

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Table of Contents:-

236.1	Minutes of meeting No 235 – 16 th May 2012	<i>Approved</i>
236.2	Events	<i>Update</i>
236.3	Project updates	<i>Meet cost of fees</i>
	3.1 Rivers Inland Waterways Project (Drumaheglis) (Interreg)	<i>Approve revised project costs and funding plan</i>
	3.2 Innovation and Growth	
	3.3 Lower Bann Rural Tourism Project (Drumaheglis Strategic Project) (RDP)	<i>Procure economic appraisal & settle budget provision</i>
	3.4 Dervock Community Hall Project (RDP)	
	3.5 Food Sector Support Programme (CP)	<i>Committee confirm funding of £5000 2012/13 & 2013/14</i>
	3.6 Dalriada Drives Study (RDP)	
	3.7 Townscape Heritage Initiative (HLF)	<i>Extend project post</i>
	3.8 Social Enterprise	
	3.9 Tourism Forum	
	3.10 Exploring Enterprise Forum	<i>Confirm funding</i>
	3.11 Dark Hedges	
236.4	Strategy Updates	
	4.1 Town Masterplan (DSD)	
	4.2 Town Centre Taskforce	
	4.3 Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Area Plan	<i>Endorse plan 2012-17</i>
	4.4 Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust	
	4.5 Interegg V Lobby Paper	
236.5	Busines Plan 2012/13	<i>Approve plan</i>
236.6	International Links	
	6.1 Visit from Tlokwe City Council	<i>Receive delegation & host civic reception</i>

	6.2 Visit to Vanves	<i>Council host reception for team & officials</i>
236.7	Funding to Address Derelict Sites	
236.8	Energy Initiatives	<i>For information</i>
	8.1 Wind Farm Visit & Onshore Wind Seminar	
	8.2 Sustainable Energy Project – Ballymoney	<i>Receive presentation</i>
	8.3 Renewable Energy Project	<i>Receive presentation</i>
236.9	Expansion of Ecar Project	<i>Receive presentation</i>
236.10	Bushmills Dunes Golf Resort & Spa at Runkerry	<i>Defer for further consideration</i>
236.11	Coast Reaching Out Programme for Older People	<i>Support funding application</i>
236.12	Mobile Phone Network	<i>Make representations to DETI & mobile phone companies</i>
236.13	Events – Milk Cup	<i>Host reception in Ballymoney as usual</i>

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Development Meeting No 236, held in the McKinley Room, Riada House, Ballymoney on Wednesday 20th June 2012 at 7.00pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J Finlay [Item 1-6]
Councillor J Atkinson [Item 7-13]

PRESENT: **Aldermen**
F Campbell
C Cousley, MBE

Councillors
W Blair
A Cavlan
R Halliday
C McLaughlin
E Robinson

APOLOGIES: **Aldermen**
H Connolly
B Kennedy

Councillors
R McAfee
P McGuigan

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Head of Corporate & Development Services

236.1 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 235 – 16th May 2012

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 235 – 16th May 2012, as circulated, be approved.

236.2 EVENTS

The Pipe Band Championship was delivered on 2nd June and a follow up review meeting with all parties will be held. Councillor Finlay said this had proved an excellent event attracting a large number of visitors and the shuttle bus had been of benefit in bring visitors into the town centre. The annual show, which was on the same day, had also attracted a large number of visitors.

The Olympic Torch Event took place in Dervock on 1st June when some 3,000 lined the route. The Torch Party promoted by Dervock & District Community Association was also a very successful event. The Dervock Project Group met on

23rd and 28th May to settle arrangements for the torch visit, including equipment requirements, dressing the route, environmental improvements, insurance for land/property utilised, car parking/signage. New road signs were erected by DRD Roads Service in advance of the event.

Members commented favourably on the organisation of the event and the excellent response from the public in lining the route to welcome the Olympic torch to the borough area.

The programme of 2012 inspired events celebrating the Diamond Jubilee and London 2012 continue and a report will be presented on completion of the programme.

236.3 PROJECT UPDATES

3.1 RIVERS – Inland Waterways Project (Drumaheglis) (Interreg)

Meeting of the Rivers Board took place on 7th June and following due diligence meetings and discussions with CPD, SEUPB and NEP arrangements for the management of the Ballymoney element of the project by the Council and its Council's consultants and procurement process have been agreed. This will require request to funder for re-profiling of spend. Revised proposal to NITB, to whom a match funding application has been made, incorporating agreed additional elements has been progressed.

Following discussion with the other funders, NITB, NEP (Interreg), it had been agreed that Council meet the cost of fees and request reallocation of the fee amounts to the construction costs budget line. Arising from consideration of the project with NITB the additional items agreed, furniture and equipment and interpretative panels on the history of the site etc had been costed and a revised project funding plan submitted to both funders. Project funding is revised as follows: Interreg £294,270, NITB £199,344, with Council meeting the balance of £60,806.40. This change to budget lines will not affect the project outputs originally agreed and the transfer of the budget will aid project implementation as it will enable the project to proceed on the timelines proposed. Subject to receipt of letters of offer tenders will be invited.

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

to recommend that Council agree to meet the cost of fees and approve the revised project costs and funding plan.

It was reported that the terms of reference for the baseline study have now been agreed between all the partners and SEUPB. These now must be reviewed by NISRA and once approved can be issued to Ballymena council's select list.

The interviews for the Project Manager position took place on the 28th May and Ann Artt would take up the position on 2nd July.

3.2 Innovation and Growth

The tender process for this project is now complete and a preferred delivery agent has been selected.

3.3 Lower Bann Rural Tourism Project (Drumaheglis Strategic Project) (RDP)

The funding programme for this project has opened and the application is being prepared for submission, together with a business case, by the deadline of 22nd June. Planning permission has been applied for. Council was required to submit an Economic Appraisal (Green Book) by the end of July to support the application, for which no budget provision was available, estimated cost £5,000.

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

to recommend that Council make arrangements to procure an economic appraisal for the RDP Strategic Project application for the Drumaheglis project and that budget provision be settled following closure of the current years accounts.

3.4 Dervock Community Hall Project (RDP)

The project, seeking funding of £247,000, is listed to be considered by the RDP Assessment Panel this month.

3.5 Food Sector Support Programme (CP)

Coleraine Borough Council (the lead Council) on this cluster regional programme, has secured funding of £144,168 from Invest NI/EU, under the competitiveness programme. Council had committed £5,000 to the programme over two financial years at application stage. An expression of interest has been lodged through our business survey. There are four elements to the programme.

- SME to multinational
- Retail to Manufacturing
- Branding
- Salsa Accreditation

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell seconded by Councillor Atkinson and **AGREED**

that committee confirm funding of £5,000 towards this project in the years 2012/13 and 2013/14.

3.6 Dalriada Drives Study (RDP)

The study has now been signed off and proposals contained therein are being further developed for submission to funders. Arrangements are in hand to organise a workshop to present outline proposals for tourism trails and associated infrastructural projects.

3.7 Townscape Heritage Initiative (HLF)

Final grant claim has been prepared for submission. Issues raised by HLF in the consideration of the application will be addressed and preparations as agreed in our proposal are being progressed.

The Round 2 submission is due to be considered by the Northern Ireland HLF Committee, at a meeting scheduled for 25th September 2012. It is **recommended** that Council agree to extend, the Project post assigned to Ballymoney Regeneration Company. In order to respond to queries for further information from HLF during the assessment process and undertake specific tasks and maintain the profile of Ballymoney THI whilst the Round 2 THI submission is being assessed, the cost being met from unexpended THI project budget, with a request also being submitted to HLF to utilise their unexpended grant to support the proposed activity. The costs involved being HLF £3,148.92, Council match funding is £1,049.64.

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

to recommend that Council agree to extend, the Project post assigned to Ballymoney Regeneration Company, In order to respond to queries for further information from HLF during the assessment process and undertake specific tasks and maintain the profile of Ballymoney THI whilst the Round 2 THI submission is being assessed, the cost being met from unexpended THI project budget, with a request also being submitted to HLF to utilise their unexpended grant to support the proposed activity. The costs involved being HLF £3,148.92, Council match funding is £1,049.64.

3.8 Social Enterprise

A social enterprise support and training programme for the community halls is being developed. Policies have been developed, with the support of Supporting Communities, on accident reporting. Bookings policy, fees policy, complaints procedure, drugs and alcohol policy, equal opportunities policy, child and vulnerable adults policy and IT policy. Council requirements in relation to emergency evacuation procedures, fire safety, health & hygiene and smoking policies have been identified for incorporation into policies.

Members noted that the three new community centres were not operating under the new management arrangements put in place. The Office of the Chief Executive was co-ordinating monitoring activity and communication issues and would continue to facilitate initiatives to support the new arrangements.

3.9 Tourism Forum

A meeting of representatives from the borough tourism sector was held to receive a presentation from Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Partnership on membership benefits, detail of work programme and marketing activities and outline of recent developments in the region and some major issues and challenges facing the sector as it goes forward. The opportunity was also taken to update the businesses on local tourism developments, events, initiatives and marketing activity. It was agreed that a local tourism forum be established,

meeting quarterly to support the tourism sector. Terms of reference will be developed for agreement by committee and the sector representatives.

3.10 Exploring Enterprise Programme

The Committee received satisfactory evaluation report on the programme supported in 2011/12 under which 2 courses were successfully delivered to 20 participants, all achieving level 2 certificate in business enterprise, 7 going into self-employment, 6 into employment and 3 going on to further education/training.

Members commended the success of this programme delivered by the local enterprise agency.

It was proposed by Councillor Cavlan seconded by Alderman Campbell:

to recommend that committee confirm its funding of £5,000 towards continuation of the programme in 2012/13.

3.11 Dark Hedges

The proposal for “brown” tourism signs has been advanced by the Dark Hedges Trust and are expected to be in place soon. The trees are now protected by a tree preservation order, issued by Planning Service, while a grant award by HLF will ensure that the uniqueness of the trees are preserved and promoted through on-site interpretation. Committee welcomed the visitor enhancement of this iconic landmark in the borough.

236.4 STRATEGY UPDATES

4.1 Town Masterplan (DSD)

Tenders have been invited for this assignment and it is expected that an award will be made in the next few weeks. It is important that the this plan would be aligned with the Townscape Heritage Initiative and some work is being progressed in this regard. We are also continuing to examine additional funding opportunities to support this initiative.

4.2 Town Centre Taskforce

In association with the Chamber of Commerce we hosted a Department for Social Development ‘High Street Meeting’ on Wednesday 13th June 2012 in the Borough Offices.

The purpose of the meeting was to enable local traders and business people to put their views on the future of our local high streets, town and city centres to DSD senior officials working on a taskforce set up by Nelson McCausland MLA, Minister for Social Development. This was one of some 29 meetings across Northern Ireland.

On 7 February 2012 the Minister announced that in response the Mary Portas report on how to halt the decline of Britain’s high streets he was setting up a taskforce of senior officials to respond to the difficult trading challenges facing Northern Ireland’s High Streets. The taskforce will review the support which the Department already provides to regenerate town centres to see whether this might be further strengthened in light of the

recommended actions identified by Mary Portas, and also reflect Northern Ireland's trading circumstances.

The Minister has met with stakeholder business representative groups to hear their views and the task force is now working with ATCM, NIIRTA and Council arranged a series of 'High Street Meetings' during May and June 2012 with the aim of reporting to directly to the Minister the views and recommendations of Northern Ireland's business community on how to improve the performance of our local high streets.

The issues identified by the business representatives included:

- The expense young entrepreneurs face in setting up in business – particularly the high level of rates. It was the view of the meeting that more should be done to support these businesses and to encourage new start ups.
- The loss of identity of small towns
- Growth of out of town shopping centres and the need for planning policy on "out-of-town" shopping to be reviewed and measures introduced to strengthen the enterprise base of small towns.
- Dereliction and vacancy arising from the current economic conditions is affecting most towns, as such sites impact adversely on the appearance of towns. Government intervention to help address this problem in the short term is required.
- A review of the law in relation to charity shops and to secure better regulation.
- Initiatives to support the strengthening of the evening economy.
- Investment to enhance public transport facilities in the town is long overdue and would make travel by rail and bus a more attractive option.
- Review of traffic management.

4.3 Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Area Plan

Background

The Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Area Plan 2012-2017 "Growing Tourism Together" is a roadmap to guide partners and the industry in a concerted effort to build tourism in the region. An Action Plan 2012-2017 accompanies the Area Plan.

This plan takes into account DETI's Draft Tourism Strategy for NI 2020 and the prioritised plans and actions which reflect member councils' local tourism strategies and action plans. The plan sets out the ambitions for the Causeway Coast and Glens' tourism industry over the next 5 years and provides a focus for the development of the tourism potential of the region through a public/private partnership approach.

Consultation

Council members were given the opportunity to attend a special session with the consultants. In addition, Council officers and both members and non-members of CCAG RTP were surveyed by means of person to person interviews, workshops and email surveys.

Findings

Key strategic themes and actions

The extensive consultations suggest that the future tourism competitiveness and success of the Causeway Coast and Glens destination is dependent on actions aligned to 7 strategic themes:

1. Visitor Management and Dispersal
2. Develop the landscape, cultural and heritage assets
3. Build the region's image and identity
4. Create and build an exceptional visitor experience
5. Improve tourism access to and use of technology
6. Improve transport infrastructure and links
7. Develop strong partnerships and networks

The actions in the action plan are aligned to the above themes.

Financial Implications

Implementation of the action plan is set against the context of constrained financial resources. While funding is in place for a number of the actions detailed, many of the actions depend on accessing additional funding sources.

The Tourism Area Plan will be officially launched in early July.

Copy of the published Tourism Area Plan and Action Plan 2012-2017 is tabled and copies are available from the Office of the Chief Executive.

It is **recommended** that the Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Area Plan and Action Plan 2012-2017 is endorsed.

It was proposed by Councillor Cavlan seconded by Councillor Robinson and **AGREED:**

that the Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Area Plan and Action Plan 2012-2017, as presented, be endorsed.

It was reported that the Plan would be officially launched by the Tourism Minister on 3rd July.

4.4 Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust

Arrangements for a workshop to take place on 29th June on the work and activities of the Trust and to present the Landscape Partnership Scheme had been postponed due to other commitments and would be re-arranged.

4.5 Interreg V Lobby Paper

It is reported by NEP that an INTERREG V working group, involving the 5 managers and Chairs of the cross border groups along with a council Chief Executive and / or county manager from each, was set up to produce a lobby paper regarding what the new INTERREG V programme might look like.

After various meetings with DFP officials regarding the draft EU regulations around community led economic development (Article 28) and the national procedures which need to be implemented before the funding streams can be finalized (the Partnership Contracts) and much internal discussion, a lobby paper was developed. The paper was tabled and would be circulated to members.

The paper proposes that each cross border group would develop strategic plans for their area and that these would receive a pot of funding and we could get on with delivery; as opposed to having to lodge individual applications for every project. This is essentially going back to the idea of the multi-annual plans - as was supposed to happen under INTERREG IV. There would also be flexibility built in, so that the Partnership could also apply directly to SEUPB for say larger capital build projects (depending on what 4 of the following 11 eligible themes the Operating Programme focuses on):

Eligible themes:

1. Research & innovation
2. Information and communication technologies (ICT)
3. Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)
4. Shift towards a low-carbon economy
5. Climate change adaptation & risk prevention and management
6. Environmental protection & resource efficiency
7. Sustainable transport & removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures
8. Employment & supporting labour mobility
9. Social inclusion & combating poverty
10. Education, skills & lifelong learning
11. Institutional capacity building & efficient public administrations

It should be noted that tourism infrastructure is not on the list of eligible themes.

The lobby paper was presented to the Minister for Finance on the 7th June and each of the 8 NEP Council Chief Executives given a copy for comment. The conclusions and recommendations from the paper are as follows:

Conclusion

The five Local Authority led Cross Border Groups fully recognise that the European regulations and budgets for the period 2014-2020 have yet to be finalised. The INTERREG V Programme will reflect four of the eleven proposed ERDF thematic priorities but as yet these are to be determined by the Managing Authority, SEUPB and the Accountable Departments North and South. NEP will ensure that Strategic Plans will mirror the selected themes and investment priorities, in turn tying our proposed impacts to the EU2020 priorities and targets. The national and local strategies and priorities of both jurisdictions will also be reflected.

Recommendations

1. **That the Minister considers adapting the use of Article 28 for the inclusion of the Local Authority Led Cross Border Groups in the INTERREG VA Programme.**
2. **That the Minister invites the five Local Authority Led Cross Border Groups to develop strategic INTERREG VA Plans and that these are named in the N. Ireland Partnership Contracts in December 2012.**
3. **That the Minister invites the five Local Authority Led Cross Border groups to present the above model to the DFP Committee at Stormont.**
4. **That the Minister ensures that the five Local Authority Led Cross Border Groups are represented on the INTERREG VA Development Committee**
5. **That the Minister considers taking these proposals forward with his counterpart in the Republic of Ireland, Minister Brendan Howlin.**

Essentially it was felt that number 4 was the key recommendation, as being members of the development committee, would ensure that the cross border groups were genuinely involved in the development of the INTERREG V Programme, in conjunction with SEUPB.

Unfortunately, the Minister was not able to give us any assurance at this stage that NEP would be represented on the development committee, but he did promise that NEP would be consulted at various levels. In addition he commented that other groups / organisations were in competition with NEP to represent the local dimension – namely NILGA. Whilst NILGA have been very active recently in trying to position themselves as the conduit point for local government's interaction with every EU issue – as was pointed out to the minister - NILGA have no remit in the Republic of Ireland and therefore are not the appropriate body to represent cross-border economic development issues.

Further to the meeting with The Minister it has come to light that SEUPB suggested to him that the councils should make their own individual applications under the INTERREG V programme. That they could compete under each call and manage each project themselves. If this were to happen the result would be that the cross border groups would no longer be necessary. Furthermore it is believed it would mean that a few councils with a larger resource base would dominate this scenario and therefore it could quickly lead to many becoming entirely disillusioned and ceasing all involvement in cross border co-operation.

236.5 BUSINESS PLAN 2012/13

A draft business plan was presented.

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell seconded by Councillor Atkinson and
AGREED:

that the Draft Business Plan for Development Services 2012/13 be approved.

236.6 INTERNATIONAL LINKS

6.1 Visit from Tlokwe City Council

The Consultation Committee granted Council powers to settle arrangements for the visit by representatives from Tlokwe Council, South Africa.

The Chair advised that a party of nine from Tlokwe City Council were visiting the borough 17-22 July to take part in the McArthur Celebrations in Dervock and Ballymoney, and would have the opportunity to attend the specially commissioned play (19th), torchlight procession and re-enactment (20th) and festival of running. (21st) He **recommended** that Council host a Civic Reception on 18th July.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson seconded by Councillor Cavlan

that committee, acting with Council powers, receive the delegation during their stay and host a Civic Reception on 18th July.

6.2 Visit to Vanves

Members were delighted to learn of the success of the local cross-community football team on the recent visit to the football tournament in Vanves, which they had brought back the cup to Ballymoney.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson seconded by Councillor Cavlan and **AGREED:**

to recommend that Council host a reception for the team and officials to recognise their success.

**** The Chair retired from the meeting at this stage and it as agreed that the Chair be taken by Councillor Atkinson.**

236.7 FUNDING TO ADDRESS DERELICT SITES

Following representations to the Department of Environment for funding support for Ballymoney and Dervock as was provided to Portrush and Portstewart the Minister's Office has advised that while he would like to extend the principle of his Portrush/Portstewart intervention to other districts suffering similar problems, such projects can only be tackled if supporting funding is available. The principle of such intervention remains one in which the Minister believes and a goal towards which he continues to aspire to. As part of in year monetary rounds and end of year monies, further interventions should be identified. It was noted that the officer was arranging for a report to be collated in relation to both Ballymoney town and Dervock. It was agreed that this matter be kept under review. Members commended the excellent work which had been done in Portrush and Bushmills and expressed the hope that funding would be made available to allow similar environmental improvements to be advanced in this borough.

236.8 ENERGY INITIATIVES

8.1 Wind Farm Visit and Onshore Wind Seminar

Renewable UK are hosting one-day seminars designed for councillors and interested offices in NI.

8.2 Sustainable Energy Project – Ballymoney

A request from Murray Bell, Bell Architects, on behalf of a group of local businessmen, to present on a proposed sustainable energy project being developed for community benefit.

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

to recommend that committee receive the presentation.

8.3 Renewable Energy Project

A request on behalf of Simple Power Limited to present to Council on how the company approaches each potential single wind turbine site and subsequent planning application.

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

to recommend that committee receive he presentation.

236.9 EXPANSION OF ECAR PROJECT

The Department of Regional Development and Department of Environment are offering to arrange an update on ECAR progress a presentation to committee with a view to becoming part of the project. Council previously considered the pilot project and decided not to pursue.

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

to recommend that committee receive a presentation on this pilot project.

236.10 BUSHMILLS DUNES GOLF RESORT AND SPA AT RUNKERRY

Members further discussed the announcement that The National Trust was to mount a legal challenge to the granting of planning permission to this project comprising an 18-hole golf course and hotel complex, and projected to create 360 new jobs referred to committee by Consultation Committee (CC74.11)

Having noted that the challenge was based on a recommendation by UNESCO the body responsible for World Heritage designations and that it was expected that they would seek leave for a judicial review, it was proposed by Councillor McLaughlin seconded by Councillor Halliday and **AGREED:**

to recommend that committee defer further consideration of the matter pending the outcome of the application for judicial review.

236.11 COAST REACHING OUT PROGRAMME FOR OLDER PEOPLE

It was noted that Council had lent its support and appointed a representative on this organisation's sub-regional network which was active in the region. On this basis the Chief Executive had provided a letter of support to the organisation's application to the Big Lottery Reaching Out Programme. The extra support and funding for good morning schemes, volunteer support, befriending schemes, interagency partnership work, handyman schemes and other initiatives to support older citizens in the borough included in the application would complement Council services by adding value to activities available and improve the quality of life for citizens in the borough. It is **recommended** that Council endorse the letter of support to the funding body.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson seconded by Councillor Halliday and **AGREED:**

to recommend that Council lend its full support to the COAST funding application to the Big Lottery Reaching Out Programme for Older People.

236.12 MOBILE PHONE NETWORK

Discussion ensued regarding the poor mobile phone network coverage in the Borough, particularly in Dervock, evident at the recent Olympic torch event, in Ballybogey and Loughgiel. Problems were also reported with internet downtime.

It was agreed that representations be made to DETI and the mobile network companies.

236.13 EVENTS

In view of timelines and to enable a response the Officer sought members' advice in relation to a proposal put forward by Councils in the cluster involved in the Milk Cup for a jointly funded reception and gifts, with the reception rotating up to RPA.

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

that Council's desire is to host its reception in Ballymoney as usual.

This concluded the business of the meeting the time being 8.20 p.m.