

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING No. 315  
25<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**315.3 Director's Report, together with the recommendations contained therein be adopted -**

- Item 1 Note Council performance regarding the quantity of waste disposed off via landfill, and that re-cycled in 2005-2006.
- Item 2 Note that a copy of the NI Waste Management Strategy 2006-2020 will be placed in the Members Room.
- Item 3 Special Council Meeting, Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm to further consider and adopt the Council's Waste Management Plan.
- Item 4 Each party leader or his nominee, together with the Committee Vice-Chair and 2 officers attend the Proven Waste Management Technologies Seminar on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006.
- Item 7 Note Consent to Discharge Effluent Application.
- Item 13 Issue Warning Letter to product manufacturer regarding food complaint.
- Item 16 Renew Petroleum Spirit Licences.
- Item 17 Revoke Petroleum Spirit Licence.
- Item 18 Renew Indoor Entertainment Licences.
- Item 19 Register Societies Lottery.
- Item 20 Register Dog Breeding Establishments.
- Item 22 Note Licensing Order Applications.
- Item 24 Note Launch of the 2006 Safer Bonfire Competition.
- Item 27 Note Improvement to Open Space at Grove Park, Balnamore, in partnership with others.
- Item 28 Make response to the Draft Smoking (NI) Order Consultation. Write to the Health Board and local Health Trusts regarding smoking at the entrances to their premises.
- Item 30 Note Building Control Applications Approvals.

**Minutes of Ballymoney Borough Council's Health & Environmental Services  
Committee Meeting No: 315 held in the McKinley Room, Riada House,  
Ballymoney, on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006 at 7:30 pm**

**IN THE CHAIR**

Councillor J. Finlay

**PRESENT**

**Aldermen**

F. Campbell

C. Cousley

J. Simpson

**Councillors**

D. McKay

A. Patterson

E. Robinson

R. Wilson

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Director of Health and Environmental Services  
District Policing Partnership Clerical Assistant

**315.1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor I. Stevenson.

**315.2 MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 314 – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

It was proposed by Alderman Cousley, seconded by Councillor Wilson  
and **AGREED:**

***that the minutes of Committee Meeting No. 314 held on 28<sup>th</sup>  
March 2006, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.***

**315.3 DIRECTOR OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES' REPORT TO THE HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE, BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL, 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2006**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**1. Municipal Waste Returns 2005-06**

| Month        | Waste to Landfill (T) | Mixed Dry Recyclates (T) |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| April        | 941.26                | 117.96                   |
| May          | 1017.00               | 111.28                   |
| June         | 1004.78               | 121.30                   |
| July         | 1000.22               | 91.24                    |
| August       | 961.60                | 89.10                    |
| September    | 1001.30               | 155.28                   |
| October      | 898.84                | 131.56                   |
| November     | 984.00                | 120.84                   |
| December     | 949.00                | 99.46                    |
| January      | 1017.38               | 125.92                   |
| February     | 827.48                | 118.12                   |
| March        | 910.36                | 139.96                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>11513.22</b>       | <b>1422.02</b>           |

- There was an increase of 50 tonnes of waste transferred by Council to landfill in 2005/06 compared to 2004/05. This represents a year on year increase of 0.44%.
- On average 959.44 tonnes of waste was transferred to landfill monthly in 2005/06.
- There was an increase of 88.78 tonnes of mixed dry recyclates collected by Council in 2005/06 compared to 2004/05. This represents a year on year increase of 6.65%.
- On average 118.50 tonnes of mixed dry recyclates was collected monthly in 2005/06.

During consideration of this item, the Director indicated that Council ought to be heartened by the fact that the increase in mixed waste going to landfill had only increased by 0.44% over the previous year, despite the increasing number of households in the Borough. It was also encouraging that the increase in mixed dry recyclates was up appreciably at 6.65%. He also gave the following additional information. The tonnage of mixed dry recyclates achieved in 2005-2006 equates to 12.4% of the mixed municipal waste Council sends to landfill for disposal. This figure, he believed, could be further improved. Waste recycles equates to 22.02% of

the waste disposed off via landfill and the waste recycled and reused equates to 24.22% of total waste arisings.

Members expressed satisfaction with what had been achieved, whilst recognizing that more still needed to be done in order that Council would comply with its NILAS targets during the lifetime of Council.

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## 2. Towards Resource Management

The NI Waste Management Strategy 2006-2020, entitled "Towards Resource Management", was launched on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2006. It sets out the policies and actions to manage resources and waste over the next 14 years. The leaflet which accompanied the Strategy launch was circulated.

***It was agreed*** that a copy of the document would be placed in the Members' Room at Riada House for the benefit of Members.

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## 3. Waste Management Plan

Council is under Direction from the Department of the Environment for NI to submit its revised Waste Management Plan to the Department by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006. This is a statutory obligation. As Members are aware the Council's modified Waste Management Plan is presently subject to public consultation. This draft plan has been produced on behalf of the 7 NI district councils which, along with Donegal CC, comprise the North West Region Waste Management Group. When the public consultation process concludes in early May, it may be necessary to further modify the draft plan in light of the submissions made. Following this the Group Waste Management Plan will be put to each constituent council for adoption prior to its submission to the Department by the required date, i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> June.

In the ensuing discussion, the Director advised that Council ought to consider its draft Waste Management Plan at a Special Meeting held either late May or early June, suggesting possible dates.

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

***to recommend that a Special Council Meeting be held on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at 7:30 pm to further consider and adopt the Council's Waste Management Plan.***

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## 4. Proven Waste Management Technologies Seminar

The NI Centre of the Chartered Institute of Waste Management are organising jointly with the three waste management planning groups, a seminar on proven waste management technologies on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006, at a venue yet to be

confirmed. Given the current consideration of these matters as regards the present revision of waste management plans the information to be available would be of benefit to Members.

***IT IS RECOMMENDED*** that Council support this initiative by nominating each party leader or his nominee, together with the Committee Vice-Chair and 2 officers to attend, the cost per delegate being £50. It is therefore recommended that the Director, along with the Vice-Chair of this Committee and a nominee from each political party attend this seminar.

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

***to recommend each party leader or his nominee, together with the Committee Vice-Chair and 2 officers nominated by the Director attend the Proven Waste Management Technologies Seminar on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006.***

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

### **5. Industrial Pollution Control (NI) Order 1997**

A copy of a Stack Emissions Test Report has been received from the Industrial Pollution and Radiochemical Control Inspectorate in respect of P Keenan Quarries Ltd, Dunloy. This test was to determine the release of total particulate matter from the plant under normal operating condition. The report concluded that the plant is operated in compliance with the emission limit specified in GNB 6/2 version 4. A copy of this report has been placed on the Public Register held in the Department of Health & Environmental Services and may be viewed on request.

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### **6. Industrial Pollution Control (NI) Order 1997 Register of Public Information**

The DoE EHS, Industrial Pollution and Radiochemical Inspectorate have supplied a copy of correspondence from G. Peden Ltd. advising that arrestment plant has been fitted and emission testing has been arranged in compliance with enforcement notice 00033. This correspondence has been placed on the public register.

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### **7. Water (NI) Order 1999 – Application for Consent to Discharge Effluent**

Correspondence dated 21<sup>st</sup> March 2006 has been received from DoE Environment & Heritage Service advising that it has received three applications for consent to discharge effluent to a waterway arising from a 3 sites at Mullan Road, Ballymoney. As EHS will set levels as to the quality of effluent to be

discharged ***IT IS RECOMMENDED*** that the Borough Council note the application.

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## 8. **Forestry in Northern Ireland**

The Forest Service an executive agency of DARD has recently published a new forestry strategy for Northern Ireland entitled Forestry in Northern Ireland: A Strategy for Sustainability and Growth. The strategy aims to:

- Provide those landowners with the information and the means to consider afforestation as a realistic alternative land use;
- Continue a steady supply of timber to ensure the economic sustainability of forestry industries and to encourage the rural economy;
- Continue to provide access to forests and to realise their potential for outdoor recreation;
- Encourage forest growth to provide timber, biodiversity and access opportunities and further develop the quality of the NI Landscape;
- Improve the sustainable management of the forestry resource in NI.

The strategy can be accessed at [www.forestserviceni.gov.uk](http://www.forestserviceni.gov.uk).

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## 9. **Consultation on the Review of the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland**

DEFRA and the devolved administrations for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have issued a joint consultation document in two volumes, on options for further improvements in air quality.

Volume 1 seeks views on a number of potential additional national policy measures which if adopted could secure further improvement in air quality and move closer to achieving the strategies air quality objectives. Among the measures for comment are:-

- Higher European vehicle emissions standards;
- Incentives for cleaner vehicles;
- Further reductions in emissions from small combustion plants;
- Further reductions in emissions from ships;
- Policy framework and objectives for controlling fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>);
- Improved protection for sites of special scientific interest; and
- A new objective on ozone.

Volume 2 of the document includes technical annexes and a regulatory impact assessment. The consultation documents are available on the DoE website [http://www.doeni.gov.uk/epd/cons\\_response\\_forms/details.asp?docid=3380](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/epd/cons_response_forms/details.asp?docid=3380).

Responses are requested by 11<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

10. **Application for Amendment of a Road Service Licence  
Airporter Ltd., Quayside Mall, Strand Road, Londonderry.**

The DVLNI has advised by correspondence dated 24<sup>th</sup> March 2006 of an application for an amended Road Service Licence for the above operator. The company have amended their timetable to include, City of Derry Airport. Weekday and weekend Ballymoney departures and returns remain unchanged.

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11. **Game Preservation (Special Protection for Irish Hares) Order (NI) 2006**

The above Order made by the Department of the Environment came into effect on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2006. The Order prohibits the taking, killing, selling or purchasing of Irish Hares at anytime during the period 17<sup>th</sup> April 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 inclusive.

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12. **Garry Bog & Garry Bog Part II, Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI)**

The DoE Environment and Heritage Service have by correspondence dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 2006 provided a copy of their proposed management statement issued under Article 28(2) of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 with respect to the above area as part of their consultation exercise. A copy of this statement and the original declarations of each of the ASSI's were circulated.

The Department has invited comments on the management principles by 4<sup>th</sup> July 2006, prior to the statements confirmation or revision on or before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006.

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**FOOD CONTROL**

13. **Food Complaint No. FC/805/C/10/05 – Bacon Rind in Bun**

During the report period 1 no. formal food complaint investigation was completed. The complainant will be advised in writing as to the outcome of the department's investigation.

| <u>Ref. No.</u> | <u>Nature of Complaint</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
|-----------------|----------------------------|

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| FC/805/C/10/05 | Bacon rind in bun |
|----------------|-------------------|

***IT IS RECOMMENDED*** that legal proceedings are not instituted in relation to the complaint and that an informal warning letter is sent to the manufacturer along with informing the complainant in writing of the outcome of the investigation.

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

*to recommend to Council that an informal warning letter is sent to the manufacturer.*

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#### **NEW LEGISLATION**

14. **The Fish Labelling (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006**

The above Regulations came into effect on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2006. They amend Regulation 4(2) of the 2003 principal Regulations of the same name by providing that commercial designations, accepted in other Member States are names prescribed by law (regulation 2(a)) and also replace the schedule to those Regulations which provides a list of commercial designations for the species of sea fish, salmon and freshwater fish and shellfish listed therein.

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15. **Harmonisation of Specified Risk Material (SRM) Controls – Removal of Bovine Vertebral Column in Butchers Shops**

The FSANI have by correspondence dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2006 advised of an additional enforcement role by district councils in relation to controls of specified risk material. This will involve the authorisation and registration of butchers shops to enable them to remove bovine vertebral column which is classed as SRM. The most significant impact of harmonisation is the reduction in the age limit for removal of bovine vertebral column as SRM from 30 months that currently applies in the UK to 24 months that applies in other member states. The FSA has agreed to take up the derogation permitted under the EU Regulation to allow the removal of vertebral column from cattle aged 24-30 months in butchers shops. All approved cutting plants will also be able to remove vertebral column as SRM from carcasses of this age group of cattle. The FSANI estimate that approximately 70% of SRM vertebral column removal will continue to take place in cutting plants. Butchers wishing to remove vertebral column will require to be authorised and registered under The Community TSE Regulation EC999/2001 as amended. Such material will require to be stored and disposed of as Category 1 animal by-products.

The role of district councils will be as follows:-

- Process application forms and issue authorisations to butchers;
- Maintain a register of authorised premises;
- Ensure that operators follow the required method of operation, setting out compliance with legislation governing the removal and disposal of SRM vertebral column;
- Assess compliance with the rules of removal and disposal.

#### **HEALTH & SAFETY AT WORK**



16. **Petroleum (Regulation) Acts (Northern Ireland) 1929 and 1937 –  
PETROLEUM SPIRIT LICENCE (RENEWAL)**

**Premises**

**Applicant**

Milltown Service Station  
2-4 Milltown Road  
BALLYMONEY  
BT53 6LE

Mr Crawford Henderson

Bushview Filling Station  
58 Coolkeeran Road  
Armoy  
BALLYMONEY  
BT53 8XN

Mr Shane McMahon

***IT IS RECOMMENDED*** the above licences be granted subject to receipt of a fully completed electrical test certificate.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Patterson and  
***AGREED:***

***to recommend to Council the above licences be granted when a fully completed electrical test certificate had been received.***

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17. **Revoke Petroleum Spirit Licence**

Licence no. PL010 for 19 Lough Road, Loughguile, Ballymena, BT44 9JN, licensee Mr. John Casey is due for renewal. The tanks at this former filling station are presently used for storage of diesel. A petroleum spirit licence is therefore not required. The pumps to the forecourt are disconnected and a satisfactory electrical test certificate could not be furnished to this department as part of the licence conditions. The filling station has been 'temporarily' out of service for 36 months.

***IT IS RECOMMENDED*** that licence no. PL010 held by Mr. J. Casey, 19 Lough Road, Loughgiel is revoked.

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

***to recommend to Council that licence no. PL010 held by Mr J. Casey, 19 Lough Road, Loughgiel is revoked.***

**INDOOR ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING**

18. **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 - LICENCE APPLICATIONS (FULL) (RENEWAL)**

**Premises**

**Applicant**

The Bush Tavern  
15-17 Market Street  
BALLYMONEY  
BT53 6BA

Mr James Craig Black

The Pound Bar and Lounge  
18 Corkey Road  
Loughiel  
BALLYMENA  
BT44 9JJ

Mrs Hannah Ita McGarry

North Irish Horse Inn  
15 Carncullagh Road  
Dervock  
BALLYMONEY  
BT53 8BT

Ms Norma Ann Blair

The Glen Bar  
24 Glenbush Road  
Armoy  
BALLYMONEY  
BT53 8YG

Mr James Patrick McMullan

***IT IS RECOMMENDED*** that the Borough Council renew the Indoor Entertainment's Licences as detailed above. In addition to the Borough Council's "Conditions of Licence" adopted on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1985 the additional conditions detailed on the premise files also apply.

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

***to recommend to Council to renew the Indoor Entertainment's Licences as detailed above. In addition to the Borough Council's "Conditions of Licence" adopted on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1985 the additional conditions detailed on the premises files also apply.***

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**Councillor McKay left the meeting at 8:20 pm**

**BETTING, GAMING, LOTTERIES AND AMUSEMENTS  
(NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1985**

19. Application has been received from the undernoted Society for registration by the Borough Council (Article 136 of the 1985 Order refers):-

| <u>Society</u>                             | <u>Lottery Promoter</u>  | <u>Fee</u> |
|--|--|------------|
| Ballymoney Borough<br>Twinning Association | Mr. Warner Kirkpatrick<br>c/o Riada House<br>14 Charles Street<br>BALLYMONEY<br>BT53 6DZ | £35-00     |

***IT IS RECOMMENDED*** that the Borough Council register the above-mentioned Society.

**Alderman Campbell, Alderman Cousley and Councillor Robinson declared an interest as members of the Twinning Association and left the room.**

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Patterson and ***AGREED:***

***to recommend to Council to register the above Society.***

**Alderman Campbell, Alderman Cousley and Councillor Robinson re-entered the meeting.**

## **DOG CONTROL**

20. **DOGS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1983**

### **Article 13 – Registration of Dog Breeding Establishments**

Applications as undernoted have been made to the Borough Council that the premises to which they refer be registered in accordance with the provisions of Article 13 of the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 as dog breeding establishments:-

| <u>Applicant</u>               | <u>Premises</u>   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Mr William & Mrs Amanda Dobbin | 59 Kilmandil Road,<br>Dunloy,<br>Ballymena,<br>Co Antrim,<br>BT44 9BH |

| <u>Applicant</u> | <u>Premises</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|
|------------------|-----------------|

Mr Mervyn Dowey

23 Drumlee Road  
Ballymoney  
BT53 7LE

***IT IS RECOMMENDED*** that Council register the above-mentioned premises accordingly.

It was recommended by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Patterson and ***AGREED:***

***to recommend that Council register the above-mentioned premises.***

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## **21. Launch of Pilot Neutering Scheme**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2006 will see the launch of a pilot scheme to offer free neutering and spaying for farm Collies. The scheme will initially run for a six week period.

This is a joint initiative between Ballymoney/Moyle Councils sponsored by "Dogs Trust". The venue for the launch is Ballymoney Town Hall and will commence at 10.30am.

Although recent statistics show a decrease in the number of dogs being cast in our Council area there are still dogs predominately Collie or Collie type dogs being humanely put to sleep. The majority of these dogs have been from rural farming areas.

The purpose of this initiative is to:

- Highlight the plight of these unfortunate dogs.
- To encourage farmers to benefit from this offer therefore contributing ultimately to their dogs health and well-being.
- To help reduce the number of stray Collies.
- To prevent unwanted litters.

The Scheme will be advertised through local media and hopefully the message will get across to farmers that it is better to neuter and also that it is a complete myth that neutering makes working dogs lazy. A Collie dog is a working dog by its very breed and will continue to work after spaying. In fact spaying etc. will improve the dogs health.

This Scheme has the support of local vets and animal charities some of whom will be attending the launch.

**Councillor McKay re-entered the meeting at 8:25 pm**

**LICENSING (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1996**

| <b>22.</b> | <b><u>Applicant</u></b>  | <b><u>Purpose</u></b>  | <b><u>Date</u></b> |
|------------|--|--|--------------------|
|            | Samuel Mullan<br>24 Main Street<br>BALLYMONEY  | Additional Permitted Hours<br>(28 <sup>th</sup> April 2006)  | 30/3/06            |
|            | Seymour Sweeney<br>Old Barn<br>6 Seaport Avenue<br>Portballintrae<br>BUSHMILLS<br>BT57 8SB | Provisional Grant of Licence<br>10,12 and 14/16 Carncullagh<br>Road, Dervock, Ballymoney,<br>BT53 8BT. | 12/4/06            |
|            | Noel Peacock<br>Kosy Korner<br>Linenhall Street<br>BALLYMONEY                              | Occasional Licence<br>Stranocum Hall between<br>8.00pm on 22/4/06 and<br>1.00am on 23/4/06             | 12/4/06            |
|            | Noel Peacock<br>Kosy Korner<br>Linenhall Street<br>BALLYMONEY                              | Occasional Licence<br>Stranocum Hall between<br>8.00pm on 26/5/06 and<br>1.00am on 27/5/06             | 12/4/06            |
|            | Noel Peacock<br>Kosy Korner<br>Linenhall Street<br>BALLYMONEY                              | Occasional Licence<br>Stranocum Hall between<br>7.00pm on 3/6/06 and<br>1.00am on 4/6/06               | 12/4/06            |

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## **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

### **23. Action Plans**

The NIO Community Safety Unit has recently devised written procedures on Agreement of Funding between the Partnership and the NIO Community Safety Unit. These guidelines have now been issued to all partnerships to coincide with the return of letters confirming match funding from lead partners on projects supported through the action plan.

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### **24. Safer Bonfires**

The launch of the 2006 Safer Bonfire Competition was held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2006. Once again the competition aims to encourage due care and consideration in the organising of these events in July and October by offering a prizes for the safest sites within the Borough. Full guidance and competition rules are available on the council's website and from the Community Safety Partnership.

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25. **Grant Scheme 05/06**

Glebeside Youth Club utilised their funding awarded through the partnership to present a drama production of 'Cinderella' held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2006. This event was well attended and the young people worked hard to produce a professional show.

Ballymoney Youth Partnership used their funding to conduct a Youth Audit across the Borough and the detailed findings were compiled into a booklet. This was launched officially on 10<sup>th</sup> April. Copies of the audit can be obtained from Ballymoney Community Resource Centre.

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26. **National Community Safety Network (NCSN) Conference**

This year's conference is scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> June 2006 in Portsmouth. The Partnership has agreed that the Chairman and a member of the operational tier attend to represent the partnership.

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27. **Improving Open Space, Grove Park, Balnamore.**

Following an application made to ENTRUST, monies have been made available from Landfill Tax Credit Scheme to improve the open space at Grove Park, Balnamore. The Department in partnership with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Arena Network, are in the process of completing a scheme to improve this community area through the planting of trees and shrubs and the provision of bird boxes and seating. Primary 7 pupils at Balnamore Primary School have already assisted with the planting programme. The total cost of the scheme is estimated at £7450 with 50% funding from ENTRUST and the remainder being provided by NIHE.

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**HEALTH & WELL BEING**

28. **Draft Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order**

The above Order has been issued for consultation by questionnaire, with responses to be received no later than 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006. A response to this has been prepared by the Forum Tobacco Task Group, which may be found in Appendix 4, page 15, to this report.

***IT IS RECOMMENDED*** that Council follow the approach taken by the Tobacco Task Group and respond to the consultation.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Patterson and ***AGREED:***

***to recommend that Council follow the approach taken by the Tobacco Task Group and respond to consultation.***

Following a discussion on smoking at the entrances to Health Trust premises it was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Alderman Campbell and **AGREED:**

***to recommend that Council write to the local Health Trusts and to the Northern Health & Social Services Board suggesting that this practice be discouraged.***

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**29. Fit Futures: Focus on Food, Activity and Young People**

The DHSSPS has recently published the final report of the taskforce initiative fit futures; focus on food activity and young people, which was established to examine options for tackling the issue of obesity in children and young people. The report examines the nature of the problem in Northern Ireland and identifies six priorities for action as follows:

**1. DEVELOPING JOINED-UP HEALTHY PUBLIC POLICY**

Immediate action should be taken to overcome the potentially disjointed approach to the promotion of physical activity, sport and leisure and play and the sometimes conflicting policies being promoted by different government departments and agencies with responsibility for food policy and by the food industry. Local authorities will have an increasingly significant role to play in helping to correct these agendas.

**2. PROVIDING REAL CHOICE**

Concerted effort is required to address those aspects of the media, physical, consumer and financial environment that promote obesity and prevent children and young people from exercising real choice. Government departments and agencies have a major role in offering children real choice by creating a demand for healthy choices through public sector food procurement, by prioritising action to tackle barriers to healthy food, which are experienced by families on low income, by ensuring that targets to increase active travel are achieved and opportunities for active play are available and accessible.

**3. SUPPORTIVE HEALTHY EARLY YEARS**

It is important to ensure that during the first few years of a child's life parents are supported in their efforts to encourage their children to develop health supporting behaviours. This should be encouraged through the extension of the Healthy Schools Programmes to early years settings and by organisations with responsibility for regulating early years provision ensuring that common standards in relation to nutrition and daily physical activity are established and compliance with these standards monitored.

#### 4. CREATIVE HEALTHY SCHOOLS

School meals and physical education are the visible manifestations of government policy in relation to nutrition and physical activity for children and young people. The taskforce recommends that a food in schools programme be established to include a resourced, inspected programme to introduce food and nutrient based standards for all food in schools. An active schools programme should be developed that delivers daily opportunities for physical activity including play, sport, leisure and active travel.

#### 5. ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH COMMUNITIES

Community based initiatives such as Health Action Zones and Health Living Centres provide excellent examples of health improvement programmes aiming to improve nutrition and increase physical activity levels. Health improvement planning should be fully integrated into the Neighbourhood renewal process and the proposed healthy schools programme should seek to support the development of schools as hubs within the community, supporting the health and well-being of their local communities as well as staff and pupils.

#### 6. BUILDING THE EVIDENCE BASE

It is essential that for as long as the problem of rising obesity levels persist, there should be a systematic surveillance of obesity levels in children and of childhood nutrition and activity levels. The taskforce also recognised the need for more robust evaluations of policies and programmes that are aiming to tackle obesity in children and recommends that the evaluation of interventions should be the priority for future research funding.

The Council will have an important role to play in this area through the promotion of investing for health initiatives and the provision of indoor and outdoor leisure services. The DHSSPS intends to issue the implementation plan by July 2006. A full copy of the report and executive summary is available in the Members' Room. It may also be accessed at [www.investingforhealthni.gov.uk/fitfutures.asp](http://www.investingforhealthni.gov.uk/fitfutures.asp)

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### **BUILDING CONTROL**

#### 30. **Building Control Applications**

***IT IS RECOMMENDED*** that Council note the **Applications, Building Notices and Regularisation Certificates** as detailed in Appendix 5 (page 16) to this report, which are in accordance with the requirements of the Building Regulations (NI) 2000.

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



***to recommend that Council note the Applications, Building Notices and Regularisation Certificates as detailed in Appendix 5 to this report, which are in accordance with the requirements of the Building Regulations (NI) 2000.***

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#### **315.4 DoE/NILGA District Council Consultation Event on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

Alderman Simpson, Councillor Finlay and Councillor Patterson indicated that it would now be difficult for them to attend the DoE/NILGA District Council Consultation Event on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2006 in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown. The Chair asked if any other Member could attend. Councillor McKay stated that Councillor McGuigan had been interested in the event and it was agreed that confirmation of the attendance of Councillor McGuigan and/or Councillor McKay and the Chair would be given to the Director next morning so that he could then advise the event organisers.

**Councillor McKay left the meeting at 8:30pm**

#### **315.5 Plastic Bags**

Councillor Robinson reported that she had watched a program on TV about plastic bags and how Belfast City Council were promoting the use of re-usable bags. She also mentioned the lady who dresses up in plastic bags to advertise this point. The Director advised that the 'Bag Lady' had come to Ballymoney last year by invitation of his department to get the waste prevention message across to town shopkeepers and their customers – was a single trip plastic bag really necessary? Councillor Robinson then requested if it would be possible to find out the difference in bags used by Tesco who give their bags free of charge and Lidl who charge for theirs in proportion to their Customer base.

***\*This being all the business the meeting concluded the time being 8.50 pm.\****