

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

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

15 JANUARY 2013

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, G Robinson and J Rankin. Councillors O Beattie, A Brolly, B Chivers, B Douglas, T McCaul, J McCorkell, S McGlinchey (Chair), C McLaughlin, D Nicholl, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Director of Development and the Committee Clerk.

APOLOGIES: - Councillor G Mullan

PRESENTATION ON BT BROADBAND:

The Chair welcomed Mr Michael Spiers, Wholesale Service Manager with BT to the meeting.

Mr Spiers gave an overview of the superfast broadband journey from copper DSL lines to the next generation fibre broadband for homes and businesses. He outlined that the copper from local exchanges were being replaced with BT street cabinets with fibre, which would be capable of carrying more information faster than copper and not be distance dependent.

Mr Spiers explained that currently the level of broadband coverage in Northern Ireland exceeded other European countries. He said that 90% of homes and businesses in Northern Ireland were able to receive superfast broadband and that BT, DETI and DARD were investing £50 million to improve the service for the remaining 10% of homes, particularly those in rural areas. He added that by 2015 every customer should be getting a broadband speed of 2.5 mb.

Members highlighted the importance of broadband in terms of completing homework, tax returns, grant applications and VAT. Mr Spiers acknowledged that a number of complaints had been received with regard to the service. He said that it was unlikely that there would be 100% broadband coverage throughout Northern Ireland but encouraged those who were unable to access the service to lobby their current communications provider, local MLAs and DETI.

The Chair thanked Mr Spiers for attending the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 11 December 2012 were approved on the proposal of Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McCaul.

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 2 – Limavady Jazz and Blues Committee: The Director of Development advised that a frank and open discussion had taken place with the Jazz and Blues Committee and that issues which the group had highlighted had been discussed, including the role expected from Council in terms of support for the festival, resource availability and communication issues. It was pointed out that the festival committee were interested in elected members being involved in the festival process.

Page – Suicide Awareness: In response to a member, the Director of Development confirmed that an informal meeting with the Suicide Awareness Group was being organised over the next few weeks.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES MEETING:

A discussion took place around the wording of the minutes of Special Development Services meeting held 26 November 2012 in which a presentation had been heard on the Feasibility Study for Sports and Community Facilities in Dungiven.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor B Douglas, seconded by Councillor E Stevenson that the minutes be amended to reflect that:

‘Councillor Douglas had stressed that there had been little consultation with the wider community and with the controlled schools.’

The minutes of Special Development meeting held 26 November 2012 were approved on the proposal of Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McCaul.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT – JANUARY 2013:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for January 2013 and enlarged thereon.

25th Anniversary of the Opening of the Golf Course: The Director of Development reported that the 9 hole Par 3 golf course at Benone first opened officially to the public in 1988. Council approved the list of promotions and events being planned as part of the 25th anniversary celebrations at Benone Tourist Complex. This had been allowed for in the budgets for 2013/14.

Limavady 400 Timeline – Proposed Dates: The Director of Development referred to the timeline of historic dates set out within her report of events which occurred over the last 400 years and since Limavady had been granted Royal Charter by King James 1. She said it was acknowledged that there were many more historic dates that could be included but due to restriction in the display area available, the timeline had concentrated on 30 significant dates.

A member referred to Newtownlimavady Workhouse which opened in 1842 and suggested that Pete St John be invited to the Borough to share his expertise on the famine.

Council approved the timeline content suggested to enable the printing of interpretative disc panels for display in Roe Valley Arts and Culture over the course of 2013.

2013 Milk Cup: *Alderman J Rankin expressed an interest in the topic and took no part in the discussion:* It was noted that a request had been received from the NI Milk Cup Committee on funding towards the costs of the 2013 Milk Cup event. It was agreed that the Committee would be informed that there was no need for a formal presentation to Council on the event.

Public Health Agency Obesity Campaign – Choose to Live Better: Council gave its support to the Public Health Agency Obesity Campaign – Choose to Live Better which aimed to raise awareness of what constitutes being overweight, health impact of this and to encourage those who were overweight to make small practical lifestyle changes that would help reduce weight and impact positively on their health. It was agreed that a health check would be organised for elected members.

Limavady Town Centre Masterplan – Draft Proposals for a Restore Scheme for Limavady: It was agreed that Council would proceed and process the proposal for the restore scheme for Limavady with the DSD as outlined within the Director of Developments Report. Several comments were made to the scheme, including that property owners should be encouraged to take care of their own property; funding should not be provided to those who had previously received funding; or to those who made no effort to maintain their properties.

Reference was made to the two vacant properties in Linenhall Street and their eligibility was queried. It was suggested that Council lead by example by cleaning the front of the council building and that consideration could be given to creating open space for some sites as an alternative to fencing the areas off. It was also suggested that Council consider making use of prisoners in the restore scheme.

Bid for Dereliction Funding: Members were informed that a bid had been submitted on Dereliction Funding for Dungiven and if successful the bid would lead to a small spin off on tourism, could clean up the town, contribute to regeneration, tackle social need, support local jobs and instil civic pride in local residents. It was suggested that some sites be turned into green areas rather than being fenced off. It was also suggested that Council work with the local community who had painted buildings on the run up to the Ulster Fleadh.

Update on Development of Sports/Community Facilities in Dungiven: Members were advised that the closing date for submissions to undertake an Economic Appraisal was 18th January 2013.

Boxing Consultation: Councillor O Beattie advised the Director of Development of the existence of a new Boxing Club in Ballykelly

The Director of Development report was approved on the proposal of Councillor Chivers, seconded by Councillor Brolly.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Ministerial Visit: Members were advised that Minister Attwood would be visiting the Borough on 25 January 2013.

Focus Group Events – Statutory Transition Committees: The Chief Executive circulated correspondence from the DOE Policy Division which advised that the Department were putting in place a number of targeted focus group events to discuss the policy proposals for Statutory Transition Committees. A list of dates, times and venues for the events were set out within the correspondence.

A member voiced disappointment that none of the events were being held in the North West region or in the evening and stated that members who worked would not be given the opportunity to attend. The Chief agreed to forward the points made to the Policy Division.

Course/Conference: Councillor D Nicholl expressed an interest in attending the Eighth Annual ICLRD conference ‘Cooperating Across Boundaries’ to be held in Canal Court Hotel, Newry on 7 February 2013.

NEXT MEETING – 12 February 2013

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 8.25 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting