

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

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

9 FEBRUARY 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 J Dolan and M Carten, Councillors B Chivers, M Coyle, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, D Lowry, M McGuigan, G Mullan, J Rankin and E Stevenson (in the chair).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Acting Town Clerk, Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer, Acting Economic Development Officer and the Personal Assistant.

APOLOGIES:

Alderman G Robinson and Councillor A Brolly and the Town Clerk.

MINUTES:

The minutes of Development Committee meeting held 12 January 2005 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Dolan.

MATTERS ARISING:

SeaCat – Belfast/Troon Route: The Acting Town Clerk referred to letter dated 7 February 2005 from SeaCat which confirmed that, unfortunately, it had not proved feasible to continue operating this route and thanked Council for its support in this matter. Noted.

Limavady Bus Station – Saturday Closure: The Acting Town Clerk referred to discussions at the previous meeting regarding the closure of Limavady Bus depot on Saturdays and submitted letter dated 18 January 2005 from Translink which highlighted that there was a sheltered waiting area for passengers, therefore, it did not intend to reverse this decision. Members expressed their disappointment at this response and undertook to pursue that matter directly with Translink.

Translink – Woodtown Railway Crossing: Following a query by Councillor Mullan, the Acting Town Clerk confirmed that arrangements had been made for two representatives from Translink to attend the next meeting of the Committee to update members on this investigation and health and safety recommendations arising there from.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2005:

The Acting Economic Development Officer presented the Economic Development Report for February 2005 and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Coyle subject to the following:

Update on Current Programmes: Following a request by Councillor Cubitt, the Acting Economic Development Officer undertook to provide further information regarding the sustainability and job creation in relation to the various projects supported within Council's LED plan. Concern was also expressed at the level of expenditure on salaries when compared to the level of grant aid spent as at 30 September 2004.

Business Start/Start a Business Programme: The Acting Economic Development Officer reported that whilst DETI had agreed to fund the Business Start Programme for a further 7 months up to 31 March 2005, there would be no further funding for the Start a Business Programme post 31 March 2005. In supporting the recommendation that Council continue to support the Start a Business Programme, which would lever in approximately a further £144,000 from Invest Northern Ireland, Councillor Mullan requested that particular attention be paid to bookkeeping skills in these programmes.

Councillor Coyle joined the meeting at 8 pm.

Guidance on the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) NI Order 2002:

The Acting Economic Development Officer outlined the main changes in relation to economic development powers under the above Order, which also outlined how an economic development plan for the future should be set out. Members welcomed the proposed enhanced powers and Councillor Lowry suggested that work commence on the formation of an economic development strategy for the programming period 2006 – 2009. The Acting Town Clerk reminded members that it had recently been agreed to appoint Blueprint Development Consultancy to carry out a review and audit of the delivery of Council's local Economic Development Plan 2002 – 2005 which would assist in planning further strategies.

Response to the Draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2005 – 2015:

The Acting Economic Development Officer provided an economic development perspective on the Strategy in relation to the activities of DARD, DETI, DRD, DCAL, DED and DSD. Councillor Lowry was of the view that a chapter should have been dedicated to the development of the North West's roads, rail and public transport infrastructure in order to stimulate economic growth. Councillor Stevenson also commented that the amount allocated by DARD for waste management was not enough for farming and ancillary industries.

Councillor Rankin joined the meeting at 8.30 pm.

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

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

Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Funding: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer informed members of the Sports Council's Building Sport programme which aimed to provide partnership funding for major capital projects that would increase access to opportunities for sporting development and participation for as many as possible. Members noted that eligible groups included voluntary sports clubs, community associations, statutory bodies, schools and charities.

It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Coyle that the Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer seek clarification from the Irish Football Association on the distribution of £8 m grant aid from DCAL which was to be distributed amongst clubs.

Aghanloo Playing Fields: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer's recommendation that the lease on the Aghanloo Playing Field be renewed for a further three year period at a rent to be agreed by O'Connor, Kennedy & Turtle was agreed. Councillor Mullan also undertook to forward details to the Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer regarding additional land which he understood might be available for purchase by Council in this vicinity.

Tourism Ireland Board Dinner: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer advised that Tourism Ireland had invited tourism representatives from Limavady and Coleraine to join them for a board dinner at the Radisson Roe Park Resort on 7 February 2005 to network and discuss tourism interests in the local area. Councillor Lowry suggested that groups such as Tourism Ireland and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board should be consulted on the proposed closure of Benone Tourist Complex during the winter months.

The Limavady and Roe Valley Tourism Seminar: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer advised members that the annual Limavady and Roe Valley Tourism Seminar would be held on 24 February 2005 in the Drummond Hotel. Given the importance of this event it was agreed that any attendance by member be considered an approved duty.

Causeway Coast and Glens Best of British Award: Members noted that the Causeway Coast and Glens was the only region in Northern Ireland to feature in this competition and that McNulty's Fish and Chip Shop had won winning runner up in the Best Fish and Chip Shop category. Accordingly, it was agreed that the Mayor would host a reception to mark this achievement.

The Nexus Institute: While members were sympathetic to this request for grant aid, it was agreed that a decision be deferred until the next meeting in order to provide Nexus with an opportunity to provide patient figures in the Limavady Borough Council area.

Councillor Donaghy left the meeting at 9.15 pm.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Play Equipment at Dungiven: Councillor Cubitt referred to the fact that Glenshane Community Development Ltd had donated play equipment to Council some

considerable time ago for use in Dungiven and requested that a suitable location be identified and this equipment be erected as soon as possible.

Dogs (NI) Order 1983: Following a query by Councillor Lowry in respect of dogs in Wisner's Lane, the Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer confirmed that under the above Order, dogs were required to be kept on a lead in public areas.

Kite-buggying at Benone: In response to a query by Councillor Mullan, the Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer expressed the Kite-buggying Association's regret at an incident whereby a patron of Benone had been refused access to a section of the beach and stated that warning signs should have been erected in this instance to avoid confusion. He added that kite-buggying events were not permitted during the summer months to avoid such confrontations with other users of the beach.

Gortnaghey Community Association – Request for Grant Aid for Community Hall: Following a query by Councillor Coyle, the Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer confirmed that he was awaiting confirmation on an offer of grant aid from Lottery Funding before making a recommendation about grant aid.

Inter-County Badminton Competition: It was agreed that Council would donate £100 towards trophies for this event. Councillor Cubitt suggested that the organisers might consider purchasing a perpetual cup for this competition to be held in Roe Valley Leisure Centre on 9 April 2005. The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer stated that he would forward this suggestion to the event organising committee.

St Patrick's Day Celebrations, Westport: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer reported that an invitation had been received from Westport Town Council for the Mayor/Deputy Mayor, Alderman Dolan, Town Clerk, Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer and the Community Relations Officer to attend the St Patrick's Day celebrations, which was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Carten, seconded by Councillor Cubitt. Councillor Mullan expressed an interest in attending the St Patrick's Day Celebrations in Westport and approval was granted on the proposal of Councillor Lowry, seconded by Councillor Coyle.

Limavady Community Initiative Community Policing Team: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that Council donate £100 towards trophies for the above 5-a-side football competition to be held in Roe Valley Leisure Centre commencing 5th March 2005 for a six week period.

NRRTI Funding: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer that funding had been secured by Sustrans under the above initiative for cycle routes in Burnfoot, Banagher, Feeny and Dungiven and requested approval for Council to maintain the cycle stands and signs along the various routes, which was agreed.

NEXT MEETING:
9 March 2005

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 10.00 pm)