

**LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

16 JANUARY 2007

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.00 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and Director of Environmental Services.

APOLOGIES: - None

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 19 December 2006 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Rankin.

MATTERS ARISING: - None

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS – JANUARY 2007:

Building Control Department:

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Building Control report which detailed applications approved, acknowledged & issued and Energy Management Report was approved on the proposal of Alderman Robinson seconded by Councillor Robinson subject to the following:

Building Regulations Applications: The Director of Environmental Services outlined that to pre-empt amendments introduced in November 2006 to the Building Regulations (NI) 2000, Building Control had received a major increase in applications compared to the previous year. He said the increased workload would affect response time in dealing with applications and performance indicators relating to response time. Noted.

Environmental Health Department:

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Environmental Health Report and enlarged thereon. The report and recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Carten subject to the following:

Appointment of Public Analysts: The Director of Environmental Services explained that under Article 27 of the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, Councils were required to appoint one or more suitably qualified persons to act as public analysts. He said that following a tendering process undertaken on behalf of the Chief Environmental Health Officers Group, Eurofins (NI) Ltd had been awarded the contract. Council approved the list of qualified persons employed as Public Analysts by Eurofins (NI) Ltd to act as analysts in accordance with Article 27 of the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

Avian Influenza – Fresh Poultry Meat Controls: The Director of Environmental Services informed members that in order to deal effectively with any outbreak of Avian Influenza in Northern Ireland poultry, DARD would need to work in partnership with District Councils in respect of controls required on fresh poultry meat. He said that DARD had approached the Chief Environmental Health Officers Group (CEHOG) to discuss the proposed role for Environmental Health Officers (EHO's) in the controls that DARD were putting in place in the event of a disease outbreak.

The Director of Environmental Services provided information regarding the Avian Influenza disease, EU rules on controls of fresh poultry meat, tracing meat and eggs from infected premises, legal basis for District Councils involvement and associated costs.

It was agreed that Council would confirm agreement in principle to the proposed involvement for EHO's in the NI control of Avian Influenza subject to further detailed discussion and confirmation with CEHOG.

Pest Control – Pigeons: The Director of Environmental Services outlined that over the past year a number of complaints had been received regarding pigeons roosting on properties in Main Street, Limavady. He said that three pest control companies were contacted in order to ascertain what methods were available to deal with the issue and the two main methods of control were deterrent systems and management of the bird population.

Members discussed the options to deal with the problem, the risk to public health and fouling created by the birds. It was noted that the estimated cost to remove the pigeons using the live trapping method would be in the regions of £3,000 to £4,500.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Brolly not to finance the trapping method but that property owners would be advised of precautions they could take to prevent the pigeons roosting in buildings. It was also agreed that a letter would be forwarded to the Chamber of Trade to suggest that they raise the issue with local businesses.

Dangerous Dogs (NI) Order 1991: The Director of Environmental Services explained that the Department of Agriculture had requested comment on the Dangerous Dogs (NI) Order 1991 by 9 February 2007. He provided an overview of the legislation and explained that dangerous dogs were defined as any dog of the type known as Pit Bull Terriers, Japanese Tosas, Dogo Argentinos and Filo Brasileiro and that it was an offence for any person to breed, breed from, sell, exchange or have in their possession any of the designated dogs unless by authority of an exemption permitted by the order. He said at 5 January 2007 there were 2342 dogs licensed in the Borough and that one Certificate of Exemption for

a dangerous dog had been issued in 1991 when the legislation was first introduced.

In the discussion that followed, members debated whether Council should have an amnesty on the destruction of dangerous dogs. It was agreed that an amnesty would not be recommended but that members' comments as follows would be included in response to the Department of Agriculture.

- problem of identification and different dog types
- revision of the legislation
- the deed should be punished not the breed and
- that owners should be trained on dog handling.

The Litter (NI) Order 1994: The Director of Environmental Services outlined the process for reporting littering and level of fines. He said that a Notice had been served under Article 20 of the Litter (NI) Order 1994 on a person witnessed depositing litter in the car park at Roe Valley Recreation Centre and after failing to comply, Council had agreed that legal proceedings be instigated for contravention of the Litter (NI) Order 1994.

Members welcomed that the offender had been fined £150 and ordered to pay £75 towards Councils legal costs together with £16 summons and that the Magistrate had indicated that he was glad to see prosecutions being instigated in respect of littering offences.

Councillor Cubitt proposed, seconded by Alderman Rankin that officers be given delegated authority to instigate legal proceedings for contravention on the Litter Order on Councils behalf. The proposal was put to the meeting and declared lost with 4 voting for, 6 against and 2 abstentions.

DOE Air Quality Monitoring in NI 2005: The Director of Environmental Services informed members that the Department of Environment report on Air Quality for Northern Ireland had been received and that this provided a summary of air quality monitoring carried out in Northern Ireland on behalf of Government by district councils. He said that there were currently 39 air quality monitoring stations in Northern Ireland which continually monitor for 8 identified pollutants and in addition indicative monitoring had been undertaken using low cost non-automatic techniques such as NO₂ diffusion tubes at 200 sites.

Members noted that EU Directives establish Limit Values for specified pollutants and that the Air Quality Strategy (AQS) sets out a comprehensive strategic framework for air quality policies and establishes air quality objectives for key air pollutants.

The Director of Environmental Services stated that under the Environment (NI) Order 2002, District Councils in Northern Ireland must carry out a regular review and assessment of their local air quality and if it was likely that an AQS objective would not be met, Council were required to declare an Air Quality Management Area and develop an action plan to address the problem. He said having completed the first round of review and assessment, Councils had declared a total of 22 AQMA's covering PM₁₀, NO₂ and SO₂ and that action plans were being developed and will be made available when completed.

The AQMA declared at the junction of Ballyquin Road - Lower Main Street junction, Dungiven was discussed at length. It was agreed that members concerns to air quality (NO₂) in Dungiven would be forwarded to Roads Service and to query if they had a short term solution to the problem. Members queried if there was a correlation between air quality and respiratory problems. Noted.

Technical Services Department:

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Technical Services Report and enlarged thereon. The report and recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Ó hOisín subject to the following:

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive – Appointment of Distributor Takeback Scheme Operator: The Director of Environmental Services highlighted that within the above Directive, it was proposed to have a UK wide network of Designated Collection Facilities (DCFs) where householders could take back their waste electrical and electronic equipment free of charge. He said that Council had been advised that Valpak Retail WEEE Services Ltd had been appointed as a Distributor Takeback Scheme (DTS) operator and that the Government were keen to make use of existing waste collection infrastructure rather than new facilities being set up.

The Director of Environmental Services outlined the benefits of local authorities registering their sites as DCF's and said that Councils would expect to receive up to £9,000 per site depending on circumstances. He added that the costs of transport, treatment, recovery, recycling and disposal of WEEE collected at sites which are not DCF's would fall to local authorities and would not be reimbursed by either the WEEE Exchange or new burdens funding.

It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that Council would sign up to the scheme to facilitate waste collection.

Break-in at Benone Maintenance Shed: Members welcomed that machinery stolen from Benone maintenance shed had been recovered at Bellarena Forest and at a disused shed in Magilligan.

Aghanloo Transfer Station: The Director of Environmental Services answered a number of queries in relation to rental terms and costs for repairs at Aghanloo transfer station. Following discussion, it was agreed that Council would approve and accept the new lease agreement and rental terms of £27,000 per year as recommended by the Valuation Officer for the building from R J P Nutt.

It was also agreed that Council would accept quotation of £6,010.00+VAT from Donnelly Cabins for supply and delivery of a port-a-cabin to the Transfer Station.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

At members request the Director of Environmental Services agreed to investigate the following:

- progress on provision of play park at Foreglen
- progress on vesting of land at Drumaduff
- recycling of mobile phones and if these were sent to third world countries.

Formal Attendance at Funeral: It was agreed that the Mayor would formally represent Council at the funeral of Winnie Brady who had tragically died during a religious retreat.

Public Meetings – EQIA: It was agreed that the Chief Executive would detail at the Support Services meeting when public meetings were to be held regarding Neutral Environment EQIA.

Greysteel Glen: In response to Councillor McElhinney the Director of Environmental Services explained that the Technical Services Manager was undertaking professional advice regarding filling over the culvert at Greysteel Glen.

NEXT MEETING: - 20 February 2007.

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

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting