

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

**PLANNING & SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**21 JANUARY 2014**

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 (chair), J McCorkell, C McLaughlin, G Mullan, D Nicholl, A Robinson, E Scott and E Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**APOLOGIES:** - Councillor S McGlinchey.

**CONDOLENCES:**

Councillor A Robinson expressed his sympathies to the family and friends of Mr Simon Chase, one of the two Britons killed in a suicide bomb attack in Afghanistan on Friday 17 January 2014. Members agreed that a book of condolences be opened and placed in the foyer of Limavady Borough Council offices as a mark of respect. It was also agreed that the book of condolences be made available on the day of the service.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of meeting dated 17 December 2013 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Mullan, seconded by Councillor Chivers.

**MATTERS ARISING:** - None.

**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/2012/0276/F – retention of Road Bridge over Owenbeg River to gain access to 738 Feeny Road, Dungiven (Mr J Parkhill)** Office meeting agreed.

**B/2013/0198/A – retention of signage to front and rear of building, 15-17 Linenhall Street, Limavady (EK Properties)** Office meeting agreed.

The list of appeal decisions issued was noted by members.

**CONSULTATION ON PLANNING APPLICATION B/2013/0241/F**

Members were advised that any comments regarding planning application B/2013/0241/F be referred to the office by 29 January 2014.

**PRESENTATION ON PLANNING POLICY DIVISION:**

The Chair welcomed Mr Angus Kerr, Director of Planning Policy Division to the meeting.

Mr Kerr presented members with information on Planning and Wind Farms and provided members with an overview on:

- Wider context to Renewables deployment
- PPS 18 and the role of the planning system in assessing wind energy development
- Wind energy – current issues
- The impact of Reform and Transfer
- New role for Councils and Councillors

Mr Kerr informed members the key factors driving deployment were The Climate Change Act, EU Renewables Directive, DETI Energy Policy and the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation support mechanism. Mr Kerr elaborated on the PPS 18 Renewable Energy stating it was published in August 2009 and was the key policy used in the erection of wind turbines and wind farms. It was noted that the policy contained specific provisions in relation to wind energy and was intended to facilitate renewable energy development and to provide a general guide in dealing with applications for all renewable energy proposals, not just wind energy.

Mr Kerr updated members on the rise of applications and stated that between 2002 and 2013, 95 wind farms and 1800 single turbine applications were approved, he indicated there was a perception that Northern Ireland were ahead but stated wind farms and wind turbines were equally spread throughout the UK. He also highlighted the increase in objections received in relation to onshore wind energy.

Mr Kerr notified members that the updated policy would consolidate all existing policies into one clearer, more accessible document and the Minister had announced that a draft document would be published in early February for public consultation, which would provide Council with an opportunity to contribute.

Mr Kerr continued to touch on the transfer of planning and the roles and responsibilities of Council and confirmed that Councils would be responsible for investigating alleged breaches of planning control. He informed members that a document would be issued containing further details and explanations around the upcoming roles and responsibilities for Council and Councillors.

Following the presentation members expressed the following views:

- Enforcement responsibilities for Council raised concerns.
- The majority of turbines shown on the Map proved very alarming and worrying.
- The current infrastructure was poor at present with lack of monies to upgrade it.

- On moving forward strong communication links were needed.
- Members felt they didn't have the expertise or were qualified to make decisions on large planning applications.
- The members nominated to the Planning Committee would need to be familiar with and abide by the Planning Laws.

The Chair thanked Mr Kerr for attending the meeting.

**ROADS:** - None.

**WATER & SEWERAGE:** - None

**HOUSING:** - None.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**DSD Views on Social Housing Allocations Events:** The Chief Executive informed members of upcoming events taking place to discuss housing allocation and confirmed that a copy of the correspondence would be forwarded to members for consideration.

**Training Sessions:** Members were advised that a training session in relation to their role and responsibilities as a Board member on external committees was scheduled for Tuesday 11 February 2014 at 5.45pm in the Training Room at LBC.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** - 18 February 2014.

**THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 7.55 PM.**

**Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_