

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

9 JUNE 2004

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.30 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

Aldermen M Carten and J Dolan. Councillors, M Coyle, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, D Lowry, M. McGuigan, J Rankin (chair) and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer, Chief Technical Services Officer, Leisure Services Officer and the Town Clerk.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors A Brolly, F Brolly, G Robinson, B Brown and G Mullan.

MINUTES:

Minutes of meeting dated 12 May 2004 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Carten.

MATTERS ARISING:

Signage – Churches: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer reported that St. Aidan's Church had been awarded financial assistance through the Natural Rural Resource Tourism Initiative to provide a number of brown and white directional signs and an interpretative panel at the Church. He added that Council Officers would facilitate the Church with this project.

Carlingford: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer informed members that Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission had requested a letter of support from Council for the development of the fisheries based recreation and leisure resources in the Foyle and Carlingford area. This was agreed on the proposed by Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Donaghy.

CONSARC - MULTI PURPOSE CIVIC CENTRE:

The Chair welcomed Mr Colin Maxwell, Consarc Design Group to the meeting. Mr Maxwell outlined the preliminary plan for the Multi Purpose Civic Centre and said

that the Consarc Design Group had worked closely with the Town Hall Steering Group in the design. It was agreed that the centre would be a modern building whilst fitting in the surrounding older established buildings. He added that the centre would be a sustainable building with low running costs.

Members noted that the external design of the former Town Hall site included:

- ◆ a 2 storey civic building
- ◆ retention of Town Hall facade and town clock
- ◆ courtyard style civic square for entertainment/market
- ◆ car parking facilities
- ◆ possible redevelopment of First Trust Bank which would add to the civic square

Mr Maxwell highlighted that internally the centre would have a featured staircase, exhibition area, control facility for hosting of events, lift for those with a disability, top floor commercial rooms and an open space meeting point. He further highlighted that the centre would have a multi purpose hall to seat up to 225 people with retractable seats and could be divided into 2 separate areas.

Mr Maxwell said that community groups and the local College of Further Education had shown interest in the design and had welcomed the inclusion of a pathway from the civic square to the college. He added that the residents of the nearby Fold Housing development would benefit from the courtyard.

Mr Maxwell stated that the revised cost estimate for the project was £3 million and that this increase was due to inflation, time factors and increased accommodation being provided to meet the stated need.

Councillor Cubitt queried what grants would be available to Council and the end cost to the rate payer. The Town Clerk said that Council had applied for a £750k grant from IDF. He further added that the construction cost to the ratepayer would be 4.76p after the grant of £750 k or 6.35p on the full £3 million building and that Council had also to think of running and staff costs when the project was completed.

Councillor Donaghy voiced her approval for the design and said that she had no problem in endorsing the project and proposed that Council accept the design plans. In seconding Councillor Donaghy proposal, Councillor Lowry indicated he was confident that the ratepayer would be happy to pay for a first class centre in the heart of Limavady town.

Mr Maxwell agreed that the plans for the project be made available to the public at an early date. He added that it was hoped to have a site start made by January 2005 and that construction would last approximately 15 months.

It was unanimously agreed that Council approve the early site clearance, that the consultants progress with the presentation of working drawings and progress the

programme to tender stage. It was further agreed that the team explore the development of back lands to help defray costs.

**CHIEF RECREATION/TOURIST OFFICER'S REPORT – JUNE
(see appendix)**

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

Northern Ireland Milk Cup: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer reported that he had checked with neighbouring Council's as to the amount contributed to the 2004 Milk Cup Competition and recommended that a contribution of £7,000 be made, together with the free use of Council facilities and the usual civic reception for visiting teams and officials. Agreed.

Roe Valley Leisure Centre - Art Exhibition: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer explained that Limavady College of Further & Higher Education had requested the use of the of the Roe Valley Leisure Centre for their 2004 Arts and Crafts Exhibition and that it was agreed that Council charge £350 for the use of the facility for the period 14 - 18 June 2004.

Limavady Sports Council: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer informed members that he had received audited accounts from Limavady Sports Council for the year ending 31 March 2004. He added that a large number of events had been organised, with the Sports Award scheme recognising the sporting achievements and excellent ability within the Borough and recommended that a grant of £7,800 be provided towards the ongoing promotion of sport and the organisation of the Sports Awards Dinner for 2005. Agreed

Bláthanna - Colmcille Summer School: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer highlighted that Bláthanna had asked if Council would give a financial contribution towards this event and recommended that Council made a grant of £600. Agreed.

Enagh Footpath: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer reported that Council had received payment for the sale of lands associated with the Enagh Round the Town Footpath, therefore it was agreed that Council make a repayment of £14,275 to the Department of the Environment under the terms of grant aid from the Environment & Heritage Service.

Tourism Signing of the Coastal Route from Belfast to Londonderry: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer reported that the Northern Ireland Tourist Board was commissioning consultants to undertake a technical study into the tourism signing of the coastal route from Belfast to Londonderry and that it was envisaged that the output of this present study would be the first phase of a trail that would eventually encompass the entire coastline of Northern Ireland. He added that the study was expected to be completed within twelve weeks of appointment and that he would keep members

informed of progress.

Feeny AOH Div 1076: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer advised that the Feeny Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians would celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first outing of the division and St Joseph's Accordion Band. He added that part of the anniversary celebrations included the launch of a history booklet, which would educate the public and eradicate any unfounded myths on the organisation and that the division hoped Council would consider giving financial assistance to the event. Accordingly a contribution of £300 was agreed.

Dungiven Community Hall Ltd: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer said that Council had received an application from Dungiven Community Hall Limited for grant aid on recurrent expenditure on accounts submitted for year ending 31 March 2003. He added that as the application complied with the criteria under Category 6c of the Community Services Policy, the grant aid of £2,000 was recommended. Agreed.

Scroggy Road Public Path Division Order: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer said that the Environment & Heritage Service had indicated that this Public Path Division Order was likely to go to a local public inquiry and that such an inquiry could be chaired by Mr Roy Hickey, an independent consultant retained by Environment & Heritage Service. He added that in this instance Council would be responsible for meeting only the costs of its own legal representation and that the Environment & Heritage Service would attempt to contact all those persons who had signed the petition objecting to the division order. The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer confirmed that the enquiry would not commence before August 2004 and would be held at Roe Valley Leisure Centre.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Greenlane Museum and Cafe: At the request of Councillor Cubitt the Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer agreed to investigate opening times at the Greenlane Museum and Cafe and report back to members at a later date.

Disabled Parking - Roe Valley Country Park: Alderman Robinson pointed out that the jetty at the Roe Valley Country Park was not suitable for use by disabled fishermen and requested that Council raise the issue with the Loughs Agency.

Benone Caravan Park: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer informed members that a complaint had been received in respect of trailer tents not being allowed to park at Benone Caravan Park. Accordingly, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor McGuigan, that Council grant permission for the use of trailer tents in Benone Caravan Park.

Mountain Trail: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer said that a petition for a mountain bike facility in Limavady had been received and due to a number of signatures, the Countryside Access Officer was investigating the possibility of a trail being provided in Benevenagh Forest.

Ferry Advertisement: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer reported that P&O Ferries would run a 4 page spread on Limavady & the Danny Boy Air and at a cost of £600 for publication of 1000 booklets over a two month period and recommended same for approval. Agreed.

Limavady College Exhibition: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer explained that Limavady College had written seeking Council's support for a series of lectures on Mr John Michell. It was proposed by Alderman Dolan, seconded by Councillor Cubitt to grant the College £150 towards cost.

Limavady United Football Club: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer reminded members that Council had contributed £5,000 in the year 2003 towards pitch maintenance for Limavady United Football Club and that this year the club had been unable to complete drainage work at their football grounds, which meant it was unlikely that the pitch would be used for football matches associated with the Northern Ireland Milk Cup. It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Dolan, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that providing further funding would set a precedent and should not be considered at this time.

Burnfoot Gortnaghey & Foreglen Community Association: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer explained that Burnfoot, Gortnaghey & Foreglen Community Association had written to Council requesting a letter of support on an application for funding for a development worker. It was proposed by Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Lowry that Council forward a letter of support to reinforce the Association's case.

Limavady Grammar School: Members congratulated Limavady Grammar School on being runner up in the 'Best Kept School' award.

Best Kept Garden: At the request of Councillor Cubitt the Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer agreed to discuss his offer of sponsorship for a proposed 'Best Kept Garden Award' with the Chief Technical Service Officer.

NEXT MEETING:

11 August 2004

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS

(The meeting ended at 10.20 pm)