

**LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

21 NOVEMBER 2006

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.00 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

Aldermen G Mullan, G Robinson and J Rankin. Councillors A Brolly, P Butcher, M Carten, B Chivers, L Cubitt, M Donaghy, B Douglas, J F McElhinney and E Stevenson (chair).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk and Director of Environmental Services.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Coyle, Councillor Ó hOisín and Councillor Robinson.

WESTERN GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT:

The chair welcomed Mr Barny Haywood, Group Chief Environmental Health Officer to the meeting.

Mr Haywood reported that at a regional level the group had commenced work with others on the development of contingency plans for an influenza pandemic; developed and improved contingency plans for responses to emergencies; refined the procedures and implemented the collection of data for new district council performance indicators; proposed and seen adopted new auditing mechanisms for the environmental health service across Northern Ireland, which drive consistency of practice and help identify areas of those practices requiring support.

Mr Haywood outlined that staff across the group continued to provide direct support to District Councils by giving advice and assistance on specific problems, by undertaking inspections of premises, regulation of potential air polluting processes and training for staff carrying out investigations into potential breaches of legislation.

Mr Haywood referred to the groups objectives and said a considerable proportion of the Environmental Protection Officers' time was spent assisting and supporting Councils with the more complex complaints and assessments of planning applications. He said that planning work, whilst not a statutory function, provided an effective way of controlling future environmental impacts through assessing Environmental Statements/Acoustic Consultant's Reports/Land quality Assessment Reports, recommending changes to development proposals and in some cases advising Planning Service that a proposed development was incompatible with existing land uses in the vicinity.

Mr Haywood provided an overview of programmes to control industrial pollution, the monitoring of air quality and contamination of land. He said in January 2006 new EU food hygiene regulations were applied throughout the UK and this introduced a farm to fork approach to food safety by including primary producers in the food hygiene legislation.

Mr Haywood explained that health and safety was also promoted through working at heights, gas wise and noise at work initiatives. He said that consumer protection was tackled through changes in legislation concerning bicycles, wood based panels under Construction Products Regulations, toys leading up to Halloween and Christmas and glass topped tables. He added that investigation into failure of a rigid inflatable boat which had been manufactured in the Western Group found that the boat builder's tests, records and documentation did not comply with requirements of EU legislation.

Mr Haywood answered an array of questions including:

- impact of RPA and potential job losses
- the importance in balancing planning & development and environmental protection
- legislation on goods purchased from outside EU via the internet
- clarification of definition of dangerous dog and
- legislation to control industrial noise in countryside

In conclusion Mr Haywood said over time there were changes in the nature of duties, including social need and deprivation all under discussion in partnership working with external bodies across the area. The chair thanked Mr Haywood for attending the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 17 October 2006 were approved and signed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Rankin.

MATTERS ARISING:

The Director of Environmental Services updated members regarding:

- progress in securing Civic Amenity Site in Dungiven and
- retention of skip at Dromore.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS – NOVEMBER 2006:

Building Control Department:

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Building Control report which detailed applications approved, acknowledged and issued, Entertainment & Occasional Licences issued, renewal of Amusement Permit, transfer of Petroleum Licence and Facilities Management & Energy Management Report was approved on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Alderman Rankin subject to the following:

Roe Valley Leisure: It was noted that orders for the following had been issued:

- BL Refrigeration for repairs to the air conditioning unit in the conference room at a cost of £1,091;
- Dorma for repairs to the front door at a cost of £1,270;
- OAK for repairs to swimming pool plant at a cost of £1,100 and
- MCA for repairs to different parts of the system at a cost of £1,004.

Wind Turbine Feasibility Study: It was agreed not to accept the £1,200 quotation submitted from H&A Mechanical for providing a feasibility study to discover if it would be feasible for Council to erect a wind turbine at Roe Valley Leisure Centre and at the Council Offices. Councillor Douglas proposed and Alderman Robinson seconded that Council investigate costs, payback period and how effective the turbine would be from other sources.

The Carbon Trust Report: The Director of Environmental Services urged members to attend a presentation by the Carbon Trust to take place in the training room on Wednesday 29 November between 11 am and 1 pm.

Environmental Health Department:

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Environmental Health Report and enlarged thereon. The report and recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Carten subject to the following:

The Furniture and Furnishing (Fire) Safety Regulations 1988 (as amended 1989 & 1993): The Director of Environmental Services outlined that all managers/proprietors of businesses were provided with written/verbal advice and information about the requirement under the Furniture & Furnishings (Fire) Safety Regulations 1988. He said that during a visit to premises, officers had observed 16 items of furniture incorrectly labelled and these items were consequently voluntarily withdrawn from sale, however, 13 were allowed to be put back on sale after test certificates were obtained from the suppliers, 1 piece was voluntarily surrendered to the Department for destruction as the manufacturer had not carried out the relevant testing and the Department was still waiting for test certificates for the other 2 items.

Members noted that warning letters had been sent to the owners of the premises that had furniture withdrawn.

Food Complaint – Alleged Foreign Matter in Cola Drink: The Director of Environmental Services explained that following complaint of foreign matter in a cola drink, Council solicitor had advised against legal proceeding as it would be impossible to prove that the bottle was received unopened by the Department and that it was also possible that the contamination would have taken place at any time after the bottle was dispatched from the premises of production. He said the company had been advised to reintroduce an automatic scanning system, retrain staff on the practice of inspection of bottles for foreign matter and ensure that their premises were kept up to standard by completing all works requested by their Enforcing Authority.

Statistical Information – Dogs: The Director of Environmental Services stated that during the month of October 2006, 31 dogs were taken into kennels, 15 of which were strays and 16 unwanted.

Refusal of a Stationary Trading Licence: The Director of Environmental Services informed members that Mr Mark Kilpatrick had made application to Council under the Street Trading Act (NI) 2001 for a stationary trading licence to operate a catering unit for the sale of hot and cold food in the area of 10 - 16 Main Street, Limavady, Monday to Friday between 9 – 5.30 pm. He recommended that the application be refused under Section 9 (1) (V) of the Street Trading Act (NI) 2001 on the grounds that the preparation and sale of hot food may affect the general amenity of the area. It was agreed that the application would be refused, however a number of Councillors objected to this decision.

Technical Services Department:

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Technical Services Report and enlarged thereon. The report and recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Carten subject to the following:

Waste Date Flow Quarterly Returns – April/June 2006: The Director of Environmental Services provided breakdown in waste flows from April to June 2006 and members noted that 2110.83 tonnes of waste had been recycled and 3324.24 tonnes disposed of.

In response to the suggestion that Council sort its own waste, the Director of Environmental Services said that Council had recently accepted a tender submitted by City Industrial Waste and if Council were to sort its own waste it would mean additional staff but Council would still have to pay for waste removal. Noted.

Hire of Refuse Collection Vehicles: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Douglas, seconded by Alderman Rankin to formally accept the offer from Alan Miller for hire of 26 tonne refuse collection vehicles, which included conditions requested by Council regarding maintenance, road tax and determination.

Backburn Park: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Butcher to accept the quotation submitted by Darson Electrical for provision of 150 Watt lights to 2 new lamp standards at Backburn Park playarea.

Vale Centre Pitches: Members noted that investigate work had been carried out at pitch no 2 by the Vale Centre and that the Technical Services Manager had written to the Centre seeking their views on the findings and also sought feedback from the Centre with regard to proposed maintenance regime for the pitches.

Bus Shelters: The Director of Environmental Services sought direction from Council on policy for provision of bus shelters. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Douglas, seconded by Alderman Robinson that not less than 5 children were required to use the facility but Council should use common sense regarding overall bus shelter provision.

At the request of Alderman Robinson, that Director of Environmental Services agreed to investigate replacing the bus shelter at Ardgarven.

Sustainable Farming Information Evening: The Director of Environmental Services reported that an information evening on Eco/Sustainable Farming had taken place on 1 November 2006 and that over forty local farmers attended the seminar where guest speakers from Action Renewables, Agri-cycle and Oil Seed Fuels provided expert advice on conservation, renewable technology and bio diesel to agricultural waste management. In response to Councillor Chivers, the Director of Environmental Services said Council had no plans to provide facilities for farmers to dispose of plastic.

Quotation for Trees: Council agreed to retrospectively approve the purchase of thirty 14-16 cm girth size trees from SAP Nurseries at a cost of £1,140.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Drumaduff Landfill Site: The Director of Environmental Services outlined that Council could not progress purchase of land at Drumaduff until approval to vest was obtained from the DOE.

Politics Show: Councillor Butcher requested that the Chief Executive write to the Executive Producer of the Politics Show requesting an explanation to figures quoted for debt in Limavady and the burden this would have on other Councils following amalgamation through RPA. Agreed.

Civic Reception: It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Mullan, seconded by Alderman Rankin that Council would host a Civic Reception for the Irish and British Isles short mat bowling champions and their families.

Provision of Litter and Dog Foul Bins: The Director of Environmental Services explained that consideration would be given to the provision of bins along walking routes in the town. Alderman Robinson pointed out that there was a sign in Blackburn Park regarding littering but no bins were in place to dispose of the litter. The Director of Environmental Services reported that previously bins at this location had been destroyed by vandals. Alderman Robinson requested that the bins be replaced.

Request for Apology: Councillor Chivers requested an apology from Councillor Cubitt for comments made at the Development Services Committee meeting about unmarried mothers. Councillor Cubitt refused to apologise and said he had received calls from people who supported his views. Noted.

Wayleave – Dungiven Health Centre: It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that a ‘wayleave’ be granted to BT in respect of Council land at Dungiven Health Centre.

Choose to Reuse – Conference: Alderman Rankin, Councillor Cubitt and Councillor Butcher indicated that they would be attending the Choose to Reuse Conference to promote the reuse of materials to take place Wednesday 29 November 2006 in Magherafelt District Council.

Request for Removal of Trees: The Director of Environmental Services informed members that Council had received two requests to remove a tree from outside a business in Main Street Dungiven. The request was discussed at length and it was noted that Council had already pruned the tree in question to address

concerns raised by the owner of the business. It was agreed that the tree would not be removed as it formed part of the main street environmental scheme.

Visit to Shackleton Barracks: It was agreed that the visit to Shackleton Barracks on 21 November would be an approved duty.

NEXT MEETING: - 19 December 2006.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.35 pm)

Signed: _____
Chair of Meeting