

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**14 FEBRUARY 2006**

Minutes of a meeting of the above Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.00 pm on the above date.

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk, the Director of Development Services and the Countryside Recreation Officer.

**APOLOGIES:**

Alderman Rankin, Alderman Mullan and Councillor Robinson.

**PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL:**

**Foyle Cup:** The Chair welcomed Mr Michael Hutton, Chairman of the Foyle Cup Organising Committee to the meeting.

Mr Hutton outlined that when the Foyle Cup Tournament commenced in 1992, Northern Ireland had been making progress in terms of the troubles and the tournament further enhanced this by bringing young people together under the umbrella of sport. He said that in previous years the tournament attracted around 40 teams but by 2005 this had grown to 92, making the Foyle Cup the largest international youth tournament in Ireland. He added that not only did the event attract teams from Ireland (north & south), teams from England, Scotland, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Switzerland, Holland, Malta, United States and Canada also took part in the tournament.

Mr Hutton pointed out that the 2006 event to be held 24 - 29 July would improve tourism in the North West through spectators/competitors staying in local hotels and provide entertainment value for residents when football matches were played at local venues.

In response to Alderman Robinson, Mr Hutton confirmed that the tournament would be funded by contributions from Derry City Council (£16k), Northern Ireland Events Company (£50k) and DSD (£10k), with the remaining £35k to be raised by committee volunteers. He said despite attracting visitors to the North West and promoting Northern Ireland when no-one else wanted to know, Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) would not be providing funding towards the tournament and this left a shortfall of £5k to be raised by the committee. He added that the NITB had

refused to meet or discuss the decision and appealed for support from all parties, including consideration by Council for an increase in level of funding for 2006.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín that the Director of Development would investigate funding towards the 2006 Foyle Cup Tournament and being a recommendation to the March 2006 Development Services Committee. It was also agreed that the Director of Development would write in the strongest terms to NITB, stating that Council was deeply disappointment that funding was not forthcoming for the Foyle Cup and to request that the Board meet with the organising committee as a matter of urgency.

The chair thanked Mr Hutton for attending the meeting and answering members' questions.

**Environment and Heritage Service:** The Chair welcomed Mr Brian McCullagh, Head of Administration Team and Mr Paul Byrne, Senior Scientific Officer to the meeting.

Mr Byrne informed members that in November 2005, EHS declared River Roe and its Tributaries an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) as the area been identified as being of the highest degree of conservation value due to the number and type of salmon in the River Roe. He said the ASSI was substantive; covering a total length of 87 km or 853 hectares, including the Roe Valley Country Park. He confirmed that local land owners had been informed of the designation and that the EHS had met with Ulster Farmers regarding the ASSI.

Members queried what effect the designation would have on protection of the River Roe by Rivers Agency; sporting interests (canoeing) and implications if the river was ever used to generate electricity. Mr Byrne clarified that whilst he could not comment on a particular project, the Habitat Directive brought serious responsibility for member states and in each scenario an Article 6 Assessment would be carried out for best practice.

Councillor Ó hOisín said he found it difficult to believe that the River Roe contributed 8 percent to Northern Ireland's salmon population, as a recent survey had revealed that the river was 25 to 35 percent devoid of fish. He also stressed that there was no excuse for extracting gravel from the river as this helped control pollution and said if it had been a farmer who had caused the pollution of 22 July 2005, a prosecution would already have taken place. Mr Byrne stated that no additional information was available regarding the pollution incident and any prosecution would be a long slow process, which could take an average of 18 months to get to court.

The Chair thanked members of EHS for attending the meeting.

#### **MINUTES:**

The minutes of Development Services Committee meeting held 10 January 2006 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Donaghy.

## **MATTERS ARISING:**

**Westport/Limavady Joint Calendar:** Councillor Butcher queried who was responsible for proof reading the joint calendar between Westport & Limavady as there were a number of errors in relation to days in 4 out of the 12 months. He also queried why the calendar had not been produced bilingually or have contact details for local hotels. The Director of Development said she would forward comments to Westport Council who had produced the calendar.

**DDA Reports:** The Director of Development reported that DDA Reports for Roe Valley Leisure Centre, Dungiven Sports Pavilion/Community Hall and Benone Tourist Complex were complete and available to members on request.

**Disposal of Fitness Equipment:** The Director of Development explained that obsolete fitness equipment from the former gym at Roe Valley Leisure Centre had been sold for £9,739 at Mid Ulster Auctions and that after deductions for advertising, commission and VAT, the profit had been £6,500. Noted.

**Irish Museums Association Annual Conference:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Coyle that Alderman Mullan would attend the Irish Museums Association Annual Conference to be held 24-26 February in the Wellington Park Hotel.

## **MINUTES - IRISH LANGUAGE SUB-COMMITTEE:**

The Director of Development tabled minutes dated 10 January 2006 of the Irish Language Sub Committee and Newry & Mourne District Council's Bilingualism Policy for members' consideration.

Councillor Cubitt stated that he would be totally against adoption of the policy and suggested that an EQIA be carried out to see what the ratepayer felt about the sub-committee. Councillor Stevenson raised a number of concerns in relation to the duties of the Irish Language Liaison Officer and Councillor Douglas said this was a publicity stunt by Sinn Féin, which would drive residents of the Borough apart.

In the debate that followed, Councillor Ó hOisín proposed that Council use Newry & Mournes' Bilingualism Policy for benchmarking purposes. This was seconded by Councillor Butcher and on being put to the meeting was declared carried with 8 voting for and 4 against. The minutes were also adopted and Council was advised that the committee would meet initially on a monthly basis prior to the Planning Committee.

## **DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES' REPORT FEBRUARY 2006:**

The Director of Development Services presented her report and enlarged thereon. The recommendations were agreed and the report adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Coyle subject to the following:

**Special Olympics Ulster:** As four members from the Borough were taking part in the Special Olympic Games to be held in Belfast on 21 – 25 June 2006, it was agreed that the Director of Development would bring a revised recommendation on donation towards the cost of staging the games.

**Presentations to Council:** It was agreed that Ballyspallen Cricket Club would make a presentation at the March 2006 Development Committee meeting and that 'Families Acting for Innocent Relatives' would make their presentation at the April 2006 meeting. Members requested that those presenting be advised of Councils' policy on presentations as set out within Standing Orders.

**Upgrading of Dungiven Sports Pavilion:** The Director of Development informed members that discussions had taken place on taking forward the management agreement between Council and the Dungiven Community Hall Committee and that Council Officers were working closely with the Committee in preparing a Business Plan to satisfy the conditions laid down by Council. She said facilities within the pavilion were in need of refurbishment and that whilst funding had been set aside in the 2006/07 budget to undertake essential Disability Discrimination Access (DDA) works, no provision had been allowed to address the wider refurbishment of the building.

It was agreed that essential works in relation to the DDA be undertaken and that Council engage a facilitator to identify local priorities for recreation and community facilities with the existing site. It was also agreed that Council would work in partnership with the Dungiven Community Hall Committee to identify potential sources of funding towards the capital costs of any proposed development or refurbishment work.

**Quay Vipers Snake Bite Rally:** The Director of Development explained that Quay Vipers Snake Bite Rally would be held on 22 to 25 September 2006 and recommended that a levy of £375 be charged for use of the caravan park areas and post event clean up. Members pointed out that the event attracted a large number of tourists to the area and it was agreed that the Director of Development would bring a revised recommendation to the March 2006 Development Committee meeting.

**Town Twinning – Schools Exchange:** The Director of Development informed members that as part of the town twinning school exchange that 31 children and 8 adults from Vigneux-sur-Seine would be visiting the Borough on 18 – 24 March 2006. She said that a grant application had been made to the European Commission to assist with various costs and that the Twinning Committee had agreed to provide a social evening and reception, in addition to staffing external activities.

It was agreed that Council would provide accommodation for a senior Municipal Councillor who would be visiting the Borough at the same time and to host a civic reception for the visiting children and teachers. It was also agreed that Council would assist with transport costs and recreational activities if the grant application was unsuccessful.

The Director of Development explained that celebrations to mark the success of the twinning arrangement were planned for Limavady in 28 – 30 September and Vigneux-sur-Seine on 5 – 7 October 2006. She said that confirmation had been received from the Mayor of Vigneux-sur-Seine that a delegation would visit Limavady during this time and that an invitation would be extended to Limavady to send a reciprocal delegation to the celebrations in France. It was agreed that Council would host the official Twinning Dinner and provide hospitality for visiting municipal dignitaries and French Consulate representatives on 28 September 2006.

**Causeway Museums Service:** The Director of Development recommended that Council remain a partner of the Causeway Museum Service for the period 2006/2007 and that its position be reviewed on an annual basis thereafter. The revised Memorandum of Agreement was approved on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Robinson.

Alderman Robinson was nominated to the Causeway Museum Service Committee on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Carten and Councillor Cubitt was nominated to the committee on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Coyle.

**Personal Water Craft:** The Director of Development explained that Benone beach had become a popular site for jet ski activity and that whilst current users were not charged for launching skis, Council must consider a plan for the improved management and safety of jet skis at the beach in line with the recent RoSPA risk assessment. She recommended that a permit system be introduced and proposed that Council develop a code of conduct with the North Coast PWC Club who regularly used the site.

Members noted that the code would stipulate that anyone wishing to launch and use jet skis at Benone beach must comply with the following:

- have appropriate insurance for the craft
- have completed the accredited Royal Yachting Association course in the use of personal water craft or equivalent
- register their craft with Waterways Ireland and display registration number and
- wear a suitable buoyancy aid.

The Director of Development highlighted that Council had been approached by a qualified Royal Yachting Association Jet Ski instructor seeking permission to use Benone as a venue for Personal Watercraft Certificate Proficiency Test and that the course would provide a practical and theory based recognised qualification in handling a jet ski correctly in return for a service payment. She recommended that the instructor be charged an annual fee of £200 to be allowed to deliver courses subject to annual review and production of necessary insurance and appropriate qualifications.

Councillor Butcher expressed reservations to the recommendations and said he had received a number of complaints to the proposals. The Director of Development agreed to review the recommendations in light of Councillor Butcher's concerns.

**Celebration for Cross Border Achievement:** It was agreed that Councillor Ó hOisín and an Officer of Council would attend the celebration for cross border achievement to take place on 3 March 2006 at 12.30 pm in the Slieve Russell Hotel.

#### **CONFERENCES:**

**Achieving Neighbourhood Regeneration:** It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Carten that the Director of Development would attend the above conference to be held 24 March 2006 in Stormont Hotel, Belfast at a cost of £345+VAT.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Limavady Jazz & Blues Festival:** The Director of Development informed members that Limavady Jazz & Blues Festival would be celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2006 and that the festival organising committee had advised that exceptional acts had been booked to perform in various venues throughout the Borough. Councillor Butcher said the new festival committee were being social responsibility by moving events away from pubs and into non alcoholic venues, including RVLC and local community halls and schools.

Councillor Butcher proposed, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín that the current £5k allocated to the Jazz & Blue Festival by increased to £10k by transferring £5k from the £30k allocated to the Danny Boy Festival Committee. Councillor Butcher confirmed that he had discussed this possibility with a member of the Danny Boy Committee. Councillor Douglas expressed reservations and proposed that Council contribute a total of £7,500 towards the 10th Anniversary event. This was seconded by Alderman Robinson and on being put to the meeting was declared lost, with 4 voting for and 8 against. Councillor Butcher's proposal was put to the meeting and declared carried, with 8 voting for and 4 against.

**NEXT MEETING:**

14 March 2006

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 9.30 pm)**

**Signed: -----**  
**Chair of Meeting**