

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
13 DECEMBER 2011**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Chief Executive and the Director of Development

APOLOGIES:

Alderman G Robinson and Councillor A Robinson.

PRESENTATION BY POBAL:

It was agreed that the presentation by Pobal would be deferred to the January 2012 Development Services meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 8 November 2011 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Beattie, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin.

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 1 – Provision of a Green Field at Bovally: The Director of Development advised that after speaking with the design team, a full planning application would be submitted early in the New Year with regard to a green field site at Bovally.

Page 5 - 3G Broadband: The Director of Development reported that the Minister for Agriculture & Rural Development had advised that she intended to work closely with the Joint Committees, Local Action Groups and other organisations with an interest in Rural Development to bring forward larger projects of a more strategic or signature nature to increase spend under the RDP. She said the Minister had asked her officials to bring back a list of possible projects before the end of January and that she also expressed an interest in investing more funds into rural broadband and enhancing broadband access for rural businesses/communities. Members welcomed the information from DARD and it was agreed that a letter would be sent to DETI to outline members concerns regarding the lack of broadband service.

Farmers Market: The Director of Development advised that the Farmers Market had decided not to hire Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró as a venue for holding an indoor farmers market.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT – DECEMBER 2011:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for December 2011 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within the report were approved on the proposal of Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McCaul subject to the following:

Benone Tourist Complex – Proposed Holiday Closure: It was agreed that Benone Tourist Complex would be closed 24 – 27 December inclusive reopening 28 December 2011 and closed 1 & 2 January 2012.

Benone Tourist Complex Replacement Defibrillator: It was agreed that a replacement defibrillator would be purchased for Benone Tourist Complex from Coastal Care at a cost of £1,300 plus VAT.

Benone Tourist Complex – Café Franchise: It was agreed that the Café Franchise for Benone would be advertised initially for one year commencing 1 April 2012, with an option to renew for a further two years upon satisfactory completion of year one contract.

Rural Development Projects: Retrospective approval was agreed for the following Rural Development Projects:

- a) Appointment of Ulster Historical Foundation to undertake a research project on genealogy and family history at a cost of £5,000.
- b) Podcast project - downloadable application for visitors and locals to showcase Borough under Myths and Legends theme to be presented to members at the January 2012 Development Committee meeting.
- c) Circle CC to design and install the Interpretation Signage at a cost of £9,720 and SC Tarmac Ltd to provide and install the Stopping Places Outdoor Furniture at a cost of £28,900.00
- d) Ground clearance/landscaping to be provided by Pellipar Tree Services at a cost £5,256.

Limavady & Roe Valley Visitor Guide: Retrospective approval was agreed for the design and print of 8000 A5 Visitor Guides from ASG in the sum of £3,145.

Town Twinning: The Director of Development outlined that the Twinning Committee planned to hold a Celebration concert on 15 March 2012 and would be inviting Civic and Political dignitaries from both Westport and Vigneux-sur-Seine to attend. It was agreed that Council would provide overnight accommodation for up to 6 dignitaries and hold a Civic Reception prior to the concert.

Northern Ireland Art Works Catalogue: Members were advised that the Public Catalogue Foundation was a registered charity set up to create a photographic record of oil, acrylic and tempera paintings in public ownership. She said this work aimed to improve public access to the collection of paintings through a free website called ‘Your Painting’ and a series of printed catalogues. She added that

the Foundation would be responsible for photographing the works and would provide a digital copy to Council, which would be displayed to a worldwide audience and reproduced in catalogues provided by the Foundation.

It was agreed that in the first instance that the Foundation would be asked to check if Council's collection of paintings would be eligible for inclusion in the online catalogue. Any painting included in the collection must also have ownership of the copyright. The Director of Development confirmed that a painting by local artist Michael McGuinness had been added to Council's art collection.

Memorial Boards: It was agreed that the Memorial Boards from the former Town Hall would be relocated to Green Lane Museum and that Council would promote their genealogy benefit to researchers and to the general public.

Limavady Town Centre Draft Masterplan: The Director of Development informed members that Limavady Town Centre Draft Masterplan had been officially launched by Nelson McCausland, Minister for Social Development on 1 December 2011. She said that consultation on the Masterplan had commenced and would run until 24 February 2012.

The Director of Development summarised the main points from the Masterplan, including its overall aim, caveats, structure, opportunity sites and sub-strategies. It was agreed that £5,000 would be set aside within the 2012/13 budget as match funding toward additional strategy development as outlined in the Draft Masterplan.

Greysteel Play Area: Members discussed the request from Greysteel Community Association for financial assistance towards the costs of opening and closing the gates of the Community Centre as the play area was located within the centre boundary fence. After debate, it was agreed that the Community Association would be informed that there was no funds available at this time. It was also agreed that a review would take place on opening/closing of play areas and that discussions would take place with local community groups and the Volunteer Bureau on how play areas could be managed/protected from anti-social behaviour.

Greysteel Community Association – Request for Re-Imbursement of Costs to NIE: It was agreed that Council would pay £350 towards the additional electricity costs incurred as a result of burst pipes and flooding at Greysteel Community Association.

Olympic/Queen's Jubilee Celebrations: A discussion took place around celebrations being held in 2012 for the Olympics and the Queen's Jubilee. The Director of Development recommended that a small grant programme be made available to community groups interested in hosting events to celebrate the Olympic Games torch run through their town or village and for those celebrating the Queen's Jubilee.

The importance of reaching out to other communities was highlighted. It was agreed that a policy or grant aid scheme would be drafted for the January 2012 Development Services committee.

Request for Funding – Limavady Recreation Club: It was agreed that Council would contribute £500 towards the cost to Limavady Recreation Club to host a Centenary Dinner in November 2012 at an anticipated cost of £2,000.00.

In view of the various celebrations which would be taking place in the near future, it was agreed that a policy or strategy on requests for funding was necessary.

Update on PROW Issues – Dromore Lane: It was agreed that the initial recommendation taken to Council in June 2011 ‘to permit a gate to be erected at the southern end of Old Dromore Lane to prevent unauthorised vehicular access with a sufficient gap to allow continued public pedestrian access and that Old Dromore Lane should be formally asserted as a Public Right of Way under the provisions of the Access to the Countyside (NI) Order 1983’ would be approved.

Update on Scroggy Road: The Director of Development informed members that the 3G pitch at Scroggy Road had been open since 24 October 2011. She said that demand had been concentrated post 5 pm, with the vast majority of using being block bookings and that net income for the five weeks of opening had been £2,500. She added that the Sports Development Team had also organised Gaelic blitz days over 6 Sundays for 5 – 16 year olds and that these had an average of 300 young people participating every week.

The Director of Development advised that a date for the official opening was being explored with the Minister for Culture, Arts & Leisure and in advance of this, Council might wish to review the name of the facility.

It was agreed that speed bumps would be put in place as a safety measure due to concerns over the speed of cars entering and leaving the facility. It was also agreed that officers would explore the possibility of an electronic scoreboard, associated costs & potential sponsorship for the boards.

Financial Assistance – Community Support Programme: It was agreed that the following groups would receive funding under the Community Support Programme, *including grant of £100 towards delivery of a summer scheme:

Roe Valley Residents Association	£1850
Glens Community Association	£1850
Greysteel Community Association	£1850
Gelvin Community Association	£1850
Glenshane Care Association	£1850
Benedy Community Association	£1850
Feeny Community Association	£1950*
Drumsumn Community Association	£1950*
Ageing Well Roe Valley	£1850
Ardnariff Cultural & Historical Society	£1850
Burnfoot Community Development Association	£1950*
Dromboughil Community Association	£1850
Coolessan Community Association	£1850
Ballykelly Community & Youth Association	£1950*
Gortnahey Community Association	£1950*
Aghanloo Community Association	£1850

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Largy Community Association	£1850
Hands That Talk	£1850
Magilligan Community Association	£1850
Bovalley Community Association	£1850
Benbradagh Community Support	£1850
Foreglen Community Association	£1850
Magilligan Playgroup	£ 90
Glenshane Community Development Ltd	£1850
Limavady Volunteer Bureau	£3500

Economic Development Grants: It was agreed that the following groups would receive funding for projects under the Economic Development Grants programme:

Roe Valley Community Education Forum	£4,000
Schools Employer Connections	£4,000
North West Life Long Learning	£4,000
Stendhal Festival	£3,880
Roe Valley Enterprises	£4,000

It was also agreed that if additional funding became available at a later stage that the next available projects who had applied for the grant would be brought to Council for consideration.

Purchase and Transfer of the Former Burnfoot Primary School: *Councillor Douglas declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.* It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McCorkell, seconded by Alderman Rankin that the contracts between WELB & Limavady Borough Council and between Limavady Borough Council & Burnfoot Community Association for the purchase and transfer of the former Burnfoot Primary School would be signed and sealed.

Rural Development Programme: Concern was raised that the grant monies under the Rural Development Programme might not be spent. It was noted that £1 million still within the current financial year was unaccounted for.

Quads – Benone Beach: The Director of Development agreed to check if adequate signage was in place to indicate that quads were not allowed on the beach.

Consultation – Social Investment Fund: It was agreed that a draft response to the consultation on establishment of the Social Investment Fund would be forwarded to members on 16 December 2011 and that Councillors would forward individual comments for submission to the Department by 23 December 2011.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BROLLY:

Councillor Brolly proposed:

‘That this Council calls on the Regional Development Minister to honour the commitment to the Dungiven by-pass that his predecessor guaranteed in the Budget and Programme for Government.’

In support of the motion she said that for the last 9 years the air quality in Dungiven had been monitored and for the Government to continue to do nothing was not an option. She called on the Minister to act now and for the proposed by-pass in Dungiven to be put next in line to commence if funding became available.

The motion was seconded by Councillor McCaul who went on to state that Minister Kennedy had confirmed that any additional funds available were to be used for commercial schemes but he was of the view that the health of the people in Dungiven who were affected by vehicle omissions should come first. Councillor Beattie agreed and said the Department should be de-coupling the by-pass from the A6 dualling scheme.

Councillor Stevenson pointed out that it was Sinn Féin who had asked for the complete A6 scheme to include the by-pass. Councillor McCorkell indicated that the Minister had been forthright about plans for the by-pass and said that Council would have to fight to have this prioritised.

In summing up, Councillor Brolly said previous points made with regard to the by-pass should be reiterated in a letter to Minister Kennedy. The motion was put to the meeting and declared carried, 9 for, 0 against and 1 abstention.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

RVLC – Achievement of EFQM: Members welcomed that Roe Valley Leisure Centre had achieved a good standard in EFQM awards. The Director of Development agreed to pass on members congratulations to staff at the RVLC.

Valentine Challenge: Councillor Beattie proposed, seconded by Alderman Rankin that Council support the Valentine Challenge initiative whereby the public could avail of 6 weeks gym membership package at a concessionary rate of £20 per person for up to a maximum of 40 members.

Use of the Car Park at the Ferry Terminal: It was agreed that the Ferry Terminal car park could be used for a fundraising event subject to appropriate insurance and indemnities being put in place.

Rates Workshop: Members were reminded that a rates workshop would be held on Monday 19 December at 7 pm. The Chief Executive advised that he had forward a request for Christmas lights in Connell Street car park to Technical Services.

Use of Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró: It was agreed that Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró could be used for a public meeting with regard to a search for a local missing person.

Christmas Lights: A member requested that Gortnaghey Village be include in Christmas lights schedule.

Concert – Local Talent: The Mayor was praised for hosting a variety concert which showcased local talent in Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró.

IN COMMITTEE:

- **Lough Foyle Ferry Service:** Members were updated on the most recent meeting between Donegal County Council and Limavady Borough Council regarding the Lough Foyle Ferry Service. Members to be updated at the estimates workshop on 19 December 2011 on further developments around the ferry service.
 - **Community Wardens:** The funding position with regard to the Community Warden posts was noted by members. The Director of Development agreed to check the period covered by funding for Coleraine's Community Wardens.
- OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

NEXT MEETING – 17 January 2012.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.45 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting