

**LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH**

**SPECIAL MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING**

**1 JULY 2008**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7 pm on the above date.

**PRESENT:**

**In the Chair:** Councillor Chivers

Aldermen G Robinson and J Rankin. Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, M Carten, L Cubitt, M Coyle, M Donaghy, B Douglas, C Ó hOisín, J F McElhinney A Robinson and E Stevenson

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk, Director of Environmental Services, Environmental Health Manager and Building Control Manager.

**APOLOGIES:** Alderman Mullan.

**APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE FOR OPEN AIR MUSIC FESTIVAL:**

The Building Control Manager outlined that application had been received for grant of Entertainment Licence for open air festival to be held 15 – 17 August 2008 in fields adjoining 61 Ballyavelin Road, Limavady. He said following consultation, 9 letters of objection had been received and further to this, under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985 those who made representation, together with the applicants should be given opportunity of appearing before and of being heard by the Council.

***Representation by Festival Organisers***

The Mayor welcomed Ross Parkhill and Tim Ferris, Stendhal Festival organisers to the meeting.

Mr Parkhill referred to page 13 of Limavady Borough Councils Economic Development Plan, where it was stated that ‘Council would support new areas of tourism and community development and aim to deliver innovative ways of creating new projects.’ He said in light of this, Council should support the festival as its overall aim was to bring new money into Limavady and showcase the town, in conjunction with helping 6 charities.

Mr Parkhill stated that from his experience of attending other festivals, the proposed event would be a mixture between Glastonbury and Electric Picnic but would in no way be like Oxygen, which was associated with underage drinking and drug. He said there would be no admission for 12-17 year olds unless under a family ticket where they would be supervised. He added that no doubt noise would be an issue, however, this would be kept within the levels of the law.

Mr Ferris gave an overview of the festival programme and said there would be 3 stages, catering for classical, opera, acoustic, melodic, indie and rock music. There would be opportunity for festival patrons to experience drama, poetry, storytelling, circus performers, craft stalls, massage tents and yoga sessions.

Mr Ferris referred to management of the festival and said the following would be in place:

- ◆ a professional security team would be used to ensure the event ran smoothly
- ◆ CCTV surveillance of arena areas
- ◆ rest areas should anyone be seen acting beyond their limit
- ◆ bar staff would be experienced and not serve anyone past their limit
- ◆ those acting disorderly would be escorted to friends and removed from the area
- ◆ free admission to senior citizens
- ◆ crowd managed from car park to arena
- ◆ tickets and wristbands on admission
- ◆ everyone searched to ensure drugs, glass bottles, open flame apparatus or other dangerous items were not taken into the arena
- ◆ organisers working in partnership with Police, St Johns Ambulance, Doctors and professional contractors
- ◆ traffic would be managed in consultation with PSNI
- ◆ noise would be controlled to fall within legal requirements
- ◆ security marshals would be situated along roadside to protect local houses and
- ◆ festival would finish by 12 o'clock on the Sunday.

Mr Ferris indicated that if successful, the event would bring in £1.2 million to the local economy and given the downturn in market forces, the timing was perfect for holding the event. He said that the opportunity to host the festival should be grasped as the T Vitlal festival in Belfast had been cancelled and this provided Limavady with opportunity to showcase the Borough for the best festival experience.

***Representation by Objectors:***

The Mayor welcomed a deputation of residents seated in the viewing gallery who had put forward formal objections to the festival being held at the proposed site. The views of the objectors were outlined by those nominated to speak on behalf of the residents as follows:

Mr Richard Irwin highlighted that the residents had concerns about property safety and people milling about in the area where they lived. He queried what would happen when the music stopped and said the event would attract drug takers. He said the festival would impact upon the roads during middle of harvest season and that there would be problems with car parking on the shared laneway.

Mr Steven Loughrey stressed from the outset that the festival was an excellent idea and should be supported, however the decision to use the proposed site had been rushed and the residents had not been consulted, plus his brother had agreed to car-parking on lands part owned by his mother without consulting with her. He added that the organisers had been misled and that his mother did not want noise associated with the event.

Mr William Robinson stated that if the organisers had conducted all the relevant ground work, the situation might have been different regarding number of objections. He said the residents believed they would be prisoners in their own homes, there were health & safety, alongside child protection issues and it was likely that vodka would be smuggled into the venue. He suggested that the festival be held on land at Aghanloo or at Shackleton Barracks.

In response to the points made, Mr Parkhill indicated that he had tried to consult with residents; alternative car parking arrangements were in place and open drains would be fenced off.

A number of questions were put to the officers who clarified that there were a number of issues still to be resolved before a recommendation could be made for Council to approve, approve with conditions or refuse the application for grant of Entertainment Licence. The officers clarified that a meeting had taken place with the applicants earlier in the day where general safety, requirements for access for emergency services, sanitary facilities, litter and noise had been discussed. It was noted that although the PSNI and Northern Ireland Fire Service had not objected to the application, the Event Safety Plan and Acoustic Report were still outstanding.

Councillor Coyle proposed that the applicant provide the officers with the information required as a matter of urgency so that the matter would be resolved as soon as possible. This was seconded by Councillor Brolly. Council was reminded that decision was time bound to week ending 11 July 2008.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Letter of Support:** It was agreed that Council would respond to HM Revenue & Customs on proposals for the future of Northern Ireland offices outside Belfast and to support the continued presence of the Coleraine office and retention of jobs.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS  
(The meeting ended at 9.05 pm)**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of Meeting