

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

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

8 FEBRUARY 2011

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

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Director of Development and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES:

Alderman G Robinson, Councillors A Robinson and M Donaghy. .

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 18 January 2011 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Carten, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

MATTERS ARISING:

Presentations to Council: *Alderman Rankin declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.* It was agreed that it would be acceptable to make a decision on the Tree of Remembrance without a presentation from the Rotary Club. A recommendation on where to plant the tree would be brought to the March 2011 Development Committee.

It was noted that the Services Industrial Professional & Technical Union had been asked if they wished to meet with officers in lieu of a presentation to Council.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2011:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for February 2011 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within the report were approved on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Carten subject to the following:

Citizenmode Text System: The Director of Development explained that citizenmode was a text marketing system whereby members of the public sign up with their mobile phone number to receive messages on a range of subjects or emergencies, such as road closures, snow alerts, local news, offers and other marketing material. She said for Council the system would be useful for providing news on bin collections, offers at the Leisure Centre, service or meeting reminders and shows/performances at the Arts Centre.

The Chief Executive indicated that there might be an opportunity to secure alternative funding towards the cost of the text system from other statutory bodies if the service related to emergency planning responses.

Alderman Coyle proposed, seconded by Councillor Butcher that Council would avail of the system on a pilot basis for 1 year at a cost of around £1,600. A recorded vote was requested and the proposal was put to the meeting and declared carried, 8 for, namely Alderman Coyle, Councillor Mullan, Councillor Chivers, Councillor Butcher, Councillor Ó hOisín, Councillor McElhinney, Councillor Carten and Councillor Brolly, with Alderman Rankin, Councillor Douglas, Councillor Stevenson and Councillor Cubitt, 4 voted against.

Grassroots Soccer Development Programme – Update: It was recommended that Council continues to work closely with the IFA in delivery of the Grassroots Development Programme initially for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2011, with the arrangement being reviewed on an annual basis. Agreed. It was also agreed that a reduction in facility charges of 10% would be applied to all Grassroots Programmes applied for the period of the agreement with review of this element build in every quarter.

Gaelic Games Development Officer: Councillor Ó hOisín proposed, seconded by Councillor Chivers that the post would be extended for a further 3 years in line with the commitment given up to March 2014 from the Derry County Board. Councillor Cubitt requested that his disapproval at this decision be noted.

Request for Funding From the Mary Peters Trust: It was agreed that Council would make a contribution of £150 to the ‘Mary Peters Trust’ for the financial year 2011/12.

Peace III Update: The Director of Development informed members that SEUPB had awarded the North East Cluster programme costs of £3,669,000, an uplift of 15% on the Phase I action plan and included an individual local area based project for each Council area. She said the project for Limavady was the appointment of a Cohesion Officer, whose role would be to develop a cohesion strategy for the Borough. She added that whilst Councils were waiting for a formal letter of offer from SEUPB, Councils had been advised to start compiling their project proposals.

It was agreed that Council would make preparations for the recruitment of a Cohesion Officer, which would involve pulling together a job description and post evaluation for the position which would lie within the Development Services Department.

Burnfoot Primary School: *Councillor Douglas declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.* The Director of Development reminded members that Burnfoot Community Association wished to purchase the old Burnfoot Primary School and that disposal of the site would be made by the WELB to Limavady Borough Council and that Council would transfer the property to the Community Association. She said that Burnfoot Community Association had received confirmation that their application to the Rural Development Programme for funding towards the purchase and refurbishment of the property had been successful.

It was agreed that Council would proceed with the acquisition of Burnfoot Primary School from the WELB and transfer the site to Burnfoot Community Association. It was also agreed that the Community Association would be reminded that all legal or other relevant costs incurred by Council in respect of the purchase would be recouped from them.

CAWT – Social Inclusion Project: It was agreed that Council would put forward an officer to represent Council on the Cross Border Social Inclusion Network and that this would be reviewed after a year.

Queries outside the Report:

Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró: The Director of Development tabled a report outlining the usage in terms of visitor numbers and activities at Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre for the period 29 October 2010 to 31 January 2011.

Members discussed the attendance figures and a general discussion took place in which the following points were made:

- Positive comments were made at events held in the centre. However, the centre should be targeted at local people and Council should cater for their needs. A balance was needed between the less popular arts disciplines and populist events.
- Events for St Patrick's day 2011 should have been widened
- Mark Carruthers had praised the centre and the range of events being hosted
- The centre should be promoted via the free advertisement in Saturdays Newsletter
- It would take 12 - 18 months before the centre was fully operational
- The local press had promoted the centre well
- The centre should benefit from the ripple effect of Derry being the City of Culture in 2013.
- Officers were in contact with Consarc to resolve issues associated with the operational side of the centre.
- Staff at the centre were to be thanked for their hard work to date.

Councillor Mullan proposed, seconded by Alderman Coyle that the Director of Development investigate the possibility of purchasing a piece of art from the Michael McGuinness exhibition.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Bio Diversity Steering Committee: Members were advised that the Bio Diversity Officer would be establishing a Steering Committee to assist with the development of the Bio Diversity Action Plan. Alderman Rankin and Councillor Ó hOisín were nominated as the 2 elected members to sit on the committee.

Community Safety Strategy Information Session: Members were informed that a Community Safety Strategy Information Session had been arranged for Tuesday 1 March at 6 pm in Council offices.

Official Opening of Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró: Members were advised to reserve the 30th & 31st March 2011 as potential dates for the official opening of Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre and that Council were waiting on confirmation from Mark Carruthers on his availability to attend.

Vigneux sur Seine Visit: The Director of Development explained that a delegation from Vigneux sur Seine was visiting the Borough from 10 – 13 February 2010. She said an itinerary had been drawn up which included accommodation, meals, a lunchtime reception on Friday 11, general entertainment, tours and an official dinner on Saturday 12 February 2011.

Councillor Carten proposed, seconded by Councillor Mullan that spend associated with the visit be approved by Council.

Management Agreement with Limavady Grammar School: The Director of Development indicated that to resolve a sticking point over the terms of the Management Agreement for the pitch at the Grammar School, it had been suggested that the agreement would be for a period of 20/21 years, with a Break Clause at year 10. She said that although previously agreed by Council, the WELB sought confirmation that Council would commit to match fund the replacement costs of the carpet in the future. It was suggested that Council could set aside an amount of money within the rates over the next few years to ensure that funding was available towards this future cost. It was queried if this was a matter for the new Council.

In response to a member, the Director of Development confirmed that income from the pitch over the last year had been around £6,000.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 8 March 2011.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 8.15 pm)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting