

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
9 OCTOBER 2007**

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. Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, M Carten, M Donaghy, M Coyle, L Cubitt, C Ó hOisín, J F McElhinney, A Robinson (chair) and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Director of Development and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors B Douglas and B Chivers.

SPERRIN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY:

The chair welcomed Ms Sandi Howie, Environment & Heritage Service to the meeting.

Ms Howie outlined that Sperrin AONB had been initially designated in 1968 under the Amenity Lands Act 1965, covered 7 Council areas and 3 Area Plans. She explained that North Derry and Sperrin AONBs had recently been reviewed and the Department was proceeding with a new proposal for Sperrin AONB.

Ms Howie informed members of the opportunities afforded by the review, the steps in the designation process, criteria and merit of the AONB status. She gave an overview of the new proposed boundary, substantial & minor changes to the AONB and outlined what the redesignation would do for the Sperrins area. She said that the Department intended to progress in 2008 with the designation under the Nature Conservation of Lands Order 1985 and commended the proposals to Council for comment.

A number of queries were raised in relation to any impact the designation had on planning applications, windfarm developments, recreational sports and caravan/camping sites. Ms Howie clarified that that EHS had no prohibition of any of these but could recommend careful siting of windmills and have restrictions on their height.

The chair thanked Ms Howie for attending the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held on 11 September 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Rankin.

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 1 – Limavady Grammar School Synthetic Pitch: The Director of Development explained that Council were awaiting response from the WELB to the proposed Management Agreement for the synthetic pitch at Limavady Grammar School. Members noted that rumours of community and sporting groups using the pitch were unfounded.

Page 3 – Bio Diversity Officer: Members were advised that EHS were encouraging collaboration between organisations in the employment of Bio Diversity Officers and that neighbouring Councils already had officers in post or had advanced plans to recruit. Opportunities still existed under the EHS small grants programme to seek support for 2008 and this could be followed up by an application under the main grant programme for 2008.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – OCTOBER 2007:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for October 2007 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Rankin subject to the following:

Mineral Development Act (Northern Ireland) 1969: The Director of Development reported that the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) had received an application from Lonmin PLC for mineral prospecting rights in respect of two areas of land straddling boundary between Coleraine and Limavady Councils, covering an area of 479 square kilometres stretching from Benone Strand southwards to Glenshane Forest. She explained that the Mineral Development Act covered all minerals except previous and common substances including crushed rock, sand, gravel and brick clays and said that Lonmin PLC had also applied for a separate crown licence to prospect for gold and silver in this instance.

The Director of Development stated that should the licence be granted, early consultation between Lonmin and Council would be essential to ensure minimal impact on recreational/amenity or designated area during the period of the licence and recommended that Council respond to the Department requesting that the following conditions be added to any letter of offer to the applicant: Agreed.

1. carried out appropriate assessment and receive necessary consents from EHS with respect to any prospecting operations within ASSI or SAC designations;
2. undertakes consultation with Council to ensure minimal impact on trails or other recreational/amenity lands and
3. indemnifies Council with respect to any damage caused by prospecting to any recreational amenity or designation within the licence area.

Nominations to Management Committee for New Synthetic Pitch at Limavady Grammar School: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that Alderman Rankin, Councillor Ó hOisín and the Director of Development would sit on the Management Committee for the new synthetic pitch at Limavady Grammar School. Council asked that consideration be given for a representative from primary schools, post primary schools and Limavady Sports Council to sit on the committee. It was also agreed that Council Officers and staff

from Limavady Grammar School would meet to discuss and resolve any operational issues which might arise from time to time.

Request for Financial Assistance Under the Arts, Cultural Events and Festivals Programme: It was agreed that the request for financial assistance under the above programme by Limavady Drama Club for the sum of £1,750 would be approved.

Update on the Disposal of Shackleton Barracks: The Director of Development informed members that an expression of interest had been forwarded to Land and Property Services which outlined extensively areas of interest by Council on disposal of land/facilities at Shackleton Barracks. She detailed the points raised within the letter and said a response had been received from Land and Property Services which outlined the following:

- the site where the Community Centre was located had been earmarked for acquisition by DSD Housing;
- questioned whether or not Council currently hold the compulsory purchase powers for the suggested Civic Amenity Site and was of the opinion that including such a facility on the site could have a detrimental impact on the remainder of the land to be sold;
- requested further details on the location of 50 acres of land for recreational/sporting purposes. In addition commented that the request for the land was aspirational and that Council needed to provide evidence that the land was an immediate need;
- pointed out that the consultation period to secure public section need had closed and
- Council had not proven that the request fell within the specified criteria and were unable to pursue Council's interests.

Extreme disappointed was voiced at the response by Land & Property Services and members were of the opinion that the land would be sold to the highest bidder. It was suggested that Councillors use their powers of persuasion and lobby Ministers regarding the submission and it was proposed that Peter Robinson - Minister of Finance & Personnel meet with Council to flag out why its views were being ignored. Members also pointed out that the army had been located in Ballykelly for 70 years and that there was a need to put something back into the community, especially as the local school had suffered greatly with the lost of 200 pupils.

Request for Financial Support – LCDI: *A declaration of interest was declared by Alderman Rankin, Councillor Cubitt and Councillor Ó hOisín who took no part in the discussion.* The Director of Development reported that LCDI intended hosting a 'Celebration Ball' to mark 20 years of service to the people of the Borough and had requested that Council consider making a financial donation towards the event. Members applauded the work of LCDI and although reservations were expressed about setting a precedent, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Alderman Robinson that Council would contribute £500 towards the 20 year celebratory ball.

Schedule of Times for Television Adverts: The Director of Development reminded members that a series of 24 television advertisements to promote the Borough would be broadcast via UTV during the month of October 2007.

Opening Doors – Strategy for the Delivery of Voluntary Advice Services to the Community Sector: Members noted that the Department of Social Development had recently published a strategy document on the future delivery of Advice Services across Northern Ireland and would be making contract with Councils within the next few weeks to discuss the implications of the proposals contained within the strategy.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Presentations to Council: Members noted and agreed the following requests to present to Council over the coming weeks:

1. Eamon Molloy, NWRCBG – Monthly meeting 23 October 07
2. LCDI , Service Provision – Planning & Services meeting 1 November 07
3. Mervin Whyte, North West 200 – Development meeting 13 November 07

Awards for Caravan Sites: Members welcomed that Benone Tourist Complex had been awarded 4 star status.

Firmus Energy - £3k Giveaway: The Director of Development informed members that Firmus Energy had announced they were offering charity, church and community groups in the area an early Christmas present through a £3,000 giveaway and that the initiative would be advertised through the Roe Valley Sentinel. It was agreed that the Community Development Officer would sit on the judging panel for entries received.

Letter of Response - Fold Housing: The Chief Executive explained that Fold Housing had replied to Councils response to their draft agreement regarding access to the proposed Civic Centre. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Robinson that the response by Fold Housing would be included as an agenda item for the October 2007 Environmental Services meeting.

Dogs – Roe Valley Country Park: Concern was raised at the potential of attack by unleashed dogs in Roe Valley Country Park and it was suggested that dog owner's should muzzle their pets when allowed to roam free. The Director of Development agreed to pass the comment to staff within Technical Service Department.

Alleged Death by Drugs: Reference was made to the tragic death of 19 year old Danielle Gibbens from Ballykelly who had illegibly been a victim of a drug overdose. The supplier of the lethal drug was unanimously condemned and it was suggested that young people should be educated on the dangers of taking ecstasy. Members also pleaded for the public to name and shame drug dealers and to pass on their identity to the relevant authority for investigation.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Carten, seconded by Alderman Robinson that a letter of condolence would be forwarded to the victims' family.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - 13 November 2007.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 8.30 PM.)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting