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**Ballymoney Borough Council**

Minutes of Consultation Committee Meeting No 68 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 7.00 pm.

**IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor A Cavlan

**PRESENT:** **Aldermen**  
F Campbell  
H Connolly  
B Kennedy

**Councillors**  
J Atkinson  
W Blair  
J Finlay  
R Halliday  
R McAfee  
C McLaughlin  
E Robinson  
M Storey

**APOLOGIES** **Councillors**  
P McGuigan  
T McKeown, Deputy Mayor  
I Stevenson, Mayor

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

**Planning Service (Item 6)**  
Mr J McCaughan

Press

**68.1 MINUTES OF CONSULTATION MEETING NO 67 – 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2011**

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

*that the minutes of Meeting No 67 – 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.*

**68.2 PLANNING MANAGEMENT BOARD REFERRALS**

Application D/2011/0076/F – Dwelling, garage, implement and animal feed store at lands adjacent to 76 Carrowreagh Road, Mullaghduff, Ballymoney. This application has been considered and it has been decided that the referral fails to meet the criteria outlined in

the “Guidance for councils on the Operation of the Management Board Referral Procedure” which issued May 2007. Applications referred to the Department must, in the first instance, relate to significant developments and meet one or more of the criteria set out in the guidance. In respect of this case the application is for the erection of a dwelling, garage and agricultural store. This is not considered to be a significant development. Reassessment of the proposal by the Department is not considered appropriate or necessary. The application has been returned to the Area Planning Office for a decision to issue in line with the opinion presented to Council.

At the request of Councillor Finlay, the Head of Corporate & Development Services agreed to provide members with a copy of the Department’s Guidance for Councils (September 2005) for deferrals and Management Board referrals. A copy of the Department’s decision in relation to application number D/2011/0076/F will also be circulated for members’ information.

\* **Councillor McAfee joined the meeting at 7.05 pm**

### **68.3 PLANNING FEES**

The Planning (Fees) Amendment No. 2) Regulations (NI) 2011 (SR 2011 No 398) has come into operation on 12<sup>th</sup> December. The purpose of the regulations is to apply an inflationary increase in planning application fees based on the GDP deflator which is forecast for 2011/12 at 2.9%.

### **68.4 PLANNING REFORM**

The Minister of Environment has issued an update on the planning reform process. A copy of his letter to NILGA was circulated.

### **68.5 NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR ROBINSON**

Consider notice of motion, given by Councillor Robinson, as set out hereunder. The motion was seconded by Councillor Finlay.

*“I hereby give notice that at the meeting of the consultation committee on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011 I will move the following motion:*

*That when requested by DRD Roads Service in an emergency due to prolonged periods of wintry weather, staff who are deemed available by council management are redeployed to treat with salt or grit supplied by DRD, the list of footways set out in the schedule below.*

#### ***Schedule to Ballymoney Town footways for winter emergency clearance***

*High Street to Riada House and Town Hall frontages*

*Townhead Street to car park entrance and Town Hall frontage*

*Charlotte Sreet to Pork Store*

*Main Street including pedestrian links to both car parks*

*Castle Street - frontage of Memorial Gardens*

*Seymour Street – North side to station and Memorial Garden frontage*

*Meetinghouse Street – at signal controlled crossing, including steps to car park*

*Church Steet to No 41  
Victoria Street  
Cameron Place  
Linenhall Street  
Market Street – at signal controlled crossing  
Charles Street to bus stops”.*

The motion was signed by: Councillor EL Robinson, Councillor R McAfee, Alderman HP Connolly, Councillor J Finlay and dated 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

Members discussed the motion and at the request of Councillor Kennedy, the Chief Executive clarified the legality of rescinding the previously adopted recommendation (CRCS 23<sup>rd</sup> November min ref 399.3b) in accordance with Council’s Standing Orders. Councillor McLaughlin expressed concern at Council’s position in the event of injury whilst Council staff are undertaking the work. He also stated that the motion discriminates against people living in rural areas.

A recorded vote was taken:

**FOR**

Alderman Connolly  
Councillor McAfee  
Councillor Storey  
Councillor Finlay  
Councillor Halliday  
Councillor Robinson

**AGAINST**

Councillor McLaughlin  
Councillor Blair  
Alderman Kennedy  
Councillor Atkinson  
Alderman Campbell  
Councillor Cavlan

Councillor Cavlan used her casting vote as Chair of the Committee to vote against the motion.

**The motion was declared lost.**

\* **The Planning Officer joined the meeting at 7.20 pm.**

**68.6 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**6.1 New Applications**

Items 1 – 4 were considered and the opinion of the Planning Service accepted except where stated otherwise.

Full details of applications can be viewed at:

[http://apps.planningni.gov.uk/council\\_schedules/ballymoney.aspx](http://apps.planningni.gov.uk/council_schedules/ballymoney.aspx)

**ITEM 2 – D/2011/0220/O – REFUSAL**

Site for a new dwelling at 30 NW of 72 Drumadoon Road, Cloughmills, Ballymena for Mr & Mrs Logan

It was **AGREED:** **That an office meeting be held (Councillor Finlay)**

**ITEM 3 – D/2011/0223/O – REFUSAL**

Proposed site for two storey infill dwelling at site between numbers 50 and 52 Ballybogey Road for Mr & Mrs Kennedy.

It was **AGREED:** **That an office meeting be held (Alderman Kennedy/  
Councillor Robinson)**

**ITEM 4 – D/2011/0235/F – APPROVAL**

Alternative access arrangements for dwellings approved under D/2011/0080/RM and D/2011/0081/RM at laneway adjacent to No 25 Lisconnan Road and to East of numbers 21 and 23 Lisconnan Road, Dervock for Dumble Holdings.

**Objection Letters (1)** **Access traffic on laneway and other issues of safety.**  
Roads Service confirms access acceptable and applicant intends to resurface laneway.

**6.2 Deferred Applications**

Items 1 – 4 were considered and the opinion of the Planning Service accepted except where stated otherwise.

**ITEM D1 – D/2010/0175/O – REFUSAL**

Two storey dwelling and domestic garage at 128d Vow Road, Ballymoney for Mr W Christie.

Agreement to facilitate further office meeting. Application to be held for two weeks pending outcome. Application will be returned to Council if there is a change of opinion.

**ITEM D2 – D/2011/0096/F – APPROVAL**

Proposed erection of new dwelling at 85m North East of 68 Carncullagh Road, Stranocum for Mrs Donna King.

Access issues resolved and application can now be approved. Alderman Kennedy and Councillor Cavlan welcomed the decision to approve.

**ITEM D3 – D/2011/0204/O – APPROVAL**

Proposed 2 storey 8m high dwelling and garage at site North of 34 Kilmandil Road, Dunloy for H & R Watson.

Access issues resolved and application can now be approved. Alderman Connolly and Councillor McLaughlin thanked the Department for their decision to approve.

**ITEM D4 – D/2011/0209/O – REFUSAL**

Proposed new storey and a half domestic dwelling with detached garage North of 81B Bendooragh Road, Killymaddy, Ballymoney for D McConnell.

**Ojections letters (3)** **Access, safety and sewerage provision.**  
Applicant did not attend office meeting. Decision remains to refuse application.

**6.3 Decisions Issued**

Circulated for information.

**6.4 Date of office Meetings:**

To be arranged following meeting of Consultation Committee in January 2012

\* **The Planning Officer left the meeting at 7.25 pm.**

\* **Alderman Connolly left the meeting at 7.25 pm.**

## **68.7 DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT 2011-15 AND DRAFT INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND 2011-21**

The Committee for Regional Development would like to take evidence in order to inform the Committee's response to the consultation process on both documents and to this end, the Committee would like to invite Council to provide written evidence on the draft Programme for Government and the draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland.

The Committee is focusing on four main topics:

- Public Transport
- Road and rail infrastructure and investment
- Sustainable Transport
- Water and Wastewater

Views may be submitted on any or all of the topics. However it should be clearly indicated to which topic comments refer. The Committee is seeking views focused on the following three points:

- Gaps in the Programme for Government
- Comments on the Milestones and Outputs
- What is the best way to monitor progress?

Written evidence should be sent to: [committee.regionaldevelopment@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:committee.regionaldevelopment@niassembly.gov.uk)  
*no later than 5pm Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011.*

## **68.8 2011 CENSUS OUTPUTS – INFORMATION EVENTS**

As part of the ongoing consultation, the NI Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is organizing three information events to discuss proposals for the outputs from the 2011 Census. The events will run from 9.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m., followed by a light lunch. Any members interested in attending should contact the Office of the Chief Executive.

- Belfast - Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January
- Londonderry/Derry – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February
- Enniskillen – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

## **68.9 ROADS SERVICE**

### **9.1 Response to Issues Raised at Consultation Meeting**

The Divisional Roads Manager has responded, under letter of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011, to the issues raised at the consultation meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November including:

- Department's plans in case of heavy snowfall
- Update on lights on Station Road Dunloy
- Traffic Management across the region
- Re-profiling of the budget and Commencement date of A26 dualling
- Gritting and salting schedules
- Requests for traffic and speed counts
- Roundabout at Knock Road and/or Dervock Road

- Change to signage at Portrush roundabout
- Condition of footpath in Dervock
- Street lighting in Dervock
- Bravallen Road – crossing difficulties
- Bann Road - soiling and seeding issues and provision of 40mph limit

Councillor Robinson advised that concerns relating to the footpath at Knock Road have not been addressed in the letter and she will contact them directly.

## 9.2 DRD Magazine – On the Move

A copy of the publication, issue 14, was circulated to members.

## 68.10 APPLICATIONS FOR ROAD SERVICE LICENCES

The following applications have been notified and deadline for comments are indicated.

- CA Cabs Ltd, 25 Shanmaghera Road, Galbally, Co Tyrone – (13.12.2011)
- B319 Andrew Agnew, 62 Grange, Lurgan, Co Armagh (13.12.2011)
- B736 – Michael Joseph Sloan, T/a TM Transport & Coach Hire, Unit 10, Dunmurry Industrial Estate, Dunmurry (19/12/2011)
- B607 Maura Hackett (previously Maura Breen) T/a A-2-B coaches, 62 Rose Cottages, Portadown (19/12/2011)
- Liam Murray T/a Murray Coaches (new stage carriage service) to commence February 2012. (23/12/2011)

At the request of Councillor Cavlan, the Chief Executive advised that although applications are received from outside the borough, the applicants may wish to operate a service within the borough.

## 68.11 PROPOSALS FOR GOODS VEHICLES OPERATORS FEES AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS – DoE CONSULTATION

The Department of Environment has published two consultation documents outlining their proposals for the cost of an operators licence under the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act (NI) 2010 and the transitional arrangements required to facilitate the licensing of new operators.

The consultation documents and response forms are available on the department's website or on request from the Office of the Chief Executive. ***The deadline for comments is 3<sup>rd</sup> February.***

Councillor Storey stated that a number of concerns have been expressed by taxi operators.

## 68.12 DRAFT INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2012-15 – NI FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - CONSULTATION

The NI Fire and Rescue Service has published for consultation its draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2012-15 and in particular the proposals in section 4. (copy circulated). The plan is NIFRS approach to providing emergency cover in NI. The three year plan builds on past success to reflect revised ambitions developed to meet the new challenges

identified from the changing operating environment. ***The deadline for comments is 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012.***

A discussion ensued on the need to obtain the views of local fire crews to enable Council to respond to the consultation document.

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

***that Council extend an invitation to NIFRS, Ballymoney branch to attend Council's meeting in January or alternatively request written submission to enable Council to respond to the consultation document***

It was also agreed to obtain the views of the Fire Brigade's Union.

### **68.13 COMPTON REVIEW OF HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

The Northern Trust statement on the Compton Review of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland is set out below.

~ The Northern Trust welcomes the Review of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland. The document articulates the need for change across the Health and Social Care sector. We would wish to consider the document in more depth and assess the implications for the Northern Trust.

The Trust will now begin an engagement process with all key stakeholders to develop plans in response to the Review.

The Northern Trust provides a range of general health and social care services including learning disability, physical disability, mental health, older people's, children's and acute services and we will develop plans for each of these service areas. The Trust believes that the Causeway Hospital is integral to the provision of 24 hour 7 day a week hospital services in the Northern area and our plans will focus on this.

### **68.14 PATIENT AND CLIENT COUNCIL – THE PEOPLE'S PRIORITIES**

The annual report, "The People's Priorities", November 2011, from the Patient and Client Council sets out a view from patients, service users, Carers and communities on future priorities for health and social care in Northern Ireland. A copy of the main summary points was circulated.

### **68.15 LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICE FRAMEWORK – CONSULTATION**

The Learning Disability Service Framework has been issued by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) on 12<sup>th</sup> December. ***The closing date for comments is 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012.*** The consultation document and response questionnaire is available on the department's website or on request from the Office of the Chief Executive.

The Learning Disability Service Framework is one of a series of Frameworks which set out explicit standards for health and social care that patients, clients, their carers and wider family can expect to receive. The Learning Disability Service Framework aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people with a learning disability, their carers and families by



promoting social inclusion, reducing inequalities in health and social well being and improving the quality of care.

#### 68.16 SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND – CONSULTATION

A report on the workshop held earlier in the evening was discussed and key points agreed for inclusion in Council's response to the consultation document included:

Key issues include:

- Significant pockets of deprivation in borough. PHA indicators on fuel poverty, measured by NIHE, indicate this is significant issue in borough. Concern that North Antrim area, Ballymoney & Moyle, together with Coleraine (which is a neighbourhood area) have been excluded and provision should be made to include a zone for this area or make provision for linkage into existing proposed zones in adjoining.
- Need to link into and co-ordinate with existing plans and ensure no duplication or overlap with other existing funding initiatives/programmes addressing the issues identified.
- There may be issues in setting up yet another partnership and this needs careful consideration. It is important to ensure that the local authorities are part of the selected model linking into the democratic mandate and other plans and that the funders reference group includes all funders working in the area.
- Ensure levels of bureaucracy in eg neighbourhood renewal are not replicated in the proposed initiative.

It is **recommended** that committee confirm the draft consultation questionnaire response.

NILGA's draft response to the consultation was also circulated for members' information, together with its comments, attached as Appendix 1.

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

***that Council endorse the draft consultation response agreed at the workshop and NILGA's comments to the Consultation document.***

**The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.**

Appendices attached:

Appendix 1      NILGA's draft response endorsed by Council

## APPENDIX 1



### Draft NILGA response to the OFMDFM Social Investment Fund Consultation

23<sup>rd</sup> December 2012

The following is a **draft** response to the Social Investment Fund consultation document published by OFMDFM in September 2011 and requiring response by 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011. This paper has been drafted in liaison with development officers from a number of councils, and is now being forwarded to all councils for their information and use. The final response incorporating council views received will be submitted to OFMDFM after 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

**For further information or to discuss any of the issues highlighted, please contact Karen Smyth at the NILGA Offices: Email: [k.smyth@nilga.org](mailto:k.smyth@nilga.org) Tel: 028 9079 8972**

#### INTRODUCTION

NILGA, the Northern Ireland Local Government Association, is the representative body for district councils in Northern Ireland. NILGA represents and promotes the interests of local authorities and is supported by all the main political parties in Northern Ireland.

The aims identified within the Fund Consultation, of reducing poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration are laudable and considered hugely important by local government. We therefore welcome this opportunity to consider the proposed Social Investment Fund. Councils in Northern Ireland have been working on social investment programmes for many years at a local level and are keen to see a comprehensive and integrated approach to these issues, led by government.

The four strategic objectives of the Fund are stated as:

- Build Pathways to Employment
- Tackle the Systemic Issues Linked to Deprivation
- Increase Community Services
- Address Dereliction

These objectives are commended by NILGA, showing the government's commitment to securing a Fund that aims to directly address the societal issues faced by large sections of the community. There are strong synergies between the objectives of the Fund and local government objectives, services and programmes, and we would value an early conversation with OFMDFM as to how councils can work with the Department to add value and avoid duplication in progressing this work.

## KEY ISSUES

**There are some issues related to the speedy and strategic implementation of the Fund which we would like to work closely with OFMDFM to address, as follows:**

1. We welcome the direct involvement of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and NILGA is keen to support them in the achievements of the ambitious goals of the Fund. It will be vital to ensure appropriate representation from councils on the Ministerial Committee.

2. The Fund should result in change that people can see, touch and feel at a local level rather than the establishment of structures and development of plans. There is currently an abundance of plans, concepts, strategies and priority lists and the focus needs to switch to prioritisation and delivery.

2. Existing neighbourhood renewal plans and regeneration frameworks are an articulation of local needs and issues that could be utilised to inform the projects and activities to be prioritised under the Fund. Councils, in close consultation with key partners, should play a leadership role in supporting the alignment of this multiplicity of plans, so that the potential of the Fund can be maximised.

There is a need to ensure that the plans to deliver the Fund as a whole must be complementary to ensure that they are both physically and thematically connected, balanced, collaborative and promote mobility within our cities and across the region.

3. The geographies for delivery are fundamental and the document contains no clarity on the proposed boundaries for the areas or guidance on proportionality within or between the proposed social investment zones, most of which cross council boundaries. A number of the indicative zones are very large, widely dispersed and with such a huge agenda/finite budget, might prove ineffective in achieving the desired objectives.

3. NILGA would strongly recommend that OFMDFM considers the potential to align the social investment zones with the new council boundaries being considered under the reform of local government. This is particularly important, given the forthcoming local government responsibility for community planning, with councils at the hub of the design and delivery process.

5. Similarly, we would strongly argue that local government must be represented on the steering groups, linking the steering groups to the democratic mandate of council leadership. Given the emphasis on area-based community planning, it is critical that local government must be fully involved at all stages in the design, implementation, delivery and management of the Fund, including the development, assessment, implementation and co-ordination of the area plans.

6. Councils are significant funders in Northern Ireland – across community services; arts organisations, physical regeneration programmes, good relations; community safety; etc. NILGA would therefore seek assurance that the proposed Funders' Forum includes local government and not just central government funders;

7. It is important to note that councils have a substantial track record in both delivery and advocacy for major regeneration programmes, services and activities. Local government has the skills and capability in terms of delivering local projects as well as the systems for accounting for public money. The track record of councils includes: urban and rural regeneration projects, employability projects; community safety; physical refurbishment; capital build programmes – all of which have close alignment to the programmes and activities that are highlighted as priorities within the Fund. Councils understand the invaluable role of sustained community engagement in informing each of these initiatives and would be able to bring that experience and those diverse networks to the implementation of the Fund.

8. There are also practical considerations such as equality impact screening, acquisition/vesting of land, planning permissions, lengthy economic appraisal processes and procurement, all of which are necessary but will delay implementation. NILGA would welcome further discussion on how OFMDFM could potentially accelerate these time-consuming processes, as well as ensuring appropriate accountability and building the necessary capacity at a local level;

9. While there is an appreciation that that this can only be a four year programme, it is critical to acknowledge that the deprivation and poverty issues that the programme seeks to address are deep-seated. There needs to be clear linkages between the social investment zone plans and the ongoing transfer of powers work with DSD particularly in terms of community development, neighbourhood renewal and urban regeneration powers. OFMDFM will need to link the management of this process into DSD grant-funding and investment schemes, so that the long term sustainability of programmes and initiatives can be considered. It is important that councils are not left with an unsustainable legacy from the Fund. It is therefore critical that OFMDFM outlines its exit strategy for the Fund and includes local government in its design, from the outset.

**Please also see attached questionnaire response.**

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