

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

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

8 SEPTEMBER 2009

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and the Director of Development.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor A Robinson.

PRESENTATION BY LANDOWNERS - BALLYKELLY BY-PASS:

The Chair welcomed Mr Jeff Conn and Mr Martin Canning, landowners from Ballykelly to the meeting.

Mr Canning explained that DRD Roads Service had selected the southern corridor as the preferred route for the proposed by-pass at Ballykelly due to financial viability and the problem of swans & flooding on the northern route.

The following comments were made by Mr Conn:

- the need for a by-pass was queried given the current economic climate with fewer vehicles on the roads and closure of the army camp & Seagate
- there were serious objections to the by-pass by local residents
- the assessments used to decide on need for the by-pass were out of date
- the southern route would cut through land belonging to 17 landowners compared to the MOD as the major landowner on the northern route
- the by-pass would kill trade in the village
- cost on the southern route would be greater due to number of bridges and flyovers proposed for the area.

He also stated that decision to opt for the southern route had been marginal and that if a by-pass was needed, it should be located alongside the existing railway line.

The deputation of landowners left the meeting at 7.30 pm.

In the discussion which followed, it was agreed that comments made would be forwarded to Conor Murphy, Minister for Regional Development and to state that money earmarked for the project should be redirected to improving rural roads. It was suggested that a deputation meet with the Minister and that a working be established to look at the points made.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 11 August 2009 were approved on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Alderman Robinson.

MATTERS ARISING:

Development of Third Generation Pitch at Scroggy Road: Councillor Stevenson requested that it be noted that Council had ignored the recommendation to go for option 2 as the preferred choice for the development of a 3G pitch at Scroggy Road. This was seconded by Councillor Douglas.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2009:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for September 2009 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within the report were approved on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Mullan subject to the following:

Community Development: The Director of Development explained that it was proposed to put in place a series of mandatory training sessions to which community groups must send at least one representative in order to receive funding through the Community Support programme. She said the sessions included RPA training, interactive funding and new charity law and governance. Agreed.

It was noted that the RPA session was felt to be helpful as there was considerable lack of knowledge or understanding of the RPA process and how it might impact on the community section.

Tamlaghtard Graves Commemoration: It was agreed that Council would contribute up to £350 towards food and transport for guests being invited to the inaugural commemoration ceremony to take place on 23 January 2010 for shipwrecked mariners laid to rest in Tamlaghtard parish graveyard.

Funding towards Competition Prizes: It was agreed that £200 would be allocated towards prizes for an art competition being run by local schools to encourage students to provide illustrations for a collection of short stories set in and around the Limavady area, including Dungiven, Claudy, Drumsurn and Feeny.

Interreg IVA: Members gave support to the use of Council land for the purpose of developing allotments as a theme which had been submitted under the Interreg IVA programme.

Development of 3G Pitch: The Director of Development updated members on progress to a revised business case for the development of a 3G pitch at Scroggy Road. She confirmed that option 5 from the previous business case was still under consideration by Sports NI and that following consultation with local clubs, revised options would be brought back to Council.

A number of Councillors were of the opinion that it would be useful to meet prior to the October Development meeting to discuss the revised business case and to seek clarification on a number of issues.

ITEMS DISCUSSED IN COMMITTEE:

Request for the Community Development Officer to Participate in a Further Education Programme: It was recommended that approval be given for the Community Services Officer to undertake the Advanced Diploma in Management Practice. Agreed. It was suggested that Council's policy should be updated on officers undertaking courses and then leaving Council employment.

Shackleton Army Base: The Director of Development updated members on developments on future of Shackleton Army Base. There was still a view that Council should be pushing to get the land gifted to Council. The Director of Development to keep in contact with Defence Estates.

Greencastle/Magilligan Ferry Service: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Alderman Coyle that £100,000 be ring-fenced to retain the ferry service. It was agreed that clarification would be sought on the legality of the proposal and that the proposal should be discussed with Donegal County Council.

Courses/Conferences: It was agreed that the Leisure Services Manager would attend the seminar on Performance Management in Northern Ireland on 30 September 2009 in Ballymena at a cost of £139+VAT.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Fitness Suite – Dungiven Sports Pavilion: Approval was given to proceed with a Finance Lease with PULSE on a 5 year basis, with equipment to be owned by Council after the 5 year period.

Roemill Road Sporting Facilities: In response to members concerns at antisocial behaviour at Roemill Sporting Facilities, the Director of Development agreed to update members on what action could be taken to address the problem after raising the query at the next SMT meeting.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 13 October 2009

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

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting