

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
9 OCTOBER 2012**

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 M Coyle and J Rankin. Councillors O Beattie, A Brolly, B Chivers, B Douglas, T McCaul, J McCorkell, S McGlinchey (Chair), C McLaughlin, G Mullan, D Nicholl, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Director of Development and Committee Clerk.

APOLOGIES: -Alderman G Robinson.

CONDOLENCES:

It was agreed that a letter of condolence be sent to the family of the late Mr Stanley Gault, a former Councillor in Limavady Borough Council. Members stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect for Mr Gault.

PRESENTATION FROM MR MAGNE HAUGSENG AND DR BOB CURRAN ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL APPALACHIAN TRAIL.

The Chair welcomed Mr Magne Haugseng and Dr Bob Curran, representatives from the International Appalachian Trail (IAT) who gave a presentation on the proposal to incorporate the Ulster Way in the greater international network.

Mr Haugseng explained the benefits and the potential to expand tourism for local Councils by including the Ulster Way in the IAT. At a meeting with Ministers Attwood and Foster in May it was agreed that this presentation would be made to the 26 Councils, followed by a meeting with the Chief Executives. Mr Haugseng elaborated on the detail of the areas to be included and claimed that the Ulster Way was the “missing link” in the IAT between Donegal and Scotland. It was proposed to use Killeter Forest in Strabane to Larne via the Sperrins and the Causeway Coast and Glens in addition to the Ulster Way. When questioned about the financial implications for this proposal he stated that the only cost involved would be the dual branding of the trail by incorporating the name of the International Appalachian Trail on all sign posts and map information boards. He continued by listing the benefits of the trails for our Council area which included:

- Health benefits from outdoor activities and a better quality of life
- Increased property values
- Economic development – trails created jobs
- Community assets – trails promoted local communities

At a member’s suggestion Mr Haugseng promised to speak to the North West Region Cross Border Group and Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Area Partnership to canvas their support for the project. In conclusion Mr Haugseng

advised members that following delivery of this presentation to all Councils, the Chief Executives would be invited to meet with the Minister at Stormont to progress the proposal further. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly and seconded by Councillor McLaughlin that Council would support any future request from the Minister on the dual use of the Ulster Way as part of the International Appalachian Trail.

The Chair thanked Mr Haugseng and Dr Curran for attending the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 11 September 2012 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Chivers, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin.

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 5 - Civic Reception for Local Paralympians Sally Brown and Jason Smith: It was confirmed that a civic reception had been arranged for Sally Brown on Wednesday 24 October 2012 and a separate reception would be organised at a later date for Jason Smith as there had been difficulties getting a suitable date for him.

Page 1 – Provision of a Designated Open Space: Members acknowledged the need for a green space for play/recreational use in this area and reiterated the lack of power Council had over planning issues. They pledged to lobby and facilitate discussion in an attempt to resolve the situation and suggested that Council explore the possibility of acquiring additional land in the area if it were available. Members were advised that the next step was to establish a meeting with Councillors, planners, and developers with 2 dates suggested for the end of October. The Director of Development will confirm date and circulate to members.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT – OCTOBER 2012:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for October 2012 and enlarged thereon.

T/002 – Benone Tourist Complex: Agreed the purchase of an EPOS system for Benone Tourist Complex from Anchordata at a cost of £2,052.00 plus VAT.

T/003D – Benone Beach Toilets Winter Closure: Council agreed that the beach toilets would be closed from 5 November 2012 to 1 March 2013 to allow the water system to be drained down and that toilets would be made available at the Complex building with appropriate signage being put in place to inform visitors.

Rural Development programme Project – Genealogy Tourism: It was agreed that Council would appoint Circle Creative Communications to undertake the genealogy exhibition panels commission after ratification by funders committee.

Development of a Destination Management Plan for Tyrone/Sperrins Area: The Director of Development reminded members that that under the Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020, proposals were put forward to

establish nine tourism destinations across Northern Ireland. Causeway Coast and Glens have continued to move forward as a key tourism destination with Limavady Borough Council as one of the six partner Councils. She advised that Council was now being asked to confirm if it wished to participate in the development of a Destination Management Plan for the Tyrone and Sperrins Region. The proposed geographical area to be covered within the new Destination would now be substantially larger – incorporating Dungannon and South Tyrone. With the creation of the new Councils in 2015 it was felt that the future strategic fit for Limavady Borough Council lay with the Councils in the North East which were an integral part of the Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Area Partnership. On the basis that Limavady would be interested in continuing to work on joint projects which would provide benefit to the Borough it was agreed that Council would not participate as a partner Council in the development of a Destination Management Plan for the Tyrone and Sperrins region.

2013 City of Culture: Members were advised of the following events in connection with the 2013 City of Culture:

- Workshop with Councillors to be held on Thursday 18 October at 3.30pm in the training room to gather views on themes, projects, programmes and a level of funding which Council would wish to allocate within the 2013/2014 budget.
- A meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday 6 November 2012 at 10 am in the Waterfoot Hotel, Londonderry for local Councils within the wider North-West area to discuss opportunities emerging from the UK City of Culture 2013. Councils have been invited to nominate 6 elected members, 3 officers and the Chief Executive to attend. The Director of Development agreed to circulate details of the invitation to members and bring back to Council next month to agree attendees.
- The Chief Executive agreed to forward an invitation from the Culture Company 2013 to a civic reception on Thursday 25 October at 7 pm in the City Hotel, Londonderry to celebrate the launch of the City of Culture Programme 2013

Members voiced their concerns about the benefits, if any, for the Limavady area as no finance would be available for events outside Derry City.

UPDATE INTEREG IVA PROJECTS: The Director of Development detailed the Interreg IVA projects involving Limavady Borough Council which were summarised with in the report and included:

- SPACEial North west Project
- NW Cross Border Construction Cluster
- Inch Levels – Lough Foyle Project
- Renewal Energy Network project (REN-NET)
- NW Community Gardens and Allotments Project

National Trails Day – The Director of Development provided attendance figures for events which have taken place within the borough:

- Autumn Walk at Banagher Glen on 7 October 2012 organised by NIEA and attended by 12 people.
- Gortmore and Avish Trails organised by Limavady Borough Council and attended by 32 people.

- Paddle the Lough event organised in partnership with the Loughs Agency and Limavady Borough Council with 30 participants.

Proposed Response to the proposed New Employment Programme for Northern Ireland Steps 2 Success: Members agreed the proposed response to the above consultation.

The recommendations within the report were approved on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Appointment of Consultants, Dungiven: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Councillor Chivers that accept the tender from OTIUM Leisure Consultancy in the sum of £4,950 plus VAT to carry out the Dungiven Sports Pavilion Feasibility Study.

Training Sponsorship Request: Members agreed to support the request from an Administrative Officer based in the Roe Valley Leisure Centre to attend a 4 day “In Design” course at a cost of £600.

NILGA Consultation Event: Details of the NILGA Welfare Reform free information/consultation event on Tuesday 23 October 2012 were circulated to members.

Mayor’s Reception: The Mayor, Councillor McLaughlin extended an invitation to all members to join him on Thursday 11 October at 10.30 am in the Mayor’s Parlour where he would be hosting a reception for Mr Sean Mackey, Regional Housing Manager with the Housing Executive to mark his retirement after 35 year’s service in the organisation.

Act of Bravery – Mr Joe Brolly: Councillor McLaughlin acknowledged the recent act of bravery by Joe Brolly, son of Councillor Anne Brolly, who donated one of his kidneys to his friend, Shane Finnegan. Best wishes for a speedy recovery were passed on to both men.

Suicide Awareness: Members discussed the recent suicides which had taken place in the Borough and it was agreed that a suicide support group would be invited come along and deliver a suicide awareness session for elected members.

NEXT MEETING – 13 November 2012

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 8.10 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting