

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
20 DECEMBER 2011**

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.55 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.

PRESENTATION BY PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY:

The Chair welcomed Mr Brendan Bonner, Head of Health & Social Wellbeing Improvement West within the Public Health Agency to the meeting.

Mr Bonner gave an overview of the key objectives and themes of the Public Health Agency. He referred to the report 'The State of Our Health & Wellbeing for Limavady Borough Council Area' and highlighted the following points:

- Life expectancy was 83.5 years for woman and 76.5 for men.
- Main causes of death were circulatory diseases, malignant neoplasm's, respiratory diseases and suicide.
- The register for hypertension, asthma and hypothyroid had increased from 2006 to 2011.
- Limavady was above the NI average in terms of poverty.
- Education and skills acquired increased by 10% since 2003/4.
- Cases of self harm by females had increased.
- There had been an increase in the mental health register.
- There was a significant drop in those waiting for rented accommodation since 2004.
- Fuel poverty in Limavady was above the Northern Ireland average.
- The number of accidents had increased but were less fatal than in 2004.
- The number of teenage pregnancies had increased slightly since 2001.
- Obesity was a problem overall in the North West
- Alcohol related deaths had decreased since 2004
- There was an increase in the number of dental registrations

Mr Bonner outlined that in 2009 the Public Health Agency had invested in a number of programmes in the Limavady Area, included Health Promoting Homes, Road Safety, Healthy Towns, DSD Neighbourhood Renewal, Mental Health, Obesity Grants and a Smoking Cessation Programme. He said future priorities were fuel poverty, enhanced development of the Environmental Park in Dungiven, Be Safe be Well Emergency Packs, drug and alcohol community support and strategic physical activity project through local councils.

Members raised the following points:

- Pollution in Dungiven continued to be a problem.
- The 4 schools in the Borough worked well together and the standard of education was being raised
- Alcohol was too cheap and easy to obtain
- Debt, poverty and job losses were a serious problem for many families
- Over the counter drugs had lead many people to overdose.

The Chair thanked Mr Bonner for his informative presentation.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 15 November 2011 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor McCaul subject to the following:

- Page 3 – Alexander Road Play Park: Councillor Robinson stressed that it had been suggested that Alexander Road play area be closed each evening, not just in the winter months.
- Page 3 – Irish Language Programme Liofa: Councillor Douglas disagreed that it had been agreed that the Chief Executive would contact the Minister for Arts & Culture regarding a local launch of the Irish Language Programme Liofa.
- Page 3 – Notice of Motion on Emblems & Flags: Councillor Chivers disagreed with the wording on the discussion around emblems and flags:

MATTERS ARISING:

Alexander Road Play Park: Members were advised that funding had been secured from the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme to erect a 2.4 meter fence with lockable gates around Alexander Road play area and that the work would be carried out in the new year by Technical Services staff.

Environmental Park – Dungiven: Members were advised that £10K grant aid had been secured to upgrade the Environmental Park in Dungiven and that work would commence in January 2012. Members were also advised that pathways in a poor state of repair would be concreted.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS – DECEMBER 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 November 2011; Entertainment Licences issued; Property Certificates issued and Facilities Management & Energy Management Report. The items for information were noted and the report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Chivers, seconded by Councillor Brolly subject to the following:

Application for Grant of Amusement Permit: The Director of Environmental Services reported that an application had been received for grant of an amusement permit for premises at Catherine Street, Limavady and the applicant had been

asked to provide additional information, which to date had not be received. He said that Council had received 3 letters of objection, 2 of which indicated that the application would do nothing to enhance the trading position and severely affect the overall trading environment in Catherine Street and that there was no need or demand for these premises in the locality. He added that a letter of objection had also been received from the present owners of the premises to indicate that the applicant had no estate or interest in the premises such as would allow him to exercise the licence should it be granted.

It was agreed that on the basis of failure by the applicant to provide the information requested, together with the substance of the objections that the application for grant of an Amusement Permit would be refused and that the applicant would be offered the opportunity to make representation to Council before a final decision would be taken.

Bi-Lingual Street Name: It was agreed that a bilingual street name plate in English & Irish would be erected at Corick Road – Bóthar an Chomhraic. Councillor Douglas objected to the decision and Councillor Stevenson asked for the cost to erect the sign.

Energy Saving Technology – GatorboXx: The Director of Environmental Services recommended that Council would install energy saving technology called GatorboXs's 400, whereby wattless energy used by a number of electrical motors at Roe Valley Leisure Centre would be recycled resulting in cost saving of at least £6500 and up to £8500 per annum. It was agreed that Soltex Global would install the 2 GatorboXx's at a cost of £7,500 each, payable over 24 monthly instalments of £550, plus commissioning costs of £750.

Environmental Health Department:

The Director Environmental Services presented the Environmental Health Report which detailed information relating to Food Control, Licence & Regulatory, Pollution Control, Consultations and Fuel Poverty. The report and recommendations were approved on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Councillor McCaul subject to the following:

Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011 Enforcement by Local Councils: The Director of Development explained that the Welfare of Animals (NI) Act 2011 would come into force in April 2012 and would give local Councils a range of powers for dealing with animal welfare. He said these were not discretionary powers, however, implementation could be prioritised using a risk based approach. He added that DARD would be responsible for the welfare of farmed animals, the PSNI for wild animals and Council for non farmed animals together with horses.

It was noted that to assist with the introduction and roll out of the legislation that DARD were providing funding to local government to the sum of £760K per year for the next 4 years commencing current year 2011/12.

The Director of Environmental Services outlined that in order to move forward and have arrangements in place for the implementation of the legislation, discussions have been taking place between SOLACE, NILGA and DARD to agree a mechanism for the distribution of funding and a means of putting the necessary structures in place to deliver the service. He said it was recognised that

each of the 26 Councils would not require a full time dedicated Animal Welfare Officer and the focus of the discussions had been about collaborative working, with the aim of appointing a number of officers across the 26 Councils.

The Director of Environmental Services summarised the key priority tasks in the run up to the April 2012 were as follows:

- Recruitment of 5 Animal Welfare Officers
- Training Programmes
- Procurement Exercises
- Drafting of Service Level Agreements between DARD and the PSNI

It was agreed that Council would agree to the process identified above in preparation for the implementation of the Animal Welfare Act (NI) in April 2012.

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 Councillor Chivers, seconded by Alderman Coyle subject to the following:

North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWMG): The Director of Environmental Services advised that at a meeting of the NWRWMG Joint Committee held 7 December 2011, the Committee had considered the outcome of a recent procurement exercise for the re-tendering of the contract for dealing with dry recyclate collected through the councils blue bin service

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Alderman Coyle that the tender submitted by Recyco would be accepted.

Bus Shelter – Glack: Members noted the results of bus shelter survey carried out at bus stop in Glack on 24 & 25 November 2011. It was agreed that a bus shelter would be provided at the location as the survey had revealed that 15 children used the bus stop.

Tenders/Quotations: The following tenders/quotations were approved:

- Glenbank Nursery Ltd for supply and delivery of planted sitter & hanging basket complete with wicks for 2012 season at a cost of £3,255+VAT.
- Hanna Nurseries for supply and delivery of bedding plants for 2012 season at a cost of £14,298.50 +VAT.
- Alan Miller Garages for used Cherry Picker in the sum of £26,000+VAT.

Christmas Lights: A discussion took place on provision of Christmas lights at Connell Street car park and at lower end of Main Street near the bus depot in Limavady. Members were informed that the infrastructure was not in place in those locations to erect lights. It was suggested that criteria be set on where Council put lights and that other methods of renewable energy for lighting be investigated.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Dog Fouling/Littering: Councillor Mullan proposed that signage be put on the Dog Wardens van as this could be a deterrent for those against dog fouling. The proposal was not seconded. The Director of Environmental Services responded that the signage might lead to the Dog Warden being subjected to abuse and that if complaints were made regarding dog fouling, they would be dealt with by enforcement officers. It was acknowledged that the support of the community was needed with regard to dog fouling and littering.

Flying the Flag in Council Chamber: Councillor Douglas referred to legal correspondence he had received from Councillor Brolly and said because of this, he intended flying the union flag at Council meetings for the next 6 months. Councillor Brolly said that it was sub judice to discuss the matter and left the meeting at this point.

The Mayor - Councillor McGlinchey made a plea to move forward and acknowledged that whilst there had been a lot on antagonism in the chamber in the past, he thought that with the New Year it would mean a new start. He said that Councillor Douglas's correspondence from Councillor Brolly had nothing to do with other Councillors and called for common sense to prevail.

NEXT MEETING – 24 January 2012.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 9.45 PM

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting