

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
8 AUGUST 2006

Minutes of a meeting of the above Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.00 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and the Director of Development.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors B Chivers, M Coyle and L Cubitt.

CONDOLENCES:

It was agreed that a letter of condolence would be forwarded to Councillor Chivers on the sudden death of her mother in law.

Members expressed sympathy to former employee Celine O'Hara on the death of her daughter and to Stephen Young on the death of his father.

PRESENTATION BY TRANQUILITY:

The chair welcomed Mr Edwin Graham and Mr Des Fiddes, Tranquillity Consultants to the meeting.

Mr Fiddes explained that Council had commissioned Tranquillity Consultancy to undertake a baseline study to identify the needs of migrant workers and people from minority ethnic backgrounds in the Borough. He said that the key to the increase in migrant workers was that the United Kingdom and Ireland allowed free movement for employment purposes for nationals of the eight Eastern European countries.

Mr Fiddes stated that there was a population of 70 Chinese in the area, mainly in Limavady, Dungiven and Ballykelly, with the main source of employment being provided by the catering industry. He said that the Salvation Army was active in its work with the Filipino community and that there were approximately 25 people from the Philippines living in the Borough who were employed in nursing homes or in hospitals.

With regard to employment, Mr Fiddes said that findings from the mapping exercise revealed that there were about 20 workers from the minority ethnic communities and accession states employed in the Radisson Roe Hotel, 90 in Seagate and

approximately 70 in Dungiven who were employed by O’Kane’s joinery, the building trade and in domestic work. Members noted that the majority of these workers were from Poland, with some being from Lithuania and Latvia.

Mr Fiddes informed members that the NIHE had indicated that there were no migrant workers on its waiting list and no demand from migrant workers for Housing Executive properties in Limavady. He stated that it was estimated that 100 private properties in the Borough were let to people who were non UK nationals, many on a short stay, with 40% staying for several years.

Mr Fiddes praised the work of Father Eddie Gallagher who had identified Catholic parishioners who had moved to Limavady from the EU and elsewhere and said this valuable piece of work would provide a useful benchmark for the future.

Members noted that based on all the data provided there were 284 confirmed non UK nationals living in the Borough but estimates of additional numbers indicated this could potentially be up to 414.

Mr Fiddes explained that although the migrant workers were making an impact on the local and native economies, unfortunately many were employed well below their skill levels. He said that racism and xenophobia reported in other parts of Northern Ireland did not initially appear to be a problem in Limavady, although Polish workers indicated that there was a problem and the only reason it had not been identified was that Polish people tended to avoid conflict.

The Consultants from Tranquillity made a number of recommendations in relation to communication, information & training and suggested there should be a single point of contact within Council for minority communities. It was also suggested that support structures be explored and that Council should monitor the growth and development of the various minority communities, with the needs of Travellers to be considered and incorporated into the Council’s plans.

Mr Fiddes clarified to Councillor Brolly that a number of companies in the Borough were unwilling to provide details of minority workers employed due to confidentiality but overall Council would now be aware of where 80% of migrant workers came from.

Members voiced concern at workers being employed below their skill level and to those living in sub-standard multi occupancy properties.

The Chair thanked Mr Fiddes and Mr Graham for attending the meeting.

PRESENTATION BY ULSTER SCOTS AGENCY:

The Director of Development explained that the Ulster Scots Agency were unable to attend the meeting and had requested that their presentation be deferred until a later date. Agreed.

ELECTION OF CHAIR:

It was agreed that the Mayor would temporarily chair the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of Development Committee meeting held 13 June 2006 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Carten.

MATTERS ARISING:

Provision of Football Pitch at Feeny: The Director of Development reported that although the team had not been accepted into the league in the current year, their application would be kept on file for next year. She said that the pitch would be inspected by the league within the next few weeks to see if it was satisfactory.

Largy Pitch: Councillor Douglas confirmed that he had requested at the previous meeting if Council would identify additional land for a football pitch at Largy.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – AUGUST 2006:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report and enlarged thereon. The recommendations were agreed and the report adopted on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Councillor Brolly subject to the following:

- remove the penultimate paragraph from page 10.

Extension of Atlantic Drift Marketing Project: Approval was given to provide match funding of £12,800 towards the Interreg IIIa programme for extension of the Atlantic Drift Marketing Project.

UEFA Mini Pitch Development: The Director of Development explained that in order for Council to access £25,000 funding, a decision was now required on a priority site. She said surveys had been undertaken on four possible sites and approximate costs to develop a mini pitch had been obtained for members' consideration.

It was agreed that Council would confirm its interest in developing a mini pitch within phase 1 of the programme and that confirmation of a preferred location/option would be discussed at a forthcoming meeting. Members pointed out that Dunlade, Oughtymoyle and Bovally needed a play/recreation area and suggested these be considered for suitable location for mini pitch provision. The Director of Development advised Council that further surveys were unlikely for phase 1 but that they would be considered for future provision.

Concessionary Use of Roe Valley Leisure Centre by Elected Members: It was agreed that concessionary rates of Lifestyle Fitness and Roe Valley Leisure Centre which currently apply to Council staff be extended to elected members.

Request for Financial Assistance: It was agreed that the following requests for financial contributions would be approved:

- £150 - Ulster Closed Shore Championships
- £394 - Maritime and Coastguard Agency 'Beach & Coastal Safety Programme'
- £3,100 – Limavady/Westpost Twinning Association 2006/07 programme

- £200 – Limavady Women’s Institute 60th Anniversary Dinner and Celebration
- £100 – Ulster Youth Choir 3 concerts in Armagh, Londonderry and Belfast
- £1,550 – Roe Valley Choir general running costs and concerts
- £150 – Shackleton Association cost of minibus/fuel for series of activities for members and young people from the Borough
- £400 – Greysteel Community Festival costs
- £5,000 – 2006 Roe Valley International Folk Festival
- £100 – Royal Life Saving Society Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships 2006

FIFA Goal Investment Programme: The Director of Development reported that correspondence had been received from IFA indicating that approximately £220,000 was now available towards the installation of a third generation synthetic playing surface. She said the total cost of such a facility would cost in the region of £440,000 and that information had been forwarded to all Councils for expressions of interest by 31 July 2006.

It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Alderman Robinson that Council fully explore the opportunities which this funding would offer to Limavady Borough with a view to submitting a detailed proposal to the IFA in December 2006.

2012 London Olympics Capital Grant Assistance for the Development of Sports Facilities in Northern Ireland: The Director of Development reminded members that £50 million had been earmarked for the development of new/upgrading of existing sports facilities in Northern Ireland which would provide high level training facilities for Olympic sports, including the needs of Paralympics sport. She said the first call for bids had been made earlier in relation to development of a 50 m swimming pool and that expressions of interest for the next round of funding is expected imminently. She added that any Council, sports club or other organisation submitting an application would be responsible for pulling together a business plan/economic appraisal for each facility completed by 2010.

It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Councillor Brolly that the Director of Development explores the opportunity to realistically accessing this funding and report back to Council.

Placing of Advertisement: It was agreed that in order to improve service delivery and take advantage of offers or deadlines, that approval for decisions on advertising rest with the relevant Director.

Blue Flag Status: Members voiced concern that due to budget cuts within EHS, it was likely that 2007 would be the last year in which Blue Flag Status would be awarded to beaches and marinas in Northern Ireland. Members queried if Council would now be asked to fund the post of Coastal Officer.

Good Relations: The Director of Development outlined that the new Good Relations Officer had commenced employment and work had already begun on several projects within this years Good Relations plan. She tabled a proposed borough-wide Good Relations Survey for information and said that the plan also included information pack for new arrivals of ethnic minority communities, a culture

arts and Good Relations programme to commence in September and that the terms of reference would be issued as part of the ongoing Good Relations evaluation.

She referred to the presentation given earlier by Tranquillity and said the paper highlighted the dichotomy between perception and reality, with reports of attacks on migrant communities in this area as being low but discussion with the actual communities showed that there was a fear of mixing locally, especially in area where there is a concentration.

Members welcomed the initiative but suggested that the survey was too long and wordy and that this could prevent people from responding. The Director of Development agreed to review the survey with colleagues from Coleraine Borough Council.

Ice Cream Franchise – Benone Beach - IN COMMITTEE: It was agreed that a payment of £1,400 be made to terminate the franchises for selling ice cream at Benone Tourist Complex and Benone Car Park. **OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

COURSES & CONFERENCES:

Event Management Conference: It was agreed that two officers would attend the Event Management Conference to be held 27 & 28 September 2006 in Radisson Roe Park Hotel, Limavady at a cost of £299 + VAT per person.

Institute of Sport and Recreation Management Conference: It was agreed that an officer would attend the above conference to be held 14 & 15 September 2006 in Bournemouth International Centre at a cost of £390 + VAT and flight.

18th National Tourism Conference: It was agreed that an officer attend the 18th National Tourism Conference to be held 24 & 25 November 2006 in Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare at a cost of £165.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Membership of Forum for Local Government and the Arts: It was agreed that change of membership to the Forum for Local Government and the Arts would be discussed at the August Monthly meeting.

Irish Adventure Race Series: The Director of Development informed members that the organisers of Irish Adventure Race Series had requested Council's permission to:

1. use Swann's Bridge picnic area as start and finish location for its Adventure Ireland mountain bike/running/kayaking event on 26 August 2006;
2. to have key holder access to the car park to allow the kayak trailer into the site and
3. to erect tents to be used for competitor registration and kit checks.

The Director of Development recommended that Council agree to the use of Swann's Bridge picnic area for the event subject to evidence of appropriate insurance cover and agreement that the site be left in good condition. Agreed.

Milk Cup: Members noted that the Milk Cup Committee were delighted with the support from Limavady Borough Council and requested that thanks be passed on to Technical Services for the excellent condition of the pitches.

Dungiven Castle Development: The Chair, Councillor McElhinney informed members that a meeting to discuss the Dungiven Castle Development had been arranged for Monday 14 August at 8 pm in the Castle Building.

Statements by the Mayor: The Mayor requested that all press releases, statements or publications bearing his signature be reviewed before release to the general public. Noted.

Support for St. Mary's GAC Development: It was agreed that a letter would be forwarded to St Mary's GAC, Faughanvale in support for their application to the Sports Lottery Unit for funding towards the club.

NEXT MEETING:

12 September 2006

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.05 pm)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting