

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
15 MAY 2012**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 8.00 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, C McLaughlin (Chair), G Mullan, D Nicholl, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Director of Environmental Services and Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: - None.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 24 April 2012 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Chivers, seconded by Alderman Robinson.

MATTERS ARISING: -None.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS – MAY 2012:

Building Control Department:

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Building Control Report which detailed applications approved, acknowledged, issued, rejected or withdrawn between 1 – 30 April 2012; Entertainment Licences issued; Licensing of Petroleum Spirit Storage Installation and Facilities Management & Energy Management Report. The items for information were noted and the report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Mullan, seconded by Alderman Robinson subject to the following:

Licensing of Petroleum Spirit Storage Installations: It was agreed that the application for grant of a new petroleum licence for Derrychrier Service Station, 772 Feeny Road, Dungiven would be approved, subject to the erection of adequate warning signs in the proximity of the fuel dispenser.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Council and Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS): The Director of Environmental Services explained that the aim of the MoU was to clarify and co-ordinate the roles & responsibilities of NIFRS and Councils' Licensing Officers with respect to fire safety in premises for which district councils were responsible for licensing and NIFRS who were responsible for on-going fire safety compliance. He said the MoU was intended to ensure that no unnecessary burden was placed on businesses or organisations given the need for compliance by both the licensing requirements of local district councils and those required under The Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 and The Safety Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010.

It was agreed that the MoU would be formally signed by both the NIFRS (Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Director of Safety Services)) and Council's Chief Executive.

Environmental Health Department:

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Environmental Health Report which detailed information relating to Animal Welfare; Consumer Protection; Health & Safety; Licence & Regulatory; Street Trading and Pollution Control. The report and recommendations were approved on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Brolly subject to the following:

Welfare of Animals (Northern Ireland) Act 2011: The Director of Environmental Services advised that following on from information provided to Council at its Environmental Services Committee meeting on 24 April 2012 with regard to the above Act, an Enforcement Policy for the functions of the Welfare of Animals (NI) Act 2011 had been developed. He said this would be reviewed/updated following any significant developments within this function, such as changes to the legislation, relevant case law or changes to guidance.

Council approved the Policy to ensure transparent, open, proportionate and fair enforcement of the Welfare of Animals (NI) Act 2011.

High Hedge (Fee Transfer) Regulation (NI) 2011: It was agreed that in order to recoup some of the cost to Council for investigation of high hedge complaints, that Council would set the maximum fee to be transferred to the hedge owner at £360.00.

Dog Breeding Establishments: In response to a request by an elected member, the Director of Environmental Services provided details of the current list of Dog Breeding establishments in the Borough. He said that Dog Breeding establishments were currently regulated by Council under Article 12 & 13 of the Dogs (NI) Order 1983 and that DARD had issued a consultation on the proposed Welfare of Animals (Dog Breeding Establishment) Regulations (NI) 2012, which would also be enforced by Councils.

Affordable Warmth – An Area Based Approach: The Director of Environmental Services outlined that as part of the 2011 Fuel Poverty Strategy the Department of Social Development had decided to look at the key areas of targeting resources, improving energy efficiency, achieving affordable warmth and building stronger partnerships. He said they had adopted a pilot project with the aim of increasing energy efficiency awareness and implementing heating and insulation measures in owner occupied homes. He recommended that as discussions were still in progress and the project had not been finalised, that Council agree in principle to be involved in the project and when details were confirmed decide whether or not to commit to be involved.

Technical Services Report:

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Technical Services Report and enlarged thereon. The items for information were noted and the report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor McCaul, seconded by Alderman Coyle subject to the following:

Waste Management: The Director of Environmental Services reminded members that Council had agreed last month to award the contract to a bidder for treatment of mixed dry recyclable waste. He said that during the required standstill period, a number of further queries had been raised by one of the remaining bidders and these matters were currently under consideration by the NWWMG in conjunction with their legal advisers. He added that as a result of these developments, it had not been possible to award the contract at this time.

It was noted that quotations were currently being sought for short term contract to deal with mixed dry recyclable waste. It was agreed that officers would be given delegated authority to accept the lowest/best priced quotation following close of the submission period for the contract.

Drumavalley Kick About Area: Members were advised that works had commenced to plough and re-seed Drumavalley Kick About area. It was suggested that officers from Technical Service investigate the feasibility of rotating the pitch around and fencing off the remaining area with a view to the land being let for grazing.

Expansion of Ecar Project: It was agreed that a representative from DRD would be invited to present to Council at the June Environmental Services Committee meeting on the expansion of the ecar project.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Local PTA Volunteer of the Year Finalists: A member highlighted that Joanne Palmer, Ballyelly Primary School PTA had been nominated as one of six national PTA Volunteer of the Year Finalist and that she needed local support to help her win the coveted title. Details of how to vote for the finalist would be forwarded to Council staff.

NEXT MEETING – 26 June 2012.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 8.50 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting