

**Ballymoney Borough Council
Development Committee Meeting No 257 – 19th March 2014**

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257.1	Declarations of Interest	<i>None</i>
257.2	Minutes – Meeting No 256 – 19 th February 2014	<i>Adopted</i>
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257.4	Revitalisation Project Team	<i>Approve proposal and submit an application for funding in the amount of £250,000.</i>
257.5	Intervention Funding	<i>Update</i>
257.6	Giro Event	<i>Update</i>
257.7	WW1 Commemoration Legacy Programme	<i>Criteria and application process approved. Community Support/GR applications referred to WWI programme which are not legacy events to be referred back to DCLS.</i>
257.8	Business Awards	<i>Update</i>
257.9	Research into the Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual & Transgender People in Rural Areas	<i>For information</i>
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BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Development Committee Meeting No 257 held in the McKinley Room, Riada House, Ballymoney on Wednesday 19th March 2014 at 7.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor McLean (Vice-Chair)

PRESENT: **Aldermen**
F Campbell

Councillors
W Blair
J Finlay
R Halliday
R McAfee
T McKeown
E Robinson, MBE

APOLOGIES: **Alderman**
C Cousley, MBE
B Kennedy

Councillors
J Atkinson
A Cavlan
I Stevenson, Deputy Mayor

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

257.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

257.2 MINUTES MEETING NO 256 – 19TH FEBRUARY 2014

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

*to recommend that the Minutes of Meeting No 256 – 19th February 2014,
as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.*

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

257.3 TOWN MASTERPLAN

The inaugural meeting of the Plan Team will take place on 20th March. The Plan Team, led by Council, will look at arrangements to advance priority actions. It is **recommended** that in addition to the Chair and Head of Service that the Council's other representatives on Ballymoney Regeneration Company, Alderman Campbell and Councillor McLean, join the team since the masterplan is being taken forward in tandem with the THI project, also that the plan team appoint four representatives from the community/voluntary & business sector.

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

that Alderman Kennedy, with Alderman Campbell and Councillor McLean represent Council on the Masterplan Plan Team.

257.4 REVITALISATION PROJECT TEAM

The revitalization scheme developed was presented for committee approved.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services gave an overview of the Ballymoney Revitalisation Scheme which aimed to improve the economic vitality of Ballymoney town centre by improving the physical appearance of the designated area in Main Street/Castlecroft. While the scheme as not a long-term solution to the current economic decline within the town centre it will provide much needed investment to improve the physical appearance of the town; by undertaking works to repair and enhance the front facades of buildings. It also aims to increase footfall within the commercial core of the town and encourage private investment.

The scheme will be delivered by the Ballymoney Borough Council, with the assistance of the Ballymoney Revitalisation Steering Group. It was intended that following approval of the scheme and the proposed properties, rankings and schedule of work, Council will seek competitive tenders and appoint the main contractor to undertake all the proposed works as a single contract. Should the lowest tender exceed the DSD grant award, the pre-agreed rankings will be used to determine which projects will be undertaken as a priority.

The Officer advised of surveys undertaken, which included a consumer survey and business survey, which were being analysed.. Councillor Finlay welcomed the funding initiative and the financial incentive to businesses to improve the physical appearance of the built environment and with other members also welcomed the level of positive response from businesses in the designated area.

It is recommended that the scheme, as outlined, in the total estimated amount of £250,000, be approved and submitted to DSD for funding, Council having previously agreed match funding of £20,000.

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

to recommend that Council that the scheme, as outlined, in the total estimated amount of £250,000, be approved and submitted to DSD for funding.

257.5 INTERVENTION FUNDING

It was reported that this project had been delayed due to poor weather conditions but was scheduled for completion before the end of March 2014 and arrangements are in hand to mark its completion.

TOURISM

257.6 GIRO EVENT – 9/10/11 MAY 2014

The Head of Corporate & Development Services updated members on the last NITB Giro Local Authority Group meeting and advised that final timings were expected to be published in the next couple of days. Race organisers were providing barriers at specific points on the route with additional

NITB confirmed that Local Authorities would be responsible for all logistics and Health and Safety, including any barriers required at any festival 'hubs'. RCS, the race organisers, will be responsible for barriers at specific points on the route with additional directional coning/barriers for riders, the responsibility of NI plc. The Race Organisers and PSNI are currently evaluating what the need for these are and a request may go out to Local Authorities to support wherever possible in this work. The Race Organisers have full public liability insurance for the race, but Local Authorities would be responsible for any public liability insurance for their events / festivals. Volunteers had been recruited by Volunteer Now to support the successful delivery of the event.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services gave details of the key locations and viewing points in the borough where dressing plans using the pink and Giro branding and floral displays, were being developed with the support of cycling clubs in Dunloy and Ballymoney, Ballymoney RFC and Ballybogey Community Association. Additional car parking locations, if required, had also been identified. Fundraising activities for the Giro nominated charity, Oxfam, were also being supported. A communication plan will be circulated to all business on the route by the Tourist Board shortly. The Tourist Board has also confirmed branding to be used and it is the intention of Council to mark the route by planting pink themed flowerbeds at locations along the route and in the town.

257.7 WWI CENTENARY COMMEMORATION - LEGACY PROGRAMME

Draft guidance for the WWI Centenary Legacy Programme agreed by Council, including criteria, essential and desirable, for a two stage assessment process, those meeting the criteria at stage 1, expression of interest, proceeding to the stage 2 application. Details of the information required on applications was explained, with general grant condition applying. Funding through the legacy programme must relate specifically to WW1 and its centenary, with some form of legacy beyond 2014. The maximum financial award under the scheme is £1,500 and there would only be one call for applications, with projects requiring to be completed by 31.12 2014.

It is **recommended** that the scheme be approved and expressions of interest invited.

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

- [1]. that the WWI Legacy programme be approved and expressions of interest invited.***
- [2]. that applications to community support, festival fund or good relations programmes for WWI events not meeting the legacy criteria, be referred back to the Director of Central & Leisure Services for consideration under the programmes to which they had applied.***

Councillor Finlay referred to the response to the WW1 commemoration weekend in the town on 1st and 2nd August designed to attract visitors from across Northern Ireland and beyond to the events including military vehicles and displays, memorabilia and stories in addition family entertainment and a memorial service and parade. Since Council had provided match funding of £10,000 the event had grown through the level of interest and response from various participating groups and he considered additional funding should be provided to publicise the event.

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

to recommend that Council provide additional financial assistance of £2,000 to Ballymoney & District Cultural & Historical Group to assist in promoting the World War I commemoration weekend in August 2014, budget provision for which has been identified in the 2014/15 Tourism Event budget.

ENTERPRISE

257.8 BUSINESS AWARDS

A good response has been received to date from sponsors and arrangements are being advanced for the delivery of the Awards event by the Chamber of Commerce in association with Causeway Chamber. Councillor Finlay welcomed the Awards initiative which would recognise and reward business excellence and raise the profile of business in the area.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

257.9 RESEARCH INTO THE EXPERIENCES OF LGB/T PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS

An evidence gap in relation to the experiences and quality of life of LGB/T (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender) people living in rural areas has been identified. In order to address this issue DARD along with The Rainbow Project, is undertaking a research project ('Research into the Experiences of LGB&T people in Rural Areas').

The research comprises of an anonymous on-line self-completion survey and focus group interviews with a report being published in the summer. I would like to ask for your co-operation in distributing and promoting this research to your members and their families to ensure as much useful information as possible is collected. Data collected as part of this research is strictly confidential and anonymous.

The survey can be found in the following link.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/generalexperiences>.

257.10 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

It was reported that due to inclement weather conditions some projects had been delayed. The following revisions to letters of offer were advised:

1. Rasharkin Wellbeing Project - requested amendment to Letter of Offer to facilitate extension to project end date to 30th April 2014;
2. Drumaheglis – amendment to letter of offer requested and agreed. Marina Building now open and work progressing on the phase II rural interpretation features at the site.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 7.40 pm.