

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
8 NOVEMBER 2011**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Chief Executive and the Director of Development

APOLOGIES:

Councillor A Brolly.

PRESENTATION ON PROVISION OF A GREEN FIELD AT BOVALLY:

The Chair welcomed Mr Lester Martin and Mr Michael O'Brian to the meeting.

Mr Martin presented a petition to Council, which had been signed by residents of Bovally and surrounding area requesting that urgent consideration be given to provision of a green field site or other facility for community, residential and leisure use. He said this request was supported by the aim set out in the Government's Plan & Leisure Policy of establishing play within a policy framework to place a high value on play and leisure as an essential element in the development of children's lives, families, communities and society.

Mr Martin highlighted that the last emergent site in Bovally should be developed to accommodate play and leisure facilities for use by the 7,000 residents living in the area, rather than children playing on the streets, causing a nuisance to neighbours and the potential for accidents to happen by vehicle users.

Members made the following points:

- ◆ Every effort would be made to support the request for leisure facilities.
- ◆ Officers should talk to the land owner/developer about provision of leisure facilities, possibly on land on the higher ground.
- ◆ It was confirmed that a play audit had been carried out and that this would be used to prioritise the provision of play areas within the Borough.
- ◆ It was suggested that it might be better to have a number of smaller open space play areas than a larger recreational facility to cover all of the Bovally area.
- ◆ There were very few negative comments about provision of play facilities in the area when the petition was being circulated.
- ◆ Planning Service should be approached to ensure that open space was provided within housing developments.

The Chair thanked the representatives from Bovally for updating members on the residents' views regarding play and recreating facilities.

PRESENTATION ON SITE SPECIFIC OBJECTIONS TO DRAFT NORTHERN AREA PLAN:

IN COMMITTEE: The Chair welcomed Mr Michael Graham, Regional Director White Young & Green to the meeting.

Mr Graham presented the following reports on site specific objections to the draft Northern Area Plan:

- ⊗ Dungiven Settlement Limit & General Issues – objection to non-identification of open space at Finvola Park and Fair Green on the basis that the open space boundary of Mitchell Park is inaccurate.
- ⊗ Limavady Town Centre & Development Opportunity Sites (The Town Hall) – objection to extent of zoning of LYT03.
- ⊗ Drumsurn Settlement Limit, Housing Zoning & Area of Archaeological Potential - objection to the non-identification of an area of Council land south east of Beech Road, Drumsurn as a playing pitch and play area (open space).
- ⊗ Ballykelly Open Space – objection to the non identification of open space of the pitches at King's Lane in Ballykelly.
- ⊗ Foreglen Settlement Limit & Housing Zoning – objection to the lack of identification of open space at Columbia Park in Foreglen.
- ⊗ Limavady Urban Capacity Housing Zoning, Rear of Shanreagh Park – objection to the inclusion of Council's lands as part of the Housng Zoning LYH 14 and to the access requirements being through Shanreagh Park. Seeks the removal of Council's lands from LYH 14 and that access to the remainder of LYH 14 be taken from Scroggy Road.

It was agreed that the objections initially submitted to the Northern Area Plan for Dernaflaw, Bonnybough Estate and Shanvey would not be pursued. Mr Graham advised that the submission were due by 15 November 2011 to be heard early in 2012. The Chair thanked Mr Graham for his briefing on the reports. **OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 11 October 2011 were approved on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor McCaul.

MATTERS ARISING: - None.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2011:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for November 2011 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within the report were approved on the proposal of Councillor Douglas, seconded by Alderman Rankin subject to the following:

Sperrins Tourism – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan: The Director of Development informed members that Sperrins Tourism had been

successful in an application to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) to secure funding towards a 3 year project which would employ an AONB officer to develop an AONB Management Plan for the Sperrins. She said that match funding had been secured through Sperrins Gateway Landscape Partnership and that the total project cost was £140,000 over 3 years. She added that one of the conditions within the letter of offer from the NIEA was for a written confirmation from each Council in the Sperrins regions stating “that the Councils within the AONB would participate in the development of the AONB Management Plan and would implement the elements of the Management Plan within their powers once it had been written.” Agreed.

Benbradagh Community Support – Proposal for Community Allotments: It was agreed that Council would provide officer support to assist the recently established Benbradagh Community Support group in taking forward the development of community allotments. It was noted that the group were not looking for any financial contribution from Council.

Benone – Off Peak Rate for Golf: It was agreed that Council would introduce a new off peak day rate of £8 weekdays and £9 weekends for golf at Benone during the months of October to March effective from 14 November 2011.

Winter Closure of Benone Beach Toilets: It was agreed that the beach toilets would be closed from November 2011 to February 2012 to allow the water system to be drained and that toilet would be made available at the Complex building with appropriate signage being in place to inform visitors.

Replacement of Soft Play Facility: Council approved the outcome of the Economic Appraisal for replacement of soft play facility in Roe Valley Leisure Centre at a cost of £70,000. It was agreed that the Economic Appraisal would be forwarded to the DoE for loan sanction approval.

Closure of Learner Pool for Essential Maintenance: Council approved the closure of the learner pool at Roe Valley Leisure Centre for essential maintenance work from 9 December 2011 – 2 January 2012.

Proposed Reduction to Membership of Gym: It was agreed that Council would introduce a new single ‘Gym Membership only’ at £19.99 per month for a trial period of 6 months to try and stimulate demand and improve revenue at Roe Valley Leisure Centre. A further review of gym membership would be reviewed after 6 months.

Request from NI Chest, Heart & Stroke Association (NI CHS): The Director of Development advised that the NI CHS had met with the Leisure Services Manager with a view to establishing a long term collaborative association with Roe Valley Leisure Centre (RVLC). She said that the group intended using the Multi Activity at RVLC for up to 4 hours every Tuesday and had requested that Council consider providing the facility at £35.00 per week. It was agreed that the request would be approved initially for a period of one year and reviewed on an annual basis.

Northern Ireland Tourist Board Signature Project Funding: The Director of Development explained that an application made to Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) for funding under its Tourism Development Scheme for an “Explore.... See Do Limavady Sculpture Trail” had been successful in getting through stage 1 assessment and would now move forward to second stage assessment and appraisal stage. She said that the project would build on the enhancement works of the ‘Stopping Places’ Rural Development Project through the provision of sculptures to tell Roe Valley unique heritage stories, which would then be marketed as visitor trails using both social media and traditional marketing methods. She added the project would cost in the region of £60,000, 50% of which would be grant aided by the NITB and the remaining 50% to be provided by Council.

In the discussion which followed the Director of Development answered a number of queries relating to similar projects in other Councils and to the various methods used to attract tourists to the area. It was agreed that the project would be approved and that £30,000 would be set aside in the 2012/13 Capital Programme as match funding should the project be successful in receiving grant aid.

Good Relations Grants for 2011/12: The Director of Development informed members that applications had been received and assessed for funding under the Good Relations Grant Aid Programme. The following recommendations were approved by Council:

- Limavady Historical and Culture Society - £1,000
- Ardinariff Historical and Cultural Society - £500
- Limavady War Project - £1,000
- Burnfoot Community Youth Club – £1,000
- NWLLA - £1,000
- Hands that Talk - £1,000
- Glenshane Community Development (Mutual Understand Workshop) - £1,000
- Glenshane Community Development (Glenshane & Roe Valley Multicultural Forum) - £1,000
- Kids Inn Out of School Club, Vale Centre - £1,000
- Roe Valley Residents Association - £4,000.

It was agreed that a letter of congratulations would be forwarded to Hands that Talk who had scooped the Best UK Charity/Voluntary Project at the National Lottery Award.

Economic Development Grants: The Director of Development outlined that following a call for grants under the Economic Development Programme it was recommended that the following applications receive funding totalling £20,000 under this call:

- ◆ Roe Valley Community Education Forum - £4,000
- ◆ School Employer Connections - £4,000
- ◆ North West Life Long Learning - £4,000
- ◆ Stendhal Festival - £3,880
- ◆ Roe Valley Enterprises - £4,000.

It was noted that if funding became available at a later date that the 5 other applications submitted for the grants would be brought to Council for consideration.

Update on Dromore Lane – Public Right of Way: Members were advised that following the October Development meeting, a round table meeting had been held with a number of Dromore residents, the landowner, Ulster Farmers Union, Councillors and Officers to discuss issues relating to access along the lane. Those present were happy for a pedestrian Public Right of Way to be asserted and the landowner would advise Council if he was willing to meet with a small number of residents who were asking for tractor access.

Following discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor McCorkell that decision on Dromore Lane would be deferred until December as the residents of Dromore Lane were seeking legal advice.

Causeway Museum Service: It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Councillor Beattie that Councillor Mullan would take up the position of Vice Chair of the Causeway Museum Service.

Rural Development Programme: The Director of Development advised that Council had agreed to set aside £40k to provide 5% total cost for successful applications for village renewal schemes within the Rural Development Programme. She said that village renewal plans submitted by Gortnaghey Community Association for provision of a playarea & multi games area and by Burnfoot Community Association for the development of a riverside walk had been successful.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Chivers, seconded by Councillor Mullan that funding of £12,525 would be released to Gortnaghey Community Association and £9,500 to the Burnfoot Community Association.

Scroggy Road Pitch: It was agreed that the two vulnerable points of fencing would be monitored by staff for those gaining access to Scoggy Road Pitch and that the most appropriate action would be taken to resolve any problems.

Economic Development in the Borough: Reference was made to the Masterplan for Limavady and to the serious decline in the economy. It was suggested that contact should be made with Oakmore, Developer of the Market Yard to see what assistance council could offer in attracting an anchor tenant to the site.

3G Broadband Coverage: Members indicated that they were inundated by calls about lack of broadband service within the Borough. It was suggested that pressure should be put on BT and other internet providers to improve their service. It was also suggested that the Assembly, DETI and DARD should be lobbied. It was agreed that a letter would be forwarded to the Minister of Enterprise, Trade & Investment asking for a meeting to discuss broadband service and that the Director of Development would provide members with information on Access to Floodlighting scheme at the next Development Services meeting.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR A BROLLY:

The following notice of motion was submitted by Councillor Brolly:

‘that this Council calls on the Regional Development Minister to honour the commitment to the Dungiven by-pass that his predecessor guaranteed in the Budget and Programme for Government.’

As Councillor Brolly was absent from the meeting, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mullan, seconded by Alderman Robinson that the motion would be debated at the December 2011 Development Services meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Opening of Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró: It was agreed that Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre would be opened on 18 December 2011 to service the Roe Valley Bereaved by Suicide Support Group’s Memory Tree of Lights event which would take place in Drumceatt Square.

Work on Market Street: A letter from Roads Service was circulated to members which advised that the proposed work on Market Street would be postponed until early in the New Year.

Dungiven By-Pass: It was agreed that Minister Danny Kennedy would be asked to meet with Council to discuss the ferry service and the proposed by pass for Dungiven.

Farmers Market: A member suggested that during the severe winter weather that some of the stalls at the Farmers Market should be put up inside the Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró.

Update on the Lough Foyle Ferry Service: IN COMMITTEE on the proposal of Councillor McGlinchey, seconded by Councillor McCaul.

The Director of Development updated members on discussion which had taken place between elected members of Donegal County Council & Limavady Borough Council on the ferry service and in particular the future service from January 2012 onwards as both Councils were not in a position to provide financial assistance. She said the role of Government Departments was discussed that that it had been agreed that a list of action points would be forwarded to the relevant Government Department. She added that it had also been agreed that a recommendation would be brought back to both Councils to ask for support for the ferry service from the North South Ministerial Committee. Council approved the action points set out within the report.

NEXT MEETING – 13 December 2011.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.55 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting