

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
12 DECEMBER 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 (chair), Councillors P Butcher, M Carten, B Chivers, M Coyle, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, J F Ecelhinney, C Ó hOisín and A Robinson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and the Director of Development.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors A Brolly and E Stevenson.

PRESENTATION BY CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS TOURISM PARTNERSHIP:

The chair welcomed Mr Don Wilmont, Manager of Causeway Coast & Glens to the meeting.

Mr Wilmont explained that the Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Partnership, launched in July 1999 had 24 board members, 12 from the public sector and 12 from the private sector and that John O'Carroll - Radisson Roe Park Hotel had recently been nominated onto the Board. He said in the year 2005/06 the group had 429 members, ranging from visitor attractions, activities (cycling, walking, and golf), travel, tour guides, retailers, pubs and restaurants.

Mr Wilmont outlined that the vision of the partnership was to maximise tourism impact in terms of the economy in the Causeway Coast and Glens region through marketing, development and visitor servicing activity, either directly or in a co-ordination or partnership role while giving due regard to the need for sustainability. He said that funding for the partnership came from NITB, local authorities, membership fees, participation by members in marketing & promotional activities, external funding such as Interreg 3A and that advertising, PR and promotional material were key in the group's marketing plan. He added that the key focus for 2006/07 was the Causeway Coastal Route and that this was promoted through web advertising, direct mail, trade and consumer platforms.

Mr Wilmont stated that the way ahead for the partnership was to maximise benefits to the region from NITB strategy, from Tourism Ireland, to continue to provide a strong voice for the industry and to further strengthen the existing partnership between the public and private sectors. He said factors impacting in 2007 would be Causeway Coast and Glens signature project within the strategic framework of NITB

Strategy, DETI Masterplan, resources and the increase in competitiveness within the market place.

Mr Wilmont answered a number of queries in relation to funding, development of the western seaboard and to the possibility of promoting the 'Danny Boy' theme via the internet. Members welcomed that local hotels had a record number of reservations during the year.

The chair thanked Mr Wilmont for the informative presentation.

MINUTES:

The minutes of Development Committee meeting held 14 November 2006 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Donaghy, seconded by Councillor Carten subject to the following:

Page 3 - Economic Development Plan: Councillor Chivers requested that the minute be amended to reflect comments made by Councillor Cubitt regarding unmarried mothers. Agreed.

Page 4/5 – Oakleaf Rural Community Network: Councillor Douglas felt that the minute did not accurately reflect his proposed amendment to the recommendation regarding funding towards Oakleaf Rural Community Network, which was essentially to meet any deficit up to the £2K requested.

Members were reminded that whilst members could ask for amendments, the purpose of the minutes was to accurately record decisions of Council rather than specific comments made by individual members.

MATTERS ARISING:

The following matters arising were noted:

- The cost for hire of marquee, included staff costs, connection of services and security during the Danny Boy Festival was in the region of £7,500.
- It was agreed that each party would collate a list of questions/issues to be addressed by Environment & Heritage Service.

MINUTES OF DANNY BOY SUB COMMITTEE:

The minutes of Danny Boy Sub Committee dated 6 November 06 were tabled and noted.

MINUTES OF CORPORATE GIFTS SUB COMMITTEE:

The minutes of Corporate Gifts Sub Committee dated 4 December 2006 were tabled and noted.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – DECEMBER 2006:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within were agreed and the report adopted on the

proposal of Councillor Carten, seconded by Alderman Robinson subject to the following:

Disposal of Shackleton Barracks: The Director of Development sought direction from Council on the way forward following the tour of the facilities at Shackleton Barracks on 21 November 2006. She outlined criteria for transfer of facilities and said that the areas of interest to Council which could be explored were recreational facilities, community centre and possible location for a waste transfer station.

Councillor Coyle voiced regret at being unavailable to attend the scheduled tour and said the site had potential for all sectors. He proposed that a detailed meeting be held on site to reassess the facilities and that officers enter into further discussion with Defence Estates in relation to the areas outlined. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Cubitt and agreed.

Gaelic Games Development Officer: The Director of Development outlined that Derry County Board had expressed interest in appointing a Games Development Officer to promote participation in Gaelic sports. She said the 2 year post would involve development work within local clubs and schools and also deliver holiday schemes in association with the Council's Sports Development Officer. She added that the County Board would appoint and cover the cost of a Placement Student for each year of the programme as well as making a contribution towards the costs of the Gaelic Games Development Officer.

An in-depth discussion took place regarding the role of the Gaelic Games Development Officer and to the possibility of Council setting a precedent for similar requests. It was suggested that Gaelic sport be promoted by the Sports Development Officer however, given the number of Gaelic clubs in the Borough and workload of the Sports Development Officer, members acknowledged this was not a possibility.

Councillor Ó hOisín proposed that Council match fund 50% of the salary and mileage costs associated with the post of Gaelic Games Development Officer for a two year period and that Council be the employing authority. This was seconded by Councillor Coyle and on being put to the meeting was declared carried with 8 voting for and 2 abstentions.

At the request of Councillor Cubitt, the Director of Development agreed to negotiate additional costs in relation to recruitment and selection on a 50/50 basis with the County Board.

Cricket Development Officer: The Director of Development reported that the Northern Ireland Cricket Association had secured funding for a part time Cricket Development Officer but there was a wish to extend this to full time and Strabane, Derry and Limavady Councils had been approached with a view to entering into a partnership by contribution £4,000 per annum towards the cost of extending the post to full time for a 2 year period.

It was agreed that Council would provide funding for the Cricket Development Officer and that discussion be held with the Northern Ireland Cricket Association and all three Councils on a more rounded proposal.

Requests for Financial Assistance: Members noted that the following twelve applications had been received and assessed using the criteria agreed under Council's Good Relation grant aid policy, however due to restricted funding, not all applications had received funded.

<i>Bovalley Community Association</i>	<i>£2,000.00</i>
<i>Hands That Talk</i>	<i>£668.20</i>
<i>Dry Arch Centre for Families</i>	<i>£2,000.00</i>
<i>Glenshane Community Development</i>	<i>£2,000.00</i>
<i>Dungiven Community Association</i>	<i>£1,460.00</i>
<i>Drumboughil Community Association</i>	<i>£1,405.00</i>
<i>North West Tongues, Tones & Tappin</i>	<i>£2,000.00</i>
<i>Dungiven Community Hall</i>	<i>£2,000.00</i>
<i>Largy Community Association</i>	<i>£700.00</i>
<i>Roe Valley Rural Transport</i>	<i>Nil</i>
<i>Faughanvale Parents Association</i>	<i>Nil</i>
<i>Limavady Ulster Scots Group</i>	<i>Nil</i>

Concern was expressed at the level of funding allocated to the Dungiven area and if all groups had received the same advice on completing applications. The Director of Development suggested that a panel be set up to assess future applications and that this should include representatives from each party. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the January 2007 Development Committee meeting.

Community Services Grants: It was agreed that a grant of £24,000 be allocated to Limavady Community Development Initiative towards the operating costs of the Advice Services Unit for 2006/07. It was also agreed that a grant of £3,500 be awarded to Limavady Volunteer Bureau for 2006/07.

Request for Free use of Roe Valley Leisure Centre: Retrospective approval was agreed for Jo Jingles (2 ½ hour disco – cost £68) and Kyle Moore (1 ½ hour charity football match – cost £34) to have free use of the minor hall at Roe Valley Leisure Centre to fundraise for Children in Need.

The Director of Development agreed to investigate reduced membership to the Leisure Centre for those on benefits and if local companies had corporate membership for use of the gym.

Limavady Wolfhounds: Members considered the request for financial assistance received from Limavady Wolfhounds to help offset costs of sending two teams to Dubai in January 2007 to compete in 7 a side GAA tournament. After deliberation and advice from the Director of Development, it was agreed that if funding was made available this would open the floodgates for other clubs and organisations who wished to compete in competitions outside Northern Ireland. Noted.

COURSES & CONFERENCES:

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

- *Councillor Butcher to attend the Colmcille Winter School 2007 conference on 23- 25 February 2007 in Heritage Centre, Letterkenny at a cost of €190.*

- *Councillor Carten to attend the Antrim Tourism Conference on 2 & 3 February 2007 in Dunadry Hotel & Country Club at a cost of £170.*
- *One Officer to attend the Sustainable Tourism Workshop on 11 January 2007 in Comfort Hotel, Portrush. No cost.*
- *One Officer to attend the Activity Tourism – A Practical Approach conference on 7 February 2007 in Stranmillis University College at a cost of £100.*

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Use of Council Car Park: It was agreed that Council car park would be opened from 8.30 am to 6.30 pm for use by the public on the two Saturdays before and the first Saturday after Christmas and that suitable notices regarding car park use would be displayed.

Traffic Enforcement: Members were sympathetic to the owner of Spinning Wheel restaurant who had been issued with a parking fine during the course of his daily business and suggested that he contract Roads Service regarding a solution to loading and parking of his vehicle during business hours.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9 January 2007

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.25 pm)**

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting