

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE  
14 OCTOBER 2008**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk, Director of Development and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:** - Councillor Robinson

**PRESENTATION BY CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS HERITAGE TRUST:**

The chair welcomed Ms Helen Nobel, Director of Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust to the meeting.

Ms Nobel referred to designated sites within the Borough, including Binevenagh AONB, Aghanloo Wood (ASSI) and said the area formed part of the Causeway Coastal Route and was renowned for its culture and outdoor recreation activity.

Ms Nobel explained that the role of the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust was to act as a catalyst, a facilitator through partnership working and be an influencer to others in looking after the area's natural resources. She said that the Trust had a core budget of £126,802 for 2008/09 and Limavady Borough Council's contribution to this was £11,283.

Ms Nobel outlined that a number of external factors would have an impact on the Trust's future, including RPA, Rural Development Programme and Legislation. She said that the group were seeking long term funding to deliver its aims through partnership working, whilst at the same time supporting Councils in delivery of projects in priority areas and that sustainable development was at the heart of the organisation's aim, with future projects including junior ranger's education, sustainable tourism and cultural, walking trails. She added that the public were made aware of projects and the organisation's core functions through bi-annual newsletter, calendar/posters and topic guides, which included recent publication on Birds of Binevenagh.

In response to a number of queries Ms Nobel said the group had not lost its strategic direction and had been at the forefront of establishing the Binevenagh AONB Management Forum and was working in partnership to finalise a Management Plan by December 2008. She said the new Northern Area Plan would take account of AONB's and that devolved responsibility, alongside RPA would result in improved

integration between the statutory agencies. The Chair thanked Ms Nobel for attending the meeting.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting held 9 September 2008 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Carten.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Clare Tourism Conference:** Councillor Brolly clarified that the cost for her to attend the above conference would be minimal as accommodation and conference fees were covered as her husband Francis Brolly, MLA was participating in the conference.

**MINUTES OF DANNY BOY SUB COMMITTEE:**

The minutes of Danny Boy Sub Committee dated 15 September 2008 were noted.

**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REPORT – OCTOBER 2008:**

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for October 2008 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within the report were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Coyle subject to the following:

**Update – Limavady Grammar School Synthetic Pitch:** The Director of Development advised that Council was awaiting feedback from the solicitors of the WELB on the draft Management Agreement for the synthetic pitch. She said that the Synthetic Pitch Management Committee had debated the concerns of residents in relation to balls being kicked into their gardens and it had been agreed that the teams would be requested to practice goal kicking drills at the bottom end of the pitch. She added that the pricing and booking arrangements for the pitch were being reviewed.

The Director of Development explained that the WELB had forwarded details of costs associated with the development of the pitch and funding available through the big lottery, which left a shortfall of £13,371.12. Members were advised that some small additional invoices were expected and it was recommended that any payment should be held until Council was confident that all expenditure was accounted for. Agreed.

**Roe Valley Leisure Centre – Capital Spend:** Council approved capital spend for the purchase of a range of items under the Capital Spend Programme for the Roe Valley Leisure Centre.

**Employment in Sport Programme:** Council approved proposals to deliver the Employment in Sport Programme and allocation of £5,000 from the Economic Development Budget.

**Sport Northern Ireland Funding Programmes:** The Director of Development outlined that details of the Places in Sport programme had now been released by Sport NI for the current financial year and that grants of up to £245,000 would be

available, however, spend must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. She said that Council was currently looking at potential project applications for the current financial year and for future submissions, which included a partnership application with Dungiven Sports Forum and Glenshane Community Development for the provision of a synthetic surface in Dungiven. She added that the following requests had been received for financial assistance from Council:

1. Glenshane Community Development – towards the costs of a business case for development of outdoor facilities. *It was agreed that role of those entering into potential partnership would be clarified.*
2. Countryside Access and Activities Network (CAAN) – development of sustainable off-road, multi purpose trails within the grounds of Drumcovitt House. *It was noted that Council was not in a position to offer funding to CAAN at this time.*

It was agreed that Council would pursue potential project applications which would benefit the local community and enhance the current sport and recreation provision.

**Greysteel Play Area – Arrangements for Opening and Closing:** It was agreed that subject to negotiations and fees that Council would enter into an agreement with Greysteel Community Association to open and close the new play area located at Greysteel Community Centre.

**Burnfoot Community Development – Acquisition of Old Primary School:** It was agreed that Council would act as sponsor and facilitator for Burnfoot Community Development Association in their efforts to acquire the old primary school subject to there being no cost to Council.

**Economic Development Programme:** The Director of Development recommended that £5K set aside for St Mary's High School in the event of the school securing Specialist School Status be added to the £5K set aside for the Retail Development Programme, which would bring the total amount available to £10,000. Agreed.

**Peace III Update:** Members were advised that following the second call for Social Partners, 14 applications had been received. Of the 12 places available (2 per Council area) 10 had been agreed. It was noted that there was still no representation from Limavady and that efforts would be made to fill these positions. It was also noted that the Trade Unions would also be contacted as SEUPB stipulated they should be represented on all clusters.

*The Director of Development outlined the following additional items:*

**Town Centre Improvements:** The Director of Development explained that the Development Service Manager would facilitate a consultation session with members of Roe Valley Chamber of Trade on town centre improvements and that feedback would be provided following a walkabout with DSD within the town. There was agreement that a professional and detailed plan was required.

**St Canice's GAC:** The Director of Development recommended that promotional items or temporary membership of Lifestyle Fitness suite be donated as a prize for St Canice's Gala Dinner Evening to be held 29 November 2008. Agreed.

**Drainage works at Limavady Cricket & Rugby Club:** Approval was given for Limavady Cricket & Rugby Club to install a pipe & discharge over Council land. The necessary consents and legal agreements to be progressed.

**Federation of Small Businesses Annual Charity Ball:** It was agreed that Council would sponsor a drinks reception up to maximum of £300 for the above charity ball to be held 15 November in Derry City Hotel.

**Eoghan Quigg:** At the request of St Patricks High School, it was agreed that Council would fund a banner to encourage support for Eoghan Quigg, X Factor contestant.

**Ferry Contract: IN COMMITTEE.** It was agreed that Council would stick to the proposals currently in place for the ferry tender and respond to the comments raised by Donegal County Council regarding the tendering process. **OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

The Director of Development explained that stipulations on security for the ferry were set through maritime legislation and EU Directives. She reminded members that security had been in place since the ferry service came into operation 6 years previously, however the British and Irish governments interpreted the legislation differently and although attempts had been made in the past to get the level of security reduced, these had been unsuccessful. She said there was a range of searches that had to be performed and if not adhered to, the ferry service could be closed or Council could be taken to court.

In the discussion which followed there were a number of arguments put forward to either having no security or for both governments to adhere to the same security procedures.

Councillor Coyle proposed, seconded by Alderman Mullan that the issue of security by raised with both governments and requested that local MLA's continue to lobby for the security to be reduced through the assembly.

#### **COURSES/CONFERENCES:**

- ◆ Alderman Mullan and the Culture Arts and Tourism Manager to attend the Forum for Local Government and the Arts conference to be held 4 November 2008 in Braid Arts Centre, Ballymena.
- ◆ An officer to attend the Europarc Seminar – Making Sustainable Tourism a Foundation of the Rural Economy to be held 23/24 October 2008 in Europa Hotel.
- ◆ Chief Executive to attend the Reviewing Northern Ireland's Regional Development Strategy stakeholder's conference to be held 5 November 2008 in Stormont Hotel Belfast.

#### **VESTING OF LANDS – CATHERINE STREET:**

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Mullan that the discussion would be held IN COMMITTEE. Councillor Douglas and Councillor Cubitt objected to this decision.

The chair welcomed Mr Bruce Thompson to the meeting. Mr Thompson gave an overview of report compiled by Mr Ken Crothers on development of former market

yard and the view of Mr Mark Horner, QC on matters which needed to be addressed by Council.

After discussion on details of the report Councillor Brolly proposed that Council move on the advice given by Mr Thompson and that the legal team of the developer of the market yard to engage with Council's legal team regarding bonds. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Coyle who stated that this gave Council the opportunity to create employment.

At this point both Mr Thompson and the Chief Executive highlighted that there was a need to protect Council by obtaining legal opinion from Junior Counsel; discussing the development agreement and indemnities; underwriting of Councils costs, including future costs and to look at potential discrepancies in planning permission.

The proposal was put to the meeting and declared carried, with 8, namely Councillor Coyle, Alderman Mullan, Councillor Butcher, Councillor Donaghy, Councillor Brolly, Councillor Ó hOisín, Councillor McElhinney and Councillor Chivers voting for and 5, Councillor Douglas, Alderman Rankin Councillor Stevenson Councillor Cubitt and Councillor Robinson voting against. Councillor Carten did not take part in the vote.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Activities for Dungiven:** The Mayor queried if it was possible for activities such as hip hop dances or midnight soccer to be organised for Dungiven. She also queried if a bus could be arranged to take people into Roe Valley Leisure Centre for swimming in the evenings. It was highlighted that a bus had been arranged in the past but this had been unsuccessful. It was suggested that an online survey might be appropriate to gauge views and interest of residents on what activities to run.

**Gaelectric:** It was agreed that Gaelectric would present details of proposed windfarm at Dunbeg at the December Planning & Services meeting.

**Anti-Social Behaviour – Roemill Road:** Reference was made antisocial behaviour whereby those on motorbikes/scramblers were causing disturbance at Wisner's lane and how it was matter of time before accident happened. The Director of Development advised the she had been in contact with the PSNI regarding the matter. She also advised that there was a need to identify the landowner where access to the area had been gained and that she would be looking at a multi agency approach to finding a resolution to the problem.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** - 11 November 2008.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS**  
**(The meeting ended at 9.50 pm)**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chair of Meeting**