

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
9 MAY 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, B Chivers (chair), M Coyle, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, J F McElhinney, C Ó hOisín, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and the Director of Development.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Douglas

**PRESENTATION BY LISTENING AND TALKING CAN HELP (LATCH) -
2006 ROCK THE VALLEY FESTIVAL:**

The chair welcomed Niall Murphy, Donna Martin, Joe Brady and Kevin Lynch, members of LATCH Festival Organising Committee.

Mr Murphy explained that LATCH provided support to young people and their families across the Northwest, with a focus on mental health promotion and that the group aim was to reduce levels of self harm and suicide through counselling service and programme work in schools. He said the young people led organisation had 5 full time staff on its Executive Management Board and had a turnover in 2005 of over £150,000.

Mr Murphy stated that there was a need for the festival in Dungiven as the town had experienced little economic development over the past 10 years, was subject to various social problems, had no community spirit and no real cross community activity with its protestant neighbours. He said that the central theme for this and future years would be building bridges through genuine community relations work, not just between local Catholic and Protestant communities but also the emerging Polish migrant community that now exists in Dungiven.

Members noted that the 2006 festival planned for the 5 and 6 August included street entertainments, floats, sports, karting, comedy and live music for day 1 and an open air concert with high profile acts for day 2.

Mr Murphy pointed out that the estimated costs to host the festival would be £30,000 and although the group had applied to the Northern Ireland Events Company for £25,000, it was unlikely it would receive the full requested sum. He sought

Councils' support for the Rock the Valley Festival by way of a £5,000 contribution towards the cost of running the two day event.

In response to a number of questions posed by members, Mr Murphy said music would improve the self esteem of those with mental health problems, would bring the community together and make young people feel appreciated rather than resorting to suicide or drinking in pubs. He acknowledged that an extreme amount of work was needed to encourage the protestant community to join LATCH and said one of the first acts at the festival would be Different Drums which made use of the lambeg and bodhran as symbols of the two communities in Northern Ireland.

The Chair thanked members of LATCH for attending the meeting.

It was agreed that funding towards the festival would be decided when the Director of Development presented her report.

MINUTES:

The minutes of Development Committee meeting held 11 April 2006 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor McElhinney, seconded by Councillor Carten.

MINUTES OF DANNY BOY SUB COMMITTEE:

The minutes of Danny Boy Sub Committee dated 24 April 2006 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Donaghy.

The Director of Development confirmed that a cheque for £18k had been received from Northern Ireland Events Company towards the festival. The Mayor confirmed that sponsorship had also been secured for the festival fiddling competition. Councillor Cubitt congratulated staff for all their hard work towards the 2006 festival.

MINUTES OF IRISH LANGUAGE SUB COMMITTEE:

The minutes of Irish Language Sub Committee dated 2 May 2006 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Councillor Butcher.

MATTERS ARISING: - none

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – MAY 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 Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Coyle subject to the following:

British Youth Motocross Championship: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Robinson that Council would contribute £1,000 grant aid and host a small Civic Reception to the value of £500 for the Northern Ireland Junior Motorcycle Club British Youth Motocross Championships to be held in Ballykelly on 21 and 22 July 2006.

John Hewitt International Summer School: It was agreed that Council would provide £250 bursary to a local resident to attend the John Hewitt International Summer School. The Director of Development suggested that the local press attract interest in the event by publishing information regarding the bursary.

Town Twinning – School Exchange: It was agreed that Alderman Mullan, Councillor Coyle, Councillor Butcher and 1 officer of Council would visit Vigneux-sur-Seine as part of the town twinning school exchange between 6 and 9 June 2006.

UEFA Hat-trick Programme – Mini Pitches Project: The Director of Development explained that funding of approximately £450,000 had been made available through UEFA towards the installation 16-20 mini football pitches across Northern Ireland. She said the cost per pitch would be £33,174+VAT but up to £25,000 would be made available through the UEFA programme towards this cost.

Members noted that the role of Council would be to:

- provide the land
- undertake future maintenance including provision of maintenance equipment
- ensure adequate insurance cover
- replacement of surface and
- provide deficit funding towards the cost.

It was agreed that an expression of interest be lodged by Council for the installation of the mini pitch and that an allowance be made within the 2007/08 budgets.

Proposals for Staff use of Leisure Facilities: The Director of Development referred to the positive approach Council had taken in its support of initiatives aimed at encouraging staff to adopt a healthy lifestyle and how this can have a positive effect within the workplace. She proposed that Council formally adopt a policy whereby:

- full and part-time fitness attendants have free use of the Lifestyle Fitness as relevant to their duties and that other Council staff avail of the current policy in relation to concessionary staff rate for use of Lifestyle Fitness;
- all members of Council staff can have free use of the swimming pool, steam room, sauna subject to availability;
- use of other bookable leisure facilities to be used on occasions when not booked or requested by members of the public and
- that the policy only applies to members of staff and will not be extended to family members.

The proposed policy was adopted by members and the Director of Development noted comments made regarding earlier opening hours on Sundays; bank holiday opening; consultation with staff and centre users and suggestion that the policy be extended to elected members.

Request for Use of Facilities at Roemill Road: It was agreed that the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children (Limavady Support Group) could use facilities at Roemill Road for Family Fun Day on 8 July 2006 from 9am to 6pm free of charge.

It was also agreed that The Massey Festival Committee could make use of outdoor facilities (pitches, toilets and car park) at Roemill Playing Fields free of charge on 24 June 2006 from 9am to 6pm to raise funds for the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children.

Members agreed that future requests for use of facilities for fund raising events for charities would be treated on merit and discussed on an individual basis.

Request from LATCH for Financial Assistance towards the 2006 Rock the Valley Festival: Councillor Coyle proposed, which was seconded by Councillor Butcher that Council provide £5,000 financial assistance to LATCH who had presented to Council details of their 2006 Rock the Valley Festival.

Councillor Cubitt voiced concern that this had not been budgeted for and could open the floodgates for similar applications and Alderman Robinson said he was concerned that the group had no non-catholic members.

A recorded vote was requested and on being put to the meeting the proposal was declared carried, with 9, namely Alderman Mullan, Councillor Coyle, Councillor Carten, Councillor Butcher, Councillor Ó hOisín, Councillor Brolly, Councillor Donaghy, Councillor Chivers and Councillor McElhinney voting for and 5, Alderman Rankin, Alderman Robinson, Councillor Stevenson, Councillor Robinson and Councillor Douglas voting against.

Regional Tourism Partnership: (*Business Plan circulated April 2006*) It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Councillor Butcher that Council supports the establishment of the Rural Tourism Partnership, adopts the Business Plan and subject to adoption of the proposals by the Board of the Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism partnership releases funding of £22,000.

Request from St Anthony's Primary School for Support Towards its Jubilee Celebrations: Members agreed as a goodwill gesture to support St Anthony's Primary School Jubilee Celebrations by contributing £50.

COURSES & CONFERENCES:

EU Town Twinning Conference: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Councillor Brolly that the Culture, Arts and Tourism Manager and the Events and Culture Officer attend the EU Town Twinning Conference to be held in St Patrick's Centre, Downpatrick on 18 – 21 May 2006.

British Urban Regeneration Association Training Modules: It was agreed that the Town Centre Manager would attend 2 training modules on urban regeneration over a six month period to be held Northern Ireland Housing Executive boardroom, Belfast at a cost of £275 + VAT per session.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Request from Belfast Telegraph regarding Attracta Harron: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Robinson that Council would support the campaign by Belfast Telegraph to:

- pass a motion supporting their campaign and calling on Justice Minister David Hanson to bring forth legislation to scrap 50% remission for serious sex offenders and
- place a petition in a prominent place for people to sign.

Leasing Council land at Garvagh Road to St Canice's GAC, Dungiven: (*Councillor Ó hOisín declared an interest in the topic*) The Director of Development reported that St Canice's GAC had no opportunity to expand on their Garvagh Road site and were currently making use of land in Feeny for training purposes. She said that the club were now under pressure to either purchase the land or find alternative grounds but recent application to the Sports Lottery to purchase and develop the land in Feeny had been unsuccessful.

Members noted that the club could appeal the decision or submit a new application to Sports Lottery.

The Director of Development outlined that extensive maintenance work had been undertaken at Councils' Garvagh Road pitch and although this could not meet the specifications for senior matches, it would cater for junior matches and provide good training facilities for St Canice's Club. She set out a number of options for consideration as follows:

- Council retains management/ownership of the pitch at Garvagh Road with St Canice's GAC and other clubs using the facilities in line with Council's booking procedures;
- Council sells the land at Garvagh Road to St Canice's GAC;
- Council leases the land to St Canice's GAC, at an annual fee with conditions built into the contract or
- Council enters into a management agreement with St Canice's GAC.

The Director of Development recommended that prior to any decision being made regarding the sale or lease of the pitch that research/consultation take place with other clubs and organisations within the Dungiven and surrounding area to assess demand on the facilities at Garvagh Road. She further recommended that Council offers to work with St Canice's GAC and the Sports Lottery to address any areas of weaknesses in their application if the club wished to appeal or submit a new application to the Sports Lottery.

After discussing the various options at length, Councillor Butcher proposed that Council lease the pitch at Garvagh Road to St Canice's GAC. Councillor Coyle seconded the proposal and said that Council should do an audit of facilities provided by Council for gaelic, soccer and rugby. Councillor Cubitt proposed, which was seconded by Alderman Robinson that Council agree to the Director of Development's recommendation.

The amendment was put to the meeting and declared lost, with 5 voting for and 9 against. The substantive motion was put to the meeting and declared carried with 9 voting in favour and 5 against.

Request for Funfair at Benone Beach: In response to Councillor McElhinney, the Director of Development explained that Council had previously considered a request for funfair at Benone Beach but there was general consensus by members was that the current peace and quiet of the beach be retained.

Access to Benone Golf Course: In response to a query, the Director of Development undertook to confirm the current policy with regard to charging “non-golfers” for entering the golf course at Benone. She also advised Council that all policies would be under review.

Compliment: Councillor Butcher complimented the Town Centre Manager on the mainstream advertisement campaign which promoted leisure and commercial strengths of the Borough.

NEXT MEETING:

6 June 2006

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.35 pm)

Signed: -----
Chair of Meeting