

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**8 MARCH 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, C Ó hOisín, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk, Director of Development and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:**

Alderman G Robinson, Councillors M Donaghy and J F McElhinney.

**PRESENTATION BY THE BIO-DIVERSITY OFFICER:**

The Chair welcomed Ms Rachel Bain, newly appointed Bio-diversity Officer to the meeting.

Ms Bain explained that funding had been secured for 2 ½ years for the post of Bio-Diversity Officer, which would be shared between Ballymoney, Coleraine and Limavady Councils.

Ms Bain explained that a steering group had been established and an audit carried out to identify local species and identify habitat priorities to be included in a Bio-diversity Action Plan. She outlined that projects that created awareness of the bio-diversity in an area included photography competitions, bat surveys, swift surveys, wildlife gardening and moth & butterfly identification. She said that bio-diversity awareness in the Limavady Borough Council would be increased through projects in Dungiven Environmental Park, along the River Roe, by schools and through existing projects.

In the question and answer session where the and points made included:

- Lough Foyle should be exploited and the Council should be working with the RSPB.
- The Bio-Diversity Officer had been in contact with the Field Centre and would be working closely with the schools and Community Groups.
- It was suggested that the Bio-Diversity Officer work with Roads Service in a project to clear the grass verges of tin cans and bottles.

The Chair thanked Ms Bain for her concise presentation.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting dated 8 March 2011 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Councillor Carten.

**MATTERS ARISING:** - None.

**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – MARCH 2011:**

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for March 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:

**Economic Development – Pre-enterprise Support/promotion:** The Director of Development reported that enquires had doubled for the ‘Go for It’ programme following a promotion in January 2011. She said that in further discussions with Roe Valley Enterprises, an application had been received for the final funding under the Pre Enterprise Support element of this year’s Economic Development workplan. This included leaflet drops, development of a new website to assist new and existing entrepreneurs and development of promotional material for display purposes at a range of venues over the next year.

It was agreed that the £2,744 cost for the campaign over a 4 – 6 weeks period would be provided through existing funding for this measure and that Council would be acknowledged in all branding.

**Community Development:** It was agreed that additional funding of £6,633 secured from the Department for Social Development’s Community Support Programme would be allocated to Council’s current advice services provision delivered through LCDI and Glenshane Community Enterprises.

**Good Relations:** Council approved both the Limavady Good Relations Plan and the Joint Action Plan from all four Councils in the Causeway Cluster of Councils.

**Request from Gortnaghey Community Association:** It was agreed that nominations from Council to Gortnaghey Community Association would be dealt with at Council’s next AGM.

**Proposed Pricing Policy – Leisure Services for 2011/12:** The proposed pricing policy for leisure facilities effective from 1 April 2011 was approved by Council. It was suggested that Council explore the possibility of concessionary rates for those with a disability.

**Proposed Closures for RVLC and Dungiven Sports Pavilion 2011/12:** Council approved the proposed holiday closures for Council’s leisure services for the period 2011/12.

**Tree of Remembrance:** The Director of Development was asked to check if the intention was to use an artificial tree or frame which would be separate from Council’s Christmas Tree.

**Courses/Conferences:** It was agreed that the Leisure Services Manager would attend the APSE conference 'Financial Armageddon or Managed Transformation? Where next for Northern Ireland Local Government – budget implications, an icy future?' to be held 14 March 2011 in the Mount Business Centre, Belfast.

**PROPOSED RESPONSE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM AND PROPOSALS FOR THE ICE PROGRAMME:**

The proposed response to Local Government Reform and the proposed response to the NILGA consultation on the ICE Programme was approved by members.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Proposed Response to the 10 year review of the Regional Development Strategy:** The Director of Development tabled a proposed response to the 10 year review of the Regional Development Strategy and requested that members forward any additional comments to the Development Manager before the submission deadline of 18 March 2011. Agreed.

**French Visit:** Councillor Mullan referred to a dinner held in the Drummond during the French visit and proposed that Council pay for the meals of partners of the Twinning Committee. Agreed.

**Rural Development Programme:** A member congratulated Ballykelly, Burnfoot and Gortnaghey for their successful submission for funding to the Rural Development under Village Renewal. Alderman Coyle and Councillor Brolly requested that their disappointment be recorded that Dungiven had been unsuccessful in their submission.

**Social Partner Vacancy – ARC North West:** Councillor Brolly proposed, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that Councillor Butcher would fill the Social Partner vacancy on the ARC North West committee effective from 6 May 2011.

**Roe Valley Residents Association AGM:** Members were informed that the AGM for Roe Valley Residents Association would be held on 30 March at 7 pm in Community Hall, Keady Way.

**Community Festivals Funding:** The Director of Development reported that positive feedback had been received from DCAL that funding of £8K - £9K would be made available for Community Festivals.

**Play & Leisure Partnership:** It was agreed that 2 elected members would be nominated to the Play & Leisure Partnership at the AGM.

**ITEMS DISCUSSED IN COMMITTEE:**

**Showers at Roe Valley Leisure Centre:** Members welcomed that the showers at Roe Valley Leisure Centre were in the process of being fixed and that officers were looking at a rolling maintenance programme which would help plan for the budgetary planning process.

**Magilligan Car Ferry:** The Director of Development updated members with regard to the contract with the Magilligan Car Ferry. During the discussion, the following was highlighted:

- ◆ match funding with Donegal County Council
- ◆ level of funding from Donegal from April to December 2011
- ◆ discussions with the Ferry Company
- ◆ the need to have stand alone accounts for the Lough Foyle ferry service
- ◆ the ferry service should be flexible
- ◆ funding should be sought from Coleraine and Moyle Councils
- ◆ the Ferry Company should provide their own business case if they were seeking funding
- ◆ look for support for the service from North West Gateway Initiative and via Government Departments and that
- ◆ there was a need to have a survey carried out on use of the ferry.

**Benone Beach:** *Councillor Stevenson and Councillor Douglas objected to this item being discussed in committee.* The Director of Development advised members of communication received with regard to trading on Benone Beach. After in-depth discussion it was agreed that the permits for trading on the beach would not be renewed at the end of March 2011 pending further review.

**Dungiven Castle:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Councillor Chivers that Council agree in principle for Dungiven Castle to be subleased to a tenant identified by Glenshane Community Development Limited for use as a 4 star guesthouse.

**NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday 14 June 2011.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 9.25 pm)**

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