

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
20 SEPTEMBER 2011**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 8.35 pm on the above date.

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk, Chief Executive, Building Control Manager, Environmental Health Manager, Waste Services Manager and Operations Manager.

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors B Douglas, S McGlinchey and the Director Environmental Services.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting dated 16 August 2011 were approved on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded Councillor Chivers.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**Page 4 – Parking at Bovalley Health Centre:** Roads Service advised in a letter dated 12 September 2011 that at certain times of the day medical centres or schools were subject to traffic congestion. Roads Service were of the opinion that double yellow lines would not resolve parking problems at Bovalley Health Centre as the traffic congestion was short lived. Members agreed that the ideal solution to the problem was to extend the car park.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS –  
SEPTEMBER 2011:**

***Building Control Department:***

The Building Control Manager presented the Building Control Report which detailed applications approved and issued between 1 – 31 August 2011; Entertainment Licences issues and renewed; application for Amusement Permit; Property Certificates issued 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:

**Stendhal Festival:** Alderman Rankin proposed, seconded by Alderman Robinson that the organisers and officers who were involved with the licensing and control of the Stendhal Festival were to be congratulated as there were no complaints from local residents regarding the event.

**Bi-Lingual Street Nameplates:** The Building Control Manager explained that Council had received 3 requests to erect bi-lingual street name plates in English and Irish at O’Cahan Place Dungiven, Drumsurn Road and Kilhoyle Road. Following consultation with the occupiers of premises in the relevant areas and based on the responses received, Council was asked to consider the erection of bi-lingual street nameplates at O’Cahan Place Dungiven and Kilhoyle Road Drumsurn. The responses in respect of Drumsurn Road did not meet the criteria under Councils Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy.

A member pointed out that President Obama had recently announced that road name signs would not be replaced in the states and said that it was wrong for Council to use its limited resources in this way. The member also pointed out that Council’s policy on street name plates dated back to 2005 when economic conditions were different and that Council should consider setting a fee for the nameplates.

The Chief Executive agreed to forward to the Director of Environmental Services queries on costs for administration; nameplates and for implementation of the requests for bi-lingual name plates. He also agreed to raise with the Director if townland nameplates should be erected at the same time as bi-lingual name plates.

After further discussion it was agreed that bi-lingual street name plates would be erected at O’Cahan Place Dungiven and Kilhoyle Road Drumsurn.

**Rating of Empty Homes:** The Building Control Manager reported that Land and Property Services (LPS) were in the final stages of preparing for the implementation of new legislation which would require the rating of existing vacant domestic properties and newly completed domestic properties from 1 October 2011. He said that the criteria stipulated that a property should be ‘weatherproof’ before a Completion Notice would be issued and that LPS had requested that Councils comment on the ‘weatherproof’ status of new properties through normal Building Control inspections. He added if agreed Council would provide LPS with a list of properties which meet the criteria and therefore Completion Notice ready.

It was agreed that Council would provide the information outlined above to LPS and that Tascomi (Building Control software provider) would be amended to allow for the electronic transfer of information.

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

The Environmental Health Manager presented the Environmental Health Report which detailed information relating to Consumer Protection, Health & Safety, Licensing & Regulatory, Street Trading, Pollution Control and consultations. The report and recommendations were approved on the proposal of Councillor Chivers, seconded by Councillor Brolly subject to the following comments:

**Air Quality:** A member highlighted that with the rise in gas, oil and electricity, homeowners were increasingly using coal and log burners to heat their homes and that this impacted on the air quality in the Borough. The Environmental Health Manager agreed to compile a report on how much had been spent on monitoring the air quality in the Borough.

**Update on Saving Oil Stamps Scheme:** The Environmental Health Manager explained that the Public Health Agency (PHA) for the west were allocating £5k to each council area to help match fund any initiatives being taken forward to address fuel poverty. She said that the Saving Oil Stamps scheme (SOS) was viewed as a suitable initiative for the funding.

A document was circulated to members which detailed how the scheme was to be delivered, estimate of costs & benefits, target beneficiaries and promotion.

Members supported the submission for PHA funding for LCDI to operate the oil stamp saving scheme for the Borough in partnership with Limavady Borough Council.

***Technical Services Department:***

The Chief Executive 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.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Waste Related Study Tour:** The Chief Executive outlined that the North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee had recommended that a study trip to Norway/Germany be arranged to look at sites that would allow members and officers the opportunity to see firsthand the proposed facilities that were contained in the final bid of the North West Region Waste Infrastructure Project. He said that the 3 day trip envisaged to take place at the end of October 2011 would cost £1,000 per participant. He added that the cost should be viewed in the context of total cost to Councils on the potential investment in awarding a contract valued in excess of £500 million.

Members discussed the recommendation for 2 elected members and 1 officer to attend the study trip. It was queried if video conferencing could be used rather than actual attendance on the trip. Councillor Brolly proposed that 1 elected member and 1 officer who was involved in the project attend the study trip. This was seconded by Alderman Robinson and on being put to the meeting was declared carried.

**Walk for Foyle Hospice:** Members were encouraged to take part in a 3 mile sponsored walk being lead by Dr Monroe in aid of Foyle Hospice starting at 10 am on Saturday 24 September 2011 from O'Brians GAC in Foreglen.

**DVD – Hands that Talk:** Four members requested a copy of the DVD by Hands that Talk on the views of the deaf people during the troubles.

**Shared Experiences Across Borders Conference:** Approval was given for Councillor Nicholl to attend the Sharing Experiences Across Borders conference to be held 30 September 2011 in Crown Plaza Dundalk.

**NEXT MEETING – 18 October 2011.**

**THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.40 PM**

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