

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE  
13 FEBRUARY 2007**

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), Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, M Carten, B Chivers, M Coyle, M Donaghy, B Douglas, J F McElhinney, C Ó hOisín and E Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk and the Director of Development.

**APOLOGIES:**

Alderman G Robinson and Alderman G Mullan. Councillors L Cubitt and A Robinson.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**1. *Faughanvale GAC:***

The chair welcomed Niall O’Kane, Ryan Feeny and Derek McFeely, Faughanvale GAC to the meeting.

Mr Feeny outlined that Faughanvale was an amateur/voluntary club who were focused on the hub of the local community, including youth, ladies, coaching, child protection, equality, governance and infrastructure. He said the club had drafted a Community Sports Development Plan due to having out-grown existing facilities and this included proposals for a major capital project to provide new full size pitches, training facilities, club offices and fitness rooms. He explained that the club had purchased 7.8 acres of land adjacent to the current playing facilities and that the project would be implemented on a phased basis over the next 5 – 10 years.

Mr Feeny provided an overview of sporting and community bases programmes run by the club for those aged 5 to 45, including programmes for primary schools, bereavement support, community wellbeing and social functions. He explained why the club needed the new facilities, the benefits to the wider community from these and possibilities for future growth. He also informed members that the club had successfully raised £510,000 but a shortfall of £100,000 still existed in order to complete phase 1 – 3 of the project.

Members noted the management committee structure, events held, links the club had to external organisations and work done for the disabled and those from ethnic minorities. It was also noted that the club was child centred and all committee members had undertaken POVCA and GAA certified child protection courses.

Members applauded the clubs vision; contribution to the Faughanvale/Greysteel area; fundraising efforts and how its members were encouraging social cohesion by reaching out to all sections of the community.

The representatives of Faughanvale GAC thanked Council for their support.

## **2. *Hands that Talk:***

The chair welcomed Dorothy Hegarty, Máire Scullin, Martina Bradley and James McKernin, Hands that Talk to the meeting.

Mrs Hegarty explained that 'Hands that Talk' had been formed in 2000 as a direct response to the gap in provision of services for the deaf or those with some form of hearing impairment. She said the Dungiven based group adopted a holistic approach to the problems experienced by deaf people, including employment opportunities, marginalisation, poor self-esteem and social exclusion by offering educational courses, training, recreational and social activities, seminars and an advisory service.

Mrs Hegarty outlined details of recreational activities run by Hands that Talk and said every Friday evening the centre operated a social club managed and run by deaf members, which fostered a sense of inclusion by holding discos/dances, buffet suppers and barbecues.

Mr McKernin relayed by sign and with the help of an interpreter that his life had changed through Hands that Talk as the group had provided opportunities for meeting with other deaf people, access to information in relation to drugs awareness, guidance on safety in the home and a translation service regarding benefits. He thanked Council for lease of lands to the group for its proposed new building and paid tribute to Mrs Hegarty on her work for the deaf community.

The point was put forward that the deaf community was under utilized within the work environment and that there were ways in which they could made a valuable contribution. It was suggested that there could be an opportunity for Council to work in partnership with Hands that Talk and Glenshane Community group in maintaining the Environmental Park in Dungiven. Hands that Talk also expressed an interest in working with Council and other stakeholders in the Dungiven area to develop new facilities.

In the discussion that followed, members applauded the work of Hands that Talk in promoting deaf awareness within schools and via promotional videos. The deputation from Hands that Talk thanked Council for their comments.

## **MINUTES:**

The minutes of Development Committee meeting held 9 January 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor M Coyle, seconded by Councillor C Ó hOisín.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Brighter Gold Hologram:** Members were advised that it had been decided to locate the Brighter Gold Hologram in the reception area at the bottom of the stairs and that Helen Perry of Causeway Museum Service had offered to assist with the interpretation of the display. Members noted that there would be an official launch of the display in late March or early April 2007.

**MINUTES OF DANNY BOY SUB COMMITTEE:**

The minutes of Danny Boy Sub Committee dated 15 January 2007 were tabled and noted.

**MINUTES OF IRISH LANGUAGE SUB-COMMITTEE - Coiste na Gaeilge:**

The minutes of Coiste na Gaeilge meeting held 16 January 2007 were tabled and noted.

**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2007:**

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 Coyle, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín subject to the following:

**Town Twinning Schools Exchange:** The Director of Development informed members that 23 children and 6 adults from Vigneux would be visiting the Borough between 10 – 16 March 2007 as part of the town twinning primary schools exchange programme. It was agreed that Council would host a civic reception and make a small financial contribution of £500 towards the cost of the civic reception and social activities during the visit. It was also agreed that if Councillors travelled from Vigneux, that Council would cover the cost of accommodation.

**Invitation from Westport for St Patrick’s Day Celebrations:** It was agreed that Councillor Coyle and the Culture Arts and Tourism Manager would attend the St Patrick’s Day celebrations in Westport. It was also agreed that an invitation would be extended to Westport Town Council to attend Limavady’s celebrations on the same day.

**Request for Support from Roe Valley Education Forum:** The Director of Development explained that Roe Valley Education Forum were in receipt of funding from the Woman to Work programme and that a 30 week training programme targeted at forty woman would commence in June with the objective of participants obtaining a recognised qualification.

It was agreed that Council would provide match funding as follows:

- financial contribution of £750 from the 2007/08 Economic Development budget
- an officer to deliver 1 – 2 sessions relating to Good Relations/Conflict Management and
- free use of a room at Roe Valley Leisure Centre for 6 x 4 hour sessions.

**Update from Tidy NI on the Future of Beach Awards in Northern Ireland:** The Director of Development informed members that an international jury would be assessing this years applications for Blue Flag status in April 2007 and that funding needed to be in place by 30 June 2007 to retain the provision of Blue Flag award for 2008. She said it was disappointing that EHS and the DoE had confirmed to Tidy NI that they would be unable to continue to fund the programme. In response to a query regarding water quality in neighbouring Councils, the Director of Development stated that officers would raise this and Blue Flag funding at a workshop to be held 1 March 2007.

**Request for Financial Support from Drumsurn Community Association:** (*Councillor Chivers declared an interest and took no part in the discussion*) The Director of Development outlined that Drumsurn Community Association were seeking financial assistance from Council towards the costs of getting their community building in operation and that although the Housing Executive and Probation Service had offered to provide labour, this still left the association with the task of securing £10,000 towards materials and labour.

Members noted that no allowance had been made in the budgets towards this type of expenditure and current policies did not cover this. In the meantime an audit of existing community facilities was requested by April 2007 and the Director of Development agreed to discuss with the Director of Environmental Services if Councils Technical Service staff could undertake some of the work required by the community group.

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

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

- An officer to attend the consultation event on the EU Competitiveness & Employment Programmes to be held 22 February 2007 in Antrim Civic Centre;
- Alderman Rankin, Councillor Butcher, Councillor Carten and 1 officer to attend the consultation event on PEACE III Programme to be held 12 March 2007 in Lough Neagh Discovery Centre;
- Town Centre Manager to attend the NI conference on Business Improvement Districts to be held 28 February in the Ecos Centre, Ballymoney.

#### **CONSULTATION PAPER ON PROPOSED IRISH LANGUAGE LEGISLATION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND:**

The Director of Development informed members that the above consultation document had been forwarded to Council's Coiste na Gaeilge (Irish Language Sub Committee) for response by 2 March 2007 and that the proposed response would be circulated to members at the February 2007 monthly meeting.

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

**Meeting with EHS:** Members confirmed an earlier request to meet with EHS and it was agreed that a list of issues to be raised would be provided by members at the Development Services meeting to be held 13 March 2007.

**Vale Centre Fund Raising Gala Dinner:** Members were advised of the details of the Vale Centre fundraising event and relevant costs. It was agreed that Council would offer a years membership to Roe Valley Leisure Centre as a prize for the raffle.

**Resignation from DUP:** Clarity was sought on whether Councillor Cubitt had officially resigned from the DUP and the impact this might have on Council given his role as Deputy Mayor using the d'Hondt system. It was agreed that the Chief Executive would clarify the matter at the February 2007 Monthly meeting.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

13 March 2007

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 9.20 pm)**

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