

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Development Meeting No 238, held in the McKinley Room, Riada House, Ballymoney on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 6.30pm

**IN THE CHAIR:** Alderman B Kennedy

**PRESENT:** **Aldermen**  
F Campbell  
C Cousley MBE  
B Kennedy

**Councillors**  
J Atkinson  
W Blair  
R Halliday  
R McAfee  
E Robinson  
I Stevenson

**APOLOGIES:** **Aldermen**  
H Connolly

**Councillors**  
A Cavlan  
M Storey, MLA

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

**238.1 PRESENTATION – ENERGY PROJECT - Mr Murray Bell**

The Chair welcomed Mr Murray Bell and Mr Robin Taggart, Architect and Genealogist, representing a project group, Ballymoney 2025. Introducing the subject Mr Bell explained that the group of local business people with expertise in the sector had come together to explore renewable energy and energy strategy in the borough, aimed at pushing towards self sufficiency by 2025, a community enterprise initiative. They had identified energy options with income opportunities which could be taken forward under a community investment model. One of the potential sites identified for a wind turbine was on Council lands at Crosstagherty.

The group sought permission to explore the siting of a turbine on the lands; to approach the NI Environment Agency to seek a response to the proposal; and, if broad acceptance is given, to undertake ground investigations for foundations to determine suitability of site. Some funding may be sought to cover the cost of this. If the investigations proved favourable a detailed proposal would be developed for discussion with Committee.

In the ensuing discussion various benefits were identified including opportunities of a community investment; creation of an income stream for investors, visible signal of a community that are serious about a sustainable future and a beneficial outcome from a semi-retired landfill site.

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

***to recommend that Council grant permission to the Ballymoney 2025 project group to:***

- 1. Explore the siting of a turbine at the Council landfill site at Crosstagherty;***
- 2. To approach N I Environment Agency to seek response to the proposal;***
- 3. Prepare proposals for take the initiative to the next stage for consideration by committee, if the site investigations are favourable.***

## **238.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations made.

## **238.3 MINUTES**

For the completeness of the record copy of summary of committee items deal with by Council during the summer recess are appended.

### **3.1 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 236 – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

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

***that the minutes of Meeting No 236 – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012, as circulated, be approved.***

### **3.2 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 237 – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012**

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

***that the minutes of Meeting No 237 – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012, as circulated, be approved.***

## **238.4 NORTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE CAMPUS AMALGAMATION PROPOSALS**

Paul Morris of Deloitte arranged a telephone interview with Chief Executive on 4 September 2012.

The task set for Deloitte is to prepare by end of November a report to DEL on the Outline Business Case (OBC) for a replacement of the two campuses in Coleraine and Ballymoney with one on a new site in the new Causeway Coast and Glens area. (They are also looking separately at rationalising three sites to one in Ballymena).

The Chief Executive outlined Council's opposition to any removal of NRC provision from Ballymoney. This was its stance in earlier consultations in 2004 and 2010 and had not changed subsequently. In both instances Council was supported by the Chamber of Commerce and the local secondary schools. Reasons included loss of jobs and investment in the borough, less opportunities for employers to avail of training for workers and for young people to obtain vocational qualifications, reduced spend in town centre shops and cafés and lack of public transport links to an out of town replacement site.

The Chief Executive also highlighted the need to align DEL's review of Regional College provision with DE's review of secondary education, as Regional Colleges provide much needed options for vocational A-level courses. Carrying out separate reviews without considering overlaps risks not making best use of limited public resources.

While the difficulties with current buildings and the restricted opportunities on the existing Ballymoney site are acknowledged, Council believes that other options exist for a new site in town (e.g. Linenhall Street or options on Knock Road) retaining the bus and rail access currently available and with good links to the retail core. It was also pointed out that centralising of facilities in larger towns flies in the face of decentralisation by DARD (to Ballykelly) and by DOJ (to rural Cookstown for the new training college). Finally the need for councils and councillors to be consulted on any proposals emerging from the OBC work was emphasised. Mr Morris noted the points made and stated that he was not aware that DEL had secured any site for a new college in the Causeway area. He believed that PPP/PFI was still an option for delivery of a new campus and that possible sites in Ballymoney would be considered in preparation of the OBC.

**Committee noted the report.**

## **238.5 TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT**

### **5.1 Ballymoney Masterplan**

Consultants are expected to be formally appointed within the next week or so, following which consultation arrangements will be put in place. The masterplan is scheduled to last approximately 12 months. There will be a 12 week public consultation period prior to the production of the draft masterplan document.

### **5.2 Environmental Improvement Works**

Arising from recent discussion about environmental improvement of derelict property/gap sites in the town centre a proposal aimed at enhancing the property/sites as an interim measure is being developed for committee's consideration and in preparation for a funding bid. A proposal for reviving of empty space is also being developed.

### 5.3 Townscape Heritage Initiative (HLF)

Decision of HLF is expected before end of September. It is **recommended** that Council consider enhanced funding for the initiative in year one and its support to the Regeneration Company in the delivery of the initiative.

The meeting discussed the difficulties faced regarding reduced funding from Planning Service and withdrawal of the DSD Town Centre Living Initiative which would make a valuable contribution to the THI.

While noting that representations were being made by THI delivery groups to the relevant Ministers it was **AGREED:**

***that Committee include a bid for additional match funding in the next rates round, the matter to be further considered at the next meeting.***

## 238.6 TOURISM MARKETING/DEVELOPMENT

### 6.1 Customer Care Training

A "Welcome Host" customer care training programme for the tourism sector is being delivered on 20<sup>th</sup> October. To date take up of the initiative is good.

### 6.2 Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust /Heart of the Glens LPS

Consultation and development work on the Heart of the Glens LPS is ongoing. A draft Partnership Agreement, work programme for development phase and criteria for nominees for the LPS Chair has been developed. Workshops on the LPS Scheme, Trails project proposal and The Heritage Trust programme of work to be settled.

### 6.3 World Police and Fire Games (WPFG)

The NI Tourist Board delivered an information session to promote opportunities presented by the World Police and Fire Games which will take place in NI in August 2013. The event using 42 venues in NI covers 70 sports. Committee is invited to consider opportunities for the borough. WPFG is a biennial event which sees members of the Police, Prison and the Fire & Rescue Services compete in a range of sports and a wide range of goods and services will need to be procured for the Games. The Officer is participating in meetings on this initiative. Plans are in hand for an event promoted in Ballymoney by a local provider which will bring economic benefits to the borough. There are also procurement opportunities for local firms.

### 6.4 The Gathering Ireland 2013

*The Gathering* Ireland 2013 provides opportunity for a series of events and festivals to celebrate Irish culture, history and genealogy. Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Partnership facilitated a briefing by Tourism Ireland on this event and to consider the potential it offers. Various ideas are being pursued for an event in collaboration with an adjoining Council, supported by Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Partnership. A further report will be

brought to committee. No specific funding is available from Tourism Ireland or the Tourist Board.

#### **6.5 Irish Indoor Bowling Association International Event**

A letter of thanks has been received from the Irish Bowling Association for Councils sponsorship and support in the staging of this event at Ballybrakes Bowling Stadium.

### **238.7 VILLAGE RENEWAL / RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Committee Report, adopted by Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> September is attached for convenience. Committee will be updated on progress. Work is in hand to finalise village project proposals for submission to the Rural Development Partnership by the deadline of 21<sup>st</sup> September. Where appropriate planning applications are being submitted by Borough Services and the cost of relevant fees are being met from the capital programme provided for community projects.

### **238.8 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

#### **8.1 Innovation & Growth Programme**

International Business Initiatives Limited has been awarded the contract to deliver an Innovation & Growth Programme, which is part financed by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG IVA cross border programme, managed by SEUPB, and delivered across the North East Partnership region and Udaras Na Gaeltachta. The programme will assist 60 businesses over four phases which each tranche of 15 made up of six participants from Donegal and 9 from the NEP area (NEP area covers councils of: Antrim, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Carrickfergus, Coleraine, Donegal, Larne, Moyle and Newtownabbey.) The recruitment campaign is currently being rolled out following public advertisement and details of local firms who may be interested have been provided to the consultant.

#### **8.2 Free ICT Training for Farm Families**

As part of the Countryside Agri Rural Partnership, the Rural Development Council (RDC) is responsible for managing Axis 1, Farm Family Options Skills Measure for the NI Rural Development Programme. This programme provides opportunities for farm families to engage in collective training. Based on the demands of the existing programme ICT for the Farm Family has been identified as a theme. As a result the RDC is offering ICT training to farmers and members of their families in various locations throughout NI. Participation in the course is free. The target is to deliver at least 300 farm family members from October 2012 to December 2012.

#### **8.3 Logon-NI**

Log-on NI's demonstration unit visited Ballymoney in August, with two days in town centre and two days at the Enterprise Centre. Log-on NI provides supplier neutral broadband and ICT advice to SME's. The objectives of the programme is to stimulate take-up of broadband within and increase the level of e-business activity.

### **238.9 A26 DUALLING (GLARRYFORD TO DRONES ROAD) – VESTING ORDER AND PUBLIC INQUIRY**

The Department of Regional Development has decided to hold local public inquiries to consider the opinions expressed in relation to the proposal. Ms Eileen Brady has been appointed by the Department as an inspector to hold the inquiries which will commence on 5<sup>th</sup> November in Ballymena. The notice, specifying the details of the inquiries has been published in the local press. A document containing the Departments proposals is available from the Office of the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive's of Ballymena and other Councils on the A26 corridor have discussed the matter with a view to submitting a collective response to the Minister and the Public Inquiry. Ballymena Council will contact us with further details in due course.

It is **recommended** that Council join with the other councils in making a submission to the Public Inquiry and bear a share of the costs involved.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson seconded by Councillor Blair and **AGREED:**

***that Council join with the other councils on the route in making a submission to the Public Inquiry and bear a share of the costs involved.***

It was reported that Ballymena Borough Council are currently gathering information from Councils on responses to date to facilitate a joint response.

### **238.10 INTERNATIONAL LINKS**

A letter of thanks has been received from a participant in the Vanves football visit. A reception has been arranged to recognise the team's achievement.

### **238.11 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

The following consultations, tabled at August Consultation Committee are referred to committee: (details attached)

- 11.1 Urban Regeneration & Community Development Policy Framework
- 11.2 Business Improvement Districts (Bids) Bill
- 11.3 In-Year Review of the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme

### **238.12 CONSULTATION – EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMMES 2014-2020**

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has launched a public consultation on the European Territorial Co-Operation Programmes 2014-2020. The current programme has come to an end and the European Commission has prepared a number of draft regulations, outlining plans for the future of European Territorial Co-Operation Programmes for the next programming period 2014-2020. Further details of the consultation can be found at:

<http://www.seupb.eu/2014-2020Consultation/backgroundinfo/eudraftregulations.aspx>



The EU regulations which will cover these programmes have yet to be approved by the European Council and the European Parliament. This process is not expected to conclude until the end of 2012 at the earliest. The NE Partnership will be making a response which will be shared with committee. Any specific comments by committee can also be included.

The meeting concluded at 8.50 p.m.