

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
8 JUNE 2005

Minutes of a meeting of the above Committee held in the Council Chamber, 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, M Carten, B Chivers, M Coyle, C Ó hOisín, J F McElhinney, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Town Clerk & Chief Executive, Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer, Acting Economic Development Officer, Leisure Service Officer and the Committee Clerk.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Douglas and Councillor Donaghy

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR:

Councillor Chivers was elected as chair for year 2005/2006 on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Councillor Butcher.

MINUTES:

The minutes of Development Committee meeting held 9 March 2005 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

MATTERS ARISING:

Disabled Angling Access: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer informed members that he would continue to work closely with the Rivers Agency and Council's Technical Service Department on improvement works at the Country Park.

Hands That Talk: Members noted that Hands That Talk had paid tribute to Council for supporting the group in its efforts to secure funding.

Causeway Coast & Glens – Conference: Alderman Rankin said he had been asked to open the Causeway Coast & Glens Conference but had been disappointed that this had got underway before he had arrived at the venue.

Bullock's Lane – Traffic Calming Signs: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer said it was regrettable that traffic calming signs had been removed from Bullock's Lane and gave members assurance that these would be replaced as soon as possible.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT – JUNE 2005:

The Acting Economic Development Officer provided an overview of the current economic situation within the Borough and members noted that Limavady had moved from the lowest number of business starts to amongst the highest in Northern Ireland. He said that whilst 2004 saw the highest engagement of local businesses in economic development programmes, they were still in need of support for long term development and growth.

Members referred to the statistics on violent crime, robbery, criminal damage and disorderly behaviour and the need for a strategy to bring these down. The Acting Economic Development Officer said his Department would not solve all these problems and suggested that members who sat on external boards would voice their concerns through this forum and draw attention to the problem.

In response to query from Councillor Broly regarding distribution of funding the Acting Economic Development Officer asked for clarification on the disparity of funding. After further clarification the Acting Economic Development Officer said that Roe Valley Rural Development had not changed its publicity strategy. He said that the programmes were advertised widely through mailshots, roadshows and promoted by the Rural Business Advisor and if applicants met the DARD criteria, the application would be successful.

Councillor Butcher queried the legal requirement for community groups keeping financial records. The Acting Economic Development Officer said this was set by Europe to the year 2013.

Members congratulated staff from within the Economic Development Department on the success of the programmes.

CHIEF RECREATION/TOURIST OFFICER'S REPORT – JUNE 2005:

The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer presented his report and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Butcher subject to the following:

Irish Football Association: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer reported that he had written to the IFA regarding the £8 million allocation to football and reply outlined that there were no grant scheme but the money had been allocated against 5 economic appraisals of:

1. youth development
2. football development
3. governance and administration
4. playing facilities and
5. club development and management.

Members noted with disappointment that whilst the IFA was in the process of developing a strategy through which funds would be allocated, there were no application process in place which allowed clubs to apply for funding directly.

Limavady College of Further & Higher Education – Arts & Crafts Show 2005:

The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer informed members that once again Limavady College of Further & Higher Education were staging their Arts and Crafts

Show and had requested the use of the Sports Hall in Leisure Centre for the week commencing 13 June 2005. Agreed

Shell Foyle Cup: It was agreed that Council would contribute £625, provide free use of pitches at Ballykelly and host a civic reception for team managers and officials for those taking part in the Shell Foyle Cup 2005.

Roe Valley Leisure Centre – Surplus Fitness Equipment: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer explained that Council had received a number of queries on surplus fitness equipment, which would become redundant when the fitness suite at Roe Valley Leisure Centre was upgraded. It was agreed that to be fair and equitable to all interested sports clubs, groups and organisations, that Council place an advert in the press inviting tenders for the entire job lot.

Roe Valley Leisure Centre – Summer Scheme: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer informed members of arrangements for the annual Summer Scheme, which would take place at the Roe Valley Leisure Centre from 5 July – 18 August 2005 for 8 – 13 year old children. Members noted that the scheme would run three days per week from 10.00 am – 1.30 pm and would provide a varied range of activities.

It was agreed that the cost of transportation for children from rural areas would be 60p per child and that a summer scheme daily ticket would cost £2.00 per child or that a family ticket could be purchased for £10.00 per week or £60.00 for the entire six week period of the scheme.

Limavady Sports Council: In support of the large number of events being organised by Limavady Sports Council, it was agreed that £8,000 be provided towards the ongoing promotion of sport and the organisation of the Sports Awards Dinner in 2006. The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer agreed to provide a breakdown on money spent in sport and on the dinner to Councillor Butcher.

Beach Management: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer explained that the posts of Beach Manager and Beach Wardens had been filled and would commence on site at end of June 2005. Members noted that the following named beach wardens would be authorised by Council to undertake duties relating to the Litter (NI) Order 1994, The Environment (NI) Order 2002 and Council Bye-laws for Seashores Esplanades and Promenades:

1. Adam Kyle
2. Cathy Young
3. Rachel Loughrey
4. Andrew McCracken and
5. Stephen Lunn.

Vigneux News: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer referred to the success of the Vigneux Primary School exchange visit and said the Mayor of Vigneux had paid tribute to the scheme, praising its benefits to the children in both educational and culture terms. He said that primary schools involved in the project would be sending a selection of pupils to Vigneux-sur-Seine in June 2005 and hoped that this programme would run again next year.

The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer relayed gratitude from the Deputy Mayor of Vigneux-sur-Seine, Mr Michel Servais, for hospitality shown to the town hall

delegation during their stay in Limavady for the Mayor's Parade and looked forward to receiving various groups from Limavady in Vigneux in over May and June 2005.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Alderman Robinson that Mrs Clare Quinn, Tourist Development Officer would attend Vigneux-sur-Seine with local primary school children in June 2005.

It was also agreed that the Mayor, Alderman Robinson, Councillor Brolly and the Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer would attend the Bastille Celebrations to be held 12 – 15 July 2005.

Roe Valley Country Park – Refreshments: In response to Councillor Cubitt's query on the provision of refreshments at the Roe Valley Country Park, the Chief Technical Service Officer said that he had received a letter from Environment and Heritage Service which indicated that due to ongoing contractual work, it would seem unlikely that the café would be open before February 2006. Alderman Robinson said this was repugnant and suggested that the Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer respond to the letter accordingly.

Danny Boy Festival 2005: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer provided an update on arrangements for the Danny Boy Festival to be held 5 – 7 August 2005. The minutes and draft report of Danny Boy Festival Committee submitted for ratification were approved on the proposal of Alderman Mullan, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

Benone Beach – Ice Cream Franchise: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer explained that whilst Mr James Turtle had obtained by way of public auction the concession to sell ice cream at Benone Beach, four other illegal mobile ice cream vendors were poaching his trade. He said that Council had initiated court proceedings against the illegal traders and that the court cases would be heard at end of June 2005.

Members agreed to the request by Mr Turtle for granting this year's trading free in lieu of trade lost on the beach through the four illegal traders.

Disability Provision Through The Years at Limegrove: It was agreed that to Council would contribute £200 towards the publication of a 50th anniversary book by Chris Wilson on the history of Greystone Hall to Limegrove School and how it has met with fulfilling the needs of sport, education and community enjoyment through the years.

Massey Festival 2005 – Scottish Highland Games: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer informed members that the Massey Festival organising committee had submitted an application for financial assistance of £1,000 towards their Scottish Highlands Games to take place 2 and 9 July 2005. Members noted that Council had granted £1,000 towards a week long festival in 2004 and it was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Rankin that Council contribute £200 towards the two day event.

Councillor Brolly pointed out that of St Canice's Accordion Band had submitted a similar request for funding and they had been refused, even though they were non-

political group. The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer agreed to investigate funding possibilities.

Scroggy Road Public Path Diversion Order: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer reported that Environment & Heritage Service had given notice that the Public Path Division Order, as proposed by Limavady Borough Council, had been confirmed and that Council was awaiting advice from EHS for notifying the public of this decision.

Councillor Cubitt stated that the public inquiry had been a waste of time and money and Alderman Rankin said Mr Hickey had made mistakes during the enquiry.

ACADEMY OF ARTS PROJECT:

The Chair welcomed Mr Raymond Craig, Limavady Learning Partnership to the meeting.

Mr Craig explained that the North West Academy of Arts brings together talented young artists from the border countries of the north west of Ireland to develop and enhance their artistic and creative talents through an intensive residential training and coaching programmes. He said that the Academy was a partnership project between the WELB and Donegal VEC.

Members noted that the Academy took place twice a year as follows:

- a two week residential in July in the Foyle Arts Centre and North West Institute of Further and Higher Education, catering for up to 200 students and
- a one week residential in October in Gartan Education Centre, Co Donegal, catering 40 students.

Members also noted that a small number of artistic students would have the opportunity to attend the prestigious Governors School for the Arts in Lexington, Kentucky USA.

Mr Craig explained that the project was 100% funded by SEUPB to the sum of £505,258 and that in year 1 the actual spend of the project was £286,264, leaving £217,994 for year 2. He said that projected costs would be similar to year 1 and this would leave a shortfall of £69,006 and requested each Council who benefited from the Academy to contribute £7,000 towards the shortfall.

Mr Craig thanked the Chair for being given the opportunity to present to Council and left the meeting at 11.05 pm.

The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer reminded members that the £7,000 had not been budgeted for and that other border Council's had yet to decide on whether to agree to the amount requested.

It was agreed that decision on the matter be deferred until sources of funding were investigated.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Coastnet: It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Councillor Brolly to corporate membership of Coast Net at a cost of £150.

Ballykelly Foreshore: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer informed members that a request had been received for cars to have right of way to use the access route to Ballykelly foreshore. He said that the land belonged to Mr James Barr and that he had no objection to wheelchairs, prams or pedestrians using the road but the route was not a vehicular right of way. Agreed.

NEXT MEETING:

10 August 2005.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS

(The meeting ended at 11.30 pm)