

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
18 OCTOBER 2011**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 8.05 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, Chief Executive and the Director Environmental Services.

**APOLOGIES:** - None.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting dated 20 September 2011 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Chivers, seconded by Councillor McGlinchey.

**MATTERS ARISING:** - None.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS – OCTOBER 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the Building Control Report which detailed applications approved, acknowledged, issued, cancelled, rejected or withdrawn between 1 – 30 September 2011; Entertainment Licences issues and renewed; application for grant of Entertainment Licence, application for Amusement Permit; Property Certificates issued, Street Naming & Property Numbering Policy and Facilities Management & Energy Management Report. The items for information were noted and the report was adopted on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Chivers subject to the following comments:

**Application for Renewal of Entertainment Licence:** The Director Environmental Services reported that a request had been received for renewal of an Entertainment Licence for the Corner Bar, Main Street Limavady and Sweet Night Club on Catherine Street Limavady. He said that the PSNI had been consulted as part of the consultation process and that although no objection was offered in respect of the requested opening hours from Monday to Saturday (11.30am to 1.30 am), comments made with regard to the requested hours for Sunday opening (12 noon to 1.30am) were that there would be insufficient Police resources on duty on Sunday nights to deal with any public order problems that were often experienced around these premises on Friday & Saturday nights.

The PSNI were also concerned that if the premises were to remain open outside of Sunday liquor licence hours (12 midnight) that there would be increased potential for intoxicating liquor to be sold or consumed beyond midnight.

Members were reminded that the existing Entertainment Licence for both premises was Monday to Saturday 11:30am to 1.30am and Sunday 12noon to 1:00am Monday morning.

Councillor Douglas proposed, seconded by Councillor Stevenson that in light of the comments by the PSNI that the Entertainment Licence should be renewed under the same conditions set in previous years and that Sunday opening hours should not be extended beyond 12.30 am on Monday morning. A member queried the closing time that had been recently granted to another entertainment premises in the town. The Director Environmental Services confirmed that it was 1 am Monday morning. Following further discussion, it was agreed that the above Entertainment Licences would be renewed to permit entertainment between 11.30 am – 1.30 am Monday to Saturday and between 12 noon Sunday to 1 am Monday morning.

**Rating of Empty Homes:** The Director Environmental Services reminded members that Land & Property Services (LPS) had commenced the implementation of Rating of Empty Homes legislation from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011, which would require the rating of existing vacant domestic properties and newly completed properties after this date. He said that LPS had now asked Council to verify the present situation for approximately 150 domestic properties that they have on their records to establish the ‘weatherproof’ status and if they are ‘Completion Notice Ready’. He said the backlog list provided by LPS would be additional workload for Building Control Officers, along with the normal site inspections.

It was agreed that the request by LPS for Council to provide this additional information would be approved on a non priority basis.

### ***Environmental Health Department:***

The Director Environmental Services presented the Environmental Health Report which detailed information relating to Consumer Protection, Food Safety, Licensing & Regulatory, Street Trading, Pollution Control, High Hedges Act (NI) 2011 and Clean Neighbourhoods & Environmental Act (NI) 2011. The report and recommendations were approved on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor Chivers subject to the following comments:

**Air Quality Update:** The Director Environmental Services outlined that since 1997 Councils Environmental Health Department has reviewed and assessed air quality within the Borough. He said initial assessment indicated that further assessment of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) was required and since 2002 the Department of Environment had provided funding of £73,149,76 to Council to facilitate air quality monitoring.

The Director Environmental Services explained that elevated levels of NO<sub>2</sub> had been detected in Main Street, Dungiven and as a result of these findings the area between the Roe Bridge and the Garvagh Road/Main Street junction had been declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). He said that since the designation NO<sub>2</sub> levels were continually monitored and an action plan had been

drawn up which identified that the long term solution to the elevated levels was the removal of through traffic from the town centre. He added that funding had been secured from the Planning and Environmental Policy Unit within the DOE for screening of nitrogen dioxide levels within the AQMA and that a six month study was currently underway to re-assess nitrogen dioxide levels in narrow congested street within Limavady where dwellings are within 2 metres of the roadside.

In the discussion which followed it was queried if central government realised the financial burden involved in constantly monitoring air quality in Dungiven and it was suggested that the government look at short to medium term solutions rather than waiting for funding to become available for the by-pass. Members indicated that they were frustrated and said that to keep monitoring the air quality was pointless if nothing was going to be done to rectify the problem. The Director Environmental Services indicated that Council would continue to monitor the air quality in the Borough as this was a legislative requirement but the solution to the problem was the provision of a by-pass which was in the hands of the Executive.

***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:

**North West Region Waste Management Group:** The Director Environmental Services explained that a workshop to give all members an opportunity to more fully understand the work of the North West Region Waste Management Group was being held at 10 am on 26 October 2011 and that all members were encouraged to attend.

**Drumaduff Landfill Site – Restoration & Remediation:** The Director Environmental Services outlined that the remaining detail of Council's Closure Plan for Drumaduff Landfill Site were being finalised and that this would enable officers to obtain updated cost estimates for the agreed works to Drumaduff. He said updated costs for the land required for the site had also been obtained from Councils' valuation & land agent and that these were being reviewed by officers before a full report would be brought to Council in the coming months. He added that as part of the restoration works the site would be re-profiled and re-graded.

**Dungiven Environmental Park:** Members were advised that a meeting was being held at 10 am on 20 October 2011 to discuss possible options for improvement of the Environmental Park in Dungiven with Councillors from the Benbradagh area.

**Bus Shelter – Lilac Avenue, Limavady:** The Director Environmental Services informed members that a survey had been carried out on two dates at the existing bus stop on Dowland Road to ascertain the number of children boarding buses at the stop. He said the number of children fell within Councils criteria for provision of a bus shelter and that the Operations Manager had met with Roads Service and the Traffic Branch of PSNI and both had agreed a potential site for the shelter.

During discussion the following points made included that the site was on a dangerous corner, a Translink bus driver should have been invited to the meeting and that the residents of Lilac Avenue should be consulted on the proposed site. Councillor Robinson proposed, seconded by Alderman Robinson that a site meeting take place with all parties concerned. Agreed

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Drumsum Bus Shelter:** In response to a member, the Director Environmental Services agreed to investigate alternative backing for the bus shelter at Drumsum.

**Presentation to Council:** It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Chivers that Barny Heywood, Group Chief Environmental Health Officer would present to Council at the November 2011 Environmental Services meeting.

**NEXT MEETING** – 15 November 2011.

**THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.40 PM**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of Meeting