

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

LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

14 JANUARY 2004

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.30 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

Aldermen M Carten, J Dolan and G Robinson. Councillors A Brolly, F Brolly (in the chair) B Brown, M Coyle, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, D Lowry, M McGuigan, G Mullan, J Rankin and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer and the Town Clerk.

WELCOME:

The Town Clerk introduced Mrs Edwina McCaul, who had been appointed as Committee Clerk, to the meeting.

MINUTES:

Minutes of meeting dated 10 December 2003 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

MATTERS ARISING:

**CHIEF RECREATION/TOURIST OFFICER'S REPORT – JANUARY
(see appendix)**

The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer presented his report and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt subject to the following:

Shell Foyle Cup: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer confirmed date for event as 12 July week 2004. Councillor Rankin advised that pitches might not be available as Northern Ireland Milk Cup was taking place around that date.

Roe Valley Leisure Centre - Saturday Transport: The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer recommended that this service be discontinued from end of February 2004 due to insufficient demand. Councillor Lowry expressed his disappointment that rural areas had not made use of transport but was hopeful that future renewed interest might be shown.

Councillor Cubitt expressed his concern regarding under utilization of Leisure Centre swimming pool. The Town Clerk pointed out that Council was required by statute to provide Leisure facilities and the Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer informed Council that numbers would be kept under review.

Dungiven Sports Pavilion: Councillor Cubitt expressed concern as to the neutrality of Dungiven Community Hall Management Committee following its refusal to allow a meeting of the District Policing Partnership to be held there and was therefore reluctant to hand over facilities to them. The Town Clerk stated that the Pavilion was for use by all sections of the community as required by the Department of Finance & Personnel which had funded the project.

Environment & Heritage Service Country Parks Policy: Councillors Cubitt and Rankin pointed out that there was a lack of car parking spaces at Roe Valley Country Park. Councillor Cubitt added there was increased dog littering in the park.

Recreation & Open Space Strategy: Following a request by Councillor Mullan, the Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer undertook to provide an update on the implementation of the Recreation & Open Space Strategy at a future meeting.

FIM World Motorcross Grand Prix of Ireland: The Chief Recreation Officer reported to Council that television coverage had been secured for this event which would attract 860 million viewers and would give Council the opportunity to market Limavady and Borough. Members welcomed the hosting of such events in the Borough.

Charlie Gaile Memorial Open Darts Tournament: Councillor A Brolly referred to the Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer's recommendation that Council contribute £300 toward the above event and proposed that this be increased to £500. The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer advised that Council contribution had been reduced due to lack of television coverage this year.

Events Officer: Councillor Lowry proposed and Alderman Dolan seconded that this item be discussed **IN COMMITTEE**.

The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer presented a report to Council outlining the sequence of events leading to the appointment of an Events Officer. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Dolan that the post be advertised as soon as possible. **OUT OF COMMITTEE**.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Rights of Way: Members requested update of the following pathways/Right of Ways and the Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer agreed to report thereon at the next Leisure Services Committee meeting.

- Scroggy Road;
- Bullock's Lane;
- Bleach Green Lane.

Roe Valley Country Park: Councillor Robinson requested that Council set up a meeting with the Parks Attendant and Roe Valley Anglers' Association to move able-bodied anglers from spaces designated for disabled anglers and to discuss need for additional disabled car parking facilities. The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer agreed accordingly.

Roe Valley Leisure Centre Pricing Structure: Councillor Lowry referred to a previous request that Council's pricing policy be amended with view to concessionary rates being provided for disabled users. The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer advised that this would involve a further Equality Impact Assessment being carried out and that this was underway.

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations: At the request of Councillor A Brolly the Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer undertook to instruct the Community Relations Officer to provide a report to the next meeting on possible cultural church/school events to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Civic Reception: A Brolly proposed and Councillor Lowry seconded that a civic reception be held for Wolfhounds GAC who had recently won the All Ireland B Championship Division and for St. Canice's Hurling Club who had won the county championship.

Northern Area Plan: Councillor Brown declared interest in this matter and left the Chamber prior to any discussion taking place.

The Town Clerk explained that in its response to the Issues Paper, Council's map 4 showed the area for proposed recreational/community facilities substantially smaller than that zoned in the South East Lands Plan 1989-99 and recommended that the response be amended to allow for the retention of this zoning in the new Area Plan as follows:

“This large site is undergoing development for housing. The majority of the site is suitable for housing, however it is extremely important that future recreational space is maintained within this area. Provision must be made for recreational/community space as the amalgamation of the adjoining housing developments has provided limited or no open space provision in the wider south-eastern area of the town. In particular, the Council welcome the retention of zoned recreational land as set out in the South East Lands Local Plan 1989-1999. This area is entirely suitable and an excellent opportunity for playing fields as it is well drained and relatively flat. By locating a recreational area at this location within the Bovally lands a high degree of accessibility will be achieved to a large park of the wider residential area.”

Councillor Lowry highlighted that the cost of purchasing and providing the necessary infrastructure to develop these lands could be excessive. He added that, given that the majority of the lands to the south were to be developed for housing, this would inevitably lead to objections from residents if Council were to consider providing an area of open space there in the future. However, after further discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lowry, seconded by Councillor Coyle that Council amend its response as outlined above and that officers be authorised to liaise with the Valuation & Lands Agency regarding costings for the zoned lands and Ferguson & McIlveen regarding an indicative plan for the land in question.

Church Lands: The Town Clerk reported that the Planning Service had sought Council’s views on the suggested zoning of Church lands to the rear of Scroggy Road for housing and submitted map which outlined the Church lands and Council’s open space in the vicinity of Scroggy Road/Shanreagh Park. Accordingly, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor McGuigan that Council would agree in principle to the provision of a vehicular access over its land, which would facilitate the opening up of the adjoining Church lands for housing.

Councillor Donaghy left the meeting at 9.45 p.m.

North West Region Cross Border Group: Councillor Lowry reported that he was experiencing difficulties in attending Cross Border Meetings and requested that Councillor Coyle be accepted as his permanent replacement on the Board. This was agreed by members.

NEXT MEETING:

11 February 2004

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS

(The meeting ended at 9.50 pm)