

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

LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

11 AUGUST 2004

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

PRESENT:

Aldermen M Carten, J Dolan and G Robinson. Councillors B Brown, M Coyle, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas and E Stevenson (chair).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer and the Town Clerk.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors D Lowry, G Mullan and J Rankin.

APPOINTMENT OF JOINT CHAIR:

It was proposed by Alderman Dolan, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that Councillor Stevenson be elected as Co-Chair of the Committee.

On the proposal of Councillor Donaghy, seconded by Alderman Carten it was agreed that Councillor A Brolly be elected as Co-Chair of the Committee.

Councillor Stevenson took the chair and thanked members for electing him to the position of Co-Chairperson.

CONDOLENCES:

Members extended their sympathy to the family of Councillor Mullan on the recent death of his mother.

Alderman Carten requested that a letter of condolence be forwarded to Mr George Feeny, whose mother died the previous week.

Members forwarded their best wishes to the Mayor, Councillor Rankin on hearing of his admission to hospital.

OUT OF HOURS SERVICE – DISCUSSION PAPER:

The Chair welcomed Mr Eugene Gallagher, Head of Primary Care and Family Practitioner Services, Mr Tom Coyle, Business Manager Family Practitioner Services Unit, Mr Eugene Dunn, Foyledoc Manager and Ms Wendy McLaughlin, Development Better Services, Western Health & Social Services Board.

Mr Gallagher explained that as part of the new GMS Contract, GP's could opt out of the responsibility for providing 'out of hours service' and from 1 January 2005 this responsibility would pass to the Western Health & Social Services Board. He added that the Board were seeking to engage with the public and their representatives to get the views on the current proposals within the discussion paper on 'Developing an Integrated Out of Hours Services'.

Mr Gallagher explained that the new arrangements would provide a standard of care, similar or better than those currently provided, with the public having to make no more than two telephone calls to access the appropriate out of hours service and that all calls would be dealt with on a clinical need basis with technology being used wherever possible to facilitate the sharing of information. He added that 60% of GP's were opting to take part in the new service.

It was clarified to members that the proposed new system would have the following elements:

- five centres
- all telephone calls would be handled initially in the centre in Londonderry
- calls would be passed to a nurse/doctor in the nearest centre with the nurse/doctor calling the patient back
- telephone advice would be given or patient asked to come to the centre nearest them
- and that patients who needed a home visit would still receive one.

Mr Gallagher confirmed to Councillor Stevenson that no firm decision had been taken as yet to close the out of hours service provided by Roedoc at Scroggy Road Health Centre.

Mr Gallagher assured Councillor Coyle of patient safety and well being while visiting the out of hours centre based at Altnagelvin and said that whilst the centre could be based in the same building as Accident & Emergency, there would be a key pad operation system for entrance and porters would patrol the area to ensure only patients coming to see out of hours staff gained entrance.

Councillor Coyle also referred to the need for additional university places in Northern Ireland and said that the high entrance criteria lead to medical students going overseas. Mr Gallagher explained that it was hoped that the number of university places would be expanded.

Alderman Robinson voiced his opposition to the proposals and said that Limavady had

already lost an invaluable service when the Roe Valley Hospital had closed. He added that elderly residents relied on the Roedoc Service and that it was important that if the proposals within the discussion paper were implemented that the frail elderly or those without transport be provided with a home visit. Mr Gallagher responded that frequently the system was abused by insisting on home visits and that under the new proposals doctors would make judgement on medical condition and social circumstances as to whether a home visit was required. He added that often a better service was provided when patients attended the medical centre.

Mr Gallagher responded to Councillor Cubitt query on GP appointments and ambulance service and said that GP's had signed up to a monitored system where patients had the right to ask for a named GP and were guaranteed an appointment within 2 working days. He further clarified that investment was planned for the ambulance service in the Limavady area.

Councillor Stevenson thanked the representatives from Western Health & Social Services Board for attending the meeting.

The Town Clerk informed members that the Western Health & Social Services Council were preparing a response to the discussion paper and had organised a public meeting, which would be held on Tuesday 31 August 2004 from 7.30 – 9 pm in the Radisson Roe Park Hotel. It was proposed by Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Donaghy that that attendance by members be considered an approved duty.

MINUTES:

Minutes of meeting dated 9 June 2004 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Dolan, seconded by Councillor Coyle.

MATTERS ARISING:

Roe Valley Leisure Centre – Art Exhibition: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer reported that the Arts and Crafts Exhibition held at Roe Valley Leisure Centre had been an outstanding success. Councillor Stevenson said that the Limavady College of Further Education was to be commended.

CHIEF RECREATION/TOURIST OFFICER'S REPORT – AUGUST (see appendix)

The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer presented his report and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Coyle subject to the following:

Burnfoot Playing Fields: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer informed members that Burnfoot Community Development Association had received permission from the Sports Council Northern Ireland Lottery Fund to proceed with the upgrade of the

existing grass training area to an all weather training area with floodlights. He added that the contract had been awarded to C A Haffey & Son at an agreed price of £32,769 and that Council's contribution had been allowed for in the rates estimates.

Refurbishment of Fitness Facility – Roe Valley Leisure Centre: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer explained that agreement had been reached on resolving areas of concern with Competition Line on the refurbishment of the fitness facility at Roe Valley Leisure Centre and that the project team was waiting on a revised contract, which would be forwarded to Council's solicitor.

GP Referral Scheme: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer outlined to members that the Health Promotion Department of Foyle HSS had contacted Council with a view to commencing a GP Referral Scheme in the Limavady area as a 12 month pilot scheme, whereby patients would be referred to the centre via Practice Nurses or GP and a full assessment would be carried out by a fitness instructor prior to a 12 week exercise programme, with advice and guidance given throughout this period to the patient.

The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer advised members that £3,000 had been allocated to the Limavady scheme by the Health Promotion Unit towards funding patients during the 12 weeks programme, with the patients being expected to pay the full admission fee to Roe Valley Leisure there after. He added that when the £3,000 was spend, Council would be expected to provide an incentive for further referrals and that this could be a reduced or free admission to the gym. Following the success from similar scheme in Fermanagh, the Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer recommended Council implement the scheme from September 2004 on a trial basis. Agreed.

Benone/Rossnowlagh Beach Management Project: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer reported that as part of the beach management project, five beach wardens had been appointed in early July at no cost to Council. He added that the wardens had an enforcement role in providing guidance on where to park and enforcing the dog free zone and Council bye laws and that feedback on the wardens presence had been positive.

Members referred to the quality of the toilets at Benone and said that whilst staff tried to keep the toilets as clean as possible, this was not helped by the general condition of the building and the public misusing the facility. The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer agreed to look at the toilet facilities at Benone in the end of year review.

Backburn Park to Scroggy Road Public Path Order: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer advised members that the public inquiry into the making by Council of the Public Path Division Order for a section of path between Backburn Park and Scroggy Road would commence at 10 am on the 26 and 27 August at Roe Valley Leisure Centre and that all parties who had made written submissions would have the opportunity to speak at the inquiry.

Lough Foyle Car Ferry: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer reported that Minister

Spellar had responded to Council's request for concessionary fares for senior citizens on the Lough Foyle Car Ferry on the basis that currently only bus and railway services attracted concessionary fares and that whilst this would be reviewed in the summer of 2005, it was the Minister's view that Concessionary Fares Scheme should not be extended beyond its current scope.

The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer reported that as a follow up to his letter to Minister Spellar, correspondence had been received from the Pension Service Office, Department of Social & Family Affairs, Sligo, with an application form to join the Department of Social and Family Affairs Free Travel Cross Border Scheme. He added that this matter was being investigated and members would be updated of progress at a later date.

After further debate, Councillor Brown proposed, seconded by Alderman Carten that Council provide free ferry fares to widows, the blind and war disabled. The proposal being put to the meeting was declared lost, with 2 voting for, 3 against and 3 abstentions.

Security, Magilligan/Greencastle Ferry – The Aviation & Maritime Security Act 1990: Members noted that the Town Clerk wrote to Mr Paul Murphy, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on September 2003 seeking derogation from the security requirements of the Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990 and that this matter had been referred in turn to the Department of Transport in London. As no response had been received to the original request and to a number of reminders, the Town Clerk had again written to the Department of Transport in July to ascertain why no answer was forthcoming. Councillor Brown proposed, seconded by Alderman Robinson that the Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer write to Mr Gregory Campbell MP, requesting that the matter be taken up at the appropriate level in Westminster and this was unanimously agreed.

Publication of the History of Orangeism in Limavady District 1799 – 2004: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer reported that an application had been received for the publication of a book on Orangeism and that this would aid in the promotion and understanding of the Orange cultural traditions. He added that Council had considered a similar request from Feeny AOH Division 1076 and had agreed a contribution of £300. The Committee agreed to make a similar donation in this instance.

Where do we see Ourselves: It was noted by members that a Conference addressing the travelling community would take place in the Radisson SAS Roe Park Hotel on Monday 11 October 2004 commencing at 10 am.

Limavady Volunteer Bureau: It was agreed that a contribution of £3,500 be made towards the work carried out by Limavady Volunteer Bureau.

Community Services Policy/New Community Associations: It was agreed by members to approve the seeding grant for The Close Community Association, Collessan

Community Association and Josephine Area Community Association subject to all necessary documentation being provided.

Aghanloo Community Association/Gortnaghey Community Association: Members approved the applications made by Aghanloo and Gortnaghey Community Associations for grant aid under Category 6(c) Groups with Premises for recurrent expenditure on accounts for the amount of £4,000 and £2,000 respectively.

Bullock Lane/Roeville Terrace: Councillor Brown declared an interest in the matter and took no part in the discussion. The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer confirmed that Council had received correspondence from Limavady Cricket and Rugby Football Club's solicitor confirming that the Club did not consider the provision of additional ramps necessary and would not agree to the erection of gates along the laneway. It was agreed that in an attempt to progress this matter, Council erect additional ramps at strategic points along the section of Bullock Lane in its ownership and appropriate warning signs.

Trading Franchises at Benone Beach: Councillor Brown declared an interest in the matter and took no part in the discussion. The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer reported that Mr James Turtle had requested a refund of monies paid for the franchises at Benone Beach and complex car park, given that Council had been unable to prevent four other ice cream vendors from trading at Benone Beach. The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer explained that whilst Council's solicitor had written to the vendors on breach of bye laws, a difference of opinion existed regarding the area covered by Council and Council's solicitors were seeking clarification on issues thereon.

Councillor Donaghy left the meeting at 10.20 pm.

The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer's amended recommendation to take no further action on this matter until Council had heard further from its solicitor was accepted.

It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Coyle to adopt the Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer report, as amended.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Toilet Facilities at Spinning Wheel Café: Following a request by Councillor Cubitt that the toilets facilities at Spinning Wheel Café be kept open until the restaurant closed, the Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer agreed to take this matter up with the management of the country park.

Danny Boy International Festival: It was agreed by members to accept a recommendation from the Danny Boy International Festival Sub Committee that Mr Chris Waring, CW Events Management, be appointed to advise on the organisation and delivery of this festival in 2005 for the fee of £5,000.

Halloween Fireworks Event: The expenditure for the Halloween Fireworks Event was approved on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Alderman Robinson.

Disabled Jetty: The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer informed members that a meeting had taken place with the Department of Rural Development, where it had been agreed that the disabled jetty at Burnfoot be adapted to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act Part III and that this work would commence over the next year.

Parking - Country Park: Councillor Douglas suggested that in an attempt to ease traffic congestion from those parking on the left hand side of the road at the bridge at Roe Valley Country Park, yellow lines be inserted for approximately 50 metres. The Chief Recreation & Tourist Officer agreed to consult the PSNI and Roads Service on this issue.

NEXT MEETING:

8 September 2004

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS

(The meeting ended at 11.05 pm)