

**Ballymoney Borough Council
Consultation Meeting No 94 – 17th February 2014**

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BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Consultation Committee Meeting No 94 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 20th January 2014 at 6.30 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Alderman C Cousley, MBE

PRESENT: **Aldermen**
F Campbell
H Connolly

Councillors
A Cavlan
J Finlay
R Halliday
C McLaughlin
A McLean
I Stevenson (Deputy Mayor)

APOLOGIES: **Councillor**
R McAfee
E Robinson, MBE

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

Addiction NI (Item 2)
Jenna O'Hara, Training & Development Officer

Planning Service (Item 3)
Ms Julie McMath

Press (2)

94.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

94.2 ADDICTION NI

The Chair welcomed Ms O'Hara to the meeting to provide members with information on Addiction NI's initiative to reduce the impact of alcohol abuse and address the lack of services for addictions in the Northern Trust. Funding is provided by Northern Health & Social Care Trust via The Big Lottery Fund until 2016.

Ms O'Hara advised that four interlinked, outcome focused projects are being developed, one of which is based on older focus and working with people aged 55 and older who have an alcohol misuse problem. The programme, delivered by Addiction NI and Causeway Rural & Urban Network (CRUN) provides a 16 week counselling service whereby social workers are available to visit the clients, family or carers at home, thereby removing transport barriers in rural areas.

The programme aims to promote the service by raising alcohol awareness and deliver training by Community Champions to ensure that when the programme concludes, information is still available about the service.

Ms O'Hara responded to questions from members including;

- Referral methods and removal of barriers to ensure referrals can be made by friends, family members, carers etc as well as caring professionals
- Criteria for home visits
- Need for local inpatient services
- Emphasis on education
- Security system in place for visiting social workers

The Chair thanked Ms O'Hara for her presentation which concluded at 6.50 pm. Ms O'Hara left the meeting at this time.

* **The Planning Officer joined the meeting at 6.50 pm.**

94.3 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING NO 93 – 20TH JANUARY 2014

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

that the minutes of Consultation Committee Meeting No 93 – 20th January 2014, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

94.4 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

4.1 New Applications

Items 1-4 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 1	APPLICATION NO D/2012/0276/F – APPROVAL
APPLICANT	NIE Limited, 120 Malone Road, Belfast
AGENT	RPS Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road, Belfast
LOCATION	Approx 300m West of 269 Finvoy Road, Rasharkin
PROPOSAL	Construction of a new 110 and 33kV substation, associated access road and 110kV and 33kV overhead

lines.

Objections (2) (1) Potential health problems (2) interference to model aircraft (3) noise (4) valuation of properties (5) proximity to cemetery (6) alternative location (7) access (8) environmental statement required.

The Planning Officer advised the steps taken by the Department to address the objections, these being:

1. Public Health Agency contacted and no issues advised
2. Remote control frequencies are set around specific bands which are unlikely to cause interference
3. Impact assessment submitted and consultation carried out by Environmental Health which was cleared with conditions.
4. NIE have no evidence that properties have been devalued by substations and no evidence has been submitted to the Department.
5. Site lowered by 18m reducing visual impact.
6. Responsibility of NIE to consider alternative site
7. No issues were raised in terms of access
8. No environmental statement required

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

that the application be deferred for one month to enable office meeting to take place with Planning Department, NIE and other interested parties.

ITEM NO 2	APPLICATION NO D2013/0046/F – REFUSAL
APPLICANT	Mr Liam McGarry
AGENT	T4 Architects, 169 Coagh Road, Dungannon
LOCATION	Approx 575m SE of 18 Corkey Road, Loughguile
PROPOSAL	Proposed 1 no endurance E-3120 55kw Wind Turbine, hub height of 24.6 metres, 9.6m rotor radius – 34.2m overall height, to support existing farm business.

The Planning Officer advised that this application has been withdrawn. At the request of Alderman Connolly she advised that the outline application can be issued without the need for this to come back to Council providing no objections are received within the three week window provided by the Department.

ITEM NO 4	APPLICATION NO – D/2013/0148/O – APPROVAL
APPLICANT	CMI Planners Limited
AGENT	CMI Planners Limited, 80-92 Rainey Street, Magherafelt
LOCATION	Lands between 1-8 Dempsey Park, Ballymoney
PROPOSAL	Proposed 2 no infill dwellings and garages

Objections (3) Access, parking, waste disposal and proposal was for two dwellings.

The Planning Officer advised that the application had been considered under PPS21 and was found to be acceptable in this location.

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

that an office meeting be held.

4.2 Deferred Applications

Item D1 was considered and the opinion of the Planning Services accepted except where stated otherwise.

D1 APPLICATION NO D/2013/0052/F - APPROVAL

The application has been reduced to 25m, there were no issues from noise impact assessment and Environmental Health have no objections.

4.3 Streamlined Planning Applications – Decisions issued

A schedule of decisions issued from 1.1.14 – 31.1.14 was circulated for members' information.

4.4 Office Meetings

Office meetings will take place on Friday 28th February at 10.00 am in the Lanyon Room.

* **The Planning Officers left the meeting at 7.10 pm.**

94.5 HOUSING EXECUTIVE – CONSULTATION ON HOUSING PLAN

The Ballymoney Borough housing plan is expected to be published mid-June when an electronic copy will be circulated to members. Arrangements are in hand to settle a date for presentation of the draft plan which sets the strategic framework for planned housing programmes. Any member who wishes a copy printed should contact the Office of Chief Executive.

94.6 DRAFT NILGA RESPONSE TO STAGE ONE OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON FUTURE PROVISION OF STATUTORY CARE HOMES

It is intended that this draft response will assist councils in formulating their responses for submission by the deadline of 7th March 2014. NILGA notes that there is potential for variance in how councils will wish to individually respond, so this response focuses on high level views which impact on local government regionally.

Further to consideration by the NILGA Executive on 14th February, the final document will be submitted to the Health and Social Care Board to assist in developing the ongoing work on this issue.

Council's comments on the NILGA response should be received by Wednesday 5th March, to enable comments to be incorporated into the final NILGA response.

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

that Council endorse NILGA's draft response to the consultation.

94.7 NILGA DRAFT RESPONSE - DOE VALUING NATURE – CONSULTATION ON A BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

This consultation document outlines the strategic targets proposed by government to help halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems up to 2020. There is also an emphasis within the consultation on reflecting the benefits we derive from the environment or “natural capital” to economic decision-making to help improve the performance of the economy.

It is important the NILGA responds to this consultation as a Statutory Biodiversity Duty was placed on public bodies, including local authorities in 2011. The consultation response, circulated, was drafted by the local government Biodiversity Officers.

The DOE deadline for responses to the consultation is 28th February 2014.

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

that Council endorse NILGA's draft response to the consultation.

94.8 NILGA DRAFT INITIAL COMMENTS IN RELATION TO THE CONSULTATION ON A PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL, TO MAKE AMATEUR SPORTS CLUBS EXEMPT FROM RATES

The paper, circulated, sets out the proposals made by Mr Daithi McKay, MLA in relation to rates exemptions for Amateur Sports Clubs, the consultation questions, and initial NILGA comments in relation to these. The NILGA Executive will be requested to give views on these proposals and the initial NILGA comments at the meeting on 14th February, after which a more substantive response will be drafted.

At its meeting on 3rd February Council noted the Bill.

94.9 A STRATEGIC PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND (DRAFT) – CONSULTATION

The DOE is inviting views on the attached draft Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS), circulated. The draft SSPS consolidates 20 separate policy publications into one document and brings forward new strategic policy relating to town centres and retailing. It sets out the core planning principles to underpin delivery of the reformed two-tier planning system from April 2015 including promoting sustainable development, well being and shared space. In this sense it is an essential key element of the broader planning and local government reform programme that will assist in the transfer of planning to councils in 2015. It will set the direction for new councils to bring forward detailed operational policies within the future local development plans.

The consultation poses 36 questions and the deadline for response is **26th April 2014**.

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

that Council consider the matter at its meeting in April.

94.10 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR GP OUT-OF-HOURS – OUTCOME

The Health Minister has approved the strategic framework for GP out of hours. The outcome of the consultation and the final strategic framework can be accessed at www.hscboard.hscni.net Consultations (Previous Consultations).

A copy is available on request from the Office of the Chief Executive.

94.11 OBSTRUCTION OF ACCESS TO PREMISES – FIXED PENALTY PROPOSAL - CONSULTATION

The Department for Regional Development is consulting on a proposal to make the obstruction of access to premises by a parked vehicle an offence that can be dealt with through the issue of a fixed penalty notice. The consultation letter can be accessed via <http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/publications/publications-details.htm?docid=9467>

A copy is available on request from the Office of the Chief Executive.

Currently the offence can be enforced by summary conviction but it is felt that this is disproportionate to the offence committed and that it would be more appropriate to deal with it by the issue of a fixed penalty notice. This proposal will give the Police Service of Northern Ireland the option to discharge the offence by issuing a fixed penalty notice. For serious or persistent offences, the PSNI will retain the option to take the offender to court.

The public consultation runs to Friday 21st March 2014.

94.12 SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2014 FESTIVAL

Correspondence has been received with regard to Seachtain na Gaeilge Festival 2014 a special Irish language week between **Monday, 3 March and Friday, 13 March**, during which Councils and other representational forums around the country will organise events to promote Irish, as part of the Seachtain na Gaeilge festival.

For example, in the houses of the Oireachtas in the south there will be schools giving presentations to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht, tours of the Houses in Irish on the Tuesday, a debate in Irish in the Dáil and Seanad and a coffee morning for TDs and Senators. They hope to have an event organised in the Northern Assembly also.

While accepting that there is not a lot of time left to organise something some suggestions have been provided and Council is invited to select something to promote. They will then let Irish language groups and schools in our constituency know what is planned and will also be available to provide support.

Suggestions are:

- 1) Use Irish in the Council meeting during the week.
- 2) Have a debate on the promotion of Irish by the Council.
- 3) Organise a coffee morning or lunch in Irish (we can provide facilitators for this).
- 4) Invite an Irish language group or a well-known personality with Irish to address the Council.
- 5) Organise a social night through Irish with traditional music.

94.13 CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

A copy of the current schedule of consultations was circulated for members' information.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm.