

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
8 MAY 2007**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and the Director of Development.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors M Carten and A Robinson.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held on 18 April 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

MATTERS ARISING:

Provision of Facilities for Rugby/Gaelic Sports: The Director of Development reported that a round table meeting on provision of facilities for rugby/gaelic sports would take place between Limavady Wolfhounds and Limavady Cricket & Rugby Football Club within the next week.

Shackleton Barracks: It was agreed that a further evening site visit would be arranged for members to view Shackleton Barracks.

Roe Valley Country Park: Members were advised that the toilets at Roe Valley Country Park would be open to 8 pm during July and August. It was suggested that as the park was busy in the evenings that the toilets be opened prior to July.

MINUTES OF DANNY BOY SUB COMMITTEE:

The minutes of Danny Boy Sub Committee meeting dated 26 April 2007 were tabled and noted.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – MAY 2007:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for May 2007 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Chivers subject to the following:

Development of Synthetic Pitch at Limavady Grammar School: The Director of Development informed members that work had commenced on a synthetic pitch at Limavady Grammar School and that the project was funded under the New Opportunities Funding programme – PE and Sport in Schools, which was aimed not only at improving sports facilities for schools but also at improving the level of facilities available to the wider community outside school hours.

She reminded members that in 2005 Council had agreed to make a contribution of £50,000 towards the costs of the project and said that where there had been a financial input from local authorities, the trend had been to enter into management agreements over managing the facility outside school hours.

Members welcomed that the project due for completion in August 2007 would be utilised by all schools and sporting organisations within the Borough. It was agreed that Council would honour the commitment of a maximum of £50,000 towards the costs of development of the Synthetic Pitch and enter into a joint management agreement with Limavady Grammar School to manage the facility outside school hours for an initial period of 5 years.

Civic Centre – Coverage in Construction Ireland: It was agreed that the Esen Group would feature the development of the new Civic Centre in two additions of their “Construction Ireland” publication. Members noted that although there would be no cost to Council, Council would retain full control of the content of the article – including photographic editorial.

It was suggested that the new Civic Centre should have a memorial to the blind fiddler and to Jane Ross. Members noted that the next Civic Centre Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 22 May 2007.

Fit for Life – GP Referral Scheme: The Director of Development informed members that Roe Valley Leisure Centre had recently re-launched the Fit for Life GP Referral Scheme whereby the centre worked in partnership with the local health professionals to encourage those with health problems such as obesity and diabetes to participate in physical activity. It was agreed that Council would continue to adhere to the current concessionary rate for use of Lifestyle Fitness for the GP Referral Scheme.

Audit of Community Centres: The Director of Development presented an Audit report on community centres in the Borough, including ownership & maintenance details, grants received during the last 2-3 years to refurbish/improve the facilities and levels of funding in 2006 towards revenue costs.

The Director of Development recommended that Council consider extending its Community Support Grant Aid Policy for 2008/09 to include an element of capital expenditure to target community groups which had not benefited from Council or other funding programmes in recent years. She said it would also be looked as a lever/match funding when establishing budgets for 2008/09.

Reference was made at previous allocation of £2,000 per group and members were advised that officers would looking for additional funding within 2008/09 budgets as well as policy to assist with capital works/refurbishments.

It was suggested that Council investigate the level of support provided by other Councils towards the voluntary and community sector.

Limavady Twinning Association – Vigneux-Sur-Seine: The Director of Development explained that Limavady Twinning Association had submitted annual audited accounts for 2006/07, which were in accordance with the business plan supplied. She explained that the group had submitted the business plan for 2007/08, which included an amount for Insurance and Indemnity cover, with a request for £6,000 towards activities to be held during the year.

It was agreed that the amount requested would be approved; however, a query arose as to members' expenses relating to the Twinning Association.

Grants for Festivals and Events: The Director of Development explained that following the introduction of a grant aid policy in April 2007, a number of applications for funding had been received. She said these were assessed in accordance with the policy and submitted recommendations for approval by Council.

In the debate that ensued, a number of concerns were voiced in relation to level of support for the Jazz & Blues Festival, County Derry Annual Fleadh and Rock the Valley Festival. Following discussion the following applications were approved.

- Limavady Jazz & Blues Festival – up to £7,000 if required towards the event;
- County Derry Annual Fleadh – approval of £1,500;
- Ulster Closed Shore Fishing Championships – approval of £150;
- Annual Vintage Rally & Ploughing Competition – approval of £250, plus advertising space;
- Youth Friendship Trophy – approval of £500 towards transport and prizes;
- Rock the Valley Festival – approval of £5,000
- Veterans Day Commemoration – approval of £250 towards the cost of workshops.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Reflection on Restoration of Northern Ireland Assembly: The Mayor reflected on the historic restoration of the Northern Ireland Assembly which happened earlier on the day and suggested that members put their differences aside and work together. Noted.

Limavady College Creative Show: Members noted with disappointment that although Council had been thanked for its support in the past, Limavady College Creative Show for 2007 was being downgraded and would not be held in Roe Valley Leisure Centre. It was suggested that an invitation be extended to Seamus Murphy to make a presentation to Council on the future of the college.

Limavady Borough Council Economic Development Grant Policy: Members were tabled the Economic Development Policy and requested that comments be forwarded to the Director of Development or the Development Manager as soon as possible.

Roe Valley Country Park: It was agreed that comments made in relation to the condition of the pond at Roe Valley Country Park would be forwarded to EHS and that the café proprietor would be contacted regarding opening hours.

Tourism Guide & Other Council Publications: Members observed that the corporate logo had not been included on the new tourism publication nor on literature provided by Technical Services. It was agreed that all future literature would include the corporate logo.

Play Areas: The excellent facilities available at Curragh Road and Alexander Park were commented on by members.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

12 June 2007

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 8.45 pm)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting