

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

PLANNING & SERVICES COMMITTEE

18 MARCH 2014

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

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Committee Clerk, Mr Greame Walker and Mr Shane Mathers Planning Service.

APOLOGIES: - None

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 18 February 2014 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor G Mullan, seconded by Councillor McGlinchey.

MATTERS ARISING: - None

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

(New applications – see appendix)

Mr Walker answered queries on applications listed on the new applications schedule and the recommendations were accepted subject to the following:

B/2013/0204/F – retrospective application for farm diversification for change of use of former agricultural building to renewable energy commercial workshop B1 use to the rear of 62 Windyhill Road, Limavady (D McCauley): Office meeting agreed.

B/2013/0231/F – conversion of granny flat into dwelling (including retention of extension) and reuse of existing dwelling for purposes ancillary to the proposed dwelling at 12 Drumbane Road, Dungiven. (Donald O'Connor): Office meeting agreed.

B/2013/0236/F – erection of replacement 2 storey dwelling at 60a Drumrane Road, Limavady (Mr David McIntyre): Office meeting agreed.

B/2013/0256/O – site for replacement dwelling at 83 Lomond Road, Limavady (Mr John O'Neill): Office meeting agreed.

B/2013/0271/O – proposed dwelling and garage on farm, 80m south east of 88 Dunlade Road, Greysteel (Mr William O'Hara): Office meeting agreed.

The list of Planning Applications decisions issues between 1 February – 28 February 2014 were noted by members.

Consultation - Proposed Windfarm, Ballyhanedin: There was no comment from Council to the planning consultation on a proposed windfarm on lands at Ballyhanedin to the north west of Feeny.

PRESENTATION BY NORTHERN IRELAND COUNTRYSIDE FESTIVALS:

The Chair welcomed Mr Bill Beckett and Mr Derek Lutton, representatives from Northern Ireland Countryside Festivals to the meeting.

Mr Beckett explained that the Countryside Festival had been running countryside events for nearly 20 years, including a festival in Moira, which was the country's biggest event of its kind, attracting 20,000 visitors annually and creating £1 million to the local economy. He said that Shackleton had been identified as a potential festival site as it was close to major towns & border counties; could cope with large numbers and had a good communication infrastructure.

Mr Beckett presented details of the proposed festival to be held in July/August 2014 at Shackleton army barracks. He said that the festival events would include a fishing competition, food and craft stalls, demonstrations on how to make soda bread and butter churning, medical games and a dog show. He asked for a commitment from Limavady Borough Council to support the family orientated event by contributing £15,000 towards the proposed festival in its first year.

It was confirmed that consultation had commenced with OFMDFM on tentative dates for the event and that a management plan was in place with regard to noise and crowd control. It was suggested that the proposed date for the festival should not overlap with other events, such as the Milk Cup.

The deputation from NI Countryside Festivals left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

The request for Council support was discussed at length. Councillor J McCorkell proposed that in principle Council agreed to support the event by contributing the requested £15,000, subject to the receipt and consideration of a business case for the festival to be provided by the company. This was seconded by Councillor E Stevenson and agreed. It was pointed out that there was a need for consistency when agreeing to requests for funding. It was noted that the funding would have to be taken from reserves.

ROADS:

It was agreed that the Chief Executive would write to Roads Service to request that they consider introducing speed restrictions in the vicinity of 38b Dunlade Road and to re-open negotiations with the new owner of a property at the corner of Beech Road/Drumsum Road with regard to having a hedge removed as this would increase visibility at the junction.

WATER & SEWERAGE: - None.

HOUSING: - None.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY ALDERMAN M COYLE AND COUNCILLOR O BEATTIE:

Alderman M Coyle proposed that:

‘Limavady Borough Council recognises that the NIHE has provided a truly exceptional service to all communities throughout Limavady over the past 43 years. In order to ensure the housing needs of the people of Limavady and Northern Ireland can continue to be fully met this Council proposes that the Housing Executive remains as a single landlord within the public sector. The Council also proposes that legislation is amended to allow the Housing Executive to access private funding to deliver the new build programme.

Limavady District Council acknowledges the extensive work carried out by the Housing Council since its inception in 1971. The Council calls on the Minister for Social Development to give a continued commitment to the non-politicisation of housing through the creation/formation of an independent statutory consultative and monitoring housing body. This body should have membership from the new 11 Councils with the aim of providing fair and robust accountability for the proposed new regional housing body and all social landlords.’

Speaking in support of the motion, he pointed out that the Housing Executive was one of the biggest landlords in Europe, with it having approximately 89,000 dwellings and a budget of £750 million. He said that although the Housing Executive was not a perfect organisation, it had a 90% customer satisfaction rate and that when RPA was first muted; the Housing Executive was one of the organisations that everyone agreed should be retained.

Alderman M Coyle stated that the intention to split the Housing Executive into two part, that is a landlord part and the other covering the rest of the existing services would mean that they would in essence be able to acquire private funding and only be answerable to its investors, with no public scrutiny - a role that the Housing Council currently fulfils. He concluded that a housing body formed without statutory and legislative foundation or framework would lack teeth both in practice and perception.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Beattie and on being put to the meeting was declared carried, 9 for, 0 against and 3 abstentions.

Alderman M Coyle thanked members for supporting the motion and requested that a copy of the motion be forwarded to the Minister for Social Development and to the Northern Ireland Housing Council. Agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: - None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - 15 April 2014

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 7.55 PM.

Chair: _____