

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**9 NOVEMBER 2005**

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

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk, Director of Development Services, Acting Development Services Manager, Town Centre Manager and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Donaghy.

**WELCOME:**

Members welcomed Mrs Valerie Richmond, newly appointed Director of Development to the meeting.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of Development Services Committee meeting held on 12 October 2005 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Riding for the Disabled Association:** The Director of Development agreed to provide figures on what other Councils had contributed towards the provision of new site and arena for Riding for the Disabled Association at a future Development Services Meeting.

**CAUSEWAY MUSEUM SERVICE:**

The chair welcomed Ms Helen Perry, Causeway Museum Service Officer to the meeting.

Ms Perry presented the September 2004 – September 2005 Causeway Museum Service (CMS) Annual Report and enlarged thereon.

Ms Perry outlined the Strategic Development Plan for the next 5 years. She said Councils group collection had been developed, standards raised, displays improved

and extensive work had been carried out with external bodies, including schools and community groups.

Ms Perry informed members that she had participated in project team meetings with Consarc, attended departmental and public meetings regarding the new Multi Cultural Civic Centre and that she had advised on the collection storage, interpretation equipment and programming requirements for the new building, as well as advised on developing funding applications for museum and heritage elements of the new project.

The Causeway Museum Officer stated that despite receiving a number of complaints regarding closure of the Roe Valley Country Park café, almost 9,000 visitors were recorded in 2005. She thanked former Councillor, Brian Brown for his donation of an 1813 map of County Londonderry to the museum and said the Green Lane Museum had also been donated railway photographs, WWII and other memorabilia.

In conclusion Mr Perry referred to CMS Community Outreach Projects and said Gelvin Area Community Association had worked in conjunction with Councils Countryside Access Officer and EHS to improve access to the ruined 18<sup>th</sup> century church and medieval cashel on Benbradagh Hill and in addition to this, LCDI had ran a tour of Limavady Workhouse/Roe Valley Hospital as part of the NITB Be a Tourist at Home initiative.

Councillor Ó hOisín suggested that artefacts should be put on display in the new Multi Cultural Civic Centre and said enquires should be made regarding the temporary return of Broighter Gold to the Borough. Ms Perry clarified that there would be a display of artefacts in the building and that there was a question of equipment, security, environmental conditions and loans if Broighter Gold was to be returned to the Borough.

Councillor Cubitt reminded members that the Borough had a lot of history to be capitalised on, including a former resident who had been the first person to open a supermarket in America and suggested Richard Branson be contacted regarding financial help towards the new building. He added that additional signs were needed indicating the location of the Green Lane Museum and that opening hours needed to be extended.

The Director of Development highlighted that Mr Branson had been contacted previously but had not been forthcoming with a financial donation and that flyers were currently being produced to promote the Green Lane Museum.

Members requested that the first ordinance survey, first electricity, John Mitchell, Colmcille, Drumceitt and Tamlaght Old Church be added to the list to promote the Borough.

The chair thanked Ms Perry for her outstanding report.

## **ROE VALLEY AND NORTHERN IRELAND – TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT:**

Mr Sean Trainor, Town Centre Manager provided an overview of Limavady Town Centre Forum and presented future proposed actions that were endorsed by the

Forum and Chamber of Trade and sought Council's endorsement. He further presented to members his latest project, which was a DVD and publication aimed at potential investors.

In response to a question by Councillor Cubitt, the Town Centre Manager explained that the film was not geared towards local markets or indigenous businesses but had been aimed at international investors. He said the 7 minute DVD would be circulated to Embassy's for distribution to those business looking to invest in Northern Ireland.

In giving his support to the initiative, Councillor Ó hOisín said the DVD was an excellent way of selling the towns. He said the Town Centre Manager was an essential position given the amount of funding generated and queried what would happen to the post when funding ran out in April 2006. The Director of Development clarified that the Chief Executive would bring back a report to Council on this at a later date.

Councillor Douglas pointed out that local residents were still travelling to Coleraine and Londonderry as businesses in the town centre were not giving the people what they wanted. Mr Trainor responded that there were leakages and that whilst his remit was to stop people shopping elsewhere, it was a collective role concerning everyone. In addition, he pointed out that there had been retail developments in the Limavady Town Centre of late and that further expansion was planned for the next 12 months.

Alderman Rankin highlighted that during his year as Mayor there had been great satisfaction amongst traders that business was improving but recent developments in funding coming to an end, Magilligan prison expected to close, changes in Local Government, higher rates, introduction of water charges and centralisation of services would all have an impact on the Borough. He said that like many residents, he tried to shop locally but there were times when this was not possible and the situation demanded you look elsewhere.

Councillor Coyle voiced his support for the initiative and said this showed that there was a sense of well being in Limavady. He suggested that an exercise be compiled on changes that had happened in the town over the last few years and that figures were needed on loss of revenue to compare if these has improved or consider what could be done to prevent further leakages. Mr Trainor explained that figures had been compiled on the 3 towns in 1998 and although a certain amount of leakage had been curtailed, the Borough lost out on new retail developments in both Coleraine and Derry City. He added that the retail footprint could give an indication of current figures and demographic facts which could be compared with the data of 1998.

Councillor Cubitt suggested that there was no co-ordinated effort amongst traders and that the situation was not helped by shops closing over the lunch hour and on Thursdays. Alderman Robinson referred to Limavady Livestock Market and anticipation by local traders that this was to be a retail development. He queried how closely the Town Centre Manager worked with the Chamber of Trade and said local traders would like to consult with him on a regular basis. Mr Trainor clarified that he was a member of the Roe Valley Chamber of Trade, the voice of local business who met regularly. Furthermore, he advised that all businesses in the Borough would

have received communication from the Town Centre Manager on a variety of issues, however, he said would be more than happy to meet with individual traders.

It was agreed that the latest Retail Footprint figures would be compared with previous data and presented to members at a future Development Services meeting. It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Robinson that the actions presented by the Town Centre Manager be endorsed in principle as a first step in developing new plans for the Towns.

Mr Trainor left the meeting at 9.45 pm.

### **DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES' REPORT OCTOBER 2005:**

The Director of Development Services presented the Development Services Report and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Brolly subject to the following:

#### ***Recreation:***

**Sports Development:** The Director of Development reported that the following sports development would take part in next few weeks:

17 November 2005 - Sports Development Officer in association with the GAA Country Derry Board would be running a Gaelic Games Blitz (Camogie) in Roe Valley Leisure Centre and that this was aimed at primary schools in the North Derry Area.

27 November 2005 - assessment for the IFA B Licence held in April 2005 in Limavady. 39 participants from NI and a few from the UK to be assessed for level 3 coaching award.

3 December 2005 – ‘Fun in Athletics’ day to be held in RVLC by Ulster Sports Hall Athletics and aimed at P6 and P7 primary school children to encourage participation in athletics and develop speed, agility and quickness. Nominal fee to be levied to clubs to cover Government Body costs.

It was agreed that the Sports Development Officer would attend a Sports Development Network seminar, titled ‘New Start:New Vision’ to be held in Lusty Beg Island on 10/11 November 2005.

#### ***Tourist/Entertainment:***

**Northern Ireland Milk Cup:** The Director of Development explained that he had received a letter of thanks from the Northern Ireland Milk Cup Committee for the generous sponsorship received for the 2005 Tournament. He said the Committee had outlined the excellent television coverage that was afforded to the tournament by BBC, UTV, MUTV and Chelsea TV in relation to a two and a quarter hour programme on the finals night by the BBC Digital Channel.

It was agreed that Council would continue to support this prestigious event taking place in the Borough by contributing £10,000 for the 2006 Tournament to take place from 31 July to 4 August 2006.

**Advertising:** Approval was agreed for advertisements to be placed in AA Golf Course Guide 2007 at a cost of £274.55, P&O Irish Ferries “Welcome Aboard” Spring and Summer Magazine at a cost of £400.00 and North West Hockey Book at a cost of £100.00.

**Vigneux-Sur-Seine Official Delegation Visit:** The Director of Development reported that the recent visit of a delegation from Vigneux-sir-Seine, with representation from both Town Hall and Twinning Committee proved to be very successful. He said the programme visit including sightseeing/entertainment and had been useful in clarifying Limavady’s role in the school exchange project 2006/07, as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in September/October 2006.

Councillor Butcher referred to hospitality extended during the visit and said more attention should have been given to detail. The Director of Development pointed out that the event in question had not been a Council function and had been arranged by the Limavady Vigneux Twinning Committee. However, he undertook to make the Committee aware of Councillor Butcher comments.

***Community Services/Arts:***

**Greysteel Community Association/Burnfoot Community Association:** The Director of Development explained that applications for grant aid under the Community Services Policy for Groups with Premises was received from Greysteel and Burnfoot Community Associations. As both groups complied with set criteria, grant aid of £2,000 was agreed based on recurrent expenditure on accounts for year ending 31 March 2005.

**Coolessan Community Association:** Members agreed in principle that Council would assist with costs for removal of a Port-a-cabin from the Sunshine Playgroup and placing it in approved site in Collessan for the Community Association subject to written confirmation from the local Housing Executive Manager that all the necessary statutory approvals were in place.

**Crash Barriers:** The Director of Development outlined that currently Council sources crash barriers through the PSNI for use at events, which had to be booked in advance and transported to and from Carrickfergus. He said this service was likely to be privatised in the near future, which would result in a hire charge being applicable. He recommended that Council purchase 50 barriers at an estimated cost of £2,500.00 for its own use. Agreed.

***Economic/Community Development:***

**Request for Funding from Economic Development:** The Acting Development Services Manager explained that the primary aim of Roe Valley Enterprises’ was to help new businesses start up and encourage existing businesses to develop and grow. He said as part of Enterprise Week, Roe Valley Enterprises proposes to undertake some enterprise publicity and that this included a celebration event for the 300<sup>th</sup> Business Start client, including both above and below the line publicity, a local event and various PR activities. He added that additionally, RVE would like to host a “guest speaker” type event, similar to that held last year, which attracted around 30 participants. It was agreed that Council would allocate £2,000 in support of the event/advertising.

**Community/Good Relations Tender:** The Acting Development Services Manager informed members that Red Hat Consultancy had been awarded the contract for Community/Good Relations Tender and that they had an excellent track record in advising on Equality & Good Relations. He said the work would be completed by the end of December and would include a wide range of analysis on current Community Relations, the impact of its funding and the direction for future programmes.

**Request for Funding:** The Acting Development Services Manager informed members that a request had been received from Ballyspallen Cricket Club for assistance towards the funding of a business plan and economic appraisal for the development of a Lottery Fund building programme. He said that the overall project was for a sports pavilion costing £350,000 and that an application had been made for funding to the Big Lottery. The Director of Development declared an interest in this item as he was a former Chairman of Ballyspallen Cricket Club.

It was agreed not to assist with this request as this would open the floodgates and set a precedent for similar requests.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Quay Vipers Motorcycle Club:** The Director of Development informed members that Quay Vipers Motorcycle Club had held an successful, self contained and secure rally at Benone Tourist Complex in September 2005 and sought Council's approval for the club to stage a similar rally between 21 – 25 September 2006. This was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

**Towards Resource Management:** It was agreed that Alderman Rankin, Councillor Cubitt, Councillor Carten, Councillor Ó hOisín and the Director of Environmental Services would attend the local government consultation 'Towards Resource Management' to be held 29 November 2005 in Burnavon Arts Centre, Cookstown and that this would be an approved duty.

**Retirement of Director of Development:** Members noted that this was the Director of Developments last official committee meeting and wished him best wishes for his forthcoming retirement at the end of November 2005.

**Civic Reception - Traders:** It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Rankin that a Civic Reception be held for the traders of the Borough with a date to be arranged by the Mayor.

**NEXT MEETING:**

14 December 2005

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 10.40 pm)**