

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
14 DECEMBER 2005

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

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and Director of Development Services.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor M Coyle, M Carten and A Robinson.

MINUTES:

The minutes of Development Services Committee meeting held 9 November 2005 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Councillor McElhinney.

MATTERS ARISING:

Anti-Social Behaviour: Councillor McElhinney referred to anti-social behaviour which took place in Greysteel when the Christmas lights were turned on and suggested community groups get involved in preventing such behaviour by nominating people to be on standby to keep troublemakers away. The Director of Development agreed to raise the issue with the Community Forum.

Coolesan Community Association – Port-a-Cabin: At the request of Alderman Robinson, the Director of Development agreed to contact the Housing Executive regarding an approved site for location of port-a-cabin for Coolesan Community Association.

Crash Barriers: In response to Councillor McElhinney, the Director of Development said no decision had been made regarding hire of crash barriers to community groups and that this could be considered when reviewing Councils Pricing Policy.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES' REPORT DECEMBER 2005:

The Director of Development Services presented the Development Services Report and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Councillor Butcher subject to the following:

Leisure Services:

Fitness Suite – Roe Valley Leisure Centre: The Director of Development reported that membership figures had steadily increased since the new Lifestyle Suite had opened in July 2005 and that total membership at the end of November stood at 487. Members welcomed that daily usage had increased by 61.7% from an average of 1494 to 2419 per month.

At the request of Councillor Butcher, the Director of Development agreed to investigate the possibility of an official opening for the gym. Members suggested that the general appearance of the centre needed revamped and requested that the carpet be replaced at centre entrance; open space in main reception area be appropriately utilised and flower beds in the car park be planted out.

Proposed Closures over Christmas and New Year: Members agreed to the following recommended closures for Christmas and New Year:

Roe Valley Leisure Centre: December 25th, 26th, 27th 05 and January 1st 2006.
Dungiven Sports Pavilion: Closed 10.30 pm on 23rd December – 2nd January 2006.

It was also agreed that Roe Valley Leisure Centre would close at approximately 3 pm on Christmas and New Years Eve.

Culture, Arts & Tourism:

Advertising: It was agreed that the following advertisements would be placed in publications as allowed for in the Tourism Marketing budget:

BT Phone Book – Benone Tourist Complex	£280
Irish Bowling Association Yearbook	£40
Filmscan 2006	£285
NI Visitor Journal	£550

Tourism Development Strategy Funding: The Director of Development reported that verbal confirmation had been received from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board that the funding application for £5,000 under the Tourism Development Scheme for the creation of a Tourism Development Strategy had been successful. She said tenders had previously been assessed and recommended, subject to receipt of the official letter of offer from NITB and ability to meet the terms & conditions, that Council appoint Tourism Development International, Allen Balnaves and Judith Annett to carry out the study at a cost of £19,320.00. Agreed.

Benone Tourist Complex: It was agreed that Benone Tourist Complex would be closed between 23 – 26 December 2005 and from 31 December to reopen 2 January 2006. It was also agreed that a Public Video Screening Licence would be purchased at a cost of £75 to allow for inclusion of DVD/Video shows for children at Benone over the summer period.

Councillor Cubitt stressed that the complex and beach area were not adequately exploited and suggested consideration be given to a Public Private Partnership for the running of the centre. He referred to the recommendations within the Capita Appraisal Audit Report and reminded members that it had been suggested that a

charge be set for those using the beach. Councillor Butcher requested that the recommendations on Benone within the Capita report be reissued to members.

Causeway Heritage Trust – Proposed Iceland Study Trip May 2006: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Councillor Brolly that the Countryside Recreation Officer would attend the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust 5 day study trip to Iceland from 24 – 28 May 2006.

Economic/Community Development:

Town Centre Management – Funding Virement: IN COMMITTEE. The Director of Development reminded members that funding for the post of Town Centre Manager would run out in March 2006 and that whilst a request for extension of the post would be included within the Rates Estimates, it was recommended that a proportion of funding from the Economic Development Budget be allocated against the costs of employment between April and December 2006. It was agreed that £24,000 be allocated from the economic development plan funding, with £12,000 being recouped through DETI. **OUT OF COMMITTEE**

Business Growth & Development: The Director of Development informed members that 27 businesses had been assisted under the Business Growth & Development programmes and that funding of £48,264 had been mainly allocated for capital purchases for the purposes of improving processes, marketing or sales.

Peace 2 Extension Funding: Members noted that the Peace 2 Extension Funding programme had closed for general calls and that 23 applications had been received, 5 of which had been rejected as incomplete and that assessments had begun for presentation to Council in January.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Bertie Peacock Bursary: It was agreed that the Alderman Rankin, Alderman Robinson, Councillor Coyle and the Director of Development would attend the launch of the Bertie Peacock Bursary to take place at a Gala Dinner in the Europa Hotel, Belfast on 23rd March 2006 at a cost of £75 per person, plus VAT.

Investment in North West Region: Alderman Robinson welcomed the announcement by the Secretary of State, Peter Hain on investment in the North West region but said he was disappointed that Seagate were not employing additional staff at their Limavady plant.

Councillor Cubitt referred to the announcement about Dungiven by-pass and proposed dual carriageway on the main Dungiven to Londonderry road and said there was no need for this as in his opinion there was very little hold up of traffic on the route. He suggested that the announcement had been made to appease the nationalist and that funding should have been directed to hospitals or schools.

Forest Service Consultation: The Director of Development informed members that Forest Service had recently announced that they were holding a consultation meeting to review the use of public forests for mountain biking, which would take place on 17 December 2005 at Castlewellan. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó hOisín, seconded by Alderman Mullan that the Director of Development write to Forest Service welcoming the consultation process and to request that a meeting be held in the north west at a suitable time.

Limavady Bus Depot: Alderman Robinson requested that the Director of Development write to Translink regarding reviewing the decision to close the bus depot in Limavady on Saturdays.

Accidents & Child Safety: Alderman Robinson informed members that the Grammar School Crossing Patrol Officer had been off work for a number of weeks and suggested this be brought to the attention of Western Education & Library Board. Members also made reference to recent road traffic accidents involving children at Church Street and outside St Mary's school and said fitting seat belts on school buses should be made a priority.

Invitation from GAA: Councillor Ó hOisín queried why Council had not been informed of an invitation which came from the Chairman of the GAA County Board for members to attend the official launch of the Club Derry Initiative. The Director of Development said that she was unaware of the invitation but would raise the issue with staff within the Development Department.

NEXT MEETING:

11 January 2006 - pending agreement on restructuring of Council meetings.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 8.50 pm)