

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
13 MARCH 2007**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Personal Assistant and the Director of Development.

APOLOGIES: - Councillor A Brolly.

PRESENTATION BY ROE VALLEY RURAL DEVELOPMENT LTD:

The chair welcomed Mr Raymond Wright, Chair, Ms Toni Forrester, Vice Chair and Caitriona Orr, Project Officer, Roe Valley Rural Development Ltd to the meeting. The delegation delivered a presentation on the successful delivery of the Leader + and Rural Community Regeneration Programmes and the proposed structure for the implementation of the new Rural Development Programme. Members were advised that this would include a Joint Committee comprising Council officials and elected members to ratify decisions and the establishment of a LAG (co-terminus with the new RPA boundary) to accept and process applications. It was noted that Joint Committee would have the authority to develop a mechanism for actual local delivery below the LAG level within its 20% administration allocation. The importance of continuing to use a bottom up approach was stressed and a suggestion was made that an interest/experience in the rural community should be part of the criteria used to recruit social partners for the LAG. Members were supportive of the work of Roe Valley Rural Development Ltd and the importance of the rural community in the new Rural Development Programme and thanked the deputation for attending the meeting.

The Director of Development advised that reports from Brussels indicated that the formulation of the LAG would be via open competition. The proposal that the Joint Committee comprised of elected members and Chief Executive from each Council in the new RPA boundary was endorsed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Carten. It was noted that the number of elected members would possibly be four.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held on 13 February 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor M Coyle, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

MATTERS ARISING:

Update from Tidy NI on the Future of Beach Awards in Northern Ireland: The Director of Development referred to previous discussions regarding the fact that EHS and the DoE were unable to continue to fund the programme. She added that beach operators were being asked to contribute £2,000 each and undertook to provide a further update at the next meeting.

Request for Financial Support from Drumsurn Community Association: The Director of Development reported that the audit of existing community facilities was under way and would be presented to Council next month. She also reported that representatives from Council, NIHE and the Probation Board had met on site with members of the Community Association and that both the NIHE & Probation Board were committed to assisting the group.

Meeting with EHS: Following the request for a list of issues for discussion with EHS, the Director of Development was requested to obtain update on building works to the café. In response to a query in relation to access to public toilets, the Director of Development undertook to request if adequate signage could be displayed in relation to public toilets.

MINUTES OF DANNY BOY SUB COMMITTEE:

The minutes of Danny Boy Sub Committee meeting dated 19 February 2007 were tabled and noted.

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

The minutes of Coiste na Gaeilge meeting held 19 February and 6 March 2007 were tabled and noted.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – MARCH 2007:

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

Proposed Pricing Policy – Outdoor Facilities: Policy agreed on the proposal of Councillor Douglas, seconded by Councillor Cubitt subject to the deletion of Garvagh Road.

The Director of Development reported to Council that discussions had taken place with representatives of local teams at the end of the previous season and that advice had been sought on the level of maintenance required for pitches. She advised Council that the annual cost to maintain one sand based pitch to a satisfactory level would be approximately £5,000 (excluding labour). It was proposed to commence the pitch maintenance programme at the end of the current football season to ensure all pitches were ready for the start of the new season. It was noted that the level of maintenance would be subject to available budgets.

The Director of Development undertook to provide usage figures, usage figures, maintenance costs and income in respect of Roe Mill Tennis Courts.

Limavady Sports Council Request for Funding: Agreed that a grant of £8,000 be allocated to Limavady Sports Council.

Environmental Improvements Scheme - Limavady: The Director of Development reported that an annual budget of £1 m was available across the Derry, Strabane and Limavady Council areas towards environmental improvement schemes to improve the gateways into the towns and sought members' comments on suggested schemes. Members expressed their disappointment that funding was not available for schemes in rural areas and suggested that Linenhall Street, the piazza at new Civic Centre, a public sculpture at Glenshane Road or Artikelly roundabout and remedial works to Massey Memorial at Irish Green Street be considered. Agreed that a letter be sent to Roads Service regarding the unauthorised use of the car park at Rathmore Road for car sales.

Proposed Grant Aid Policy for Events, Festivals and Cultural Activities: Members welcomed the introduction of this policy to assist Council in the allocation of grant assistance towards the hosting of events, festivals and cultural activities. Agreed that it be implemented from 1 April 2007 and be reviewed annually.

Girl Guides Campsite, Benone: The Director of Development reminded members that the Girl Guides Association had purchased land at Benone from Council to locate a portacabin. She said the Girl Guides had indicated that they would be willing to meet 50% of the costs to provide a septic tank (estimated at £6,000) to service Council's needs and those of the Girl Guides.

The Director of Development explained that Planning Service had highlighted that Road Service had concerns with the proposed access and that EHS also had concerns in relation to the planning application. She highlighted the risks associated with the Girl Guides accessing Benone Tourist Complex behind the 9th green of the golf course and the costs associated with erecting high level fencing. It was suggested that the existing path by the beach could be cleared and offered as an alternative route. The Director of Development agreed to liaise with the Girl Guides. Councillor Butcher suggested that Council offer to buy back the land as a gesture of good faith if planning permission could not be obtained.

Review of Operations at Benone Beach: It was agreed that this item be discussed **IN COMMITTEE**. The Director of Development submitted report which reviewed the 2006 operation at Benone Beach and outlined a number of actions and recommendations for the coming season. A suggestion was made by Council that the ice cream permits be extended to include Benone Tourist Complex. Concern was expressed by a number of members at the proposed introduction of car parking charges on the beach and reference was made to the possibility of providing a car park and other facilities on other Council land at Benone. Accordingly, Councillor Ó hOisín proposed and Councillor Butcher seconded that the report be adopted with the exception of the recommendations in relation to the introduction car parking charges. The proposal on being put to the meeting was declared carried, 8 voting for, 2 against and 4 abstentions. **OUT OF COMMITTEE**.

CONSULTATION ON PEACE III AND COMPETITIVENESS & EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES:

The proposed response to the Competitiveness & Employment Programme was adopted and it was agreed that any comments on the proposed response to the Peace III Programme be forwarded to the Director of Development by the end of March.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Good Wishes: It was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent to Dr Anne Heaslett on her recent appointment as Head of Stranmillis University College.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

18 April 2007

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.15 pm)**

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting