeting with the Chair of the Association.

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

to recommend that Committee adopt the Minutes of Meeting No. 10 of the Dervock 2012 Joint Working Group held on 15th March 2012, attached as Appendix A.

393.7 BALLYMONEY CEMETERY MEMORIALS

Applications have been received as undernoted for the erection of memorials in Ballymoney Cemetery.

Section 8 No. 177

Addition of kerb set to existing headstone

Section H4 No. 44

All polished granite Headstone and Base

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council grant permission for the above memorials to be erected in Ballymoney Cemetery, subject to usual requirements.

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

to recommend that Council grant permission for the above memorials to be erected in Ballymoney Cemetery, subject to usual requirements.

393.8 CORRESPONDENCE RE. ST JAMES'S LODGE

A request has been received regarding sewerage arrangements at the above new nursing home. The Director provided members with additional information at the meeting and responded to Member questions concerning a number of issues regarding the wayleave being sought.

- * **Councillor Atkinson left the meeting at 7.40pm.**
- * **Councillor Atkinson returned to the meeting at 7.44pm.**

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

to recommend that Committee further consider the matter when the issues highlighted had been clarified by those seeking the wayleave through Council property.

393.9 BUS SHELTER AT BALLYBOGEY

Alderman Kennedy raised concern that the Bus Shelter at Ballybogey was now not situated to best serve local need as regards those waiting for school buses and asked that the matter be examined. The Director undertook to have the necessary work undertaken and bring a report to a future Committee meeting.

- * Director of Borough Services left the meeting at 7.50pm.
- * Deputy Director Borough Services left the meeting at 7.50pm.
- * Alderman Kennedy left the meeting at 7.51pm.
- * Councillor Robinson left the meeting at 7.51pm.
- * Director of Central and Leisure Services arrived at the meeting at 7.55pm.
- * Councillor Robinson returned to the meeting at 7.55pm.

LEISURE SERVICES

393.10 COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2012/13 – DSD FUNDING

The Department for Social Development (DSD) has offered grant as follows –

Community Support General	£25,020.59
Advice Grant	<u>£12,244.00</u>
	£37,264.59

The Grant for 2012/13 is at the same level as received for 2011/12 and budgets for these amounts have been included for 2012/13.

In order to claim the full Advice Grant for the Advice Services Provider the Council has to make a contribution of at least £15,956 to Advice Services.

The Council currently has a Service Level Agreement with the Causeway Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to provide generalist advice services in Ballymoney.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that a similar agreement is put in place with the CAB for 2012/13 with funding of £28,200 provided, pending the outcome of the on-going review of generalist advice services in the Causeway Cluster of Councils.

The Letter of Offer has been signed and returned accepting the grant for 2012/13.

The Director responded to member questions.

It was proposed by Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Blair and **AGREED:**

to recommend that Council have a Service Level Agreement with the Causeway CAB for 2012/13 and provide funding of £28,200 to include the use of the Town Hall.

393.11 COMMUNITY FESTIVAL FUND 2012/13 – DCAL FUNDING

The Director advised that the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) has offered grant not exceeding £4000 for 2012/13. This is the same level of grant received in 2011/12. Council has budgeted to match the DCAL funding in 2012/13.

The Letter of Offer has been signed and returned accepting the grant of £4000 for 2012/13.

393.12 COMMUNITY FESTIVAL FUND 2012/13

The Council has set a budget of £8000 for the Community Festival Fund for 2012/13 50% of which is grant aided by the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure.

The following timetable is **RECOMMENDED** for the 2012/13 Fund –

Week Commencing 9th April 2012 – Call for applications advertised

- 3rd May 2012 - closing date for receipt of applications
- 15th May 2012 - applications considered by L&A committee
- 6th June 2012 - Council approve grants

Festivals eligible to be considered for funding will take place between 7th June 2012 and 31st March 2013.

IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED that the current years Application Form and Guidance Notes be used for the 2012/13 scheme subject to any changes required by members.

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

to recommend that Council approve the Community Festival Fund Timetable 2012/13 as outlined above and that the current years' Application Form and Guidance Notes be used for the 2012/13 scheme.

393.13 COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT SCHEME 2012/13

The Council has set a budget of £5000 for the 2012/13 Community Support Grant Scheme.

In 2011/12 the main conditions of the Grant Scheme were:

- grants of £200 maximum, and
- only 1 grant per group per annum.

Committee is invited to consider the criteria and conditions for the 2012/13 grant scheme.

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

to recommend that Council apply the 2011/12 criteria and conditions for the 2012/13 grant scheme.

393.14 GOOD RELATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Good Relations Sub-committee meeting held on 8th March 2012 are attached as Appendix B.

Committee is invited to consider the conditions for the Small Grants Scheme for 2012/13.

A summary report of projects and events delivered in 2011/12 was also circulated.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the minutes and decisions contained therein are approved.

Councillor Robinson considered reducing the number of grants allocated from 3 to 2no. with a maximum of £350 being awarded per application.

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

to recommend that Council reduce the number of Good Relations grants per annum to 2 per group in 2012/13.

* **Councillor Atkinson left the meeting at 8.44pm.**

The Director drew members' attention to the different conditions applying to the various grant schemes.

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

to recommend that Council leave all other conditions of the Small Grants Scheme unchanged for 2012/13.

393.15 GOOD RELATIONS GRANTS

The following applications for grants were considered:

- (i) Topp Star of the North Pipe Band for assistance towards an Ulster Scots Cultural Evening.
- (ii) Bendooragh Apprentice Boys Cultural Society for assistance towards a Cultural Weekend.
- (iii) Castle Community Association for assistance towards a Reminiscence Evening.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that £350.00 each is awarded to the above 3 groups.

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

to recommend that Council grant £350 each to (i) Topp Star of the North Pipe Band for assistance towards an Ulster Scots Cultural Evening, (ii) Bendooragh Apprentice Boys Cultural Society for assistance towards a Cultural Weekend and (iii) Castle Community Association for assistance towards a Reminiscence Evening.

393.16 MARY PETERS TRUST – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Dame Mary Peters, President of the Mary Peters Trust has written to Council requesting financial support to help maintain the Trusts capital base to ensure that the level and value of Sporting awards continues to grow.

In 2010 the Trust disbursed over £60,000 to 200 young people representing over 300 sports.

Committee is invited to consider the request.

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

to recommend that Council grant Mary Peters Trust £200 to help support the Trusts capital base to ensure that the level and value of Sporting awards continues to grow.

393.17 FOLD BRAIN BUS

The Northern Health & Social Care Trust are working in partnership with FOLD Housing Association to develop a research project whereby people with mild memory problems who are at a high risk of developing Alzheimers Dementia can be identified. The research project will involve the use of the FOLD Brain Bus. The Brian Bus, believed to be the first of its kind in Europe provides a mobile, colourful, non-stigmatising environment which can be deployed in any area, reducing travel and improving access.

The FOLD Association are requesting the use of a Council venue with a car park to facilitate the bus, eg a leisure centre. The duration of the project is 12-15 weeks.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council grant the use of the car park for the FOLD Brain Bus.

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

to recommend that Council grant the use of the Leisure Centre car park for the FOLD Brain Bus.

393.18 JOEY DUNLOP LEISURE CENTRE – CLOSURE ON PUBLIC/BANK HOLIDAYS 2012/13

For economic reasons **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre close on the following bank holidays in 2012/2013

Sunday 8 th April 2012	Easter Sunday	- Closed (Staff to take Leave)
Monday 9 th April 2012	Easter Monday	- Closed
Tuesday 5 th June 2012	Queen's Jubilee	- Closed (if Council wishes)
Thursday 12 th July 2012	12 th July 2012	- Closed
Friday 13 th July 2012	13 th July 2012	- Closed
Tuesday 25 th Dec 2012	Christmas Day	- Closed
Wednesday 26 th Dec	Boxing Day	- Closed
Tuesday 1 st Jan 2013	New Years Day	- Closed

Staff have indicated agreement to take leave on Easter Sunday 8th April 2012. Members views are sought regarding closing on the Queens Diamond Jubilee holiday on 5th June 2012.

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

to recommend that Council close the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre on the stated bank holidays in 2012/13 as outlined above.

Councillor Robinson thanked the staff for their support.

393.19 BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN COMMUNITIES (BRIC) – PRESENTATION TO COMMITTEE

Building Relationships in Communities (BRIC) has requested an opportunity to make a presentation to Council on their work with local communities.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that BRIC representatives are invited to make a presentation to the April committee meeting. Committee meeting to commence at 6.30pm on the 17th April 2012.

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

to recommend that Council invite BRIC representatives to make their presentation to the committee meeting on 17th April at 6.30pm.

393.20 COMMUNITY CENTRES – LEASE AGREEMENTS

Work is progressing well into the Community Groups in Ballybogey, Stranocum and Balnamore regarding the formation of legal entities.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that once the lease is signed by the new groups the buildings are handed over.

The lease will subsequently be sealed by Council.

It was proposed by Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Robinson and

AGREED:

to recommend to Council that once the lease is signed by the new groups, the buildings are handed over.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 9.03pm.

Appendix A: Minutes of Dervock 2012 Joint Working Group, 15 March 2012

Appendix B: Minutes of Good Relations Sub-Committee, Thursday 8th March 2012

Ballymoney Borough Council**Dervock 2012 Joint Working Group****held in the Dalriada Room, Riada House, Ballymoney****Meeting No. 10****15 March 2012, 2.35pm****Present:****Ballymoney Borough Council
(BBC)**

Ald Harry Connolly
 Ald Bill Kennedy
 Cllr Evelyne Robinson
 Head of Corporate & Development
 Services (HCDS)
 Museum Manager (MM)
 Clerical Officer

**Dervock & District Community Association
(D&DCA)**

Mr Frankie Cunningham
 Mr David McKeown
 Mr Ivan Patrick, D&DCA Ltd

Springwell Running Club

Mr Bryan Edgar / Deputy Director of Borough
 Services (DDBS)

Apologies:

Ald Frank Campbell
 Mr Frank McLernon
 Ms Deirdre McCloskey
 Director of Borough Services
 (DBS)

10.1	Minutes Meeting No. 9 – 9th February 2012	
	<p>Mr Frankie Cunningham assumed the Chair.</p> <p>It was proposed by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Mr David McKeown and AGREED: <i>that the minutes of the Group's last meeting, No. 9 on 9th February 2012, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.</i></p>	
10.2	Matters Arising	

	<p>10.2.1 Derelict Property</p> <p>The recent DOE funding announcement to improve the Portrush area was noted. Cllr Robinson suggested to write to the DOE Minister seeking funding to address the derelict property in Dervock highlighting the events which are taking place. It was also suggested to write to the DCAL Minister seeking her department's support.</p> <p>The Chair advised D&DCA have obtained consent from specific property owners to progress with RDP funding application. Consultation with owners of two further properties is ongoing. If additional funding could be secured, more elaborate improvements on a further site could be carried out. It was agreed that Council and D&DCA write letters to the Ministers.</p> <p>Mr David McKeown will contact the owner of a cleared property and follow-up on D&DCA's request to use his property as a car park.</p>	<p>HCDS & F Cunningham D McKeown</p>
	<p>10.2.2 Public Meeting</p> <p>The Chair reported on a successful public meeting. Approximately 50 local people attended and 38 volunteers came forward to carry out tasks (steward, marshal, water stops and environmental duties). HCDS suggested to list tasks required, establish if more volunteers are needed and meet with volunteers. Discussion followed on the importance of keeping volunteers informed and their job satisfaction. Mr Bryan Edgar advised budget was set aside for special medals to recognise volunteers' contribution. The Chair agreed to forward volunteers' details to HCDS and Mr Bryan Edgar. Other suggestions for recruiting volunteers included Facebook, contacting local running clubs and young farmers' clubs. Mr Bryan Edgar advised he was placing the event on the Volunteer Now website to hopefully attract more volunteers. It was also suggested that all volunteers receive a personal invite to the exhibition launch.</p> <p>10.2.3 Twelfth Celebrations in Dervock</p> <p>The Chair informed members that the local flute band has agreed to consider the flag issue and clean-up of the village. It is hoped to fly a maximum 20 x Union, South African and Swedish flags alternately. HCDS advised the merchandise pack contains a flag possibly with the 2012 Olympics logo and multi-coloured bunting. It was agreed for D&DCA to obtain flag holders. Flags and poles to be purchased and in place by 3rd week of May. The street level detail of the Olympic torch relay will help decide where flags will be positioned. School involvement in making bunting from recycled materials was also suggested.</p> <p>10.2.4 Diamond Jubilee Fund</p> <p>In response to the Chair, HCDS advised bunting is an item which is ineligible for funding in the Council's Jubilee 2012 Events Fund. Expressions of interest are currently being sought.</p>	<p>F Cunningham</p> <p>D&DCA</p>

	<p>10.2.5 Bonfire Initiative The Chair asked if a NEELB representative could attend the next joint working group meeting. He would provide an update on the cultural background project involving youth people from the village.</p> <p>DDBS advised he is waiting on confirmation on the cost of the Beacon. It is hoped it will be in Dervock on Friday 20th July and/or Saturday 21st. The position of the beacon on the tower and the security of the crane need to be considered.</p> <p>10.2.6 DCAL Support Unfortunately time now means funding opportunities are unavailable.</p> <p>10.2.7 Community Facilities In response to the Chair, HCDS advised planning permission has been confirmed and the economic appraisal of the application has commenced. This would be completed in two months, at the earliest, when it will be assessed for RDP. Discussion followed on the community facilities plans and the needs of the local community. Mr David McKeown stressed the importance of consulting D&DCA on these plans.</p> <p>10.2.8 Cross Community Opportunities The Chair is to provide details on the joint school project to Alderman Connolly to progress plans.</p> <p>It was suggested to follow-up sponsorship for flowers and shrubs in person.</p>	<p>F Cunningham</p> <p>F Cunningham</p> <p>F Cunningham</p>
10.3	Funding	
	<p>The Chair advised that the application to Lloyds/TSB has been unsuccessful. Council's Community Festival Funding will open in the new financial year.</p>	
10.4	KK McArthur Festival of Running	
	<p>Mr Bryan Edgar advised following a Safety Advisory Group meeting with PSNI and Roads Service representatives the race route will run in an anti-clockwise direction. This means the start and finish positions will change. Direction signs, management plan and risk assessment are to be amended accordingly. The course is to be measured. DRD Roads Service have no objections to the lay-by's being used and have confirmed that pot holes will be repaired. The race promotion plan includes distributing flyers at the Belfast marathon and by running club members at other local races.</p> <p>Five/six banners have been designed by Dervock youths as part of a youth diversionary project funded by CSP. (Banner designs were circulated.) These may be positioned at road ends around the course or in the recreation grounds at the finish.</p>	B Edgar
10.5	Village Signage	
	<p>Regarding the village road signs it was understood that the order had been placed.</p>	
10.6	Torch Relay	

	<p>HCDS advised the torch relay route has been published. Details such as risk assessment, technical support (and its cost) and times are to be finalized. Ideas on dressing the route in addition to flowers on the barriers, face painting, fancy dress and balloon modeling were requested. The Chair gave a brief summary of events planned by D&DCA. The estimated number to attend is 3000. An invitation template has been provided for Council use.</p> <p>In response to the Chair, HCDS is to confirm the situation regarding mobile ice-cream / chip vans at the event. DDBS advised all mobile catering vans require a street trading licence.</p>	<p>HCDS</p> <p>HCDS</p>
10.7	Museum Exhibition	
	<p>MM gave details on the plans for the exhibition. The material and curator from South Africa will arrive on 2 April 2012. Confirmation is needed on whether a Council Official is also visiting.</p> <p>Big Lottery Fund can be used for a website. www.marathonmac2012.com is under development and it will provide a portal for all festival information including race entry forms and regular updates.</p> <p>Production of flyers and posters are also underway. Invitations to the opening of exhibition will be sent soon. Following discussion it was agreed to invite Dervock residents to a preview of the exhibition on Wednesday 4 April 2012. Letters will be distributed by D&DCA. A personal invite will be sent to the volunteers. A brief description of the opening ceremony was given.</p>	<p>MM</p> <p>MM/D&DCA</p>
	<p>School workshops run by local educational facilitator have also been organized (16-17 sessions in total). MM agreed to follow-up the possibility of NEELB funding for these workshops.</p>	
	Date of Next Meeting	
	<p>Thursday 19th April 2012, 2.30pm Dalriada Room, Riada House, 14 Charles Street, Ballymoney</p>	

Minutes of Good Relations Sub-Committee Meeting held on Thursday 8th March 2012 at 2.30pm in Riada House, Ballymoney

Present: Alderman Connolly
Alderman Cousley
Councillor Blair
Director of Central & Leisure Services (DCLS)
Good Relations Officer (GRO)

Apologies: Councillor Stevenson, Alderman Campbell

The Director invited a nomination to chair the meeting. It was proposed by Councillor Blair, seconded by Alderman Cousley that Alderman Connolly chair the meeting.

Alderman Connolly took the chair.

1. Minutes of Meeting on 2nd November 2011

It was proposed by Councillor Blair, seconded by Alderman Cousley and Agreed that the minutes of the Sub Committee meeting on 2nd November 2011 were a correct record of the business.

2. Review of 2011/12 Action Plan

The Good Relations Officer presented a report on all the Good Relation projects and events that have taken place during 2011/12 year. He explained that some projects were being delivered during March.

The Good Relations Officer drew attention to the good practice trip for Councillors and suggested a trip to Londonderry. Members agreed that this would be an interesting trip and should be arranged for the end of March.

Alderman Connolly commented on the wide range of good relations projects that had taken place throughout the borough in 2011/12 and acknowledged the work done by the GRO.

The Director advised that additional money had been allocated to the Small Grant Scheme budget and that the total programme budget for the year was expended.

3. 2012/13 Action Plan and Budget

The Director explained to members the projects to be delivered under the 2012/13 Action Plan. She suggested that in light of the level of grants awarded in 2011/12, the Small Grant Scheme budget should be increased by £3000, with a corresponding saving made in the bonfire programme budget.

It was agreed that the Small Grant Scheme budget be increased to £13000 and the bonfire programme budget reduced to £3000 in 2012/13.

It was further agreed that no other changes were required to the Action Plan. The Director advised that OFMDFM had not yet issued its offer of grant for 2012/13.

4. Small Grants Scheme

It was agreed that the conditions of the Small Grants Scheme for 2012/13 would be considered at the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting.

5. Date of next meeting

It was Agreed that the next meeting of the Sub Committee be held in June 2012 at 2.30pm in Riada House, date to be confirmed at the Leisure and Amenities committee meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 3.30pm