

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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239.16		Broadband	<i>Request Assembly to write to Westminster</i>
239.17		Supplementary Planning Guidance to Policy PED 8 of Planning Policy Statement 4	<i>Noted</i>

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Development Meeting No 239, held in the McKinley Room, Riada House, Ballymoney on Wednesday 17th October 2012 at 7.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Alderman B Kennedy

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

Councillors
J Atkinson
W Blair
J Finlay
R Halliday
R McAfee
T McKeown
C McLaughlin
E Robinson
I Stevenson

APOLOGIES: **Alderman**
H Connolly

Councillor
P McGuigan

IN ATTENDANCE: Head of Corporate & Development Services
Committee Clerk

239.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Alderman Cousley declared an interest in item 11.1 Business Support Programme as a Director of Acorn the Business Centre.

239.2 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 238 – 19th SEPTEMBER 2012

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 238 – 19th September 2012, as circulated, be approved.

239.3 ECAR PROJECT

A presentation, on behalf of the Direct.gov.uk/Ecar Consortium, was received by Council on 1st October. The request to Council to participate in the project is

referred to committee for consideration. The scheme to join the Consortium runs until March 2013 with a cost to each Consortium member of £10,000 providing a minimum of five fixed cable charging points at identified locations representing an investment of £55,000.

- * Councillor McKeown and Councillor Finlay joined the meeting at 7.15 pm.

Members discussed issues relating to the location of charging points, regulation of energy suppliers, cost of electric vehicles and the benefits to Council of the investment.

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

that a further meeting be held with the representatives from Ecar Project.

239.4 A26 DUALLING

Committee considered the vesting order and the decision by DRD to hold a public inquiry on this infrastructure project at its September meeting. Council agreed to committee's recommendation to join with other councils on the route in making a submission to the public inquiry and to bear a share of the costs involved. Council has granted committee Council powers to make a decision on the draft submission. (Ref. CM967).

The Head of Corporate and Development Services put forward the Chief Executive's report that White Young Green Planning Consultants had been retained by Ballymena Borough Council and were working up a statement based on the views of Councils on the principle of progressing the A26 dualling scheme. As the anticipated draft submission is not complete **it was recommended**, that the submission be adopted in retrospect at Council's meeting in November.

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

to recommend that the draft submission be presented to Council's meeting in November for adoption in retrospect.

239.5 NORTH EAST PARTNERSHIP VACANCY

Councillor Robinson has withdrawn from membership of the NEP Joint Committee due to a conflict of interest. The DUP group has nominated Councillor Stevenson to fill the vacancy.

239.6 NORTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE CAMPUS AMALGAMATION PROPOSALS

This matter was referred to committee by Council (min 239.4, committee meeting, 238 of 19/9/2012 refers). An Extract from the minute was reproduced for members' convenience.

Members discussed the range of options which it was understood were being considered for the relocation or refurbishment of the two campuses and the amalgamation proposals.

Members expressed their strong support for retention of the Ballymoney campus having regard to its educational and economic benefits to the town. It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Robinson and **AGREED:**

that an invitation be extended to representatives of the Regional College to attend a meeting of Committee or alternatively, that a delegation from Committee visit the Regional College, to discuss the proposals for the Ballymoney and Coleraine campuses

239.7 TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

7.1 Town Masterplan

The DSD Minister has announced that Consultants URS have been appointed to commence work on the Ballymoney Town Centre Masterplan. The plan will provide a clear strategy for managing the regeneration of Ballymoney over the next 15-20 years. Information requirements have been provided to the consultant and the plan project team, with representatives from the various agencies, has been established. Further information on project plan and timelines and consultation arrangements will be presented to committee's next meeting. **It was recommended** that committee gives consideration to appointment of members to sit on town forum which would be the key stakeholder consultation group.

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

to recommend that the Chair of Committee sit on the Town Forum.

7.2 Ballymoney Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)

Heritage Lottery Fund announced on 11th October approval of the detailed proposals developed by Ballymoney Regeneration Company to restore and regenerate the historic townscape of Ballymoney, securing £1.29M grant.

It is **recommended** that:

1. A letter of offer received from HLF be accepted.
2. The appointment of Project Manager and Education Officer be progressed.
3. Representations to the Environment Minister regarding funding towards the scheme be supported.
4. Council funding plan for the project of £30,000 per annum be reviewed and increased to £50,000.

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

To recommend that:

1. ***A letter of offer received from HLF be accepted.***

2. ***The appointment of Project Manager and Education Officer be progressed.***
3. ***Representations to the Environment Minister about concerns regarding the Conservation Area Grant (CAG) annual budget and the associated grant bidding process be supported.***
4. ***Request for increased funding be tabled for further consideration at the next meeting of committee.***

7.3 Environmental Improvement Works

Outline plans for improvement to derelict property have been discussed. It is **recommended** that plans be drawn up and match funding considered.

Members discussed interim enhancement proposals for the Linenhall Street area for which an bid for funding had been made.

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

to recommend that plans be drawn up to support a bid for funding and that match funding of £10,000 be approved.

- * **Councillor McKeown, Councillor Finlay and Councillor Atkinson left the meeting at 8.10 pm.**

7.4 Christmas Programme

2012 Christmas programme has been developed in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. The Head of Corporate & Development Services presented outline details of Town Centre entertainment programme for Switch On Night (22nd November) and in the run up to Christmas, made possible through partnership with local groups. Having regard to current economic climate she **recommended** that Council meet the full cost of the electricity provision for Christmas Lighting in 2012 at an estimated cost of £1,800.

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

to recommend that Committee pay full cost of electricity for Christmas lighting at an estimated cost of £1,800.

Councillor McAfee advised on Halloween activity promoted in other areas and requested that Council consider Halloween events for 2013.

It was **AGREED** that the matter be tabled for the next meeting.

239.8 TOURISM MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT

8.1 Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme

The Access Audit has been completed by Outdoor NI on behalf of CCGHT. The audit and recommendations will be taken account of in the development of the Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Arrangements have been made for a workshop to present a progress report on the LPS Scheme to Committee on 29th October.

8.2 Altnarichard Visitor Facility

The outline of this project between Slieveanorra Forest and Breen Wood, developed and approved by Council to be advanced under the Rural Development Programme, has been further developed with a view to inclusion as a project under the Landscape Partnership Scheme.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised that the project will be discussed further at the presentation on 29th October.

8.3 Food Tourism Project

This project is being advanced in association with the private sector and a meeting is taking place with representatives from the DARD Supply Chain Programme following submission of an expression of interest for the programme. Other funding options are also being explored.

The Rural Development Council are also doing some research into the local food sector and how the next round of Rural Development funding could be shaped to best meet their needs.

8.4 Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (AONB)

A request from the Trust for funding towards its activities has been received and a presentation on their work and activities will be given at the workshop arranged for 29th October.

8.5 World Police & Fire Games

At the request of Chair of Assembly Culture, Arts & Leisure Committee, Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA, NILGA has written to Councils to encourage them to:

- Engage with the NITB to explore accommodation opportunities
- Raise the profile of volunteering within their communities; and
- Raise awareness of the Games among local businesses.

A response will be forwarded advising of Council's work towards these objectives.

8.6 2012 Inspired Events

The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised that there has been an excellent response to the "Knit a Square – Show You Care" initiative with organisations, groups, schools and individuals in the Borough exceeding the target of 2012. These were now being made into blankets for orphans in South Africa. A full report on events and grant programme will be tabled for the next meeting. An event to recognise the contribution of the volunteers would be organised.

8.7 The Gathering Ireland 2013

Initial discussions have taken place regarding a joint biking project. It is **recommended** that committee lend its support for this project and other 2013/14 anniversaries.

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

to recommend that Council support the 2012 Biking Gathering event and other 2013 commemorative events be considered at the next meeting.

239.9 VILLAGE RENEWAL/RURAL DEVELOPMENT

9.1 Village project applications:

The following village projects have been submitted to Rural Development Programme by 20th September:

- Dervock Riverside Project
- Rasharkin Wellbeing Project

9.2 Garry Bog Walkway

This project, put forward under the Dervock Village Action Plan is being explored by the Access to the Countryside Officer with NIEA and Forestry Service. Efforts are also being made to identify funding.

9.3 Dervock Community Centre Project (RDP)

A range of issues raised by DARD's economists have been addressed by Council and the Association and are now being reviewed by Council's consultant.

9.4 Drumaheglis Tourist Development Project (RDP Strategic Project)

A range of issues raised by DARD's economists have been addressed and further information prepared by Council's consultant. DARD have now given approval to RDP to move the project to full assessment and scoring.

9.5 Drumaheglis RIVERS Project (Interreg/NITB)

The project has now moved to implementation and tenders invited. A letter of offer has been received from NITB. It is **recommended** that the offer of grant of £179,730 under the NITB Tourist Development Scheme (TDS) (Tourism) (Financial Assistance) Scheme 1992) be accepted.

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

to recommend that the offer of grant, £179,730, under the NITB Tourist Development Scheme (TDS) (Tourism) (Financial Assistance) Scheme 1992) be accepted including a commitment to meet any overrun costs.

* **Councillor McLaughlin left the meeting at 8.30 pm.**

239.10 SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND (SIF)

Members will recall a consultation event earlier this year. Following engagement during May and June with statutory bodies OFMDFM have now progressed with appointment of the community/voluntary, political and council representatives to the steering group and engaged consultants to work alongside them in the development of strategic area plans.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Alderman Cousley declared an interest in item 11.1 as a Director of Acorn the Business Centre. Alderman Cousley left the meeting at 8.35pm.

239.11 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

11.1 Business Support Programme

Following on the success of the exploring enterprise programme, supported by Council, and the demand for support to assist development of business plans it is **recommended** that Council provide funding, up to £3,000, to Acorn the Business Centre to provide free tailored business advice service to up to 60 businesses in the borough.

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

to recommend that Council provide funding, up to £3,000, to Acorn the Business Centre to provide free tailored business advice service to up to 60 businesses in the borough.

* Alderman Cousley returned to the meeting at 8.40 pm.

11.2 Logon – NI

A total of 13 availed of the Log-in service during the visit in August by the demonstration unit, aimed at stimulating take-up of broadband within and increasing the level of e-business activity in the borough.

239.12 CONSULTATION - URBAN REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

NILGA's draft response to the DSDNI Consultation on the above subject was presented for committee's endorsement.

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

to recommend that the draft NILGA response to the DSDNI consultation, attached as Appendix A.

239.13 NATURAL GAS TARIFF

Advice has been received from Firmus Energy that they are freezing their natural gas tariff for 12 months with effect from 1st October 2012.

239.14 CONSULTATION – DARD’S PROPOSALS FOR MANAGING SEPARATE CLAIMANTS TO THE SINGLE FARM PAYMENT SCHEME AND LESS FAVOURED AREA COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCES SCHEME ON A SINGLE LAND PARCEL (SFP/IFACA DUAL USE CLAIMS.)

DARD has opened a consultation on its proposals on the above subject. The paper covers the background to the issue of dual use claims, outlines the alternatives available and comes to a preferred approach and poses a set of questions. The document is available on DARD website, or on request from the Office of the Chief Executive. Closing date for comments is 9th November 2012.

239.15 AGENDA NI URBAN REGENERATION SEMINAR

Agenda NI is planning a half day seminar examining key issues of urban regeneration and the roles of Northern Ireland’s towns in driving economic recovery. The Seminar will take place in the MAC, Belfast on Tuesday 20th November 2012 at a special discounted rate negotiated by NILGA of £125 + VAT (£175.00) for local government elected members and officers.

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

to recommend that Councillor Robinson and Alderman Kennedy attend the conference.

239.16 BROADBAND

A number of members raised the matter of mobile phone coverage and broadband and it was agreed that the Assembly be asked to make representations at Westminster. It was also noted that funding was available from DSD for WIFI in Town Centre and agreed that this be considered at the next meeting.

239.17 SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE TO POLICY PED 8 OF PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 4

The Department of the Environment has advised that it has published the final version of the supplementary planning guidance (SPG) to Policy PED 8 “Development Incompatible with Economic Development Uses” of Planning Policy Statement 4 “Planning and Economic Development”. This follows consultation on the draft document published in March 2012.

Policy PED 8 of PPS4 seeks to safeguard existing or approved economic development uses from incompatible development that would prejudice future operations. The SPG provides clarification in regard to the circumstances referred to in the policy where certain types of economic development use would be incompatible with existing or approved industrial undertakings requiring a particularly contaminant free environment.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 pm.