

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**12 SEPTEMBER 2006**

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 G Mullan, G Robinson and J Rankin, Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, B Chivers, M Coyle, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, J F McElhinney, C Ó hOisín, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk and the Director of Development.

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Carten.

**PRESENTATION BY ULSTER SCOTS ASSOCIATION:**

The chair welcomed Mr Derek Reaney and Mr George Patton, Ulster Scots Agency to the meeting.

Mr Patton explained that the aim of the Ulster-Scots Agency was to promote the study, conservation, development and use of Ulster-Scots as a living language, to encourage and develop the full range of its attendant culture; and to promote an understanding of the history of the Ulster-Scots. He said the Agency or Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch as its known in Ullans was part of the North/South Language Body, one of six new cross-border bodies born out of the Good Friday Agreement and that the body had two agencies, the Ulster Scots Agency and Foras na Gaeilge, who were responsible for the development of the Irish (Gaelic) language.

Mr Patton outlined that the Agency was jointly funded by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure in Northern Ireland and the Department of Community, rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in the Republic of Ireland and that its main office was based in Belfast, with a second in east Donegal.

Mr Patton informed members that the Agency had four themes:

1. Linguistic – promote the use of Ulster Scots language;
2. Culture – promotion of traditional music and dance;
3. Education – promotion of language through Ulster Scots website, schools and colleges;
4. Public Awareness – printing of literature regarding the language and Ulster Scots culture.

Mr Reaney and Mr Patton answered a number of queries relating to budget allocation, the culture of the Ulster Scots, use of the language locally and the perception that the Agency was exclusive to the protestant faith.

In conclusion members welcomed the work by the Ulster Scots Agency to promoting the minority language and said the presentation had been very informative.

The Chair thanked Mr Patton and Mr Reaney for attending the meeting.

#### **ELECTION OF CHAIR:**

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Coyle that Alderman Rankin would chair the Development Committee for the year 2006/07.

#### **MINUTES:**

The minutes of Development Committee meeting held 8 August 2006 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor McElhinney.

**MATTERS ARISING** – None.

#### **DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2006:**

The Director of Development presented the Development Report and enlarged thereon. The recommendations were agreed and the report adopted on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Butcher subject to the following:

**Causeway Museum Service:** The Acquisition & Disposal Policy for Greenlane Museum was agreed.

**Review of the Rural Development Programme:** The Director of Development informed members that consultation on the new Rural Development Programme for the period 2007 – 2013 was well underway. She said that new programme would include measures to improve competitiveness in agriculture and forestry, improvements to the environment & countryside through land management, improvements to quality of life through diversification of economic activity and a locally based partnership approach similar to EU's LEADER initiatives. It was agreed that Council would work closely with Roe Valley Rural Development in taking forward proposals to form a partnership which would meet the requirements of the new Rural Development Programme.

**Benone Beach – Review of the 2006 Season:** The Director of Development advised that a review of Benone Beach seasons operations for 2006 would be undertaken and proposed that this be cross departmental basis, with input from elected members. It was agreed that Councillor Butcher, Councillor Ó hOisín, Alderman Mullan, Alderman Rankin and Councillor Cubitt would take part in the process.

**Economic Development Strategy:** It was agreed that Councillor Coyle, Councillor Butcher, Councillor Cubitt and Alderman Rankin would take share their views with officers on Economic Development Strategy for the period 2007-09.

**UEFA Mini Pitch Development:** It was agreed that officers would draft a report on preferred location for the installation of UEFA mini-patch.

**NI Vintage Ploughing Association:** The Director of Development reported that the NI Ireland Vintage Ploughing Association had requested financial assistance of £500 towards the Vintage Ploughing Championships. It was agreed that £250 would be offered with a further £250 given if there was a deficit balance. It was also agreed that staff from tourism would attend and distribute tourism literature.

**Good Relations Grant Aid Policy:** The proposed Good Relations Grant Aid Policy was adopted by Council and it was agreed that this would be reviewed during the 2007/08 financial year.

**Excellence in Local Government Awards:** It was agreed that the Mayor and one officer would attend the Excellence in Local Government Awards to be held on 9 November 2006 in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin.

**Halloween Celebrations:** It was agreed that JB Pyro would be asked to co-ordinate the Halloween display at a maximum cost of £2,500.

**Coiste na Gaeilge:** The minutes of Coiste na Gaeilge meeting dated 7 September 2006 were approved. Members queried the recommendation that Council would seek 50% funding from Foras na Gaeilge towards the appointment of an Irish Language Officer for a three year period. It was agreed that additional information regarding the post, actual costs, other sources of funding and opening and closing dates for application would be brought back to Council before the next Development meeting.

**Quay Vipers:** The request by Quay Vipers to erect an arch at Benone Beach was agreed subject to demonstration of a competent contractor being commissioned, appropriate insurance in place and generators being supplied in respect of lighting requirements.

**Good Relations:** The Director of Development informed members that the new Good Relations Officer continued to publicise, including press releases and had been visiting individual community groups throughout the Borough to introduce the person and the post. She said that additionally, a low-cost postcard publicity campaign will be undertaken over the next few weeks based on a "Have You Got The Message?" theme and that these would be distributed around the Borough via post and key locations to boost the profile of Good Relations in Limavady.

Members noted that this years Good Relations Conference, organised by the Northern Community Relations Officer Forum would take place in Radisson Roe Park on 25 October and that workshops on accessing funding and developing Good Relations projects would be featured. Members requested additional information and feedback on the proposed networking events and suggested that interpreters would be needed.

**Neighbourhood Renewal:** The Director of Development reported that staff from within Development Services had been leading the development of a Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy for the Coolessan/Glens/Josephine Way area and that Limavady

would receive around £90,000 per annum from the Department of Social Development for Neighbourhood Renewal.

At the request of Councillor Cubitt, the Director of Development agreed to investigate whether any money would be made available to Sperrin Road.

#### **COURSES & CONFERENCES:**

It was agreed that the following members/officers would attend the conferences/courses listed:

- *Councillor Butcher and 1 officer to attend the Excellence in Tourism & Hospitality Industry on 18 & 19 October 2006 in Canal Court, Newry at a total cost of £275;*
- *Officer attendance at Leisure Industry Week to be held 26 & 28 September 2006 in NEC, Birmingham – no fee;*
- *Officer attendance at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Ireland Economic Conference 2006 on 4 October 2006 in Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick at a cost of £255+VAT.*

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Local Democracy Week:** At the request of Councillor Butcher, the Director of Development agreed to investigate how Council could support Local Democracy Week on 16 – 20 October 2006.

**Corporate Northern Ireland:** It was agreed that the Borough would be promoted as a place to work and live in a two page promotional spread within the magazine ‘Corporate Northern Ireland’ at a cost of £6,000, of which 50% would be recovered through DETI.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

10 October 2006

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 8.30 pm)**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chair of Meeting**