

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
10 OCTOBER 2006

Minutes of a meeting of the above Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.00 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and the Director of Development.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor A Brolly.

PRESENTATION BY SPERRINS TOURISM:

The chair welcomed Mr Max Bryant, Manager of Sperrins Tourism to the meeting.

Mr Bryant explained that the core strategy of Sperrins Tourism was to work with the key stakeholders to provide a first class service in both the delivery/marketing of the Sperrins Tourism product and that this brought a benefit to the Limavady area by over £1 million from the various projects.

Mr Bryant referred to improvements in tourism figures from 2004 to 2005 and members noted that room bookings were up 25%; 80% of visitors were new to the Sperrins; average expenditure up 30% per visit, 78% visitors would make a return visit and 90% of visitors see the region's accommodation as good value for money. He said that Sperrins Tourism was marketed through advertisements on TV, production of promotional DVDs, CD roms and via the internet

Mr Bryant stated that Sperrins Tourism would continue to work with Limavady Borough Council to build relationships already established with Council officers; it would work with community associations to develop community led projects; secure funding to further develop the region's tourism infrastructure and continue to market the region in line with the strategy developed from market research. In conclusion he said Sperrins Tourism would work to further improve tourism figures such as those seen in 2005.

Mr Bryant answered a number of queries in relation to promotional literature in hotels and opening additional walkways within the Sperrins for tourists. The chair thanked Mr Bryant for attending the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of Development Committee meeting held 12 September 2006 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

MATTERS ARISING:

Local Democracy Week: Councillor Butcher voiced disappointment that Council had been unable to celebrate Local Democracy Week and suggested that this be put into the diary for next year.

MINUTES OF DANNY BOY SUB COMMITTEE:

The minutes of Danny Boy Sub Committee dated 11 September 2006 were tabled and noted.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – OCTOBER 2006:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within were agreed and the report adopted on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Butcher subject to the following:

Northern Ireland Milk Cup: It was agreed that the Director of Development would investigate a suitable location for a flower bed to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Milk Cup and to the possibility of sponsorship for the roundabouts on the by-pass.

Causeway Museum Service: The Director of Development provided a summary on work undertaken by Causeway Museum Service during the period October 2005 – September 2006. She said that draft budget costs for the year 2007/08 had been circulated to members Councils and that this was based on an increase of approximately 3% on the current financial year. Council agreed to approve an allocation of £17,325 within the 2007/08 budget towards the operating costs of Causeway Museum Service.

Request to Acquire Land - Orchard Community Playgroup: It was agreed that Council would enter into discussion with Orchard Community Playgroup regarding their request to acquire land from Council.

Request to Purchase Land to Rear of Curragh Road Pitches: It was agreed that Council would enter into discussion with Curragh Road residents to discuss their request to purchase a strip of ground at the rear of Curragh Road pitches.

Recognition of the work of Limavady Ambulance Service: It was agreed that Council would acknowledge the work of Limavady Ambulance Service by hosting a civic reception for the service providers.

Coiste Na Gaeilge – Irish Language Officer: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Councillor Coyle that a formal approach would be

made to Magherafelt District Council on the possibility of a joint application for funding of an Irish Language Officer from Foras na Gaeilge.

Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Partnership: The Director of Development explained that although Council had set aside £22,000 towards the Regional Tourism Partnership, the actual amount requested for 2006/07 had been £23,000 and recommended that the additional £1,000 be released and that £23,814 be allowed for within the 2007/08 revenue budget. Agreed. It was also agreed that Council would receive a presentation on the work of the Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Partnership.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY Councillor Ó hOisín:

Councillor Ó hOisín proposed:

“That this Council taking account of the consequences of direct rule, calls for all parties to support the immediate restoration of the Assembly and the Executive and will write to all the party leaders urging their support for immediate restoration of the institutions.”

In proposing the motion, Councillor Ó hOisín said members should support restoration of the institutions as the people of Northern Ireland would not afford direct rule by being subjected to excessive rate and water charges. The motion was seconded by Councillor Chivers.

Councillor Robinson proposed an amendment to the motion:

“That this Council, taking account of the consequences of Direct Rule, believes that devolution is the best form of government for all of the people of Northern Ireland and that all parties participating in that government should be committed to exclusively peaceful and democratic means and support the rule of law and those whose job it is to enforce it. With this in mind, this Council write to all party leaders urging their support for the rule of law.”

Alderman Robinson seconded the amendment and read from a prepared statement which in summary outlined reasons as to why the institutions had collapsed, the viewpoint of the DUP on direct rule and power sharing and the need for all parties to support the rule of law by being accountable and giving practical support to policing.

Councillor Coyle pointed out that it might suit both Sinn Féin and the DUP if the Assembly was wound up as both could blame each other for not being able to share power. He called on the DUP to work the Agreements institutions; for Sinn Féin to accept policing and the rule of law; for it to be made clear that the parties must negotiate with each other instead of running to the British Government for side deals and for it also to be made clear that the two governments would work together more closely and deeply to deliver the Agreement.

Councillor Robinson’s amendment was put to the meeting and declared lost, with 6 voting for and 8 against. The substantive motion was put to the meeting and declared carried, with 8 voting for and 6 against.

COURSES & CONFERENCES:

It was agreed that the following members/officers would attend the conferences/courses listed:

- *Two Duty Managers at Roe Valley Leisure Centre to attend the Royal Lifesaving Society course on 15 November 2006 in Belfast at a cost of £115 per delegate;*
- *Councillor Butcher and One Officer to attend Newry & Armagh Sinn Fein All Ireland Conference “Building an Integrated Future for the Border Region” on 24 October 2006 in Canal Court Hotel, Newry – no fee;*
- *Two Officers to attend Derry Well Woman Cross Border “Understanding our Customer” event on 2 November 2006 in Abbey Hotel, Donegal Town – no fee and*
- *One Officer to attend RLSS Beach Management Workshop on 6 November 2006 in Queens University, Belfast at a cost of £115.*

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Illegal Dumping – Moneyrannel Road: It was agreed that the Director of Environmental Services would investigate illegal dumping at Moneyrannel Road.

Re-Imaging Communities Funding Programme: In response to a query the Director of Development confirmed that funding of £3 million was available for local communities to develop programmes for environmental improvements across Northern Ireland (in conjunction with Councils’ Good Relations Officers). The Director of Development undertook to investigate the current level of applications from within the Borough.

Open Day – Shackleton Barracks: The Director of Development informed members that Shackleton Barracks Open Day scheduled for 12 October 2006 had to be postponed but members would be kept informed of rescheduled date.

Association Northern Ireland Library Boards Annual Conference: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín that Council would provide sponsorship of £150 to Association of Northern Ireland Library Boards Annual Conference to be held Radisson SAS on 12 & 13 October 2006.

Royal Irish Regiment: Councillor Stevenson proposed that Council congratulate the Royal Irish Regiment on being awarded the Gallantry Cross. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Douglas and on being put to the meeting was declared carried, with 6 voting for and 5 against.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14 November 2006

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 8.30 pm)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting