

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Table of Contents:-

242.1	Declarations of Interest	<i>None</i>
242.2	Minutes of Meeting No 240 – 21 st November 2012	<i>Agreed, as amended</i>
242.3	Minutes of Meeting No 241 – 3 rd December 2012	<i>Agreed</i>
242.4	Ecar Project	<i>Suggest locations</i>
242.5	Town Development	<i>Project updates</i>
	5.1 Town Masterplan	
	5.2 Townscape Heritage Initiative	
	5.3 Town Marketing	
	5.4 Dereliction Intervention Funding	
242.6	Plastic Bag Levy	<i>Communication plan</i>
242.7	Tourism	
	7.1 Drumaheglis Rivers Project (NEP – Interreg/NITB)	<i>Project updates</i>
	7.2 Drumaheglis Strategic Project (RDP)	
	7.3 Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust	
	7.4 Tourism Marketing	<i>Submit expression of interest to NEELB for Music Centre</i>
	7.5 Trails Project	
242.8	Business Support	
	8.1 Job Fair and Employment Advice	<i>Event delivered</i>
242.9	Village Renewal/Community Development Projects	<i>Project updates</i>
	9.1 Community Drop in Centre, Cloughmills	
	9.2 Cloughmills Old Mill Feasibility Study (RDP)	
	9.3 Dervock Community Facilities (RDP)	
	9.4 Ballybogey MUGA (RDP)	
242.10	North East Peace III Accounts	<i>tabled</i>

**Ballymoney Borough Council
Development Committee**

Minutes of Development Meeting No 242, held in the McKinley Room, Riada House, Ballymoney on Wednesday 19th December 2012 at 10.00 am.

IN THE CHAIR: Alderman B Kennedy

PRESENT:

Aldermen
F Campbell
C Cousley

Councillors
W Blair
A Cavlan
J Finlay
I Stevenson

APOLOGIES:

Alderman
H Connolly
Councillor
E Robinson

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

242.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

242.2 MINUTES - MEETING NO 240 – 21ST NOVEMBER 2012

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 240 – 21st November 2012, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the reference to Councillor Finlay, at min. 240.1, being deleted, it being confirmed that he did not speak on the subject.

242.3 MINUTES - MEETING NO 241 – 3RD DECEMBER 2012

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 241 – 3rd December 2012, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

242.4 ECAR PROJECT

Following Council's decision to progress this project plans are now being advanced towards implementation by 31st March 2013. At the request of members to explore a reduction in the cost of Council's contribution or an increase in the installation, the Head of Corporate & Development Services advised that the Consortium has agreed to consider an installation of up to eight charging points in the borough. Suggestions for the location of charging points should be made to the Head of Corporate & Development Services.

242.5 TOWN DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Town Masterplan

An information session for the local business community and representatives of other key stakeholders took place on 29th November with some seventy people attending and actively participating in a range of workshops on retail/residential uses; business/enterprise issues; tourism, recreation leisure and environment; image, promotion, marketing and events; opportunity sites, vacant and underused land and buildings and traffic issues. The development of the masterplan will also be informed by a town health check and retail and commercial leisure capacity study undertaken by DTZ McCombe Pierce in 2010/11 and examine the issues facing the town and the opportunities and challenges. When the draft plan has been prepared there will be a 12 week public consultation period. Arrangements are in hand for an update session for councillors on the process to date.

Councillor Finlay welcomed the success of the session and the press statement by the Chair on action towards town centre regeneration and contribution by partners in the community and business sectors. The Chair expressed his satisfaction at the positive engagement by key stakeholders and hoped that the public would take the opportunity to participate in the public consultation process.

* **The Chief Executive joined the meeting at 11.45 pm.**

5.2 Townscape Heritage Initiative

With the agreement of the funder interim arrangements have been put in hand to deal with inquiries, liaison with potential applicants etc and to commence preparatory work on the THI project until a permanent appointment is made early in the New Year.

5.3 Town Marketing

In this year when the economic climate was difficult, additional marketing in association with the Chamber of Commerce was undertaken in the run up to the Christmas period via radio campaigns, newspaper features, publications and on-line to promote the town centre and festive happenings. Councillor Finlay and other members endorsed the actions taken to support the business community in these difficult economic times.

5.4 Dereliction Intervention Funding

An application has been submitted, by the deadline of 14 December, to the Department of Environment for dereliction intervention funding for improvement to derelict property on key access routes to Ballymoney Town Centre, estimated cost £100,050. If the application is successful more detailed work will be required to develop the proposal and work will require to be completed by 31 March 2013.

The Chairman said the Council, and indeed other councils, had made representations to the DoE Minister following the intervention funding provided for works in Portrush and Portstewart in advance of the Irish Open Golf event. He welcomed the Ministers initiative to scope the potential for funding from the Executive for further work to tackle problems of dereliction in other towns and cities. He also commended the work done by staff within a short time period to prepare and submit the funding bid.

Commenting on the need for action the Chair said many unsightly and dilapidated sites at key access points were creating a negative and unwelcoming impression of the town. A scheme was already being developed to improve the appearance of a terrace of derelict buildings in co-operation with the owners, so this new ministerial initiative presented the opportunity to take a wider look at transforming the appearance of the town centre.

Taking simple measures can help the area return to looking vibrant and friendly and so help with regeneration. In this connection the Chair paid tribute to the support from Cheers Youth Club, Northern Regional College and Toon Art Classes who had produced murals, prints and artwork to brighten up derelict properties over the past several years.

Pointing to the fact that a number of the derelict and dilapidated properties and sites lie on the edge of the conservation area, the Chair said that the Minister's dereliction intervention initiative, coming as it has when council has other town regeneration initiatives in the pipeline is very timely. While the intervention will be only a temporary fix it has the potential to make a real difference to Council's overall regeneration plans.

In response to Councillor Finlay, the Head of Corporate & Development Services advised on options to tackle dereliction problems and the resources and difficulties to addressing such works on private lands. Planning permission would be required for any demolition and development works within and on the edge of the town's conservation area.

242.6 PLASTIC BAG LEVY

A meeting has taken place with the Department of Environment regarding the Carrier Bag Levy which, subject to the approval of the Assembly, the Department will be introduced from 8th April 2013, with a 5p levy on new single use carrier bags. Public consultations and public attitudes, awareness surveys and stakeholder engagement seminars have already taken place and information circulars have issued to local businesses. A communications plan is in place to be rolled out. The Department anticipates that introducing the single use carrier bag levy will provide substantial environmental benefits by significantly reducing carrier bag production, consumption and disposal. Council's support is sought in the delivery of the communications plans. Information would be made available on Council's website and in trade communications. The Chamber of Commerce had expressed concern at the financial and other implications of the implementation of this new levy and agreed to invite a representative from the DoE to address a meeting early in the New Year. Councillor Finlay pointed to the advantages to traders of on-line business trading and suggested that businesses should be encouraged to embrace this.

242.7 TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING

7.1 Drumaheglis RIVERS Project (NEP – interreg / NITB)

The contractor is scheduled to go on site on 7th January and other aspects of the scheme, including interpretation on site is being advanced. The financial profiling and funding arrangements of this and the second phase of development at this site are being reviewed following the award of the tender. It was agreed that the North East Interreg Partnership be requested to provide additional funding to make up the shortfall.

7.2 Drumaheglis Strategic Project (RDP)

A letter of offer has been received and the project is ready to move forward to procurement stage. Expressions of interest have been received from

Carrick Craft and Community Rescue in the activity units and arrangements for establishment by Council of cycle hire unit also supporting its walking and canoe activity products linked to the site.

7.3 Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust

Further discussions have taken place with the Trust as requested regarding support for delivery of projects within the borough and it is **recommended** that budget provision of £7,000 be considered towards the delivery of projects in the next financial year.

It was **AGREED**:

to support a contribution towards the delivery of projects and recommend that Council defer the item for discussion at the rates meeting.

7.4 Tourism Marketing

An on-line marketing strategy is being developed by the Tourism Partnership and a workshop has been held to discuss social media. Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Partnership are progressing social media as a marketing tool. Tourism Ireland and Discover NI, as well as some of the constituent councils, are using Facebook to promote tourism, council has already agreed from a corporate perspective to explore social media and its use for tourism promotion would also be addressed in the report.

7.5 Tourism Trails Project

Discussions are ongoing with partnership bodies and tourism sector providers with regard to the development of a project for committee's consideration. Funding opportunities are also being explored. A presentation will be made to committee on the way forward.

The Chair, Alderman Kennedy, who had participated in some of the meetings with tourism providers, spoke of the potential to grow tourism by promoting the borough's unique stories and expressed the view that the project could be enhanced by an interpretative facility, providing an educational and learning experience. Referring to the vacant Music Centre in Ballymoney, owned by North Eastern Education and Library Board, Alderman Kennedy suggested that this building, with its own unique history, could provide a suitable base and requested that Council submit an expression of interest to transfer this property to Council to develop as an educational and learning centre.

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

to recommend that Council submit an expression of interest to the North Eastern Education and Library Board to transfer the Ballymoney Music Centre to Council for the purposes of education and learning; that funding opportunities for the development be explored and a business plan prepared for committees consideration.

* **Councillor Stevenson left the meeting at 12.10 pm.**

242.8 BUSINESS SUPPORT

8.1 Job fair and employment advice

A job fair and employment advice event delivered by DEL in Ballymena on 5th December accommodated employees from Joseph Hughes Group, Dunloy, 147 staff having been recently made redundant following the company going into administration. The event covered employment, training and volunteering opportunities, money management, debt advice and redundancy advice.

Councillor Finlay welcomed the initiative but expressed the view that DEL be encouraged to promote an employment advice event in Ballymoney.

242.9 VILLAGE RENEWAL/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROEJCTS

9.1 Community Drop in Centre Cloughmills

An application under the Social Investment Programme has been lodged on behalf of Cloughmills Action Team and arrangements are in hand to meet with the group to explore the project.

9.2 Cloughmills Old Mill Feasibility Study (RDP)

Quotations have been received and a consultant is expected to be commissioned soon to take forward this study.

9.3 Dervock Community Facilities (RDP)

This project has now moved to implementation stage and is being taken forward by Borough Services Directorate.

9.4 Ballybogey MUGA (RDP)

Monitoring with regard to match funding is being undertaken with a view to the project being taken forward to implementation stage by the Borough Services Directorate.

242.10 NORTH EAST PEACEIII ACCOUNTS

The Accounts for 2011/12 for the North East PEACE III Joint Committee, as agreed by the Committee on 17th May 2012, are tabled.

The meeting concluded at 12.20 pm.