

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
14 SEPTEMBER 2010**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Director of Development and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: - Alderman G Robinson and Councillor A Robinson.

PRESENTATION BY QUARRY PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION:

The Chair welcomed Gordon Best, Regional Manager of QPA Northern Ireland (QPANI) to the meeting.

Mr Best informed members that QPANI were the trade association for companies involved in supplying rock, sand, gravel, asphalt, concrete, lime, mortar, recycled materials and quarrying plant. He said that aggregate production in Northern Ireland provided an estimated turnover of £60 million to companies; however, current economic conditions impacted on this figure.

Mr Best highlighted that the key priorities facing QPANI were protection of jobs, investment in infrastructure and retaining the skills of young people. He said that actions required included a more efficient planning system; securing the Aggregates Levy Rebate from the EU until 2011; reducing energy costs; development/maintenance of roads; engagement between statutory bodies and representatives from the industry and political representatives working together to seek solutions to encourage investment.

Mr Best outlined actions that the NI Executive could take to help the construction industry revitalise the wider economy and said these would result in Northern Ireland recovering from the recession more quickly; looking more attractive to foreign investment; would balance the public/private sector split; job losses in the construction industry and save jobs in other sectors that depended on construction activity.

There followed a discussion in which members voiced their support to the work of QPANI. It was agreed that the Development Services Manager would consult with Mr Best with regard to a business breakfast/brainstorming session between contractors, architects and officers from Moyle, Coleraine, Ballymoney, Derry and Strabane councils. The Chair thanked Mr Best for attending the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 10 August 2010 were approved on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Donaghy subject to the following sentence being added to the end of paragraph 1 on page 5:

‘Councillor Cubitt suggested that consideration be given to Causeway Coast & Antrim Glen Heritage Trust and Sperrins Tourism merging together as one group.’

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 4 – Lease Between Limavady Borough Council & Banagher Parish Church (Feeny Community Centre): Members were informed that discussion had taken place with the representatives from the Parish Church, the Community Association had provided details on usage of the hall and Technical Services were compiling costs for recommended work to the hall should Council decide to renew the lease. Noted.

Page 5- Eddie Butcher Festival: A member congratulated the organisers of the Eddie Butcher Music & Song Festival and said he hoped that the event would grow from strength to strength.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2010:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for September 2010 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within the report were approved on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín subject to the following:

Request for Financial Assistance – Ciara McFeely: Retrospective approval was given to award Ciara McFeely up to a maximum of £200 towards the cost of travel, accommodation and food while participating in the All Ireland Fleadh.

Request for Financial Assistance – Hands that Talk 10th Anniversary: It was agreed that the request for Financial Assistance by Hands that Talk would be included as part of an application under the Community Support programme.

Request for Financial Assistance – Tidy Northern Ireland: It was agreed that Council would make a contribution of £2,000 to Tidy Northern Ireland in the current financial year towards the costs associated with running the Blue Flag and other beach programmes.

Neighbourhood Renewal – Roe River Walk: The Director of Development explained that an opportunity to develop a new project on the outskirts of the Neighbourhood Renewal Area had emerged through the development of a Riverside Walkway Project along the Roe. She said the plan included developing a walkway along the River Roe from the Rugby Club to the Country Park, which would incorporate a small bridge linking the town with the park; interpretative panels and an “underwater viewing area” allowing beneath the water to be studied and viewed without disruption. She added it was also planned to improve access to the river via the Recreational Ground as this would encourage more canoeing opportunities, disabled fishing areas and general use of the river.

In the discussion which followed points made by members included:

- Consideration should be given to starting the route from the bus station.
- It was queried if there would be further consultation with members
- It was suggested that Council should be looking at the whole river and taking advantage of any opportunities which may arise over the coming years.
- It was queried if there was adequate space for the path at the market yard.

It was recommended that approval be given to continue development of the project. Agreed.

Greysteel Play Area: It was recommended that Council extend the agreement with Greysteel Community Association until March 2011 at a cost of £1,200 in return for the group providing a key holder to open/close the gates providing access to the play area. Agreed.

Development of a Play and Leisure Strategy: It was agreed that Council would continue to express an interest in developing a Play & Leisure Strategy.

Rural Development Programme: A member highlighted a number of concerns which had been expressed by applicants and the Chamber of Trade on administration of applications for funding to the Rural Development Programme. Of major concern was the current level of spend on administration; the level of actual spend to date and in particular how £5 million spend per annum could be achieved over the next 3 years.

It was noted that administration obstacles and change to the rules meant that many applicants were told they were ineligible for funding or that information was missing from their application. It was also pointed out that applicants were confused by literature sent out by Arc North West, which still had the old address for submission of applications.

In light of the above concerns, it was agreed that Arc North West would be asked to make a presentation on progress/work to date. Officers helping to administer the programme in Limavady were commended for their input to the programme.

Courses/Conferences:

- It was agreed that the Leisure Services Manager would attend the ISRM Conference on 18 & 19 November 2010 at a cost of £275+VAT.
- It was agreed that Development Services Manager would attend the Back to the Future Conference on 7 October 2010 in Waterfront Hall, Belfast at a cost of £185.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Additional Courses/Conference: It was agreed that the HR Manager (2 day) and the Chief Executive (1 day) would attend the LGSC Conference on Building Collaborative Learning Organisations to be held on 6 & 7 October 2010 in Slieve Donard Resort at a cost of £180 and £120 respectively.

It was agreed that Alderman Coyle would attend the CIPFA Annual Conference to be held 23 & 24 September 2010 in Slieve Donard Resort. Fee: complimentary courtesy of NILGA.

Purchase of Stage Curtains: It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín to purchase a stage curtain from Theatre Services at a cost of £6,473.10 excluding VAT.

Ferry Service Working Group: The Director of Development agreed to liaise with members nominated to the Ferry Service Working Group with regard to date for meeting with Donegal County Council.

Proposed Justice Bill – Policing & Community Safety Partnerships: Members were circulated for information a copy of correspondence received with regard to an element of the draft Justice Bill on proposals to create a single Policing & Community Partnerships.

Benone Beach: It was suggested that a working group be set up to look at opportunities to made savings and generate income at Benone Beach for 2011.

Consultation on the Proposal to amend the Landfill Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003: The Chief Executive reminded members that the DoE failed to implement the 1999 EU Landfill Directive by the deadline of July 2001 and that the above regulations only came into effect from January 2004. He said that until the 2003 Regulations came into effect, any landfill site which closed prior to January 2004 would not therefore be required to comply with the technical closure standards of the EU Landfill Directive but would be treated under the then current statutory regime. He added that the proposed amendment to the 2003 Regulations would require any landfill site closed prior to January 2004 to fully comply with the technical closure requirements, even if works of restoration had already been carried out in compliance with the former technical standards.

It was noted that the current proposals put forward by the DoE intended to make the 2003 Regulations enforceable retrospectively and that this would affect 5 Councils, including Limavady Borough Council which closed Drumaduff landfill site prior to the 2003 Regulations.

The Chief Executive tabled a draft response to the consultation, which had been drafted following legal advice, discussions with the DoE and other affected Councils. The draft response which included the following comments was approved by Council.

1. The Consultation Paper fails to recognise the Department of the Environment's role in failing to properly implement the Landfill Directive when it introduced the Landfill Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 ('the 2003 Regulations') and the consequences of that on innocent third parties who at all times have complied with national law.
2. The effect of the proposal is to amend the 2003 Regulations in such a way as to give them retrospective effect. The Council believes that paragraph 16 which sets out that the amendment is not deemed to be retrospective is incorrect and should the Regulations be made in this form and with this effect, they will be *ultra vires*.

3. The Council also has serious reservations in respect of the Regulatory Impact Assessment which has been carried out. The Council believes that the Department has failed accurately to identify the compliance costs involved and therefore its Regulatory Impact Assessment does not form a sound basis for proceeding with the proposed Regulations.

Visit to Northern Ireland: Council was informed of a possible visit to Northern Ireland by Marlene Lyttle, Director of Local Government & Community Policy, Department of Internal Affairs, New Zealand. It was agreed that if the visit was confirmed that arrangements would be put in place for an itinerary to be drawn up for a tour of the area.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 12 October 2010.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 8.30 pm)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting