

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
9 SEPTEMBER 2008**

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 G. Mullan, J Rankin and G. Robinson (chair). Councillors A. Brolly, P. Butcher, M Carten, B. Chivers, M. Coyle, L. Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, C. Ó hOisín, A. Robinson and E. Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Director of Development and the Chief Executive.

TEMPORARY CHAIR:

It was agreed that the Mayor would temporarily chair the meeting during the presentation by Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism.

APOLOGIES: - Councillor McElhinney.

PRESENTATION BY CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS TOURISM:

The chair welcomed Mr Don Wilmont, Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism to the meeting.

Mr Wilmont gave an overview of current staff structure, membership and income for Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism for the year 2006/07. He explained that visitors to the Causeway Coast had generated an additional 14% revenue for the year but tourism and the potential to grow continued to be a challenge.

Mr Wilmont outlined that the current Operational Plan included ongoing marketing, advertising via the website, shortbreaks, PR work and production of promotional material. He said that the group would continue to work with industries and training would be given to meet needs of tourism market in specific areas. He added that food tourism, myths & legends and cross border initiatives were being developed and that a recent initiatives specific to Limavady included a competition ran in a regional newspaper for a short break in the Borough, with readers being particularly impressed by Dungiven Castle.

In the discussion which followed, the lack of infrastructure in the area and problems of visitor management at the Giants Causeway were highlighted. In response to a member, Mr Wilmont agreed to liaise with the Tourism Ireland regarding promotion of the Borough using the Danny Boy theme. The Mayor thanked Mr Wilmont for a informative presentation.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR:

Following Councillor Robinson's resignation as chair of the Development Committee at the August 2008 Monthly meeting, the Mayor sought nominations for his replacement for the remainder of the year 2008/09.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Stevenson that Alderman Robinson would chair the committee. Alderman Robinson thanked members for the nomination and said he hoped the committee would become a role model for everyone working together in harmony.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held 12 August 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Carten, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

MATTERS ARISING: - None.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2008:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for September 2008 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within the report were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Robinson subject to the following:

Provision of Additional Ball Stop Netting – Limavady Grammar School: The Director of Development informed members that the Architect office of WELB had indicated that 15m poles were needed to support the weight of additional netting height of 10m and that this should be dealt with by the original Consultants employed by the Board for the Synthetic Pitch project. She said that the Board had not clarified costs but had asked Council to confirm if it would pay for the work to be carried out, together with associated fees incurred, with the argument being that the netting was only needed during community use.

The Director of Development reminded members that Council had allocated £50,000 towards the synthetic pitch project. She advised that confirmation had not yet been received from the WELB on how much of this funding would be required towards offsetting any deficit related to the final construction costs of the pitch.

Clarification was sought on whether Council would consider using any monies remaining from the £50,000 towards the cost of the professional fees and cost to provide the additional ball stop netting.

In the debate which followed it was agreed that the Director of Development would seek clarification from the Board on costs. Members who sat on the WELB indicated that they would also raise the issue of costs and to finalising the Management Agreement regarding running of the synthetic pitch at the next Board meeting. There was overall agreement that a partnership approach was needed to meeting the costs for the nets.

Limavady Job Fair: The Director of Development explained that as part of the work being undertaken around the Seagate closure, the Department of Employment

& Learning were holding a Job Fair in the Radisson Hotel on Thursday 6 November from 10 am to 4 pm. She said that the Department had confirmed that 20 employers had already agreed to take part in the fair; however this figure was expected to increase nearer the event. She added that the Department and the Social Security Agency were currently engaged with Seagate employees on training, benefits and employment opportunities.

It was agreed that Council would support the event by covering 50% running costs (approximately £1,300) for venue hire, local transport and refreshment costs. It was suggested that bearing in mind the current credit crunch situation, that LCDI Advice Services be invited to attend the fair to give advice on redundancy payments following the recent job losses.

The Mayor made reference to companies looking to invest in the province and suggested that a link to the Borough be forwarded to the various international chamber of commerce websites to encourage foreign investors to look at the area.

Good Relations – Requests for Assistance under the Grant Aid Programme: *Councillor Chivers, Councillor Cubitt, Councillor Butcher, Councillor Douglas and, Councillor Ó hOisín declared an interest in the topic and took no part in the discussion.* The Director of Development informed members that applications had been received and assessed for funding under the Good Relations grant aid programme. She recommended that Council approve the following:

- ◆ Glenshane Community Development Ltd - £2,000
- ◆ Kevin Lynch Hurling Club - £2,000
- ◆ North West Lifelong Learning Association - £2,000
- ◆ Ardinariff Historical and Cultural Society - £1,180
- ◆ Greysteel Community Association - £1,900
- ◆ Naiscoil Neachtain - £2,000
- ◆ Burnfoot Community Association - £2,000
- ◆ Benedy Community Association - £1,149.80

It was agreed that if additional Good Relations funding became available within the current financial year that the following projects would receive funding in the following order:

1. Limavady Somme Society
2. Hands that Talk and
3. Largy Community Association.

COURSES/CONFERENCES:

Reviewing Northern Ireland's Regional Development Strategy (Stakeholder Conference): It was agreed that an officer would attend the above conference to be held 5 November 2008 in Stormont Hotel, Belfast at a cost of £195 + VAT.

Clare Tourism Conference – Co-operation & Integration the Key to Successful Tourism: It was agreed that Councillor Brolly would attend the Clare Tourism Conference to be held 27 – 29 November 2008 in Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co Clare at a cost of €245 + VAT.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Civic Reception: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Carten that a civic reception would be held for the 6 Grammar School students who played for the Irish Cricket team. It was also agreed that this would be held jointly with a reception for Limavady Cricket Club who had win number of trophies during the season.

Suicide Awareness Day: The Mayor requested that a link be put on Councils website for those seeking help as part of Suicide Awareness Week. The Director of Development outlined that Council had been approached to become involved in local suicide awareness teams and that additional information would be brought to the next Development meeting.

Westport – Tidy Town Award: It was agreed that a letter from the Mayor would be forwarded to Westport Council on winning the Tidy Town Award for the third time in 10 years.

Charles Thompson Award: Members were informed that Council had won the Charles Thompson Award for water safety for year 2008. It was agreed that the Mayor and an officer would attend the awards ceremony to be held in Dublin on 30 September 2008.

Limavady Community Forum AGM: It was agreed that Councillor Ó hOisín would chair the AGM for Limavady Community Forum for election of new members.

Review of Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust: It was agreed that Alderman Mullan position on the review panel would be relinquished to the Countryside Recreation Officer.

Rural Development Programme: IN COMMITTEE. Councillor Butcher gave an update on the current situation regarding new deadline for submission of strategy by North West cluster group for Rural Development Programme.

Peace III Programme: The Director of Development gave an update regarding Peace III Programme. OUT OF COMMITTEE.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - 14 October 2008.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.00 pm)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting