

LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
12 JANUARY 2005

Minutes of a meeting of the above Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.30 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

Aldermen J. Dolan and M Carten, Councillors A. Broily (in the chair), B Brown, B. Chivers, M Coyle, L. Cubitt, M. Donaghy, B. Douglas, D. Lowry, M. McGuigan, G. Mullan, J. Rankin, E. Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive, Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer, Acting Economic Development Officer and the Committee Clerk.

APOLOGIES:

Alderman G. Robinson, and the Town Clerk.

MINUTES:

The minutes of Development Committee meeting held 8 December 2004 were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt.

MATTERS ARISING:

Gortnaghey Community Association: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer explained to members that a meeting had taken place on 11 January 2005 with Gortnaghey Community Association regarding funds for the building of the new Community Hall based in the village. He said that the Association had got commitment from the Rural Development Council and from the Economic Development Department on funds for the project and whilst the Association hoped to raise £20,000, there remained a deficit of £41,000. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Coyle that Council support the project in principle and that the Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer bring a further report to Council after discussion with the Acting Economic Development Officer.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT – JANUARY 2005:

The Acting Economic Development Officer presented the Economic Development Report for January 2005 and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted on the proposal of Alderman Dolan, seconded by Councillor Cubitt subject to the following:

Business Start Programme: The Acting Economic Development Officer reported that a celebration of the achievements of the Business Start Programme would take

place on Thursday 13 January 2005 in Roe Valley Enterprise offices. He said that this would mark the 200th participant on the programme, as well as showcasing successful applicants and that the event would also be used to launch the Rural ICT Programme for which Roe Valley Enterprises successfully tendered from the Leader+ programme.

Development of Food Market Initiative: The Acting Economic Development Officer informed members that it had been agreed that the remaining economic development budget would be used to develop three events along the lines of the food market event held in December 2004. He said that a tender would be drawn up and advertised in January, which would take into account all the issues discussed at length in the previous Development Committee meeting.

On Councillor Douglas's request, the Acting Economic Development Officer agreed to look into the possibility of using the Technical College car park as a possible location for the next food market.

Economic Development Targets: Councillor Lowry referred to the various stages that the projects were currently at within the Economic Development Plan and suggested that in an attempt to move the plan along, that a report be provided on targets that had been met. The Acting Economic Development Officer agreed to provide a month by month spend profile for member's information.

CHIEF RECREATION/TOURIST OFFICER'S REPORT – JANUARY 2005:

The Chief Recreation/Tourist Officer presented his report and enlarged thereon. The report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Rankin subject to the following:

Scroggy Road Public Path Inquiry: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer reported that the Environment & Heritage Service had confirmed that the Inspectors report from the Local Inquiry had been received and forwarded to departmental solicitors for comment and that once a decision was made, the report would be forwarded to all who attended the inquiry. Councillor Rankin voiced his disgust at the length of time taken to finalise the report and requested that the Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer write to Environment & Heritage Service requesting that the report be forwarded to Council as a matter of urgency. Agreed.

Disabled Angling Access: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer said that officers from Council had met on site with Rivers Agency to discuss improvements to existing disabled angling stands at Burnfoot and Swann's Bridge and that a survey of the riverbank and consultation with the Disabled Angling Association would have to take place to determine what works needed to be done. Council through the Technical Services Department would prepare in house costings and submit same to DCLA to ascertain if funding might be available for this.

In response to a query from Councillor Cubitt, the Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer agreed to discuss disabled parking at the Roe Valley Country Park Disabled Fishing Jetty with the Environment & Heritage Service.

Motorcycle Rally: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer informed members that a request had been received from Quay Viper Motorcycle Club to stage a rally at Benone Tourist Complex on 23 and 24 September 2005 and that this would attract up to 1,000 visitors. He said that the event would be self contained with security provided and participants would be required to register in advance to ensure control, safety and security.

As the event would attract revenue for Council and bring in substantial tourists, it was agreed that the 80 bays site be hired in its entirety to the Club at a charge of £350, subject to the necessary insurance cover, entertainments licence and liquor licence being in place.

Vigneux Primary School Children Exchange: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer highlighted that following the success of the initial Primary School exchange which took place in March 2004, Vigneux Town Hall had confirmed that a group of 25 children and 7 adults would visit Limavady from 6 – 12 March 2005 and that they would be stay in Dungiven Castle. He said that the children would interact with 5 primary schools within the borough, with educational, sporting, arts and crafts activities being included as part of their programme and that a return visit for school children from the borough would take place in June 2005. Members commented on the success of the exchange and said that they hoped additional schools from within the borough could become involved. It was agreed that Council would provide an evening reception for the visitors from Vigneux.

Currents Art Exhibition: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer explained to members that Mr Pat Murphy, Art Advisor to The Office of Public Works, Dublin, had thanked Council for the exceptional hospitality extended to him and his colleagues during a recent visit to Limavady. He explained that Mr Murphy had raised the issue of the loan of items from the Broighter Gold Hoard with the Director of the National Museum and with the Secretary General of the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism and it was hoped that there would be a satisfactory outcome to this request in due course.

Causeway Museum Service – Outreach Programme: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer commended to Council a pilot project run by Causeway Museum Service to take museum skills out into communities and work with groups to share experiences and to participate in workshops, tours, an annual forum and other experiences. Members noted that 80% of the funding for the pilot project was provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund and that the additional funding of 20% would be provided through agreed Causeway Museum Service annual budgets, contributions in kind and other grant source.

The following local projects would benefit from this:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <i>1. Limavady Heritage Trail Project</i> | <i>2. Aghanloo Community Association</i> |
| <i>2. Feeny Community Association</i> | <i>4. Galvin Area Community Association</i> |
| <i>5. Limavady Community Development</i> | <i>6. Largy Community Association</i> |

In response to Councillor Cubitt, The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer said that other local groups could request that the Community Outreach Officer visit their group if they wanted to be included in the pilot project.

Hands That Talk – Economic Appraisal/Business Plan: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer reminded members that in November 2004, Council had decided not to support the request by Hands That Talk for funding to undertake an Economic Appraisal/Business Plan. Further to this, the group have pointed out that whilst it is difficult to find a funding body that is prepared to replace Statutory Funding, they have been advised to carry out an Economic Appraisal of the Community Group in order to strengthen their case to access funding.

Members agreed that as the group were the only provider of services for the Deaf Community outside the greater Belfast Area and worked on behalf of an minority group, it was worthy of Council's continued support. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that the group obtain 3 quotations for the Economic Appraisal and that Council contribute in principal an amount up to £5,000 towards this.

Ethnic Minorities - Tung Bak Community New Year Celebration: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer reported that the local Chinese community planned to celebrate their annual Chinese New Year and that this would provide an opportunity to flavour Chinese film, cultural drama, music, art and cracker display. He said that the project would cost £740 and Tung Bak had made a request to Council for financial assistance and recommended that Council contribute £480 towards the event. Agreed.

Councillor Lowry proposed that the banners and posters erected and located throughout the borough be used to welcome overseas visitors, such as the Chinese and said that this would send out an important message that the borough was supportive to ethnic groups. In seconding the proposal, Alderman Carten voiced his regret that a young Russian woman had lost her legs through frostbite and living on the streets over the Christmas period. It was further agreed on the proposal of Councillor Cubitt, seconded by Councillor Broly that a civic reception be held to mark the celebration of the Chinese New Year.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

CW Events Management Company: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer reported that CW Events Management were holding a conference titled 'Creating A Unique Event With Strategic Planning' to be held on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 February 2005 at Radisson SAS Hotel Resort. It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Carten, seconded by Councillor Cubitt that one officer from the Recreation Department would attend. It was also agreed on the proposal of Alderman Dolan, seconded by Councillor Rankin that Councillor Brown would attend the event.

New Year/New You: The Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer advised that members had been invited to attend a special health promotion initiative 'New Year! New You!' in which renowned chef Paul Rankin would be the special guest. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lowry, seconded by Councillor Rankin that the fee for the event to be held on Friday 21 January 2005 in Roe Valley Recreation Centre be waived.

SeaCat – Belfast/Troon Route: The Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive informed members that Sea Containers Ferries had written to advise that discussions

on the future of SeaCats Belfast to Troon route were taking place. He said that despite the ferry operator reducing overheads and moving to seasonal operations, the service continued to make a loss and a review was necessary. Noted.

Planning Service – Office Meetings: Alderman Carten highlighted the importance of requesting an office meeting when the Planning and Development Committee meeting took place, as the Planning Department had refused to consider his request for an additional office meeting after the meeting had ended. Members also voiced concern at not being able to attend all the office meetings held the previous month as these were scheduled to be held in two separate rooms.

Mayor’s Tsunami Appeal: The Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive informed members that he had sought advice regarding Council’s contribution towards the Mayor’s Tsunami Appeal and advised that Council put on hold any donation until clarification was sought from other Council’s within Northern Ireland on what they were doing.

Limavady Bus Station – Saturday Closure: Councillor Lowry voiced his concern at the decision by Translink to close Limavady Bus depot on Saturdays and requested that the Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive write to Mr Alan Young, requesting that this decision be reversed as a matter of urgency. Agreed.

Play Equipment Strategy: Councillor Coyle suggested that a strategy was needed for the provision of play equipment and requested that the Chief Recreation & Tourism Officer detail a report on equipment and areas where these were located. Alderman Dolan welcomed this suggestion and said that since the announcement about Blackburn Park Playground, Bovally had been requesting a playground for their area.

Translink – Woodtown Railway Crossing: Councillor Mullan referred to the tragic accident at Woodtown railway crossing in which Mrs Jean Irwin had lost her life. The Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive agreed to write to Translink requesting an update on the investigation and safety of the crossing. Agreed.

NEXT MEETING:

9 February 2005

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS

(The meeting ended at 10.00 pm)