

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE  
9 NOVEMBER 2010**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk, Director of Development and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:** - Councillor A Robinson.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting dated 14 September 2010 were approved on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Management Agreement – Limavady Grammar School Synthetic Pitch:** Councillor Ó hOisín indicated that the minute did not reflect the opportunity cost which he felt had been lost. Noted.

**Limavady Youth Council Partnership Agreement:** The Director of Development reported that the role and function of the Youth Council had been discussed during a meeting with Ann McCausland. She said a number of events had been suggested for participation by the Junior Mayor, including the Christmas lights switch on, official opening of Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró, involvement in the Danny Boy Festival and taking part in a public consultation in Dungiven. Members welcomed that the Youth Council was working closely with Council and agreed that the Junior Mayor participate in events throughout the year.

**Dungiven Regeneration:** Members were advised that a public meeting to discuss the regeneration of Dungiven would take place on Monday 22 November at 7 pm in Dungiven Library.

**Backburn Path:** It was highlighted that there was further vandalism at Backburn Park. The Director of Development agreed to respond to a query on whether the park was locked each evening at the Environmental Services meeting.

**COISTA NA GAELIGE – IRISH LANGUAGE SUB COMMITTEE:**

The minutes of Coista na Gaeilge meeting held 31 August 2010 were tabled and noted.

Points raised in the discussion which followed included:

- *Indigenous Policy:* It was clarified that the final sentence meant that the Irish Language Officer would be looking at Best Practice elsewhere and develop a draft policy. It was noted that there was legislation in place relating to minority languages.
- *Progress Report:* A progress report on the work of the Irish Language Officer to be provided for the December Development Services meeting.
- *Annual Budget:* It was clarified that £15k was set aside towards salary and £5k towards associated programme costs.
- *Sub Committee:* It was clarified that the Sub Committee would bring recommendations on grants to Council for approval.
- *Gaelic Place Names:* It was suggested that either a Professor from the University or the Irish Language Officer should give a talk to Councillors on Gaelic Place names. This could be included in a programme of activity at Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró.

### **DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2010:**

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for November 2010 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within the report were approved on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Councillor Carten subject to the following:

**Limavady and the Roe Valley Visitor Guide:** It was agreed that the quotation from Big Fish for the design and print of 10,000 copies of the Limavady and Roe Valley Visitor Guide in the sum of £3,325 would be accepted.

**Benone Tourist Complex Pricing Structure:** Council approved the revised pricing schedule for 2011 at Benone Tourist Complex to be implemented from 1 January 2011.

**Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró:** It was agreed that the core opening time would be amended to 9.30 am and that any special bookings requiring an earlier start time would be considered providing requests were made in advance.

General points made during the discussion included;

- Activities and events to date had received positive comments from Councillors and from the public. Consider using church bulletins as source of PR/Advertising. It was pointed out that young children found it difficult to see the flame throwers.
- The Farmers Market in the town square was well attended and that the centre had been open until 2 pm on the day.
- The Mayor commended the Salsa classes.
- Current events included the Fair Trade Exhibition.
- Officers to be congratulated on the excellent fireworks display.
- Councillors were welcome to walk around the building and see how the building looked now all work had been completed.

**Tourist Information and Gift Shop:** Council approved a 10% discount special Christmas promotion evening and also approved a Staff and Members loyalty card scheme for discount on selected gift shop purchases on two occasions per year.

**Rural Community Network:** It was recommended that a financial contribution up to £500 be made available towards the costs of the Rural Community Network AGM and Conference.

**Economic Development – Steps to Success Programme:** It was agreed that surplus funding of £2,300 available within the joint projects theme of this years Economic Development Programme would be used to purchase two extra places for local businesses on the Steps to Success Programme joint initiative between Limavady, Coleraine, Ballymoney and Moyle Councils.

**Local Business Online:** It was agreed that £2,000 would be set aside from the existing Economic Development budget to facilitate the Local Business Online pilot programme.

**RVLC & Dungiven Sports Pavilion Public Holiday Closures 2011-2012:** Council approved the proposed bank and public holiday closures for RVLC and Dungiven Sports Pavilion for the year 2011/12 as follows:

- 24 & 25 April, 2 May, 12 July, 24, 25 & 26 December, close at 5 pm on 31 December 2011; 1 January & 17 March 2012.

**Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró Christmas and New Year Holiday Closures:** It was agreed that Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró would be closed on 24, 25, 27, 28 December 2010 and 1 & 3 January 2011.

**NILGA Correspondence – 2012 Olympics:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Douglas, seconded by Councillor Stevenson that Alderman Rankin and the Director of Development would be appointed to act as a point of contact and liaison, when addressing local government's impact from the Olympics 2012.

**Ferry Meeting with Donegal County Council:** It was agreed that Donegal County Council would be informed of suitable date for the next Ferry Service Working Group once Council had met to discuss the budgets for 2010/11.

**Brighter Gold:** Council was advised of recent correspondence from the National Museum of Ireland confirming a visit to the Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró on the next time a member of staff was in the area.

**Legal Proceedings – Benone:** Council was advised of outcome to prosecution against an illegal ice cream trader at Benone Beach. It was agreed that Council would investigate its ability to amend the level of fine under the By-Laws.

**Workshop on Benone with Councillors:** It was agreed that the workshop to discuss Benone with Councillors would be held on 30 November between 6 – 7 pm.

**Presentation to Council:** Members were reminded that Council had agreed that Diane Rathfield from Roe Valley Forum & Woman's Network would present to Council details of the Flexible Steps Initiative at a special meeting on 30 November 2010. Members were also reminded that Patricia McCallion would present details of the Phase 2 Action Plan of the North East Peace III Partnership at the same meeting.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Christmas Car Parking:** As in previous years, it was agreed that the staff car park would be made available to the public free of charge at the weekends in the run up to Christmas and that visible signage would be in place.

**Rural Development Programme:** Councillor Butcher outlined the current financial position regarding the Rural Development Programme budget, actual project spend and administration costs to date. He referred to a round table workshop which had taken place prior to the October LAG and Joint Committee meetings and that serious concerns had existed around the programme, realistic spend within the life of the programme and above all, the nature of the contact and financial liabilities on the four Councils. He indicated that each of the 4 Councils should look at setting aside a six figure sum within the estimates over the next 3 financial years in anticipation of a substantial amount of money having to be repaid to DARD at the end of the programme.

Councillor Butcher also informed Council that the Chair and Vice Chair proposed lobbying the Department to see if the Councils could extract themselves from the existing agreement. It was noted that different arrangements were in place in other countries. The real problems appeared to lie both with the NI Assembly and UK Government and administration was over the top. There were also many grey areas and the situation had not been helped by changes in the operating rules as the programme was being rolled out.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Douglas, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that the Chief Executive would write to the Minister after the next LAG and Joint Committee meetings when there would be more detailed information available to include in the correspondence.

**NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday 14 December 2010.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of Meeting