

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

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

12 AUGUST 2014

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:

Aldermen J Rankin (Chair), M Coyle and A Robinson. Councillors O Beattie, B Chivers, B Douglas, G Mullan, T McCaul, J McCorkell, S McGlinchey, E Scott and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Development and the Committee Clerk.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors A Brolly, R Donaghey & D Nicholl and the Chief Executive.

PRESENTATION BY SOMME ASSOCIATION:

The Chair welcomed Mr Charlie Bennett, Somme Association Secretary and Fundraising Chairman to the meeting.

Mr Bennett explained that the Somme Association was established in 1990 with the aim to co-ordinating research into Ireland's part in WW1 thereby providing a basis for the two traditions in Northern Ireland to come together to learn of their common heritage. He said that this research today plays a significant role in educating the public and commemorating on a cross-community basis the role played by Irishmen in WW1 and that by collecting, recording and displaying of relevant materials from the past or present, would give a mutual understanding of the experiences of the men/woman who lived, served, fought and died in past and modern conflicts.

Mr Bennett outlined that in 2004 the Association had purchased Thiepval Wood with the help of DCAL, which is facing the Ulster Memorial Tower from where the 36th Ulster Division charged on 1st July 1916. He said that the Association aimed to keep the Wood as a memorial to the soldiers still resting there, however to mark to 90th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, a small part of the Wood had been opened for guided tours.

Mr Bennett requested Council to join with the Association to support the events marking the centenaries of WW1. He said that over that next 6 year a number of events were planned and that support was needed to ensure a fitting tribute would be paid to the gallantry and sacrifice of the fifty thousand men from all parts of Ireland who died in WW1. He added that support would take the form of sponsoring an event in Limavady Borough, providing the use of facilities or by making a donation towards the appeal.

In the discussion which followed, it was highlighted that everyone should visit the Somme as it was a humbling experience and that education was important in highlighting the history of the past. All political parties within the chamber were supportive to the work of the Somme Association.

Ms Bennett thanked members for allowing the Somme Association to present to Council.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 17 June 2014 were approved on the proposal of Alderman M Coyle, seconded by Councillor B Chivers.

MATTERS ARISING:

Open Space Bovally: The Director of Development agreed to contract members in due course with regard to a meeting with the Limavady Town Councillors, the developer and Bovally residents on provision of a play space for local residents.

Erosion Magilligan Point: The Director of Development advised that a meeting had taken place with the various stakeholders regarding erosion at Magilligan Point and the type of work that needed to be carried out had been identified. She said that discussions would also take place with Defence Estates and NIEA.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT ~ AUGUST 2014:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for month of August 2014 and enlarged thereon. The report was approved on the proposal of Councillor G Mullan, seconded by Councillor G McGlinchey subject to the following:

Limavady Rotary Club Tree of Remembrance: *Alderman J Rankin declared an interest and took no part in the topic under discussion.* It was agreed that Council would grant permission to Limavady Rotary Club to use Drumceatt Square & Christmas Tree for their fund raising venture in 2014 subject to meeting the necessary health and safety requirements and providing an advance event plan of proposed activities.

Handrails on Retractable Seating: It was agreed that subject to the new design concept meeting all requirements, that Council approve the purchase and installation of handrails to the centre aisle section of seating in the Danny Boy Auditorium at a cost of £6,000.

Request for Banners at Drumceatt Square: The Director of Development advised that Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre were increasingly receiving requests to erect banners on the handrails in Drumceatt Square and on the wall of the building for publicising local events or charities. She said this was not designed as a poster/banner site and to permit the erection of such advertising material had the potential of creating a messy exterior image to the centre, plus there were also insurance implications associated with such practices. It was agreed that Council would not permit the erection of any banners advertising material within Drumceatt Square or on the external fabric of the building, however, requests to erect banners on other council sites would be considered on merit.

Additional Events for Christmas 2014: It was agreed that if funding from DSD was not realised that £1,000 not awarded in the grants programme would be used to provide additional events to attract shoppers to Limavady and Dungiven each Saturday in the run up to Christmas 2014.

Correspondence from “Destined”: The Director of Development reported that members of the Destined Centre in Feeny had produced a bespoke piece of art work in the form of a large tile mosaic picture and that they would like to donate to Limavady Borough Council with the hope that it would be displayed at the entrance to Feeny and therefore be enjoyed by as many people as possible.

Members discussed the request and it was suggested that Council provide help and advice on location for the art piece. It was also suggested that there would be difficulties in securing planning approval and that the art piece should be weatherproofed. Alternative locations suggested included Council’s open space or the newly created village square in Feeny.

Unity Bridge Project: *Alderman J Rankin and Alderman M Coyle declared an interest and took no part in the topic under discussion.* The Director of Development informed members that the Unity Bridge Project had been successful in securing funding of £349,243 from the Space and Place Fund. She reminded members that Council had committed a financial contribution of £10,000 towards the costs and said that should this not be required in the current financial year, the responsibility and commitment would pass to Causeway Coast and Glens Council. It was agreed that as the total project cost was estimated to be £359,423 (in excess of £250,000) it should be presented to Causeway Coast and Glens Shadow Council for approval.

Proposed Coastal Masterplan 2014: Council confirmed its support in principle towards the proposed Coastal Masterplan and to a financial contribution of £5,000, subject to strategic fit with the forthcoming tourism strategy for the CC&G area.

Tourism Development Scheme Update: The Director of Development explained that the Design Team (The Boyd Partnership) had been appointed to take Phase 1 of the Benone upgrade forward. She reminded members that Council was successful in securing funding of £141,545 from NITB towards an overall estimated cost of £373,065 and that the PQQ stage for select list of contractors had been successfully concluded, with six contractors being shortlisted to Invitation to Tender stage (ITT). She added that the Design Team had worked through the various elements of the project in conjunction with Council Officers and the current indicative costs suggest that the project could cost a further £75,000 - £80,000. It was noted that Officers would continue to work with the Design Team to seek ways to reducing this deficit prior to tendering the contract and it might also be possible to reallocate from savings within other Capital Projects to meet the additional costs. It was agreed that Council would proceed with the ITT stage of the process.

Health Suite Refurbishment: Council approved the preferred consultants WM Given for the refurbishment of Roe Valley Health Suite at a cost of £14,000.

Letter from Stendhal Festival Ltd Seeking Additional Funding: A copy of a letter from Stendhal Festival requesting additional funding of £5,000 was circulated to members.

Members discussed the request for funding and the following points were made:

- ✓ The festival was now over and it had attracted large crowds. It was queried if the funds were still needed.
- ✓ Council should be given a breakdown of the festival accounts

Councillor E Stevenson proposed, seconded by Councillor E Scott that as this appeared to be the most successful Stendhal Festival to date, that no additional funding would be provided. It was also agreed that the festival organisers would be congratulated on the festival programme and to how it was publicised.

NI Assembly Committee for Culture, Arts & Leisure Inquiry into Inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Committees: Council adopted the proposed response to the above inquiry.

Items for Information were noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Events at Benone Strand: It was agreed that the Irish Power Kite & Sandyachting Association could use Benone Beach for a training and introduction to wind sports event on 6 and 7 September 2014 subject to pre event meeting with Council staff.

Council also approved the request from Ulster Provincial Council to hold the Ulster Open Championship at Benone Strand on 14 September 2014 subject to evidence of appropriate insurance and a pre event meeting with Council staff.

Ministerial Meeting: The Director of Development advised that members were invited to attend a meeting with DRD Minister Danny Kennedy with regard to air quality in Dungiven on 28 August 2014 at 2 pm in Clarence Court. Alderman Coyle, Councillor McGlinchey and Councillor A Brolly were nominated to attend.

Finvola Park: A member requested that shrubs trees and some minor items of equipment be provided for an area of council owned land at Finvola Park.

Drumceatt Square: A member indicated that she had received a complaint about offensive music being played at Drumceatt Square during the twelfth of July celebrations. Several members rebutted this complaint.

Bonfires/Funding: Reference was made to election posters & tyres on bonfires and it was queried if funding should be pulled from the organisations concerned. The Director of Development agreed to pass on thanks to Officers who made every effort to ensure that the posters were removed from the bonfire at Edenmore Road. It was stressed that elected members should use their influence to make sure that the festival was a family fun event and for residents not to be offended or feel intimidated in their own home.

It was suggested that the DoE who were responsible for enforcement be made aware that tyres were being burned on bonfires.

Countryside Festival: The Director of Development advised that tickets for the Countryside Festival had been made available for members. It was suggested that the new Code of Conduct would be checked to see if members could avail of the tickets.

NEXT MEETING – 9 September 2014.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 8.40 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting