Ballymoney Borough Council Consultation Meeting No 102 – 17th November 2014

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BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Consultation Committee Meeting No 102 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 17th November 2014 at 6.30 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Alderman B Kennedy

PRESENT: Aldermen

F Campbell H Connolly C Cousley,MBE

Councillors

W Blair
A Cavlan
J Finlay
R Halliday
R McAfee
P McGuigan
T McKeown
C McLaughlin
E Robinson, MBE

I Stevenson

APOLOGIES: Councillors

J Atkinson A McLean

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive

Head of Corporate and Development Services

Business Support Officer

Transport NI (Item 1-2)

C Hutchinson – Strategic Road Improvements Manager

J McKinley – Section Engineer, Ballymoney

Planning Service (Items 1-8)

S Mathers - Planning Officer

Press x 1

102.1 CHAIR OF THE MEETING

The Chief Executive advised members that the Chair of the Committee, Councillor A McLean was absent from the meeting due to ill health.

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

that the Mayor assume the Chair in the absence of Councillor McLean to conduct the business of the meeting.

The Mayor and members wished Councillor McLean a speedy recovery.

102.2 TRANSPORT NI INTERIM REPORT 2014/15

The Mayor welcomed Mr Hutchinson and Mr McKinley to the meeting to present their interim report for 2014/15, a copy of which had been circulated. Mr Hutchinson stated that the last few years have been difficult due to budget constraints resulting in pressure on routine maintenance work and safety schemes. Improvement schemes are prioritised and he gave an assurance that all existing resources will be used effectively and that the Department will continue to bid at in-year monitoring rounds to increase their allocation.

He highlighted a number of improvement and maintenance schemes currently planned or progressed and welcomed expenditure on structural maintenance which had allowed the Division to deliver many needed projects including over five kilometres of carriageway resurfacing incorporating works completed at A26 Newbridge Road, B62 Craigs Road, B96 Townhill Road and B67 Benvardin Road. In addition to the resurfacing programme over 36 kilometres of carriageway was surface dressed at a cost of £198,000. Mr Hutchinson stated that he was pleased to note the completion of a footway on Castlecatt Road, Dervock which provides a pedestrian link to the village for a number of houses and Dervock Reformed Presbyterian Church. A £77,000 maintenance scheme has also been carried out at Benvardin Bridge involving repairs to the parapets, replacement of the copings and cleaning and repairing of the steel beams.

Referring to the progress of resurfacing work, Mr Hutchinson advised that due to in-year monitoring the Department has been able to provide an additional resurfacing scheme at Semicock Road and additional footway resurfacing at Garryduff Road, Dunloy and Stuart Park, Ballymoney. He was also pleased that the work to clear the recent landslide at Altarichard Road had been completed quickly.

Mr Hutchinson provided members with an update on the A26 Frosses dualling scheme which represents an investment of £55M. Work is expected to commence by the end of this year with temporary speed restrictions in place in January/February 2015 to enable works. Completion is expected early/mid 2017.

Mr McKinley responded to questions/comments from members and agreed to clarify issues relating to:

- Speed restrictions at Finvoy Road, Garryduff Church and school
- Clarification of speed limits at Dunloy and signage

- Egress from Bravallen Road onto and over Castle Street
- Pedestrian safety when crossing from Seymour Street to Westgate.
- Pedestrian safety at the roundabout at the top of Charles Street
- Safety issues at roundabout on Greengage Lane salt boxes to be provided
- 30mph speed limit at Kilraughts Road request for provision of additional signage or road markings.
- Extension of footpath at Dervock
- Footpath at Ballyveely Road
- Pot hole at Fivey Road
- Proposals for junction where Galdanagh Road meets Tullaghans Road and estimated commencement date of work.
- Safety issues crossing from Moores to Strand Park
- Slow moving traffic on A26

At the request of Alderman Connolly Mr McKinley advised that deferred surface treatment works would be carried out in 2015.

At the request of Councillor McGuigan, Mr McKinley advised that the Minister had taken a decision that no further routine works would be carried out. However, the Department continues to monitor the situation and if funds become available the situation may change going forward. Councillor McGuigan expressed his view that lighting is a priority and the situation should be reconsidered and the finance be found for this work.

Members thanked the Department for:

- Quick response time for clean-up of C81 following landslide (Alderman Connolly)
- Cycle paths at Corkey (Councillor Cavlan)
- Footpath at Garryduff Road (Councillor McGuigan)
- Traffic management scheme in Cloughmills (Councillor McLaughlin)

The presentation concluded at 7.10 pm. Mr Hutchinson and Mr McKinley left the meeting at this time.

The following members joined the meeting during presentation of the report.

- * Alderman Connolly at 6.35 pm
- Councillor Robinson at 6.40 pm
- Councillor McGuigan at 6.42 pm
- Councillor McKeown at 6.50 pm

* Councillor McKeown left the meeting at 7.10pm

102.3 GILMOUR FAMILY APPEAL

Referring to the recent road traffic accident resulting in the death of eight year old Adam Gilmour, the Mayor stated "Everyone has been touched by the tragedy that befell young eight year old schoolboy Adam Gilmour while making his way from his Cloughmills home to school on 11th November.

What happened to Sarah Hanna and her young family that morning is distressing and has pulled at the heartstrings of the community. People here have a reputation for good neighbourliness and there is a lot of sympathy and concern for Sarah and her young family. Many people have contacted me wanting to help in some way. While Council has no direct role or responsibility, as Mayor I have decided in response to the public interest to set up an appeal to receive donations.

I have asked my office to make the necessary arrangements to open up an appeal account at the Council's bank and I now seek your endorsement of this action. The account in the name of "Gilmour Family Appeal" is under the Council's name and the Council's authorized signatories.

Until the appeal fund is established monies may be left at the Mayor's Office, Riada House and will be lodged to the "Gilmour Family Appeal Fund". I will issue further details about the appeal fund when this is available."

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

that an appeal account is opened in the name of "The Gilmour Family Appeal Fund", under the Council's name with Council's authorised signatories at the Bank of Ireland.

- * Councillor McKeown re-joined the meeting at 7.15 pm.
- * Councillor McAfee joined the meeting at 7.15 pm.

102.4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

102.5 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 101 – 20TH OCTOBER 2014

It was proposed by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Councillor Finlay and AGREED:

to recommend that the Minutes of Meeting No 101 – 20th October 2014, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

102.6 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

6.1 New Applications

Items 1-5 were considered and the opinion of the Planning Service accepted except where stated otherwise.

The content of the objections were summarised to members and may be viewed on public access at:

http://epicpublic.planningni.gov.uk/PublicAccess/zd/tdc_home.aspx

ITEM NO 2	APPLICATION NO D/2014/0084/F - REFUSAL
APPLICANT	Mr W Wylie C/o Agent
AGENT	Ivan Mc Donald, 17 Lissadel Avenue, Portstewart
LOCATION	Adjacent to 315 Townhill Road, Rasharkin
PROPOSAL	Replacement of 315 Townhill Road, Rasharkin with a 2
	storey house
It was Agreed:	that an office meeting be held (Councillor Blair/
	Councillor Finlay)

ITEM NO 3	APPLICATION NO D/2014/0145/F - REFUSAL
APPLICANT	Mr D Mc Mullan C/o Agent
AGENT	D M Kearney, Design 2A, Coleraine Road, Maghera
LOCATION	Between 68 and 70 Tamlaght Road
PROPOSAL	2 no. Infill Dwellings and Garages
OBJECTIONS (2)	Flooding, amenity, wildlife, road safety, prominence
It was Agreed :	that an office meeting be held (Councillor Finlay/ Alderman Connolly)

ITEM NO 4	APPLICATION NO - D/2014/0164/F - REFUSAL
APPLICANT	Mr N Hanna C/o Agent
AGENT	Palmtree, Creations 27, Cabra Court, Ballymoney
LOCATION	252a Kilraughts Road, Armoy, Ballymoney
PROPOSAL	Change of use from garage to retirement dwelling
It was Agreed:	that an office meeting be held (Councillor Finlay/ Councillor Stevenson)

6.2 Deferred Applications

Items 1-5 were considered and the opinion of the Planning Services accepted except where stated otherwise.

D1	APPLICATION NO D/2008/0093/F - APPROVAL	
The Planning Officer	advised that all issues have been resolved and the	
application can now be approved. Potential noise issues from construction		
phase to be addressed by the applicant with the contractor.		

D2	APPLICATION NO D/2013/0092/F - REFUSAL	
The Department remains of the opinion to refuse the application.		
D3	APPLICATION NO D/2014/0087/O - REFUSAL	
The Department remains of the opinion to refuse the application.		
D4	APPLICATION NO D/2014/0103/O - REFUSAL	

It was proposed by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin

that the application be held pending a meeting with the MLA.

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Robinson

that council accept the decision of the Department to refuse the application.

A recorded vote was taken on Motion 1 at the request of Alderman Connolly with 10 members voting in favour and two members voting against:

FOR (10)	AGAINST (2)
Councillor McGuigan	Councillor Finlay
Councillor McLaughlin	Councillor Robinson

Councillor Cavlan Alderman Connolly Councillor Blair

Councillor McAfee
Councillor McKeown
Alderman Cousley

ABSENTENTION (2)
Alderman Kennedy
Alderman Campbell

Councillor Stevenson Councillor Halliday

Councillor McGuigan expressed the view that all applicants should be entitled to engage with the full planning process. At the request of Alderman Campbell and Councillor Robinson, the Planning Officer clarified the remit and number of office meetings available to applicants and objectors and advised that an application can go to appeal only when the final decision has been made for its refusal.

Councillor Finlay recorded his objection to the decision not to accept the decision of the Department to refuse the application.

D5	APPLICATION NO D/2014/0105/O - REFUSAL

The Planning Officer advised that the Department has identified an alternative site for the proposal which would require a fresh planning application.

It was proposed by Councillor McGuigan, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin and **AGREED**:

that the application be held pending a meeting with the MLA.

6.3 Streamlined Planning Applications

A schedule of streamlined planning applications issued from 1.10.14 – 31.10.14 was circulated for members' information.

6.4 Office Meetings

Office meetings will be held at 10.00 am on Friday 28th November 2014 in the Dalriada Room, Riada House.

102.7 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING REFORM AND TRANSFER TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Department of the Environment has issued the second phase of a two-phased public consultation exercise which sets out proposals to introduce improvements in the planning process and establish a new two-tier planning system in Northern Ireland.

The purpose of this consultation is to obtain views on the Department's proposals in relation to subordinate legislation amendments. The proposals in this phase 2 consultation deal with a range of matters which, while important in delivering the broader range of planning reforms, are not essential to the continued operation of the system when powers transfer on 1st April 2015. While the day one essentials were prioritised in the first phase consultation (which ran from 28th May to 20th August), the Department will nevertheless aim to have these reforms introduced for April 2015.

A copy of the document can be made available on request from the Department of the Chief Executive or alternatively, can be viewed on the PlanningNI website at www.planning.gov.uk.

Closing date for response is 31st December 2015.

102.8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERS) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2015 – A CONSULTATION PAPER

The Department of the Environment has written to advise that from 1st April 2015, a new community planning duty will be placed on both local and central government. The eleven new councils will lead the community planning process which will involve bringing together all the services and functions that are delivered in a council area and producing a plan that sets out the future direction of that area, the purpose being to improve service delivery for the benefit of citizens. DoE now wishes to consult on the legislation to name the statutory community planning partners that will be required on every community planning partnership. Councils will have the flexibility to appoint further non-statutory partners to help deliver the particular priorities.

A copy of the document can be made available on request or alternatively, can be viewed at:

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/local_government/local_government_consultations.

The closing date for response is 12th December 2014

- * The Planning Officer left the meeting at 7.40 pm.
- * Councillor Robinson left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

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changes to pension regulations.

102.9 DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND)

The Local Government Reform Joint Forum, was established in July 2009 "to facilitate consultation and negotiation between Employer and Employee representatives on a range of Human Resources (HR) related issues that are cross sectoral in nature". The LGRF was tasked to take forward all HR implementation issues associated with Local Government Reform, including the development of a severance scheme /compensation arrangement. This scheme was negotiated and agreed by management and trade unions and issued to the sector as Circular LGRJF/05 in April 2013 which can be found at: http://www.lgsc.org.uk/fs/doc/Cover%20Letter%20and%20Circular%20LGRJF06.p

The LGRJF are currently undertaking to review the scheme in light of recent

The proposed Regulations (contained within the consultation document), are the legal articulation of the compensation element of the negotiated scheme and provide the manner in which and to whom compensation is to be made.

The consultation document is available from the Office of the Chief Executive or can be downloaded at:

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/the_local_government_reorganisation_compensation_for_loss_of_employment_regulations_ni_2015_- consultation_document.pdf

The closing date for comments is 5 January 2015

102.10 PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH INPATIENT SERVICES

At its meeting on 1st September (CM1002) it was agreed that Council write to the Minister and the Chief Executive of the Northern Trust requesting the retention of Mental Health facilities at the Causeway Hospital.

A response has now been received from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety advising that mental health inpatient services for the Northern Trust are provided at Holywell Hospital in Antrim and Ross Thompson Unit in Causeway Hospital and that both facilities are greatly limited by the constraints imposed by the existing buildings which need to be updated to adhere to best practice.

The Trust believes it is better for people to be offered the choice to be treated at home where clinically appropriate and they have already seen a significant reduction in the number of inpatient admissions following the development of home treatment services. People being admitted for inpatient care are now increasingly those with the most complex needs and most likely to pose a risk to themselves or others. Providing care for this group of patients in an isolated, standalone unit poses increased risks to patients and staff. This is recognised in 'Transforming your Care Vision to Action', which sees the development of a single acute inpatient unit in the Northern Trust Area.

The proposed new build will provide a comfortable, safe and secure inpatient unit in an improved therapeutic environment. The proposal will also adhere to best practice guidelines including being co-located on an acute hospital site and meeting national and regional standards in design and quality.

The consultation period for a proposed new mental health inpatient unit ran from 1st July until 21st October 2014 and feedback received during this period is currently being considered by the Northern Trust. During this process the Trust held local consultation meetings with both staff and service users in Antrim and Coleraine and met with local Councils and public representatives on request.

It is expected that the consultation outcome will be presented to the Trust Board at their meeting in December 2014.

- * Councillor Halliday left the meeting at 7.45 pm.
- * Councillor Robinson re-joined the meeting at 7.45 pm.

102.11 PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF DALRIADA HOSPITAL

Copy correspondence to Minister Wells has been received from the Chairman of Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Steering Group relating to the proposed temporary closure of Dalriada Hospital.

In his letter to the Minister, The Chairman advises that the Partnership Scheme is a programme that aims to reconnect people with the natural landscape and their local heritage, while providing training in heritage skills, promoting health and wellbeing and generating tourism and business opportunities. To do this, the scheme links with the community through a range of projects, activities and events that enhance understanding of the unique heritage of the Glens of Antrim. The scheme is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the NI Environment Services and focuses on conserving and enhancing the natural and built heritage from Ballycastle in the North and Glenarm to the South.

The Chairman of the scheme states that if they are to succeed in conserving these special landscapes into the future, they have to rely on the communities which inhabit them and this requires a healthy and engaged society that has the strength and confidence to take on the responsibility of Care and that the unique but isolated rural community of North Antrim depends heavily on the services that

have been provided by Dalriada Hospital. They believe that the decision by the Northern Health & Social Care Trust to close the hospital, even as a temporary measure, will have repercussions well beyond the loss of fundamental health services and will undermine the fabric of the community leaving it less inclined to take vigorous action to care for its environment.

He asks the Minister to intercede and reverse this 'poorly thought-out' decision on behalf of the community living in Ballycastle, Causeway Coast and Glens and the wider MS community throughout Northern Ireland.

Members discussed the impact the proposed temporary closure of Dalriada Hospital will have on the local and wider community, particularly those suffering from MS or those who require respite on a regular basis. Members agreed that the care provided at the hospital is excellent. The Mayor indicated his view that Council should support the retention of the hospital. Councillor Stevenson stated that reassurance should be sought that the closure would only be a temporary measure. Councillor Finlay reiterated his view that matters relating to welfare reform should be settled without further delay to enable the release of funding to continue the provision of health care.

It was proposed by Councillor McGuigan, seconded by Councillor Cavlan and AGREED:

that Council write to the Health Minister requesting that he reconsider his decision, retain the facility at Dalriada Hospital and seek assurance on its future after 31st March 2015.

* Alderman Connolly left the meeting at 8.05 pm.

102.12 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT - REVIEW OF COLOURED LICENCE TAGS

Correspondence has been received from the Department thanking those who responded to the consultation on the future of the coloured licence tags attached to a dog's collar and reviewing the dog licence fee. Feedback from the consultation and the Minister's decision following this was circulated for member's information.

102.13 OFF STREET CAR PARKING (FUNCTIONS OF DISTRICT COUNCILS) BILL

On 13th October 2014 the Minister for Regional Development announced the first stage of the Off-Street Car Parking (Functions of District Councils) Bill in the Northern Ireland Assembly. The Minister announced the Bill on 22nd October and The Committee for Regional Development agreed a public notice for publication, inviting written submissions on the Bill.

As this legislation directly impacts on Council, the Committee has requested its view on the matter. The Regional Development Committee is also liaising directly

with NILGA on the bill, who are content to co-ordinate representations from local councils to cover any/all issues which may arise through this consultation exercise. In addition, the Committee has provisionally scheduled oral briefing sessions to take place on 12th, 19th and 26th November.

A copy of the Bill was circulated for members' information.

102.14 CAUSEWAY ARCHERS - ALL IRELAND TEAM CHAMPIONS 2014

Councillor McLaughlin has advised that Causeway Archers made history at the weekend by becoming the first Archery Club from the North to become the All-Ireland Club Champions. This is a tremendous achievement for the club, which has already won numerous Challenge Shields and Regional Trophies including the Northern Ireland Club Champion's Title previously.

This year the Team travelled south to the University of Limerick Sports Arena for a full weekend of shooting against up to 80 Clubs from all across the 4 provinces. Causeway travelled with a team of 7 Archers made up of 4 Juniors and 3 Seniors. The Team Final produced a straight win for the Causeway with the title of the All-Ireland Open Club Champions coming to the North for the first time.

At the same time as the Team Event, the Individual Rounds were also taking place with the Junior Archers who would also complete their Elimination Rounds and Finals on the same day. All three Archers made it through to the elimination rounds which were made up of the top 32 Archers from the Qualifying Session.

The Current British Outdoor Champion and the returning All-Ireland Champion from last year, was hoping to make history by winning this event 2 years in a row. This has never before been achieved by any other junior archer in Ireland (North or South). He cruised through the preliminary rounds and the quarter and semifinals to meet up in the final with a re-match from last year against the hotly fancied local, from Cork City Archers.

The two Archers were hard to separate in the opening exchanges, scoring very evenly, but it was the young Causeway Archer who shot a fantastic 10 to Quintans 9 in their last arrow to steal the show and to retain his title.

The Causeway Archers are now preparing for the British Indoor Championships to be held in Telford, England in December.

The Mayor said he would be happy to host a reception for the Club.

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

that a civic reception be held for Causeway Archers in recognition of their All-Ireland Championship win.

102.15 NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTRICITY LIMITED

NIE has written to Council to advise that as part of their annual 'Preparing for Winter Campaign' they have issued a reminder of NIE's dedicated elected representative hotline to all Councillors and reminders to their customers on how to cope if they are without electricity. They are also working with other utilities to encourage people to 'cut out and keep' their helpline numbers from a variety of publications.

NIE recognise the important role Councils and elected representatives play in passing information to the general public and supporting relief efforts when severe weather causes power cuts and have invited members to visit one of their open days to learn more about the plans and systems that they have in place to deal with major storms or issues that affect the electricity network. An open day will be taking place in Ballymena office on 3rd December from 2.00pm – 3.30 pm with other events being held in Campsie on 25th November and Craigavon on 28th November. Should you wish to attend any of the events, please contact the Office of the Chief Executive

102.16 CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENTS

A schedule of current consultation documents was circulated for members' information.

Councillor McLaughlin left the meeting at 8.10 pm.

102.17 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING NO 262 – 19TH NOVEMBER 2014

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Finlay advised that as there is no business this month for decision by the Development Committee on Wednesday evening he has decided to cancel the meeting. He has asked the officer to prepare a report for tabling at Council's meeting on 1st December.

Councillor Finlay advised that information has been received from a company appointed by DCAL regarding a proposed improved mobile phone service in the Ballymoney area. This publicly funded project is to improve mobile coverage in rural areas where there is no coverage at present. The company has agreed to meet with members when in Northern Ireland. Anyone who is interested in participating in the meeting please let the Chief Executive's Office know.

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

that Council make arrangements to facilitate a meeting with the company on a date to be agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.