

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

PLANNING & SERVICES COMMITTEE

20 DECEMBER 2011

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.00 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, G Mullan, D Nicholl (Chair), A Robinson and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Chief Executive and Mr Kenny Donaghey, Planning Service.

APOLOGIES: - Ms Sharon Mulhern.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 15 November 2011 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Beattie, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

MATTERS ARISING:

Page 5 – Disabled Parking at Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre - Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró: In response to a member, the Chief Executive agreed to write to Roads Service again with regard to provision of a disabled car parking space at the front of front of Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre. He said that he would point out to Roads Service that providing a disabled car parking space within the curtilage of the Cultural Centre was not an option as Drumceatt Square was a pedestrian area and as such was not suitable for vehicles to drive over.

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

The Chair welcomed Mr Kenny Donaghey, Planning Service to the meeting.

Mr Donaghey answered queries on the applications listed on the deferred applications schedule and the decisions were accepted subject to the following:

D1 – B/2007/0157/F: retention and extension of existing car parking area, erection of security fencing at 46 Ballykelly Road, Limavady (Mr Sam McMullan) Hold decision for one week to give the applicant opportunity to withdraw the application.

D2 – B/2011/0118/O: erection of dwelling and garage adjacent to 60 Drumrane Road, Limavady (Mr and Mrs D McIntyre) Application withdrawn. Mr Donaghey clarified that any history on the site would remain a material consideration if an application was submitted again for the same site.

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

Mr Donaghey answered queries on applications listed on the new applications schedule and outlined the nature of objections. The recommendations were accepted subject to the following office meetings being agreed:

B/2011/0083/F – Ash Park Energy
 B/2011/0122/O – Mr Clive Wilson
 B/2011/0170/F – Mr Dominic O’Kane
 B/2011/0183/F – Mr Jude McCloskey
 B/2011/0242/O – Mr P McIvor
 B/2011/0246/F – Miss Mary Chivers

Queries outside the Schedule:

- Mr Donaghey outlined that there was no quotas set on approving applications for wind turbines and that each application was taken on merit, however, renewable energy was a material consideration within the current policy.
- Mr Donaghey clarified that whilst Planning Service made decision on how they see fit, Road Service remained the expert authority on road safety issues.
- Mr Donaghey indicated that it was no surprise that NIEA had asked for an Archaeological Evaluation on application for extension to the graveyard in Dungiven. A member indicated that it was difficult to understand the mechanism for fast tracking applications as in his opinion applications that had statutory requirements, such as additional reports or surveys should not be included on the streamlined list. The Chair suggested that queries relating to the planning process be raised when Planning Service during a training session currently being organised for January 2012.

The Chair thanked Mr Donaghey for attending the meeting.

ROADS: - None.

WATER & SEWERAGE: - None.

HOUSING: - None.

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ORLA BEATTIE:

Councillor Beattie proposed:

‘That this Council calls on the Minister for Education to carefully consider any rural school closure that may impact adversely on the Primary and Post Primary Sectors in the Limavady Borough Council area and re-affirms our opposition to the closure of any rural school currently under threat.

Finally this council notes the particular access requirements of rural communities to education and calls on the Minister to ensure that decisions on the future of rural schools are fully measured against rural standards and proofing’

Speaking on the motion, Councillor Beattie stated that 304 out of 735 schools in the North of Ireland had fewer pupils than the required quota for rural schools. She said that the sustainable schools policy dictates that for rural schools this number was 105, however, rural schools were never built to cater for such high numbers.

During discussion the following points were made:

- Rural schools were the backbone of the community
- Rural school with small numbers were labelled as failures
- The Minister should consider confederation rather than closing rural schools
- Council should be influencing policy around education

In summing up, Councillor Beattie requested that Council write to the Minister for Education pledging support to all rural schools and to ask that the Minister explore all options before any decisions on the future of rural schools are made. She also asked that it be impressed upon the Minister the need to ensure that all decisions relating to the future of these schools be rural proofed through policy and practice in relation to access and equality of opportunity of education for all children who live in our rural communities.

The motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

EFQM Award Ceremony: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brolly, seconded by Councillor McCaul that the Mayor, Chief Executive, Director of Development, Head of Human Resources and four members of staff from RVLC would attend the EFQM award ceremony on 29 January 2012 at a cost of £360.

Social Investment Fund Consultation: The draft response to the Social Investment Fund consultation was approved for issue to the Department on the proposal of Alderman Coyle, seconded by Alderman Robinson.

Seasons Greetings: The Chair Councillor Nicholl extended season's greetings to members and officers.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - 24 January 2012.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 7.50 PM.

Chair: _____