

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
11 OCTOBER 2011**

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 (Chair), J Rankin and G Robinson. Councillors O Beattie, A Brolly, B Chivers, B Douglas, T McCaul, J McCorkell, S McGlinchey, C McLaughlin, G Mullan and D Nicholl.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Culture Arts & Tourism Manager and the Development Services Manager.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors A Robinson, E Stevenson and the Director of Development.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 13 September 2011 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Mullan, seconded by Councillor Beattie.

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 2 - Dromore Lane: Members were advised that the meeting with the landowner regarding access to Dromore Lane was being rearranged. Several members indicated that they had visited the lane and that it was not suitable for use by car. It was agreed that no decision would be taken on use of the lane until after the meeting had taken place.

Page 2 - Restoration of Two Paintings: The Culture Arts & Tourism Manager advised that funding options were continuing to be explored for the restoration of the two paintings currently in storage. She invited members to view photographs of the paintings which showed the extent to the damage to them.

PRESENTATION BY AIVC:

The Chair welcomed Mr Damian Corr and Mrs Mary McNicholl to the meeting.

Mr Corr explained that the Association of Independent Volunteer Centres was a formal grouping designed to protect the interests of a people centred approach to volunteering. He said AIVC was born out of frustration at the almost forced approach to joining a centralised delivery body under the name of Volunteer Now. He added that AIVC was a strategically placed and passionate group of Volunteer Centres that are keen to retain their own independence and ensure that local organisations facilitate local solutions to local needs.

Mrs McNicholl gave an overview of Limavady Volunteer Centre and the services that were carried out by the group. She said that without the Volunteer Centre the services carried out by the 500 volunteers would disappear and that the loss in economic terms would be in excess of £1.5 million to the local community, which included community groups, playgroups, lunch clubs and clubs that cater for the disabled, music, drama, dance & sport. She added that without Volunteer Centres there would be no face to face contact with volunteers and this would have the highest impact on the most excluded groups, which included the unemployed, long term sick and older people.

Mrs McNicholl requested that Council support AIVC in the following way:

- ✓ lobby the Government to maintain local services for volunteers through a network of volunteer centres
- ✓ create an Ambassador for volunteering within Limavady Council Area
- ✓ raise awareness for volunteering and the support provided by Limavady Volunteer Centre, eg placements, training, real experience.
- ✓ help publicise the volunteer centre, its initiatives and opportunities
- ✓ create a link to Limavady Volunteer Centre on Council website
- ✓ lobby various governmental departments on prevalent 'volunteer issues' which cover health, education, employment, learning and tourism
- ✓ Council staff to show a good example by engaging in employer supported volunteering and offering a range of volunteering opportunities.

In the discussion which followed it was highlighted that Council was already supportive to the work of the Volunteer Centre which was commendable. It was felt that the volunteering should be promoted through the schools as this would give youths a sense of civic pride and awareness in the local community.

A member suggested that the task force set up to brighten up Limavady contact the Volunteer Centre to get help in tidying up of the town.

The Chair thanked Mr Corr and Mrs McNicholl for their excellent presentation before they left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

Councillor McGlinchey proposed, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin that Council agree in principle to the support requested by AIVC. Agreed.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT – OCTOBER 2011:

The Culture Arts & Tourism Manager presented the Development Report for October 2011 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within the report were approved on the proposal of Councillor Douglas, seconded by Alderman Rankin subject to the following:

Benone Tourist Complex Scale of Charges 2012: The Culture Arts & Tourism Manager provided an overview of proposed scale of charges for Benone Tourist Complex effective from 1 January 2012. These included the introduction of a 'Crazy Wednesday' special rate for the Golf Course, reducing spectator cost for the activity area and the introduction of group bookings for school and preschool children.

A member suggested that discs outlining the distance to each of the holes on the course were needed. He also queried if the daily rate for use of the golf course would be lowered outside of the summer months. The proposed charges were approved by members.

Caravan Club Request 2012: Council approved the request from Caravan Club (Ulster centre) to use the non electric site and facilities at Benone Tourist Centre from 12 to 14 October 2011 at a cost of £700.

Irish Power Kite & Sandyacht Association Events: It was agreed that the Irish Power Kite & Sandyachting Association would hold events at Benone Beach on 26 & 27 November 2011, 18 & 19 February 2012 and 26 & 27 May 2012 subject to provision of appropriate insurance cover and risk assessment by IPKSA.

Economic Development – Funding Options: The Development Services Manager circulated a report on funding options for allocation of approximately £39,725 in the year 2011/12 towards the following:

- ◆ Open call for Projects: It was recommended that £20,000 be made available for an open call for grant assistance for economic development based projects. This would allow five applicants to avail of £4,000 each, based on an open, and scored call for applications. Agreed.
- ◆ Centre for Competitiveness: It was recommended that £6,000 would be made available for six companies to participate in a pilot project on increasing competitiveness around customer service within local tourism and food industries. It was also recommended that the small scale project for developing energy efficiency in homes and businesses in the Borough would be progressed via a workshop bringing together local tradesmen and the private and public sector. Agreed.
- ◆ Cost Reduction Programme: It was recommended that £6,000 would be made available towards a short programme whereby three to four businesses to avail of a short programme to improve business processes and enable them to aim for improved efficiency and business excellence. Agreed.
- ◆ Part-time Resource: It was recommended that £7,600 would be made available for part time resource up to 20 hours per week to be run initially from November 2011 to end March 2012 at SO1 scale to assist with funding or assistance for small businesses in the Borough. Agreed.

CONSULTATIONS:

The suggested response to the following consultations were approved by members:

- a) Review of and Consultation on the Identification of Bathing Waters in Northern Ireland 2011 – submission date 4 November 2011
- b) Enabling Legislation for National Parks – submission date 11 October 2011.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- A member highlighted that a number of complaints had been received on youths gaining access to the 3G pitch and the potential for damage to the goal posts. It was suggested that the fence next to the hospital should be raised. It

was confirmed that the pitch had not been officially handed over to Council by the Contractor and that the security cameras had not been activated.

- It was suggested that if elected members or members of the public obtained the registration number of those bringing quad bikes or scramblers on to the beach that it should be passed on to officers.
- It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mullan, seconded by Councillor McCorkell, that 2 residents from Bovally would be granted speaking rights at the 8 November 2011 Development Services meeting to discuss provision of a green field site or other facility for recreational and leisure use at Bovally.

NEXT MEETING – 8 November 2011.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 8.25 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting