

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
13 NOVEMBER 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 and G Robinson. Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, M Carten, B Chivers, M Coyle, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, C Ó hOisín, J F McElhinney, A Robinson (chair) and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Director of Development and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: - None.

CONDOLENCE:

The Mayor – Councillor Stevenson referred to the tragic deaths of a family of 7 from Omagh and requested that Councils condolence be extended to their immediate family, the wider Omagh community and to Chairman of Omagh District Council.

NORTH WEST 200:

The Chair welcomed Mr Mervyn Whyte, North West 200 to the meeting.

Mr Whyte explained that the North West 200 was the biggest outdoor sporting event in Ireland, generating £6 million to the NI economy and attracted in excess of 130,000 local & international spectators. He said the prize money in 2007 was £225,000 and this had engrossed a record number of new riders and generated 100,000 bed nights within the North West region.

Mr Whyte informed members that £0.8 million had been budgeted for the North West 200 in 2008 and major funders included the Kennedy Group, Coleraine Borough Council and BBC NI. He outlined that the event benefited Limavady Borough in terms of economic and tourism impact, bed nights in hotels and guest houses and provided opportunities for the Borough to be included in press trips. He requested that Council consider taking advantage of sponsorship opportunities through course branding; name & logo on safety bales; branding at specific corner locations; grandstand seating and through sponsorship awards.

In the discussion that followed. Mr Whyte answered a number of questions in relation to spectator charges, use of facilities at Shackleton Barracks for short circuit racing, marketing and safety of the event. The Chair thanked Mr Whyte for presenting to Council.

It was agreed that the request for sponsorship for North West 200 would be discussed at the December 2007 Development Committee meeting and that value for money and benefits to Council would be taken into consideration.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting held on 9 October 2007 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

MATTERS ARISING: - None

MINUTES OF DANNY BOY SUB COMMITTEE:

The minutes of Danny Boy Sub Committee dated 8 October 2007 were tabled and noted.

IRISH LANGUAGE SUB COMMITTEE – Coista na Gaeilge:

The minutes of Coista na Gaeilge Committee were tabled and noted. A number of queries arose in relation to the proposed Irish School (Nascoil) within the Borough and to the advertisement for recruitment of an Irish Language Officer.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2007:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for November 2007 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Robinson subject to the following:

Northern Ireland Milk Cup: The Director of Development informed members that the NI Milk Cup Committee had asked if Council would consider entering into a three-year agreement covering the years 2008 – 2010 and to consider increasing level of funding from £10,000 to £15,000 per year. It was agreed that funding would be increased to £12,500 in 2008, £14,000 in 2009 and £15,000 in 2010.

Purchase of Replacement Sauna for Roe Valley Leisure Centre: It was agreed that the tender submitted for replacement of Sauna at Roe Valley Leisure Centre by Oak Creative Water in the sum of £9,050 + Vat would be accepted.

Update on Synthetic Pitch at Limavady Grammar School: Concern was voiced that the Management Agreement had not been finalised for use of the synthetic pitch at Limavady Grammar School. Noted.

Request for Assistance from Roe Valley Enterprises: The Director of Development explained that the Huco Plant was closing the manufacturing side of their business but would be maintaining a European sales headquarters, including research and development within the Borough if accommodation could be found. She said that Roe Valley Enterprises had identified an opportunity to provide this accommodation and to secure 10 – 15 high quality jobs over a 2 year period, however, site work and refurbishments costing £40,000 were needed to modify two units from manufacturing to office space. The Director of Development recommended that Council support the refurbishment to a maximum of £15,000. Agreed.

Seagate Closure: It was agreed that £17,000 would be redirected within the Economic Development budget to assist in efforts to secure new employment

opportunities for those in need as a result of recent closures and the impending closure of Seagate.

Mini Pitch – Dungiven: The Director of Development confirmed that subject to a few defects being addressed, the Mini Pitch at Dungiven was now complete and available for use by local schools, groups and individuals. She outlined details of proposed opening hours, booking times and suggested charges for use of the facility. After discussion, it was agreed that for a trial period there would be no booking system, no changes for use with or without floodlights, the gates would be left open and this would be reviewed in 6 months time.

Courses/Conferences: It was noted that the Council's Countyside Recreation Officer would make a presentation at the conference on Integrated Beach Management using Benone Beach as an example of good practice. Approval was given for one officer and Councillor Cubitt to attend the event in Howth Yacht Club on 28 November 2007.

It was also agreed that one officer would attend the CEF conference – exploring the Future of Planning in Northern Ireland to be take place on 29 November 2007 in Culloden Hotel – fee £195 + VAT.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR COYLE: *Councillor Donaghy declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.*

Councillor Coyle proposed that:

‘This Council deplors the decision of Seagate to close its manufacturing plant at Limavady, leading to the loss of hundreds of jobs locally and calls for the establishment of an economic task force to address the serious employment deficiencies in East Derry which will now arise both in the public and private sector.’

He said Council should lobby, facilitate and show strong leadership at this time and find solutions through a structured approach for those affected by the closure. He proposed that a locally focused taskforce led by Council be established and expertise from the two campuses of the University of Ulster be utilized. He added that it was imperative that the taskforce be set up quickly and the work carried out urgently given that Seagate would no longer exist in eight months time. Alderman Mullan seconded the proposal.

Members acknowledged that officers had already done a significant amount of work to minimise the impact of the announcement and that Council had been unanimous in their support for job retention within the Borough. The motion was put to the meeting and declared carried.

DRAFT RESPONSE FROM NILGA IN RELATION TO THE RPA ‘ Emerging Findings Report’:

The draft response from NILGA to the Emerging Findings Report was discussed by members and a number of concerns were voiced at the RPA process. Following debate Councillor Cubitt proposed that Council endorse the response by NILGA to the report. This was seconded by Alderman Rankin and on being put to the meeting

was declared carried, with 7 voting for, 6 against and 1 abstention. It was also agreed that an individual response on behalf of Council (excluding Sinn Féin) would be compiled on the Emerging Findings Report.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- It was agreed that a letter of sympathy would be forwarded to the PSNI with regard to the attacks on officers in Derry and Armagh by dissident republicans and that Council condemned this.
- Reference was made to the hard work of officers and the success of the Denis O'Hampsey event.
- Members were advised that the Policing Board were holding an information session for new members on 29 November in Glenavon Hotel.
- Concern was raised about lack of car parking spaces in Dungiven. It was pointed out that the only place where cars could park 'all day' was opposite Dungiven Chapel.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - 11 December 2007.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.20 PM.)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting