

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

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
17 JANUARY 2012**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Chief Executive and the Director of Development

APOLOGIES: - None.

PRESENTATION BY POBAL:

The Chair welcomed Ms Janet Muller, Chief Executive, Pobal to the meeting.

Ms Muller stated that Pobal had been focusing on the question of an Irish Language Act since 2003 and had managed to garner unprecedented support in terms of advice on a legislative model that would include the Irish Language's unique position in the North, as well as best international practice. She said that in 2006, the Irish and British Governments announced as part of the St Andrews Agreement that the Governments would introduce an Irish Language Act reflecting on the experience of Wales and Ireland and to work with the incoming Executive to enhance and protect the development of the Irish Language.

Ms Muller highlighted that whilst the public had been extremely supportive of proposals for the new legislation, from 2007 little had been done at Assembly level to push this forward. She said there was international support to getting the legislation progressed and in December 2011 the Council of Europe had made 3 specific recommendations for immediate action regarding the UK application of this binding convention, including one which calls on the authorities to 'Develop comprehensive legislation on the Irish language in Northern Ireland and take resolute measures to protect and implement more effectively the language rights of persons belonging to the Irish-speaking community.'

Ms Muller requested that Council endorse proposals for an Irish Language Act for immediate resolution. It was agreed that members would review the Pobal publication *Ag fíorú na hAislinge Ceachtanna ó Chéin is ó Chóngar - Vision to Enactment Lessons from Far and Near* and that the request for endorsement for the Irish Language Act would be discussed at the February Monthly meeting.

The Chair thanked Ms Muller for her informative presentation.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting 13 December 2011 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Councillor Mullan, seconded by Councillor McGlinchey subject to the following amendment:

Page 5 – Rural Development Programme, line 3 change ‘unaccounted’ to ‘unallocated.’

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 1 – Provision of a Green Field at Bovally: The Director of Development advised that a site meeting with the representatives from the design team had been arranged for 11.30 am on Friday 27 January 2012. Councillors to advise of their intention to attend.

Page 2 – Farmers Market: It was highlighted that it was important that people were encouraged into the Borough via events such as the Farmers Market. It was also stressed that a review should take place on the use of Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre and events being held in Drumceatt Square which would encourage people into the area.

Page 4 – Limavady Recreation Club: Members were advised that a letter of thanks had been received from Limavady Recreation Club for Council’s contribution towards their Centenary Dinner.

Page 4 – Scroggy Road Pitch: Members were informed that the pitch at Scroggy Road would be officially opened on 8 February 2012. It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Alderman Robinson that the newly refurbished pitches at Scroggy Road would be known as ‘Scroggy Road Playing Fields.’ The Director of Development agreed to make contact with residents from Ashbrook Park with regard to fencing around the pitch.

Page 5 – Greysteel Play Area: The Director of Development reported that initial contact had been made with the Limavady Volunteer Bureau with regard to finding a volunteer to open/close the play area at Greysteel.

Page 5 – Quads on Benone Beach: Members were informed that the main sign onto the beach had instructions on the use of quads on the beach. All additional signage regarding quads had been vandalised or were destroyed.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT – JANUARY 2012:

The Director of Development presented the Development Report for January 2012 and enlarged thereon. The recommendations within the report were approved on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Chivers subject to the following:

Limavady Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership: It was agreed that the Development Services Manager would be Council’s representative at officer level on Limavady Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership.

Request from Drumsurn Community Association for Financial Assistance: *Councillor Chivers declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.* The Director of Development explained that Drumsurn Community Association had raised concerns at the lack of adequate lighting outside the Community Centre. She said that the cost of materials were £450 and that volunteers had offered to undertake the work free of charge. It was agreed that for health and safety reasons that Council would look favourably on the request for financial assistance towards the provision of materials.

Members discussed the level of support that Council gave to community groups and it was felt that guidelines should be put in place. The Director of Development agreed to review the funding policy with a view to incorporating small amounts of funding to assist groups with essential upgrading and maintenance.

A member advised that there might be a future request from Aghanloo Community Association for funding towards resurfacing work.

Benone Tourist Complex and Benone Beach – Application under the Tourism Development Scheme: The Director of Development outlined that Benone Tourist Complex was Council's main tourism attraction and although Council had invested some resources over the last few years to ensure that facilities were maintained and continued to meet health & safety requirements, there was a need for Council to invest in upgrading the facilities. She said that prior to Christmas 2011, NITB opened a call for applications under the Tourism Development Scheme and that the closing date for submission was 6 January 2012. She added that a application had been submitted to the value of £355,000.00, with 50% requested from NITB and the other 50% match funded by Council.

The Director of Development advised that the application included actions to enhance visitor facilities at Benone Tourist Complex through the redevelopment of the under used bowling green, an existing brick storage area and adjacent outdoor facilities to create a themed crazy golf park, kiddies play zone, bistro/coffee shop with retractable glass walls to incorporate an events/entertainment piazza for use in holiday seasons, camping cabins, interpretation and signage for pathways and rebranding of the facility.

Members welcomed that an application had been submitted for funding to upgrade Benone Complex and Beach and it was stressed that this would provide a better service to the public and promote tourism. It was agreed that Council would commit to match funding of £177,500.00 towards the items outlined within the TDS application and within the timescale for completion, which was March 2013. It was also agreed that Council would meet to discuss future capital investment outside a formal council meeting.

Ageing Well Roe Valley – Council Representation: The Director of Development explained that Ageing Well Roe Valley were holding their AGM on 24 February 2012 and that as part of the AGM business, the group were seeking nominations to sit on the committee. She said that Be Safe Be Well was managed through Aging Well Roe Valley and Council's current representative was the Community Safety Manager. In view of the changeover to the new Policing and

Community Safety Partnership in the coming months, it was agreed that as an interim measure the Development Services Officer would attend any meetings. This would be reviewed when the new PCSP was in place.

Small Grants Programme: The Director of Development reminded members that at the December 2011 Development meeting Council had agreed to set aside funding of £20,000 within the 2012/13 estimates towards activities associated with the 2012 Olympics/Paralympics, the Torch Run and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. She said that it was proposed that a grant aid funding programme would offer small grant to schools and community/voluntary organisations for projects or events inspired by the 2012 Olympics/Paralympics Games, the Torch Run or the Queens Diamond Jubilee. She added that the grants would be offered subject to eligible criteria, within a specific timeframe and certain other limitations.

A discussion took place around the level of funding towards the Queens Jubilee and there were several points made for and against the amount to be made available for the celebration.

Councillor Broly proposed that the total amount set aside for the small grants programme would be lowered to £11,000. This was seconded by Councillor McCaul.

Councillor Douglas proposed an amendment that Council accept the recommendation to set aside £20,000 towards the Queens Jubilee and 2012 Olympic/Paralympics, with the view to launching the grant scheme for applications by the end of January 2012. This was seconded by Alderman Robinson.

The amendment was put to the meeting and declared carried, 8 for, 0 against and 6 abstentions. The substantive motion was put to the motion and declared carried, 8 for, 0 against and 6 abstentions.

Events at Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró: A member requested that Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró programme include Country & Western events. It was also suggested that artists such as Hugo Duncan be invited to broadcast from Drumceatt Square.

Museum/Heritage Report: Members were informed that there had been positive feedback to the Drumcovitt exhibition being held in the Ritter Gallery. It was suggested that additional publicity should be carried out with particular emphasis on the Feeny area.

Boxing/Kick-Boxing Club: A member highlighted that a number of people were interested in setting up a new boxing/kickboxing club. It was suggested that guidance would be required on the setting up of a club through Sports Development and possibly from Community Development.

Additional Items Outside the Report:

Soft Play Tenders: Approval was given to accept the tender submitted by House of Play for replacement of Soft Play Facility at Roe Valley Leisure Centre in the sum of £69, 231.00.

2012 Milk Cup: It was agreed that the NI Milk Cup Committee would be informed that there was no need for the group to present to Council with regard to request for funding for the 2012 Tournament. It was suggested that the group submit a written request and that an application form for funding be completed.

Conferences:

Euro Cross Border Partnership & Louth Local Authorities Conference: It was agreed that Alderman Coyle and an officer would attend the Euro Cross Border Partnership & Lough Local Authorities Conference entitled 'What it takes to succeed in the Tourism Sector,' on 28 March 2012 in Ballymascanlon House Hotel, Dundalk.

Consultations:

Members reviewed and commented on the following consultations:

- Outdoor Recreation Plan for Northern Ireland – It was agreed that the draft response would be circulated for discussion/approval at the February Development Services meeting.
- DCAL's Review of Sport NI – Members were informed that the deadline for this consultation had been extended to 27 January 2012. It was agreed that a copy of the proposed response would be e mailed to councillors for comment.

Update on the Proposed Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP): IN COMMITTEE on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

The Director of Development circulated a proposed new staffing structure for the PCSP. It was noted that new job descriptions would have to be drawn up for posts in consultation with Coleraine, Ballymoney and Moyle Councils; formal consultation would take place with affected staff and trade unions; Councils would have to adhere to guidance from the LGSC on categorisation process for the proposed new structure and that one Council from the cluster would take on the lead role in progressing both evaluation of the posts and the categorisation exercise.

Following discussion it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Councillor Mullan that Council endorse the new PCSP structure.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Councillor McCaul that Councillor Chivers would chair the PCSP once the group became established.

OUT OF COMMITTEE on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Beattie .

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- It was agreed that there was no need for Digital UK to present to Council with regard to the digital switchover as this was well publicised via the media.

NEXT MEETING – 14 February 2012.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.40 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting