

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

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

08 OCTOBER 2013

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

PRESENT:

Alderman G Robinson. Councillors O Beattie, A Brolly, B Douglas, B Chivers, G Mullan, T McCaul, J McCorkell, S McGlinchey (chair) C McLaughlin, D Nicholl, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Director of Development and Committee Clerk.

APOLOGIES: - Aldermen M Coyle and J Rankin.

CONDOLENCES

Tributes were paid to the late Mr Mervyn Rankin, brother of Alderman J Rankin and former Chief Executive of Ballymena Borough Council. A minutes silence was apprehended as a mark of respect for Mr Rankin.

Councillor A Robinson and Alderman G Robinson joined the meeting at 7.05pm

PRESENTATION - ST MARY'S SCHOOL AND LIMAVADY HIGH SCHOOL

The Chair welcomed Principal McCloskey and Mr S Keown from St Mary's School and Principal Laverty and Mr D Mornin from Limavady High School to the meeting.

Councillor B Douglas joined the meeting at 7.08pm

Principals Laverty and McCloskey presented plans for the development of a proposed bridge project designed to join St Mary's School and Limavady High School. 'The Unity Bridge' project would serve as a symbol of a shared civic future to the rest of Northern Ireland present a positive impact in the Borough. Mr Laverty explained that for over 50 years both schools had been divided by the Blackburn Path which acted as a physical barrier between the schools and pupils had concerns around using the path due to antisocial activity.

Councillor J McCorkell joined the meeting at 7.10pm

Principal Laverty informed members the aim of the Unity Bridge was to reclaim and transform a space to connect communities from different backgrounds, shaping futures and making connections with the promotion of good relations and respect for diversity as a core ethos. Principal Laverty believed the Unity Bridge

would provide a positive change, an opportunity to show how sharing can work and encourage good relations. He reported 28% of the population in the Borough were socially deprived and felt the positivity of the project would encourage pupils to share and respect different views and reiterate the information to family and friends creating a positive impact to our society and community.

Principal Laverty elaborated on the objectives of the bridge:

- It would connect 1400 young people in a wide range of leisure and cultural activities,
- It would connect 27 community groups to a wide range of cross-community events and activities.
- It would provide safe, accessible space which would improve the health and wellbeing of its users.

Principal McCloskey invited Limavady Borough Council to act as a civil lead in the Unity Bridge project to lead citizens of the Borough into the future and asked for full council support, she assured members the project, if successful, would be 100% funded by Shared Education Programme and Big Lottery Space & Place and assured members no additional funding or workload would be required from Council.

Following the presentation members expressed the following views:

- To name the footbridge 'Unity Bridge' was a fantastic idea the bridge would be visually strong and a positive feature.
- Ambitious and good common sense, symbolic and practical not just connecting schools but bringing the community together, deserves praise.
- Phenomenal work and a leading light in shared education.
- Admiration for schools involved in this project, keen to be part of it.
- Great place to start, good to educate young people.
- Sceptical of a shared future
- Would not stand in the way of it but won't solve problems

The Chair thanked Principals Laverty and McCloskey and Messrs Keown and Mornin for attending the meeting.

Councillor A Brolly proposed Limavady Borough Council support the application to proceed with the footbridge project, seconded by Councillor C McLaughlin.

Following debate the recommendation was put to the vote and carried 12 for, 0 against and 1 abstention.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 10 September 2013 were approved on the proposal of Councillor B Chivers, seconded by Alderman G Robinson.

MATTERS ARISING: - None

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT ~ OCTOBER 2013:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for October 2013 and enlarged thereon. The report was approved on the proposal of Councillor B Chivers, seconded by T McCaul subject to the following:

T/002 – Benone Tourist Complex – Proposed Holiday Closure for Christmas and New Year: Council agreed that Benone Tourist Complex would be closed from Tuesday 24th December to Thursday 26th December 2012 inclusive, re-opening Friday 27th December 2012. Closed on Wednesday 1st January 2013, re-opening Thursday 2nd January 2013.

CA/020 – Limavady Rotary Club Tree of Remembrance: Council agreed to grant permission to Limavady Rotary Club to use Drumceatt Square and the Christmas Tree for their fundraising venture in the lead up to Christmas 2012 subject to the necessary health and safety requirements being met and an advanced event plan of activities being provided.

CD/020A – Community Services: Members agreed to the following allocation of the additional funding made available by the Department of Social Development:

- ♦ £3,000 – Progression of the Joint Community Development Strategy for the Causeway Coast and Glens cluster of Councils
- ♦ £2,000 – Training for Limavady Community Network
- ♦ £5,000 – Community Audits for Greysteel and Magilligan
- ♦ £3,000 – Limavady Volunteer Bureau

It was agreed the remaining £10,491 funding be placed towards an open call around the remaining community groups and associations.

ACO/014 – Old Dromore Road: The Director of Development advised members advice had been sought from Council’s solicitor regarding the decision on the right of way at Old Dromore Lane. The Chief Executive confirmed members would be updated on the solicitor’s response in due course.

RVLC/001 – Request to Attend NPLQ Trainer/Assessors Course: Council approved a request for Swimming Coordinator based at Roe Valley Leisure Centre to attend NPLQ Trainer/Assessors Course at a cost of approximately £800 and includes £650 course costs. The Director of Development informed members the qualification would provide Council with an additional qualified assessor who could provide in house training.

Invest Northern Ireland Funding – Think Big, Think Creative: The Director of Development informed members that an application for a Creative Sector Development worker had been successful and funding awarded, she explained the post would run for an 18 month period and the officer would work with businesses in the broad “creative” sector to improve market penetration and work with new and upcoming businesses in partnership with other initiatives in the region. It was agreed to progress with the recruitment process to fill the position.

CA/002 – Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre – Audit of Auditorium Seating: The Director of Development notified members ADAPT had completed an access audit of the auditorium and informed members that officers would collate and pull all additional relevant information together and present a report to Council in due course.

G/025 – Update on Meeting with OFMDFM Regarding Shackleton Barracks: The Director of Development updated members regarding a meeting on 11th September 2012 with officers from OFMDFM, she confirmed development of the site was clearly being taken forward and the meeting overall was informative and

beneficial which confirmed that work and discussions were on-going in relation to the future use and development of the site.

Local Government Reform – Proposed Review of Existing Partnership Arrangements: The Chief Executive informed members that as Councils move towards amalgamation in April 2015 there were a number of ways in which the changes will impact on existing Limavady Borough Council partnership arrangements. It was agreed members attend a workshop in the near future to allow for discussion on partnership arrangements and express views on the way forward.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Brighter Gold: In response to queries from members the Director of Development confirmed that schools would be involved with the Brighter Gold Exhibition and that the Culture Arts and Tourism Manager had been in contact with the Nicholl family on a number of occasions.

Northern Ireland Investment Conference 2013: It was agreed the Mayor, Councillor Mullan, attend the NI Investment conference on Friday 11 October 2013.

Roe Valley Chamber of Trade: It was agreed a meeting be arranged with the Roe Valley Chamber of Trade by end of October 2013.

Hannah & Browne, Limavady: The Director of Development informed members the Economic Development Manager had been in contact with the Administrator who confirmed a final decision on the future of the business had not yet been determined. Both the Department for Learning and Department for Social Development had been involved in the process to date.

Meeting of DVA Workers, County Hall, Coleraine: Alderman Robinson informed Council the meeting on Wednesday 2 October regarding the loss of jobs in County Hall had been fairly positive with the attendance and support of the First Minister, Peter Robinson. He stated a number of options had been put to the First Minister in the hope that he could raise the issues with the Prime Minister, David Cameron.

Civic Reception: It was agreed that a Civic Reception be held for Foreglen Football Club celebrating 125 years and Banagher Camogie Team on the success of winning the intermediate championship.

NILGA Local Government Bill Key Council Engagement Events: The Chief Executive informed members of Engagement Events taking place on 28th October in Cookstown and 29th October in Lisburn examining the key issues around the future of local government.

Commencement Order: The Chief Executive informed members a Commencement Order to bring the new local government districts into effect in order to hold the next local government elections was made on 3 October 2013. The commencement Order now enables the Northern Ireland Office to lay its Local Elections Order at Westminster, which will set the date for the 2014 election and also brings the new 11 councils into effect to perform certain duties during the shadow period.

The Honourable The Irish Society: The Chief Executive advised members The Honourable The Irish Society would be attending Limavady Borough Council offices on 15 October at 4.30pm to present an oak tree to Council to mark their 400th anniversary this year which is shared with the Borough of Limavady.

Response to Consultation: The response to the consultation on a Regional Day Opportunities Model for Adults with a Learning Disability was approved by members.

NEXT MEETING – 12 November 2013

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 8.35 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting