

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

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

MARCH 11TH, 2008

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 G. Mullan, and G. Robinson. Councillors A. Brolly, P. Butcher, B. Chivers, M. Coyle, L. Cubitt, M. Donaghy, B. Douglas, C. Ó hOisín, A. Robinson (in the Chair) and E. Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Admin Officer, Director of Development and Chief Executive

APOLOGIES: - Alderman J. Rankin, Councillors M. Carten and J.F. McElhinney

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE IN COUNCILS AFTER RPA – COMMUNITY PLANNING:

The chair advised that Peter Osborne of Rubicon Consulting was unable to attend the meeting and the presentation had been rescheduled for May 13th, 2008.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held on February 12th, 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Robinson.

MATTERS ARISING:

Photography Competition: Alderman Mullan requested an update on when the recent photographs submitted for the competition would be displayed. The Director of Development advised that the Tourism Development Officers were currently looking at this issue.

Roe Estuary – Sheep Mash Vesting Order: In response to a query from Councillor Douglas the Director of Development advised that the Countryside Officer should have been in contact with the wildfowlers and would advise at next meeting.

PPS 14 – Stakeholders Event: The Chair asked members for an update on the recent PPS 14 stakeholder event held on February 21st, 2008. Councillor Butcher advised that he had attended an event in the Stormont Hotel but nothing new had been reported. It was speculated that a statement from the Minister of Environment, Arlene Foster, was expected on Thursday March 13th, 2008 and anticipated there would be a four month consultation period. It was likely there would be a three strand approach including Belfast urban area; Causeway; and community areas.

Car Park: Councillor Cubitt advised that NCP would work in conjunction with Roads Service whereupon discretion would be given until appropriate loading and unloading bays were put in place at Connell Street car park

Shackleton Motorsports Festival July 18th – 20th, 2008: The Director of Development advised that organisers had taken on board comments made by members and acceded to commencing the events on Sunday July 20th, 2008 at 1pm.

MINUTES OF DANNY BOY FESTIVAL SUB COMMITTEE:

The minutes of the Danny Boy Festival Sub Committee dated February 12th, 2008 were noted.

MINUTES OF COISTE NA GAELIGE

The minutes of the Coiste na Gaeilge (Irish Language Sub Committee) dated February 26th, 2008 were noted.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – MARCH 2008:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for March 2008 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Robinson subject to the following:

Request for Financial Support from Loreto College, Coleraine: The Director of Development advised that the Deputy Mayor was dealing with the request for financial support to facilitate the School choir visiting Prague to participate in the choral festival.

Environmental Improvement Schemes: The Director of Development advised members that earlier in the year, a group of Councillors, members of the Chamber of Trade and officers undertook a tour of the Town to solicit areas where environmental improvements schemes would be appropriate. The suggestions would be forwarded to the Department of Social Development to seek funding. Upon a query by Councillor Coyle the Director of Development advised that the same exercise would be carried out in Dungiven and other towns and villages within the Borough resulting in a list of improvements which would be considered when funding became available.

Update on Cricket Development Programme: It was noted that following commencement of the partnership between Council and NI Cricket Association, five young people within the Borough had been called up to play in national teams and two had been selected for Lords to participate in an intensive training programme. Members requested that a letter of congratulations should be sent to mark this significant accolade.

North West 200: Alderman Robinson congratulated the Director of Development in her endeavours and the foresight in inviting members of the NW200 officers to Council. Members felt that this would benefit the Borough, capitalising on advertisement during the race which would be broadcast by radio and television.

Funding Allocation for 2008-11 Community Safety Plan: The Director of Development advised members that a letter of offer had been received confirming funding for the above period equated to £41k per annum to cover salary costs. Programme costs for 2008/09 and 2009/10 would be £51,262 for each year and £53,795 for 2010/11.

Good Relations Training: Councillor Brolly enquired if the Council's Good Relations Officer or Community Development Officer actively reached out to individuals, particularly within estates, who were not members of community organisations. The Director of Development confirmed that the officers worked primarily with existing organisations and assisted with the formation of new community groups. She also clarified that NITAP had a key role to play within local estates and that council officers worked closely with NITAP. It was agreed that a meeting between Councillor Brolly and council officers would be advantageous in identifying specific issues and areas where support was needed. Fellow members commended the work being carried out to date especially in the Sperrin Road area as well as the work undertaken by residents of Edenmore Road group.

Conferences: It was agreed that the Culture Arts and Tourism officer attend on a one day basis "Engaging your Community" through Causeway Museum Service scheduled for April 24th – 26th, 2008 in Garvagh. The Museums Assistant would attend April 25th and 26th, 2008 with her costs being met by Causeway Museums Service. The Director also invited members to attend with Councillor Ó hOisín expressing an interest. Councillor Brolly would visit some of the projects on Saturday April 25th, whilst Councillor Cubitt would attend April 24th and 26th only.

Following on from the above Councillor Douglas sought clarification on any proposed extension to the opening hours of the museum. The Director of Development advised that Council currently had the capacity to extend opening hours at the museum and that with the improved communication with the café it was hoped that information on bus trips and visitor groups would be shared. Details of the opening times for the coming season would be advertised.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Innovation in Agriculture: Councillor Cubitt commended the excellent conference held in the Radisson Roe on March 11th, 2008 and was disappointed at the lack of Councillors in attendance. He advised that participants were delighted with the venue and it was anticipated that a further conference would be hosted in the Borough next year.

Joint Meeting with Roe Valley Chamber of Trade and Elected Members: The Director of Development advised that the Development Services Manager and herself had recently met with members of the Chamber of Trade and it is anticipated that a meeting would be scheduled in April to meet with members to look at ways to improve and enhance the image of Limavady town. It was hoped that this would be an opportunity for two way dialogue and important that Council work in conjunction with the Chamber. As the proposed date of April 7th, 2008 did not suit members it was agreed that a grid of dates would be circulated to members and the most popular date would be selected. It was proposed by Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Coyle that a constructive meeting take place at an agreeable date between members and the Chamber of Trade.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - April 8th, 2008.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 7.40 pm)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting