

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

PLANNING & SERVICES COMMITTEE

19 MARCH 2013

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, J McCorkell, S McGlinchey, C McLaughlin, G Mullan, D Nicholl (Chair), A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

The Chief Executive, Committee Clerk and Ms Andree McNee, DoE Planning Service.

APOLOGIES: - Alderman G Robinson.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 19 February 2013 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor B Chivers, seconded by Councillor O Beattie.

MATTERS ARISING: - None

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS: (Deferred applications – see appendix):

The recommendation to the application listed on the deferred application schedule was accepted by members subject to the following comment:

D2 – B/2012/0267/O: Site for rural dwelling on farm holding in accordance with policy CTY10 of PPS 21 on lands between 98 and 104 Windyhill Road (Mr Marius McCauley) The refusal decision on this application would be appealed.

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS: (New applications – see appendix)

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

B/2011/0290/F – Anaerobic Digester and combined heat and power plant 150 m NW of 52 Carse Road (Mr Thomas Craig) Office meeting agreed.

B/2012/0335/F – upgrading of existing access to form new paired access plus widening of existing laneway adjacent to 21 Killyblight Road, Dungiven (Miss N E Greer) Office meeting agreed. It was agreed that if issues were resolved with Roads Service on access that the application would be approved without having to come back to Council.

B/2013/0022/O – new dwelling with garage between 26 and 36 Spallan Road, Limavady (W J Armstrong) Office meeting agreed.

The list of appeals lodged with the PAC and appeal decision notified were noted by members.

Meeting with Translink on Provision of Automatic Barrier: Members were advised that a meeting had been arranged with Translink at 10.30 am on Wednesday 27 March 2013 to discuss provision of automatic barriers at two locations along the rail line. It was agreed that Mr Craig and Mr Dodds who owned the land in which the rail line passed through would be invited to the meeting.

ROADS:

A letter was circulated to members to advise that Roads Service would operate as a business unit within a newly formed organisation called ‘Transport NI’ within the Department for Regional Development effective from 1 April 2013.

WATER & SEWERAGE: - None.

HOUSING: - None.

REPORT ON ACQUISITION OF LAND – PROPOSALS FOR DUNGIVEN SPORTS/LEISURE FACILITY:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Beattie, seconded by Councillor McCaul that item 10 on the agenda would be brought forward and discussed **IN COMMITTEE:**

The Chief Executive presented a report on acquisition of land at Curragh Road and Ballyquin Road, Dungiven, which was required if Council was to proceed with the agreed preferred option (2) outlined within the Economic Appraisal presented to Council on 5 March 2013. He gave an overview of valuation carried out by Land & Property Services on the lands required; asking price put forward by the land owners and opinion given by John V Arthur, Valuation Surveyor on asking price over market value. It was noted that in the surveyor’s opinion, the asking price for the land at Curragh Road was excessive and the asking price for the land at Ballyquin Road was acceptable as being of market value.

Following discussion Councillor Brolly proposed that in principle, Council purchase the land required for the Sport/Leisure Facility at Ballyquin Road and to develop Council owned land at Curragh Road, without purchasing the additional land included in option 2. The proposal was seconded by Alderman Coyle subject to it being agreed for Otium to carry out an addendum to the Economic Appraisal for revised estimates of cost.

It was agreed that the Steering Group for Development of Sport/Community Facilities for the Dungiven Area would meet at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 27 March 2013. **OUT OF COMMITTEE** on the proposal of Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR O BEATTIE:

Councillor O Beattie proposed:

‘that this Council recognises the need for reform of the Housing Executive; notes with concern the approach of the Minister for Social Development to this reform and urges this Council to write to the Minister to ensure that any proposed reforms are enshrined in the principles and values of equality and housing allocated on the basis of need.’

Councillor Beattie reminded members that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) had been established 40 years previously when housing standards for a large section of society were unacceptable, with families living in overcrowded and poorly maintained properties. She said throughout the troubles the NIHE allocated and delivered housing fairly upon the basis of equality and had managed to defuse the social and political time bomb of unfairness.

Councillor Beattie indicated that a review of the NIHE was essential, with the Review Team consulting with board members of the Housing Executive, the Housing Council and all political parties. She said NIPSA who had recently presented to Council, not only wanted to see the NIHE retained but for tenants and staff to be fully consulted on any future proposals that might affect them. She added that the decision taken by Minister McCausland to announce the abolition of the Housing Executive via a written statement without review by MLA’s was unacceptable.

Alderman M Coyle seconded the motion and said that whilst the Housing Executive had sold off some of its stock, this had left a diminished amount of properties for social housing and that the current recession with no new builds had made the situation worse. He reminded members that as part of the initial consultation on RPA, Council had voted against change to the Housing Executive. He said that it was disappointing that the Minister had not taken any steps

In summing up, Councillor Beattie she said dismantling the NIHE would see a move away from the ethos of allocating housing on a basis of need and that it was incumbent on Council to ask the Minister to ensure that any proposed reforms be enshrined in NIHE principles. The motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY ALDERMAN M COYLE:

Alderman Coyle proposed:

‘I move this motion that this Council

- welcomes the calls for consultation around the introduction of an opt-out organ donation scheme to increase the number of organ donors here;
- notes with concern the current serious shortage of organ donors; and
- agrees to write to the Minister for Health urging him to explore the introduction of such a scheme which would help save the lives of the many seriously ill people currently on long waiting lists dependent on the gift of organ donation.’

Alderman Coyle stated that the Minister for Health had recognised that there was sustained interest in an opt out system for organ donation in Northern Ireland and had announced that a public consultation on attitudes towards the introduction of an opt out system would take place, with the views of donor families, those on waiting lists, transplant charities and medical personal being sought. He said that the initiative was welcomed by all parties in the Assembly and was supported by a Private Members Bill by Joanne Dobson, MLA on this being the best solution to help save lives.

Alderman Coyle pointed out that currently 30% of the local population were on an organ donor register, with many seriously ill people on long waiting lists being wholly dependent on the gift of organ donation. He said this generosity was recently highlighted by the selfless action of Joe Brolly who made a living kidney donation to his friend and that Joe and his friend continued to campaign and encourage more people to consent to organ donations.

It was noted that the opt out system for organ donation would mean that under the presumed consent system, everyone would be considered as a willing donor unless they opted out, but next of kin would always have the final say. The motion was commended to Council.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mullan and supported by all members present at the meeting. Alderman Coyle thanked members for their support and said the impact of the gift of organ donation could not be underestimated and that there was now an opportunity for everyone who wished to donate to sign the donor register, which would go some way in combating the chronic donor shortage.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Dungiven Castle – Right of Way: Members were advised that the court hearing regarding right of way at Dungiven Castle was scheduled to be heard on 21 March 2013. All parties had entered into discussions and a draft agreement had partially been agreed.

Ministerial Visit: Members were advised that the Minister for Social Development was visiting the Borough on 21 March 2013 and that members were invited to lunch at 1 pm in Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre.

RDP - ARC North West: It was agreed that Councillor McCaul would replace Councillor McLaughlin on the ARC North West Joint Committee.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - 23 April 2013.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 8.00 PM.

Chair: _____