

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 10TH, 2004

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 J. Dolan, M Carten, Councillors A. Brolly, (in the chair) B. Brown, B. Chivers, M. Coyle, L. Cubitt, M. Donaghy, B. Douglas, D. Lowry, M. McGuigan, G. Mullan, J. Rankin, E. Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Town Clerk, Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer, Acting Economic Development Officer, Countryside Recreation Officer, Committee Clerk

APOLOGIES:

Alderman G. Robinson

GOOD WISHES:

Councillor Rankin conveyed best wishes for a speedy recovery to Alderman Robinson. The Chair and members concurred with this sentiment.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Councillor Cubitt requested the name of this Committee reflect the services of recreation and tourism in addition to economic development and proposed it be changed to Development and Tourism.

On being put to the meeting, the proposal was declared lost, 5 voting for, 5 against and 4 abstentions, with the Chair using her casting vote against the proposal.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of Economic Development Committee meeting held October 4th, 2004 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Dolan.

The Minutes of Leisure Services Committee meeting held October 13th, 2004 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Dolan, seconded by Alderman Carten.

MATTERS ARISING (LEISURE SERVICES OCTOBER 13TH, 2004):

Backburn Park to Scroggy Road Public Path Order: Councillor Rankin advised that he had received further complaints about the poor condition of this path and ongoing anti-social behaviour associated with the location. The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer informed members that as yet Environment and Heritage Service and had not made a decision on the outcome of the inquiry as the report from the inquiry inspector, Mr. Roy Hickey, had not been received. He endeavoured to follow up and to report back to members thereon.

Art Exhibition: Councillor Mullan congratulated Council on the success of this exhibition. The Town Clerk advised members that he had had an opportunity to lobby members of the Department on the possibility of the Brighter Gold being returned to the Borough for the opening of the new Multi-Functional Arts Centre.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

The Acting Economic Development Officer presented the Economic Development Officer's Report for November and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Rankin subject to the following:

Business Support/Think Big Project: The Acting Economic Development Officer advised members that currently there were low client numbers for Invest Northern Ireland (INI) but that it was anticipated that approximately 30-40 businesses would be added to the INI list and agreed to update members early in the New Year of progress made at that time.

Food Fair: Councillor Brolly queried the £10,000 expense for this project. The Acting Economic Development Officer gave a breakdown which included the cost of the hire of the premises, insurance, promotion of the event and hire of stalls. He reiterated that he was working in conjunction with the Town Centre Manager in an attempt to promote Limavady, and pending the popularity for this event which promoted local and specialty foods from Northern Ireland further events would be organised. He advised members that a post-project review would be carried out to assess the validity of this venture. Councillor Stevenson commended the Economic Development Department on this venture and felt that this would help local farmers who had been hit hard in the past and would encourage money to stay within the Borough.

Industrial De-Rating: The Acting Economic Development Officer advised he had written to the Department of Finance and Personnel regarding the proposed Hardship Scheme and that the response would be circulated through the Chamber of Trade and Town Centre Manager.

Sara Lee Closure: The Acting Economic Development Officer updated members on the recent closure and current status of redundant staff. He also reported that he had been in contact with Fruit of the Loom regarding their closure, and was awaiting a response.

ICT: Councillor Coyle highlighted that as yet the rural areas had not received broadband and requested an update on same. The Acting Economic Development Officer undertook to update members at the next meeting.

Leader+: At the request of Councillor Brolly the Acting Economic Development Officer agreed to provide a breakdown from Economic Development outlining who had actually benefited from this project.

Peace II: The Acting Economic Development Officer reported that in order to complete this project on a timely basis, he sought Council's approval to recruit a further member of staff, at a cost of £15,000. He also outlined the N2 rule which stipulated that monies received should be spent within two years of roll out. The Town Clerk advised such a provision had been made in the rates estimates for 2005.

Councillor Brown and the Acting Economic Development Officer left the meeting at 9pm.

CHIEF RECREATION/TOURIST OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer presented the Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer's Report for November and enlarged thereon.

Roe Valley Leisure Centre – Christmas Closure: Members were advised that the Centre would be closed on Saturday January 1st, 2005 and not December 1st, 2005 as specified in the report.

Open Darts Tournament - January 31st, and February 1st, 2005: Councillor Cubitt noted that an application for funding of £1,000 had been received for the above event. He highlighted that this annual tournament brought revenue into the Borough with hotels filled to capacity. The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer noted that an application for funding had been submitted to Limavady Sports Council and recommended that no further action be taken pending the outcome of that decision. Agreed.

Beach Management Recommendations:

Staffing: The Countryside Recreation Officer advised members that a study had been completed with Rossnowlagh and Benone and both areas complied with Blue Flag status. He also highlighted that wardens would enforce the litter order as well as maintaining a car free, and dog free area to promote this area of conservation. Finally he advised that this project would be evaluated in 2005 to seek out its validity. Councillor Cubitt reported that the toilets at Benone were unsightly and did nothing to promote the area. The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer reported that the toilets were kept clean, however, he would discuss improvement measures with the Chief Technical Services Officer and would update members accordingly.

Signage: Councillor Mullan suggested that signage be put in place to advertise Benone as a historical site. The Countryside Recreation Officer acknowledged this request, however, pointed out this was a sensitive site, and it was important that signage would not be intrusive or unsightly to detract from the actual area and it was unlikely that Environment Heritage Service would approve such a request.

PSNI Quad Patrol: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer advised members that with the introduction of this project, Benone had become a safer beach. He informed members that he would be meeting the District Commander in December and would update them accordingly as to future provision of this service.

Consultation With User Groups: Members raised their concerns about the use of the beach by power kites. The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer advised that this was being dealt with and proposed to look at a specified season. Councillor Cubitt voiced his concerns that non-members of this club would still utilise the beach, however, the Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer advised that such activities would be monitored by the Irish Power Kite Association directly.

Ballymaclary House, Magilligan: Councillor Mullan expressed his concern that this once neoclassical style building was unsightly and no regard had been given to the aesthetic look of the site. Councillor Cubitt refuted this claim and said that everything was in order with this site and family issues had prevented the applicant from progressing with the renovation.

Map – County Londonderry 1814: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer presented the map donated by Martin, King, French and Ingram solicitors. Councillor Lowry requested the Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer acknowledge this kind donation from them. The Town Clerk felt it was important that such gifts and other donations which had been donated in the past should remain within the Borough, perhaps located in the Multi-Purpose Civic Centre, when the Review of Public Administration takes place.

Benone Beach Ice Cream Franchise: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt seconded by Alderman Dolan that this franchise be extended for a further year.

Councillor McGuigan left the meeting at 9:40pm

Coolessan Community Association: Following a request from Coolessan Community Association for funds towards a special cross community event, Councillor Lowry requested that this Community should be encouraged and supported. The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer however felt that by supporting this association it would open the flood gates to similar type request for which funding had not been set aside.

Hands That Talk: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer advised he had received a request from Hands That Talk for £5,000 from Council to commission a three year Development Plan for the Community Group. The Town Clerk informed members that Council had already supported this project by offering them a site and therefore could not accede to this request.

Councillors Training: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer reported on the importance of this training under Section 75 to ensure equality of opportunity. He advised that the proposed dates were January 10th, 17th, 24th to be held in the Radisson in the evening with a buffet meal provided prior to the meeting and agreed to provide a copy of the agenda and background to all members.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Drumneechy Community Group Christmas Tree: Councillor Douglas advised members that this Community Group was seeking approval for a tree this year, however, was not prepared to support this request based on Council's policy to only provide trees in towns and villages.

Backburn Park Playground: Following a query by Councillor Cubitt, the Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer advised that the provision of a play area was being evaluated and agreed to update members after further discussion with the Chief Technical Services Officer.

Playing Fields at Magilligan: Councillor Mullan requested Council upgrade the current playing fields. This matter will be discussed at next months meeting.

Multi-Functional Civic Centre: The Town Clerk advised members that previously Piedad had prepared a Business Plan/Arts Strategy in August 1997 and requested approval to re-use them again to update these reports, which was agreed.

Events Company Northern Ireland: Councillor Rankin advised members that financial cuts were imminent and requested that Council write to the Minister responsible for the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure to offer support and to reiterate how in the past it had been supportive of major events within the Borough, including the Milk Cup, Ploughing Championships and Motocross.

Councillor E. Stevenson left the meeting at 10:25 pm

Monação: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer advised members that currently Monação were in the process of twinning with Vigneux Sur Seine and a 2-3 day visit to the Borough was currently being planned for March 2005 through the Twinning Committee. Members queried this expense and after discussion was put to a vote whereupon it was agreed that as a mark of courtesy they would return the compliment by extending an invitation to visit the Borough. Councillor Brolly requested more information which the Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer agreed to provide.

NEXT MEETING:

Development Committee Meeting December 8th, 2004

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 10:30 pm)