

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
13 NOVEMBER 2012**

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 M Coyle, G Robinson and J Rankin. Councillors O Beattie, A Brolly, B Chivers, B Douglas, T McCaul, J McCorkell, S McGlinchey (Chair), C McLaughlin, G Mullan, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Director of Development and Committee Clerk.

APOLOGIES: - Councillor D Nicholl

PRESENTATION FROM MS LORETTA McNICHOLAS AND MS CATHERINE McLAUGHLIN ON BEHALF OF THE SPACEial NORTH WEST PROJECT.

The Chair welcomed Ms Loretta McNicholas and Ms Catherine McLaughlin from the SPACEial North West Project to the meeting.

Ms McNicholas, Research and Policy Manager of SPACEial North West Project informed members that **Spatial Planning Analysis and Collaborative Exchange of information and learning (SPACEial)** was a three year INTERREG IVA funded programme in the North West Region Cross Border area (NWRCA). She explained that the overall aim of the SPACEial North West project was to track changes in the population patterns across different settlements in the NWRCA over the 2000 – 2010 period. The project would identify, capture and map key drivers of population change in the NWRCA whilst enhancing the skills and capacity of key policy and decision makers in using geographical information systems to plan and deliver services in the region. The project promoter was the North West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG) and the project partners were Donegal Council (Lead Implementing Council), Strabane District Council, Derry City Council, Limavady Borough Council and Magherafelt District Council.

Alderman G Robinson and Councillor A Robinson joined the meeting at 7.08 pm.

Ms McNicholas continued by outlining the main objectives of the project and stated that the accessible data provided would be of assistance to potential investors to the area and would allow them to make more evidence based decisions. Ms McLaughlin explained the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and how decision makers were being equipped with the skills and expertise required to interrogate this geographical system.

The Chair thanked Ms McNicholas and Ms McLaughlin for attending the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 9 October 2012 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Tony McCaul, seconded by Councillor B Chivers.

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 2 – Provision of a Designated Open Space: The Director of Development Services confirmed that a meeting involving Councillors, planners and developers had taken place at the end of October 2012 with a follow up meeting arranged for 6 December at 11.30 am. Details would be circulated in due course.

Page 4 – Suicide Awareness:-Councillor G Mullan agreed to provide the Chief Executive with details of a group would be prepared to have a suicide awareness meeting with Councillors prior to a Council meeting.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2012:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for November 2012 and enlarged thereon.

T/002 – Benone Tourist Complex – Proposed Pricing Policy: Council approved the scale of charges for Benone Tourist Complex effective from 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2013.

T/10A – Limavady and the Roe Valley Visitor Guide: Approval was given to award the design and print of the 2013 Visitor Guide to the company offering best price and quality based on the criteria drawn up for the project.

T/003.U – Causeway Coast Adventure Racing – Dogleap Challenge November 2012: Council granted permission for the use of Benone Strand and Swann’s Bridge as part of the Dogleap Challenge subject to evidence of appropriate insurance being in place, event risk assessment undertaken and liaison with relevant Council staff prior to the event.

2013 – A Year of Celebration for Limavady: The Director of Development Services reported that a workshop had been held for Councillors and Officers on 18 October 2012 to gather views on themes, projects and funding for events across the Borough to coincide with the 2013 UK City of Culture. She added that Limavady would have the opportunity to celebrate its own history and heritage with the most notable events being:

- ❖ 100 years since the lyrics “Danny Boy” were added to the tune “The Londonderry Air” as first noted down in Limavady by Miss Jane Ross as she heard it played by the blind fiddler, Jimmy McCurry.
- ❖ The Brighter Gold Hoard of Celtic gold ornaments and jewels was found in a field near Myroe in 1896 and is now housed in the National Museum in Dublin.
- ❖ The significance of the visit to the Convention of Drumceatt in 575 AD at the Mullagh Hill, located in the grounds of the Roe Park Hotel and Resort.
- ❖ Limavady – 400 years of history when Newtown Limavady became one of the first Corporate towns to be established under Charter in 1613, along with Belfast, Londonderry and Coleraine.

It was suggested at the workshop that a great opportunity existed for Limavady Borough Council to use 400 years as a brand as it moved forward to 2013 and that a logo be developed which could be used throughout 2013 to promote Limavady. It was felt that local businesses and the community should be encouraged to get involved and in the winter edition of the "Roe Valley Update" residents were asked to submit their ideas to Council for celebrating 400 years of the Town Charter. The Director of Development Services stated that it was proposed to work with the community to produce and promote a calendar of events which would celebrate the best Limavady Borough Council had to offer and presented a draft programme of events which was currently being drawn up. During discussion the following points were made:

- There was a need to work in co-operation with the 2013 UK City of Culture not in opposition to it.
- "Danny Boy" should be sung at Drumceatt Square at the same time as Derry City's event in the Guildhall Square.
- Programme of events should be expanded to include a series of event/lectures on 400 years of the town's history e.g. W.F. Massey and the Plantation.
- Members were in agreement to use the logo as a marketing tool and to encourage local businesses and community groups to utilise it as well.
- It was suggested that the name "Limavady" on the logo should also be in Gaelic/keep the logo as simple and uncluttered as possible.
- There should be a programme of events for the whole year not just at holiday periods.
- Suggested that Limavady link up with Coleraine as they celebrate 400 years of their Town Charter.
- Involve LCDI as a great source of the history of Limavady's workhouse.
- Involve Radio Ulster/Downtown Radio and have Country and Western Events
- Include the Council Crest as part of the logo
- Promote the use of town land names.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O Beattie, seconded by Alderman Michael Coyle that a second workshop be arranged to progress ideas on how to celebrate 400 years of the Town Charter and to set a deadline for expressions of interest for community events in order to gauge the level of funding required. Following a discussion it was agreed to bring back the issue of the logo after the workshop.

CA/037 Correspondence from the William F Massey Foundation: *Councillor J McCorkell declared an interest.* A letter has been received from the William F Massey Foundation asking Council to consider ways in which Council could improve how it promotes William Massey who went on to become Prime Minister of New Zealand between 10 July 1912 and 10 May 1925. The Director of Development Services elaborated on the four points raised by the foundation:

- 1) Because of lack of space permanent exhibitions are not held in either the Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre or the Green Lane Museum. Council would be happy to put up a temporary exhibition and/or information displayed on the website if requested.
- 2) Twinning in the past has proven to be a costly exercise but would be prepared to consider something on an electronic basis.

- 3) A report by the Museum and Heritage Officer on events in relation to exhibitions/talks featuring William F Massey which have been organised/promoted by Limavady Borough Council was tabled to Councillors.
- 4) With regard to the Irish Green Street W.F. Massey memorial plaque, investigations have shown that the land was acquired by lease from the Northern Ireland Housing Trust to Limavady Urban District Council in the early 1970s. In 1972 all assets from the Limavady Urban Council were transferred to the new Limavady District Council.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor E Stevenson, seconded by Alderman Jack Rankin that Council would investigate the suggestion that a student bursary be set up with the university in Auckland in memory of William F Massey. It was agreed that the memorial should be cleaned and it was suggested that once proper ownership of the plaque was established, it could be offered to the William F Massey Foundation for future care. In response to a member's query and as a point of information only Councillor J McCorkell advised members that the William F Massey Foundation had only been set up during the summer months.

Community Development: The Department for Social Development has awarded an extra £14,000 to Council towards its Community Support Programme which must be fully spent by March 2013. Members agreed to the following allocation of the additional funding:

- design, consultation and actions for a final Limavady Community Support Plan
- development of a transition plan, conditional upon matching funding from the other three Councils
- the remainder towards the local community and coluntary sector organisations dependant on received applications

Economic Development: It was agreed to allocate the following funding:

- £6,000 from the Cross Council Programme budget towards the Food Sector Development Programme;
- £1,887.50 from the Cross Council Programme budget towards the extension of the Online Marketing Programme, leveraging in a further £11,000;
- £5,000 from the Working in Partnership budget to match-fund Roe Valley Enterprise's existing funding towards an Exploring Enterprise Programme;

It was also agreed that Council makes a final call for applications under the Economic Development Small Grant scheme.

Town Centre Master Plan: Members approved the three actions outlined:

1. Develop Terms of Reference covering the provision of enhanced guidance on signage, new development and lighting.
2. Shop front Scheme
3. Entries and Alleys.

The Director of Development Services advised that preliminary work would be carried out by March 2013 and projects started by April 2013 and continued that the Roe Valley Chamber of Trade had been informed and were happy that this is taken forward. Councillor J McCorkell asked that the two main entry points to the town, namely at the Roe Bridge and the junction of Connell Street and Irish

Green Street should also be targeted as priorities. Members expressed their concern over the number of vehicles driving on Market Street instead of using access to the rear of shop premises and also suggested that bicycles be banned from Market Street because of the number of accidents caused by them. It was agreed to raise these issues with Roads Service when they came to Council in December for the Roads Service Autumn Consultation. The Chief Executive advised that he had invited Minister Alex Attwood to visit Limavady and Dungiven to see the state of dereliction in both of these towns. Members will be kept updated.

CAP/002 Mechanical Systems Survey – Roe Valley Leisure Centre: The Director of Development Services reported that the Mechanical Systems Survey of the Roe Valley Leisure Centre had been completed and remedial works estimated in the region of £250,000 with the plant room have been identified. This was broken down into 2 elements:

- a) Short Term Correction Plan – (Dec 12 – Jan 13)
 - Replace all low pressure hot water circulating pumps - **£45k**
 - Replace domestic hot water return pump - **£3.5k**

No facility shutdown envisaged.

- b) Long Term Correction Plan – (Mid Nov 13 - End of Dec 13)
- c) Full refurbishment and total replacement of all major items. i.e. Automatic controls, chemical dosing systems, pool filtration systems, and key Health and Safety elements etc. Expected cost will be in the region of **£220k**.

This will require total shutdown status of entire Plant Room

The Director of Development Services went on to state that the equipment in the plant room was over 20 years old and nearing the end of its lifespan. Failure to undertake the identified work could prove critical to the operation of Roe Valley Leisure Centre. The Chief Executive advised that the funding for the Long Term Correction Plan if approved, would be included in next year's capital programme and in the rates estimates for 2013/14. Following discussion and at a member's request the Director of Development Services agreed to provide information on

- The number of people who use the Roe Valley Leisure Centre as a percentage of the population of the Borough
- The number of individual users and the usage figures for the centre.

The recommendation that approval be given to proceed with all work identified within the Mechanical Systems Survey Report with Phase 1 commencing immediately to be followed in the new financial year by Phase 2 of the work was put to the vote and carried 13 for, 0 against and 2 abstentions.

CAP/005 Mechanical Systems Survey Report – Benone Tourist Complex: Members were informed that Tenders have been sought to undertake a Mechanical Systems Survey of all plant and mechanical systems at Benone. Approval was given for the appointment of Williams and Shaw to undertake the work.

Letter from Limavady Jazz and Blues Committee: It was agreed to hold a meeting with Members and Officers as requested by the Limavady Jazz and Blues committee to discuss a number of issues raised within a letter sent directly to members by the committee. Members to be notified of the details.

CA/006 Causeway Museum Service: A contribution of £23k from Limavady Borough Council to The Causeway Museum Service was approved.

Consultation on the Proposed Peace IV Programme: Members agreed that they did not wish to make a separate response to the consultation on the proposed Peace IV Programme and were content with the proposed response prepared by the North East Peace III Partnership.

Consultation on the Proposed INTERREG V Programme: - The Director of Development Services informed members that a Council response was being prepared on the consultation on the proposed INTERREG V Programme and would be circulated in due course to Councillors for consideration.

Consultation Document on the Irish Language Strategy: A proposed response to the consultation document on the Irish Language Strategy was tabled and members were advised to contact the relevant officer if they wished to make any amendments to the proposed response.

Christmas Celebration Funding: Approval was given to make a contribution of £250 each towards the Christmas celebrations for Gortnaghey and Largy Community Associations.

Dungiven Feasibility Study: It was agreed to hold a special meeting of Council on Monday 26 November 2012 at 7 pm to discuss the Feasibility Study on Sports and Community Facilities for Dungiven and Surrounding Area.

The recommendations within the report were approved on the proposal of Alderman Jack Rankin, seconded by Alderman Michael Coyle.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

BT – Superfast Broad Band: Following a request from a member it was agreed to invite BT to give a presentation to Councillors on BT Superfast Broad Band and levels of connectivity within the Borough.

NEXT MEETING – 11 December 2012

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.20 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting