

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Development Meeting No 229, held in the McKinley Room, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 29th November 2011 at 7.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J Finlay

PRESENT:

Aldermen
F Campbell
H Connolly
C Cousley, MBE
B Kennedy

Councillors
J Atkinson
R Halliday
R McAfee
C McLaughlin
E Robinson
I Stevenson

APOLOGIES:

Councillors
A Cavlan
P McGuigan
T McKeown
M Storey, MLA

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive
Head of Corporate & Development Services
Committee Clerk

Roads Service
Mr J Minford (Traffic Management)
Mr H Larmour (Parking Enforcement)

229.1 ROADS SERVICE

The Chair welcomed Mr Minford and Mr Larmour from Roads Service to give a presentation to members on traffic management and parking enforcement issues within the town.

Mr Larmour explained that on-the-ground enforcement is provided by Roads Service's contractor, currently NSL Services Group, who employs 117 traffic attendants Monday-Saturday throughout Northern Ireland including two full time deployments in Ballymoney, Monday-Saturday 9.00am-5.00pm. Their work covers enforcement of disabled bays, waiting restrictions and car parks.

Mr Larmour responded to questions from members relating to:

- Traffic management at events – the Department responds to traffic management and police requests for attendance. Where parking restrictions are marked on the road (yellow lines) those restrictions also apply to the footway (pavement). Therefore parking tickets can be issued to vehicles which are parked in contravention of the restrictions.
- Street parking - Mr Larmour explained that parking restrictions on the street aims to increase vehicle turnover and that there is five minute delay generated by automated hand held equipment to enable drivers to return to their vehicles prior to a ticket being issued. In addition, keeping streets clear assists:
 - traffic to flow more freely
 - delivery vehicles
 - reserved parking areas for Blue Badge holders

Other issues discussed included:

- Deployment base in Coleraine due to funding
- Use of cameras as supplementary evidence in case of legal issues
- Clamping of vehicles and cost of fines
- Number of tickets issued and generation of income
- Number of traffic wardens on duty and training methods
- Village patrols

Mr Minford advised that a review of its current traffic restrictions could be considered and that the Department would be pleased to work with Council in undertaking this. The Head of Corporate & Development Services will arrange a mutually convenient date to meet with the Department to take forward this initiative.

The Chair thanked Mr Minford and Mr Larmour for their attendance and they left the meeting at 8.05 pm.

229.2 MINUTES – MEETING NO 228 – 10th October 2011

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 228 – 10th October 2011, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

229.3 DRAFT BUDGET 2012/13

Members were invited to consider a first draft of estimated budget amendments in Development Services (copy circulated). At the request of Councillor Robinson, the Head of Corporate & Development Services confirmed that comparative budget information to that currently provided for discussion would be included in the blue book and she would table at next Committee meeting for members' information.

* **Councillor McLaughlin left the meeting at 8.22 pm.**

229.4 VILLAGE REGENERATION – PROJECT OFFICER

It is **RECOMMENDED** that committee consider request by community to lead on village projects under the Rural Development Programme and that a project officer be appointed, on a 12 month fixed term contract basis, to facilitate the implementation, monitoring and reporting on this programme of work, estimated cost £31,000.

Members were advised on the substantial amount of work commitment for consultation on and delivery and monitoring of proposed village projects were Council to agree to requests to lead on projects and also its commitment to arrangements for the 2012 torch run. At the request of Councillor Robinson, information on drawing down loans against Council's assets will be available at Council's rates setting process.

Committee has been granted Council powers to decide on this matter (CM 949).

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

that Council leads on village projects supported under the Rural Development Programme (detailed at CM 949) and that a project officer be appointed, on a 12 month fixed term contract basis, to facilitate the implementation, monitoring and reporting on this programme of work, the 2012 torch run, estimated cost £31,000.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services confirmed to the Chair that the post was specific to the Village Programme and would be subject to project commitments and to review by Committee, it being noted that there was a proposal to extend the programme by 18 months. The Officer will report further to the next meeting.

229.5 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**5.1 Council Contribution to regional projects**

The five constituent Councils of NER have been requested to provide match funding for regional co-operation projects in the financial year 2012/2013. These projects are an intrinsic part of the agreed strategy. The table below outlines the level of contributions, which have been kept to a minimum.

PROGRAMME	TOTAL COST	POTENTIAL Matched Cost	EXPECTED DURATION	COMMENTS
Dalriada Tourism initiative	£50,000	£750 per annum	2 years from mid-2012	Tourism project
Village Links Co-op project	£70,000	£950 per annum	2 years from April 2012	Community project Awaiting agreement
Basic Services Co-operation project	£60,000	£750 per annum	2 years-from April 2012	Community project Awaiting agreement
Day of the region project	£40,000	£650 Per annum	2 years-from mid-2012	Business/Community Project
Total	£319,500	Approx £3,100 Per annum		

At the request of Councillor Finlay, the Head of Corporate & Development Services advised that Council has signed up to the strategy as a partner and is committed to that but an indication of a timeline for approval has not yet been received. This information will be brought to the next meeting of Committee.

5.2 Village Regeneration Facilitator

A request has been received to extend the facilitator post for a further 18 months (years 3 & 4) £800 and £400 respectively.

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

to recommend that Council agree to the extension of the facilitator post (employer Moyle District Council) for a further 18 months (years 3 & 4) £800 and £400 respectively.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised that under the RDP village regeneration initiative, a number of village plans had been developed. Two Borough villages, Druckendult and Derrykeighan had joined with Liscolman and Mosside in Moyle District Council area in a Cross-Council initiative to develop community objectives and goals. The action plan was tabled.

5.3 North Antrim Village Forum

Council is invited to appoint a representative to service on the North Antrim Village Forum.

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

that Alderman Kennedy be nominated as Council's representative on the North Antrim Village Forum.

5.4 NIHE Pilot "Rural Homes & People"

NIHE under its Rural Homes and People policy is committed to supporting rural regeneration and in particular assisting in the roll-out of the NI Rural Development Programme (RDP). RDP provide up to 75% funding under its basic services and village renewal measures for rural community groups to undertake a wide range of community based projects. NIHE will provide match funding, totalling £60K, to cover the 25% shortfall for community projects under these programmes. Expressions of interest by 12th December. It is **RECOMMENDED** that an expression of interest be lodged.

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

to recommend that an expression of interest be lodged with NIHE.

229.6 ULSTER SCOTS HERITAGE TOURISM PROGRAMME

The Ministerial Advisory Group, Ulster Scots Academy (MAGUS) has provided information on what it is hoping to achieve through this programme and the potential for opportunities to access EU funding. It is **RECOMMENDED** that an expression of interest be submitted.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised that following a pilot programme, other Council offices had been invited to a working seminar on the programme to explore the potential for collaborative action on its development and how best to advance joint objectives. She advised that the MAGUS advises the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure on the strategic development of the Ulster-Scots sector. Key objectives are:

- To contribute to building broad understanding of the Ulster-Scots tradition in Ireland, Scotland and further afield.
- To maximize the impact of the resources available to the Ulster-Scots sector in Northern Ireland.
- To promote greater impact and coherence within the sector; and
- To secure the broadest possible support for the sector across the community in Northern Ireland.

It had been asked to produce a holistic, multi-year development and research strategy for the sector. This strategic work is underpinned by an allocation from the department. Three work streams have been identified for the fund: Language and Literature; History and Culture; and Education and Research. The Group invites and considers suitable projects for these work streams and makes recommendations to the Minister to secure the necessary approval to offer financial support.

A need had been identified for a programme of activity to develop and promote Ulster Scots heritage tourism. This could focus on the upgrading, development, marketing and linking of key sites, including buildings with important historical associations, graveyards, memorials and monuments. Such a programme might also include research and development projects,

feasibility studies and historical research leading to the creation of tourist trails, displays and exhibitions; and activities to research, present and commemorate significant historical events such as the granting of town charters.

It is envisaged that such a programme would help to inform and educate visitors and residents alike about the important contribution which the Ulster Scots tradition has made to shaping local places, their layout and architecture, and that it will help strengthen the market for heritage and genealogy tourism.

A number of specific priorities for action had been suggested:

- a) Regional action to support local Charter anniversary events, perhaps in partnership with a body such as the Ulster Historical Foundation;
- b) Regional action to raise the standard of facilities and improve the presentation of key buildings in partnership with the Tourist Board;
- c) Action to strengthen regional co-ordination arrangements for Ulster Scots heritage tourism generally.

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

to recommend that an expression of interest be submitted to MAGUS.

229.7 EVENTS

A request has been received to participate in the 2012 Cow Parade in Northern Ireland, presented by Asitis Consulting, with an initial level of funding of £15,000. Committee is invited to consider the proposal.

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

to recommend that Council note the request.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services updated the meeting on the London 2012 Torch run, Pipe Band event and Diamond Jubilee proposals. The working Group would consider proposals and report to Committee.

* **Alderman Kennedy left the meeting at 8.50 pm.**

229.8 NORTHERN CORRIDOR RAILWAYS WORKING GROUP (NCRWG)

A meeting was held on 20th October 2011 in Coleraine Borough Council Offices regarding the upgrading work to Coleraine – Londonderry Section of Line.

Derry City Council reported on a meeting held in August 2011 in the city where a strong case was put to DRD Minister to re-profile the budget to allow the line to be open during the City of Culture Year (2013). By October, N I Executive agreed DRD proposals for £27 million scheme to be completed by April 2013. Council is grateful for this decision.

Phase I of work will include relaying track from Coleraine to Castlerock and from Eglinton to Londonderry, along with essential bridge safety work. Line will close during relaying work and bus substitutions will operate. Phase II works in 2015 will include provision of passing loop and money is secured for that work. Phase III planned for 2021; money not yet secured. Will include relaying remainder of line.

20 new trains sets arrive soon and decision to be taken on deployment. Will allow for longer trains on Derry /Londonderry line. By 2015 aim is to have hourly services on line and, by 2021, half hourly. From 2013 to 2015 new timetable will see eight trains per day as opposed to nine at present.

Meeting agreed that NCRWG should receive further update later in year or early in 2012 and should continue to press for completion of all infrastructure works and improved service.

The Head of Corporate and Development Services referred to the recent meeting which Translink held in Council's offices. Representatives advised of various initiatives including new express service, addressing vandalism, new facility serving Causeway hospital and reduction in journey times. Councillor Finlay welcomed their visit and congratulated Translink on the provision of its new trains. Councillor Stevenson welcomed the new bus service to and from the hospital and the enhancement of the railway station. Councillor Robinson concurred with his remarks. Councillor Stevenson requested that representations be made to Translink to ensure that Ballymoney station is advertised appropriately and that the bus station on Kilraughts Road remains in situ. Committee agreed to take up the offer of regular briefings.

A letter from the Department for Regional Development to Coleraine Borough Council in response to that Council's representations regarding frequency of train services between Coleraine and Londonderry was tabled.

It was noted that significant progress has been made in relation to the commencement of the Coleraine to Londonderry track relay project and consequently to the plans to reduce services.

The Minister looked at options to bring forward the project and on 6th October 2011 the Executive gave agreement to enable the Minister to re-profile his Department's budget to enable the relay of the track to be completed in phases. The Minister made a full statement to the Assembly on 10th October.

The first phase will be advanced to commence in July 2012 and complete in April 2013. Unfortunately, in order to complete Phase 1 of the plan, it will be necessary to close the line for nine months between July 2012 and April 2013. This means that the line will be closed for the start of the City of Culture year but should be open for the key events in the City of Culture calendar. There will be disruption to services on the line during the 2012/13 financial year but when phase one is completed in April 2013; Translink will operate eight returns per day between Coleraine and Londonderry.

Phase II, to be completed in 2015, will involve the construction of a new passing loop and re-signaling works and should lead to hourly services on the line. Phase III, which involves a full relay of the track, will be completed in 2021 and should lead to half-hourly services.

* **Councillor Halliday and Councillor Atkinson left the meeting at 9.05 pm.**

229.9 PROJECT PROGRESS REPORTS

1. ENTERPRISE

- a. Steps to Success (CP) completed (BBC Lead)
- b. DETI EU Sustainable Development Programme LED measure to 2015. NE INI Region Indicative programme developed, total £1,378,800 (2 years) ERDF (50%), INI (25%) Councils (7x25%) £50,000 per Council
- c. DETI/INI – overview of EU legislative and procedural requirements 22/11/11
- d. Business survey issued
- e. INI “Boosting Business Initiative launched – themes Jobs, R&D, Skills, Exports, Technology
- f. Meeting INI 31/10/11 re Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- g. Industrial/Business units directory completed
- h. RDP Rural Business applications supported

2. TOURISM

- a. Drives/Trails Product (RDP) – draft report received
RDP & NITB/TDS potential funding opportunities
- b. Altnarichard Picnic Area/Car Park £74K (comments ORRA Action Group)
Potential funding opportunities RDP / NITB
- c. Pedestrian/Cycle Link Path - Drumaheglis to Balnamore (joint project community association and DRD Roads Service, with potential benefit to village and visitors to Drumaheglis. (RDP) £300K
- d. River Bann (Rivers Project) IV4 - Inaugural project board meeting 7/12/11. Draft partnership agreement, job description and communication plan to be considered.
- e. TDS Signature Project Programme 2011-13. Match funding application to NITB selected to proceed by screening panel. Next stage of appraisal process is meeting and site visit. Additional enhancement recommended – water sports school, interpretation in line with existing CCR and enhanced catering facility.
- f. Events/Festivals – 2012 Torch Run, 2012 Diamond Jubilee and Pipe Band event being progressed and COW Parade meeting held.
- g. Ulster Scots Connection - funding opportunities Ulster Scots Heritage Programme – Ministerial Advisory Group Ulster Scots Academy.
Tourism Marketing:-
- h. CCG Destination Management Plan – TOR developed following vision day for consultancy support.
- i. CCG implementation of revised structure being progressed and first meeting of interim operational executive held.
- j. CCG 2011-12 operational plan and progress report tabled.
- k. Joint domestic marketing plan agreed
- l. Steam Research – recommend not to be continued

3. TOWN CENTRE

- a. THI progress report no. 1 received. Initial condition and measured services 75% complete. Promotional material published. Stakeholder event held 8.11.11. Education and Training being advanced. Property owner meetings ongoing
- b. Christmas Activity Programme developed and being rolled out
- c. Development Opportunities under consideration
- d. Environmental and property improvement delivered
- e. Website directories enhanced
- f. Response from DETI Minister re job losses and new measures introduced.

4. SOCIAL ECONOMY

- a.
- b. Village Project (RDP Basic Services) Dervock Community Hall/Centre and changing facilities for adjacent sports pitch £942K. Application for £250K
- c. Old Mill Cloughmills Feasibility Study
- d. Village Regeneration projects
 - 1. Dervock
 - 2. Rasharkin
 - 3. Stranocum
 - 4. Ballybogey
 - 5. Cloughmills
 - 6. Old Mill feasibility study
- e. Village Renewal Facilitator post extended 18 months (MDC Led)
- f. Aires De Service Study NE Region (MDC led)– final report received
- g. Community Enterprise event held 17.11.11, LEDCOM Social Economy and best practice speakers Cloughmills and Millbrook Larne.
- h. Correspondence from DRD regarding car parking charges in response to representations from Councillor Storey, MLA

5. PEACE III

Peace III Joint Committee accounts 2010/11 tabled.

6. INTERNATIONAL LINKS

- a. Soccer visit to Vanves postponed.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services recorded thanks to everyone who was involved in organizing the Christmas Activity Programme; in particular the many volunteers who had taken part in the Christmas lights switch on event and the contribution of local businesses which had served to make it a successful and enjoyable evening for all. Alderman Campbell congratulated the Department on an excellent evening's programme. Councillor Finlay concurred with his remarks. Comments regarding the lights, Christmas tree and programme input were noted.

* **Alderman Cousley and Alderman Connolly left the meeting at 9.35 pm.**

229.10 MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE

Members discussed the timing of Committee meetings and agreed to consider the third Wednesday of each month at 4.00pm. This will be put forward at Council's meeting on 5th December.

229.11 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR NI (RCN) – CONSULTATION

Overall, the draft framework, tabled at the last meeting, which provides definition and clarity around the community development sector's contribution to NI is welcomed. It is suggested that the following also be included to enhance the framework:

- An overall vision for the sector
- A mission statement which will include not only what it aims to do but how it proposes to do it.
- An overall high level strategy for the community development sector to illustrate its importance at NI level and to ensure that it is considered at policy as well as implementation level.
- The high level actions required, as well as resources needed, to support the community development sector in the future

229.12 SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND – CONSULTATION

At members' request, OFMDFM will facilitate a meeting in the cluster area. The deadline for comments is 23rd December.

229.13 EU COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP) REFORM POST 2013 – CONSULTATION

The issues covered in the consultation are:

- Direct payments regulation (Pillar I)
- Single common market organization regulation
- Rural development regulation (Pillar II)
- Horizontal regulation for financing, managing and monitoring the CAP
- Regulation on fixing certain aids and refunds in CMO
- Regulation on transitory measures for 2013
- Regulation on support for wine growers
- Equality implications.

The deadline for comments is 7 February 2012.

229.14 DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT – CONSULTATION

The Assembly Committee for the Environment is preparing a response to the draft programme for government and council is invited to comment, in particular in relation to:

- Perceived gaps in the draft programme
- The draft programme's milestones and outputs
- Monitoring process.

The deadline for comments is 16th December. The committee will be holding an engagement event on 12th January when organizations that have raised issues in their written responses will be invited to meet and discuss these with members of the committee.

229.15 NI ECONOMIC STRATEGY – CONSULTATION

The DETI Minister, on behalf of the NI Executive Sub-Committee on the Economy has published the draft NI Economic Strategy for consultation. A copy can be found at www.northernireland.gov.uk/economic-strategy The deadline for comments is 22nd February 2012.

228.16 A26 Dualling

With the permission of the Chair, Councillor Stevenson raised the issue of A26 dualling in view of the Irish government's decision not to progress the scheme on the A5. The Chief Executive advised that Council has agreed to support a joint lobby with Council's in the Causeway cluster, led by Coleraine Borough Council, to the Ministers for Regional Development and Finance and Personnel regarding the possibility of funding from the A5 project being available for reallocation. Following decision by Council there would be a meeting to prepare the case.

Meeting closed at 9.50 pm.