

**LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

7 NOVEMBER 2005

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.30 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

Aldermen G Mullan, G Robinson and J Rankin. Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, L Cubitt (chair), M Carten, B Chivers, M Coyle, B Douglas, M Donaghy, C Ó hOisín, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

In Attendance: Committee Clerk, Director of Environmental Services, Building Control Manager, Environmental Health Manager and the Chief Executive.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR:

Councillor Coyle reminded members that the chair of the Environmental Services Committee had been left open for a unionist member.

In the discussion that followed, Councillor Stevenson proposed that the chair be rotated between Councillor Cubitt and Alderman Rankin, and Alderman Robinson suggested that payment to the chair be donated to Action Cancer.

Councillor Brolly objected and said rotation of the chair was not in the spirit of D'Hondt and Councillor Coyle pointed out that the position had been reserved specifically for a DUP member. A heated debate ensued and it was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Robinson that Councillor Cubitt would take up the position of chair for the year 2005/2006.

Councillor Cubitt took the chair and thanked members for nominating him.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor McElhinney.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 3 October 2005 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Brolly subject to substitution on page 7, paragraph 6, line 3, ... Curragh Road to Garvagh Road.

MATTERS ARISING:

Misuse of Fireworks: The Director of Environmental Services informed members that the PSNI had been made aware of members concerns regarding misuse of fireworks and that Constable John Orr from the Limavady District Command Unit had written to advise that the PSNI were in the process of identifying premises/individuals selling and storing items without a licence. He said that the PSNI had been successful in the recovery of illegal fireworks on

recent occasions and that they would continue to act upon information received to reduce both the danger and nuisance these caused.

Noise Complaint – Use of Quad Bikes in Field: The Director of Environmental Services reported that a Noise Abatement Notice had been served on a land owner to abate noise nuisance and prohibit the use of quad bikes, scramblers and other similar vehicles within a field at Clooney Road, Greysteel. He said monitoring had been carried which confirmed that the Noise Abatement Notice had been breached and recommended details of the matter be referred to Council's solicitor with a view to legal proceedings. Agreed.

Bus Shelter – Whitehill Junction: The Director of Environmental Services advised that Council provided bus shelters for children going to school and was not in a position to supply a shelter for the general public at the Whitewell/Ballyquin Road junction.

BUILDING CONTROL ANNUAL REPORT:

The chair welcomed Mr Robert White, Chief Building Control Officer to the meeting. He also welcomed Mr Nicky Mathews, Council's newly appointed Building Control Manager.

Mr White presented his Annual Building Control Report for the year 2004/2005. He outlined activities for year 2003/04 and paid tribute to previous elected members who had sat on the Building Control Committee.

Mr White explained that the Valuation and Lands Agency had been working with Building Control on improving the collection of information on new and alterations to existing buildings in Northern Ireland and that this would speed up the valuation processes that trigger rating assessments and, consequently increase income from Councils rates.

Mr White referred to the consultation on new ways for energy efficiency of dwellings to be controlled through permitted levels of carbon dioxide emissions. He said the consultation also proposed new controls on heating and lighting schemes through introducing a system of "energy labelling" for all buildings and that the implications of these proposals could have a significant impact on future building design and construction.

Mr White reported that members of the Group Committee had participated in a study tour of Sweden in March 2005, with the purpose of studying building practices, particularly those relating to the construction of high quality thermally efficient buildings. He said that some of the Swedish experts with whom they came in contact had been invited to speak at the forthcoming convention in November 2005.

In conclusion Mr White paid tribute to Council for their support, assistance and co-operation over the year. The chair thanked Mr White for attending the meeting.

WESTERN GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2004/05:

The chair welcomed Mr Barney Haywood, Group Chief Environmental Health Officer to the meeting. He also welcomed Mrs Jacqueline Glass, newly appointed Environmental Health Manager.

Mr Haywood reported that 2004-05 saw the Group and the five Councils working together towards quality of service to the public in the field of environmental health and that this had resulted in recognition by external assessors for accreditation to ISO9001:2000, the key award for standards of quality management.

Mr Haywood outlined the staffing structure of the Western Group team and said assistance and support was given on development proposals, industrial pollution control, food functions, food hazard warnings, air quality and event safety. He said that in August 2004 Limavady had been affected by an outbreak of poisoning due to Salmonella and that an epidemiological study had concluded that the illness had been associated with the consumption of lettuce.

Mr Haywood referred to examples of regional activity regarding policy and said tobacco smoke and discussions on possible smoking bans were high on the Public Health agenda. He said the Tobacco Action Plan Implementation Group were reviewing progress against the existing five year plan to reduce smoking among young people by education and enforcement of underage sales legislation.

In conclusion Mr Haywood said that in recognition of a need to address problems more responsively, Councils in GB had been given statutory 'well-being' powers and that these were needed in Northern Ireland if Environmental Health Departments were to provide the best possible service.

In response to Councillor Coyle, Mr Haywood explained that the Group were taking a lead from the Irish Republic on enforcement of a smoking ban and that the ban would become self policing and accepted if introduced properly.

Councillor Douglas stated that he would have liked to have seen comments from the Environmental Group on the introduction of Windfarms to the Borough. Mr Haywood said the viewpoint of the Group was always balanced and that the well being of the public, potential nuisance and noise levels were taken into consideration.

Mr Haywood explained to Councillor Ó hOisín that the main causes of air pollution were vehicle omissions and domestic use of solid fuel. He said it had been a knock back that oil prices continued to increase as this would lead home owners to use higher amounts solid fuel.

The chair thanked Mr Haywood for attending and presenting the Western Group Environmental Health Service Annual Report.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS –
NOVEMBER 2005:*****Building Control Department:***

The Building Control report detailing applications approved, acknowledged and issued between 28 September and 1 November 2005 were tabled and noted.

Environmental Health Department:

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Environmental Health Report and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Brolly subject to the following:

European Week for Safety and Health at Work 2005: The Director of Environmental Services reported that ‘European Week for Safety and Health at Work’ was a campaign of the European Agency which ran from 24 – 28 October 2005 and focused on noise in the workplace. He said that this was a good opportunity to raise awareness of the new Control of Noise at Work Regulations, which would come into focus on April 2006 to help prevent occupational noise induced hearing loss and that action packs to reduce exposure to noise would be distributed to places of entertainment in the Borough. He added that as part of Northern Ireland wide initiative, Limavady Borough Council would focus on noise in entertainment premises in association with the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) campaign ‘Don’t Lose the Music’, which targets members of the public who frequent places where live and recorded music was played.

Gas Wise Initiative: The Director of Environmental Services explained that during the last 2 years a number of serious incidents involving gas had occurred in Northern Ireland and that in Derry a gas explosion at a takeaway had resulted in 3 buildings being completely destroyed. He said to reduce the risk of gas related injury or death, Environmental Health Departments across Northern Ireland were introducing the ‘GAS WISE’ initiative in partnership with other agencies, including CORGI and the Health & Safety Executive for Northern Ireland. He added that the initiative started on 21 October 2005 would focus on work places within the district council health and safety enforced sector where gas was used and that the Environmental Health Department had written to workplaces to remind employers of their statutory duties in obtaining an appropriate gas certificate issued by a registered CORGI gas installer.

Health Promoting Schools Award: The Director of Environmental Services reported that the Health Promoting School Award, which was in operation for over ten years had been launched in Limavady Borough Council Offices on 3 October 2005 by the Mayor, Councillor Coyle. He said the aim of the award was to encourage a whole school approach to health and wellbeing within a healthy and safe school environment, where everyone was encouraged to lead a healthier lifestyle. Members noted that successful schools would be rewarded for good health promotion practice at a prestigious awards ceremony to be held in the Gorteen House Hotel on Wednesday 24 May 2006.

Home Safety: The Director of Environmental Services informed members that the Home Safe Home Scheme continued to target residents throughout the Borough and that particular attention was given to specific areas, including

Benevenagh, Coolessan and Greystone. He said home safety check visits were performed on a daily basis and educational promotional activities remained high priority.

Members noted that the Home Safety Officer was working in conjunction with Westcare Health Promotion to organise a home safety event for older people in the Foyle Trust area and that transport would be provided to encourage their presence and participation. It was also noted that Council received £3,000 from ROSPA for the purchase of medicine cabinets, £1,000 from the Western Health Action Zone for the purchase of smoke alarms and £2,000 from Investing for Health for the purpose of purchasing a selection of home safety equipment and as a result anti-slip bath mats, stair gates and other essential equipment had been reordered.

The Director of Environmental Services explained to Alderman Robinson that families with children under five and people over sixty would be referred to the Fire & Rescue Service, who would visit and assess for a fire escape plan and install at least one smoke alarm in each story of their homes. He also clarified that this service was not restricted to the home in Limavady Town and homes would be visited if referrals came in for rural areas.

Technical Services Department:

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Technical Services Report and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Brolly subject to the following:

Part 1-Waste Management, Major Projects & Matters for Council Decision

Eco-School: The Director of Environmental Services reported that Eco-Schools had requested financial support from Council to the sum of £400 to be used to fund a Northern Ireland Administration Officer over a two year period and recommended that Council contribute the sum requested. Agreed.

2006 Refuse Collection Calender: The Director of Environmental Services informed members that a 2006 refuse collection calendar was being produced and that this would be to each household shortly before Christmas. He said the calendar would highlight blue and grey bin collections throughout the year and have additional information on recycling of materials at the various facilities located throughout the Borough. It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Councillor Stevenson that the lowest tendered be accepted for design and printing of the information packs.

Tender for Purchase and Delivery of Refuse Collection Containers: It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Councillor Carten that the tender from SSI Schaefer Ltd be accepted for the purchase and delivery of 600 refuse collection containers to the sum of £9,000+VAT.

Proposed Civic Amenity Site – Dungiven: The Director of Environmental advised that consultations were ongoing with DoE Roads Service regarding access requirements and additional lands required to accommodate site under consideration at Legavallon Road for civic amenity site. He explained that an outline planning application had been submitted to Planning Service for the Legavallon site and for the second preferred site at Feeny Road in the hope that

Planning Service would give an early indication of the site most likely to gain planning permission.

Part 2-General Works in Progress Report

N.I. Amenity Council – 2005 Supervalu Best Kept Awards: In noted marks awarded by the judges to Limavady, Dungiven and Ballykelly during the 2005 Supervalu Best Kept Towns, Villages and Housing Awards, Alderman Robinson suggested that members encourage property owners in Linenhall Street to do something about the streets dilapidated condition.

Councillor Ó hOisín referred to a system being in place for the removal of gum from paved areas. The Director of Environmental Services said that the only effective way to remove gum was with a specialist machine and if a person was observed and apprehended when disposing of gum, a £50 fine would be imposed.

Councillor Coyle indicated that Council should work with Community groups regarding improvement to the town & villages and Councillor Cubitt said higher marks could have been awarded to Ballykelly if the village had toilet facilities. Councillor Butcher suggested investigating sponsorship for flowers on the roundabouts and Alderman Mullan said the roundabouts were the gateway to the town and that public art could be displayed there.

Vandalism: The Director of Environmental Services reported that Alexander Play Park had been the target of vandalism by students from local schools/colleges over the previous weeks. He said the schools, college and PSNI had been contacted by Technical Service staff about the problem and that action taken by staff from the schools had helped as no further problems had arisen to date.

Refurbishment of Benone Beach Toilets: The Director of Environmental Services explained that design works were currently being proposed and quotations for materials were sought for refurbishment of Benone beach toilets and that estimated cost of the works would be brought to Council for approval in due course.

Benone Tourist Complex – Pool Improvements: Members agreed to proceed and investigate in principle the lining of the pool at Benone Tourist Complex with fibreglass, which would cost in the region of £35,000 - £50,000.

RESTRUCTURING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

The Chief Executive said that meetings had been held with each political party to explore the possibility of restructuring the schedule of Committee and Council meeting. He outlined for members' consideration proposed meeting schedule and restructure for implementation in January 2006 as follows:

<i>Planning & Liaison Committee</i>	<i>First Thursday of the month</i>
<i>Development Services Committee</i>	<i>Second Tuesday of the month</i>
<i>Environmental Services Committee</i>	<i>Third Tuesday of the month</i>
<i>Support Services Committee</i>	<i>Fourth Tuesday of the month</i>
<i>Monthly Council meeting</i>	<i>Fourth Tuesday of the month</i>

Refreshments and sandwich tea to be available from 6 pm, with a view to commence meetings at 6.30 pm and to be concluded no later than 9 pm, unless

special presentations were being or on the fourth Tuesday when two meetings would take place on same night.

Councillor Donaghy gave her support of the proposals and Councillor Butcher said members needed to think of staff that worked from 8 am and often did not get home until after 11 pm. Councillor Ó hOisín and Councillor Brolly agreed and said elected members had families and lives to lead outside Council, with many having interests in voluntary organisations.

Alderman Robinson and Councillor Cubitt objected to two meetings being held on the same night and said if members were unable to attend, it would mean missing out on two meetings. Councillor Douglas said it could be difficult for some members to attend at an earlier time and suggested the meetings could be concluded much earlier if the business in hand was properly conducted.

Councillor Coyle stated that there was no reason why two meetings could not be held on one night and if Standing Orders were adhered to, the meetings would run more efficiently. Alderman Mullan said that whilst he had no objection to changing the days in which the meetings were held, the proposed 6.30 pm start would not leave much time to change after working on a building site all day. Councillor Stevenson agreed and said that although the time would not suit everyone, there needed to be a consensus from all members.

The Chief Executive advised that the proposals had been put forward to ensure members attended on one set night of each week and suggested members reflect on what had been proposed. After further debate, it was agreed that the Chief Executive take on board members comments and bring back a revised report to the next Environmental Services meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Town Hall Steering Group: The Chief Executive informed members that there was a need to progress the issue of the Town Hall and suggested the Town Hall Steering Group meet as soon as possible regarding planning proposals.

The following unionist members were nominated to the committee:

- Councillor Cubitt on the proposal of Councillor Robinson, seconded by Alderman Robinson and
- Alderman Rankin on the proposal of Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Carten.

Business Awards: It was agreed that members would inform the Chief Executives Department of attendance at the Roe Valley Business Awards.

NEXT MEETING:

5 December 2005

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 10.15 pm)