

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
15 NOVEMBER 2011**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 8.55 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:

Committee Clerk and the Director Environmental Services.

APOLOGIES: - The Chief Executive.

**WESTERN GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT
2010/11:**

The Chair welcomed Barny Heywood, Group Chief Environmental Health Officer to the meeting.

Mr Heywood presented his Annual Group Environmental Health Service report for the year 2010/11. He referred to the variety of subjects and issues that Environmental Health Offices were involved with and said these required officers to have a broad skill base to cover the spectrum of work covered. He said that the input given to the group by Alderman Jack Rankin and ex Councillor Michael Carten over the years was greatly appreciated.

Mr Heywood reminded members of the Western Groups key objectives and of work that the Group was involved with during the year, including ten low to medium cases of pollution in Limavady Borough, an initiative to raise awareness of responsible use of MP3 players, development of a climate change adaption strategy; launch of a new Health & Safety at Work strategy and a safe maintenance campaign and management of asbestos.

In response to Members, Mr Heywood indicated that the Environmental Health Service responds to Planning Service on consultations for wind turbines/wind farms and that potential noise levels could be a material factor for Planning Service in forming their decision on such applications. He said that the work of Community Safety Officer's and improved legislation helped deviate activities around the sale of fireworks at Halloween and that retailers could be asked to remove faulty toys from their shelves in the run up to Christmas.

The Director Environmental Services thanked Mr Heywood for his help and support to Officers within Environmental Health Department. The Chair thanked Mr Heywood for attending the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 18 October 2011 were approved on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

MATTERS ARISING:

Bus Shelter – Aghanloo: Members were advised that following a site meeting at Lilac Avenue a suitable location for a bus shelter had not been identified. Councillor Robinson indicated that he would look at a possible site at Grannagh Park.

Environmental Park – Dungiven: The Director of Environmental Services confirmed that an application had been made to the Public Health Agency for a grant of £10k towards an upgrade of the Environmental Park in Dungiven. He said that a response from PHA was expected shortly and that although the monies would help deal with some of the immediate access problems associated with the Park consideration would need be given to the long to medium term maintenance of the Park.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS – NOVEMBER 2011:***Building Control Department:***

The Director Environmental Services presented the Building Control Report which detailed applications approved, acknowledged, issued, cancelled, rejected or withdrawn between 1 – 31 October 2011; Entertainment Licences issued; Amusement Permits issued; transfer of Liquor Licence; Property Certificates issued and Facilities Management & Energy Management Report. The items for information were noted and the report was adopted on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor McCaul.

Environmental Health Department:

The Director Environmental Services presented the Environmental Health Report which detailed information relating to Consumer Protection, Licensing & Regulatory and Consultations. The report and recommendations were approved on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor McGlinchey subject to the following:

Consultation on Alarm Notification Areas, Amendments to the Noise Act 1996 and Statutory Nuisances: It was agreed that Council would adopt and forward a response to the above consultation prepared by a sub group of the Chief Environmental Health Officers.

Technical Services Department:

The Director 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 Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Chivers subject to the following:

Drumaduff Landfill Site – Restoration & Remediation: The Director of Environmental Services advised that NIEA had indicated that it was satisfied with the closure plan for Drumaduff landfill site. He said that in accordance with the Framework Agreement drawn up earlier in the year between the DOE and Council, NIEA would serve a compliance notice on Council which would

formally require Council to proceed to undertake the works and site monitoring specified in the Closure Plan. He added that in light of this, it was essential that Council move forward on the issue of land acquisition and that Councils Land Agent was continuing to seek the agreement of relevant land owners to acquire the necessary lands. Members would be kept updated on process on this.

Dungiven Recycling Centre: Members were advised that tenders were currently being assessed and clarification was being sought from the potential preferred bidder for construction of a Recycling Centre in Dungiven. It was noted that officers were looking at a number of issues raised by Bleach Green residents.

Vandalism: The Director of Environmental Services reported that vandalism throughout the Borough continued and for the second time in a month seating, bins and fencing had been burned/vandalised at Alexander Road Play Park. He said Council had recently fitted a new cattle grid at Gortmore View Point but unfortunately when Council Operatives went back to complete works, the cattle grid and protection barriers had been stolen and the block work to the chamber vandalised. He added that the necessary repair and reinstatement works following the vandalism was another example of unnecessary expenditure facing Council when efforts were being made to cut back on expenditure and reduce local rates.

Following discussion in which members voiced their outrage at the vandalism, it was agreed that the Director of Environmental Services would look at what it had cost to repair the Play Park at Alexander Road since it opened and to how much it would cost to erect a higher fence. It was also suggested that the park be closed each evening during the winter months.

Vehicle Tracking System: It was agreed that Council would accept the tender from Supatrak for the supply and installation of a vehicle tracking system at a cost of £23,760.00 for a three-year period. It was noted that this was budgeted for in the current financial year.

Quotation for Trees: Members retrospectively approved acceptance of the quotation submitted by Flannery's Nurseries, Kildare for the purchase of 30 trees for various areas throughout the Borough.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Local Launch of Liofa: Councillor Brolly proposed, seconded by Councillor Chivers that the Chief Executive would contact the Minister for Arts & Culture regarding attending a local launch of the Irish Language Programme Liofa.

Thanks to Members: Councillor Coyle thanked members for their messages and texts when he had taken ill during the Remembrance Sunday Commemoration.

Notice of Motion on Emblems & Flags: A member highlighted that to avoid further bad publicity Sinn Féin would be submitting a notice of motion to ask that Council acknowledge that it has adopted a Flag Flying Policy. Noted.

NEXT MEETING – 20 December 2011.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 10:15 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting