

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Development Meeting No 231, held in the McKinley Room, Riada House, Ballymoney on Wednesday 18th January 2012 at 4.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J Finlay

PRESENT:

Aldermen
F Campbell
B Kennedy

Councillors
W Blair
R Halliday
R McAfee
I Stevenson

APOLOGIES:

Alderman
H Connolly

Councillors
A Cavlan
E Robinson

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

231.1 MINUTES – MEETING NO 230 – 21ST DECEMBER 2011

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

*that the minutes of Meeting No 230 – 21st December 2011, as circulated,
be confirmed as a correct record.*

231.2 TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE

The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised that a further progress report has been received from the Consultants and BRC Project Team. The project is progressing according to plan, with schedule of meetings with property owners on-going and education and training plan and various guidance notes for applicants being developed. The draft Stage II is due to be submitted to the Board for approval by end of April 2012.

231.3 CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS - TOURISM AREA PLAN

Tenders have been received and assessed and a tender awarded to BTS, Edinburgh.

The Interim Operational Executive and Board are advancing the implementation of the organisational review, including review of the memorandum & articles of association to take account of the new structure.

231.4 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Four co-operation projects have been developed to be taken forward for the two year period commencing 2012, at a cost of £215,000. It is **recommended** that Council approve its match funding at £2,900 per annum.

A review of NER Strategy and Implementation Plan is underway.

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

to recommend that Council approve its match funding at £2,900 per annum.

231.5 VILLAGE REGENERATION PROGRAMME

5.1 Village Hall Projects

Following the social economy workshop session groups are making arrangements to constitute legal entities. Draft business/financial plans are being developed by the Development Unit to provide support to the groups from a community business perspective.

Councillor Finlay advised that Leisure & Amenities Committee had identified the need for liaison between Borough Services and groups bidding for funding for village projects, particularly where council land/property was involved and Council was expected to be the lead. A special meeting of the committee is to be convened to discuss the issues and impacts. He asked the Officer to participate in the meeting in view of the committee's role in relation to the village renewal programme and the rural development partnership.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services referred to the move by community groups to set up limited companies to manage council community halls, advising that the cost involved in the legal process was estimated at £300 per group and Committee may wish to consider making a contribution. The Director of Central & Leisure Services was responsible for drawing, on advice of Solicitor, a draft agreement between Council and the Management Committees and was due to consult with the groups on this at an early date.

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

to recommend that, in the light of the improved governance arrangements, Council contribute up to 50% of the cost of achieving Limited Company status, up to £150, to each of the five groups in the Borough who have responsibility for management of community halls.

5.2 Project Officer Post

The Head of Corporate & Development Services referred to the key purpose of the temporary Project Officer post, agreed by Council, to take forward infrastructural village projects on Council land/property, on which Council had agreed to lead, coupled with support for preparations and delivery by Council of the 2012 Torch Relay in Dervock and the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. She updated members on progress with regard to key preparations and technical and other assessments for which support was required at an early date.

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

to recommend implementation of the additional support post in February 2012 to assist with work associated with 2012 Torch Run and Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

231.6 EVENTS WORKING GROUP

Report of working group meetings on 16th and 17th January, detailing draft proposals for the 2012 Torch Relay, Queens Diamond Jubilee and other key events in 2012, was presented, as follows:

6.1 Queens Diamond Jubilee

Members discussed the County events proposed, including a service of thanksgiving and a formal dinner to be hosted by the Queen's Lord Lieutenant.

The working group had considered ideas and suggested a programme of local events might include exhibitions, historic walk and talk, sport, art, film and music events, community celebration lunch, garden party, tree plant, civic service and jubilee beacon. Proposed activity also included presentation of commemorative gifts, floral displays, official opening/naming of Council facilities, street dressing, rebranding of existing events, marketing materials and a community grants scheme.

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

[a] that the draft programme of events be approved at an estimated cost of £20,000.

[b] to recommend that Council reserve two tables at the County Antrim Dinner, at cost of £500.00 per table, budget to be provided in Official & Courtesy Visits.

6.2 London 2012 Torch Relay

Work is progressing on preparations to dress and prepare the torch route in accordance with guidance published by LOCOG and thought being given to appropriate entertainment. Dervock Community Association is presently preparing a funding bid for events on the day. It is **recommended** that purchase of branded merchandise to dress the route, estimated at £1500 be approved.

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

to recommend that purchase of merchandise at an estimated cost of £1,500, be approved budget identified, within the overall budget of £10,000 approved.

6.3 Other Key 2012 Events

These following events have been welcomed by local traders who have expressed a willingness to collaborate with Council to showcase the town and maximise benefits to the area.

- Scottish Pipe Band Championships
- World Short Mat Bowling Event
- Irish Open Golf Tournament

A meeting with representatives from the trade is being arranged.

6.4 Welcome Signage

Members considered and agreed enhanced welcome signage for town recognising its local racing legends, in this year long extravaganza of events, sport, culture, championships and celebrations, cost being met from existing project budget.

231.7 PROJECT UPDATE

A copy of the 2011-12 Development Services Business Plan was circulated. The Head of Corporate & Development Services gave an update on some of the projects addressing key elements of the plan including:

- Strengthening enterprise
- Development of tourism trails and water sports facility at River Bann
- Town centre marketing and regeneration initiatives
- Village regeneration projects

* **Councillor McAfee left the meeting at 4.50 pm.**

231.8 RATING OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES AND EMPTY RETAIL PREMISES

The Head of Corporate & Development Services reported that an initiative by the Chair to bring vacant properties into economic use for the benefit of owners and to promote business opportunities was being explored and a further report would be brought to committee.

231.9 NORTHERN IRELAND ECONOMIC STRATEGY COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN (draft)

The Northern Ireland Executive has published a draft of the Action Plan. A copy is available from the Office of the Chief Executive.

The meeting closed at 5.00 pm.