

ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a **Meeting** of the **Development and Leisure Committee** of Antrim Borough Council held in The Round Tower Chamber, 50 Stiles Way, Antrim on **Thursday 22 April 2010 at 10.00 am.**

In The Chair : Alderman Dunlop (Vice Chairman)

Other Members Present : Alderman R J Loughran

Councillors -

A D Cochrane-Watson

H Cushinan

B Graham

M Lucas

D Ritchie

Non-Committee Members : None

In Attendance : Director of Development & Leisure Services
Assistant Director – Development
Development Manager – Regeneration &
Enterprise
Public Relations Assistant
Committee Secretary – D Waddell

Mr Ian McQuitty, Department of Social
Development

Representatives from Farranshane Community
Trust – Mr Andrew Cunningham, Chairman &
Mrs Roisin Lynch, Company Secretary

Apologies : Councillors -

O C J Keenan

A Logue

S Nicholl (Chairman)

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman expressed sincere thanks to the Community Services staff and in particular to Community Centre Co-ordinators in Neillsbrook Community Centre for opening the Community Centre for local residents who had to endure lengthy power cuts during the recent storms; Rathenraw Community Centre who opened the Community Centre for local residents during a security alert and Muckamore Community Centre who responded during a break in at the Contractor's Compound.

The Chairman wished every success for the future of John Street Playground, Randalstown following the official opening which had taken place on Monday 19 April 2010 and expressed his gratitude to the children from the three local schools that took part in the ceremony.

Congratulations were expressed to the jockey and Freeman of Antrim Borough Tony McCoy, who won the recent Grand National on 'Don't Push It' after many years of striving to win the race.

PRESENTATION

TABLED: Presentation on Antrim Town Centre Masterplan and Delivery Strategy.

The Chairman advised that unfortunately due to the current airline difficulties representatives from GVA Grimley were unable to attend today's meeting to present the Antrim Town Masterplan and Delivery Strategy; however Mr Ian McQuitty from the Department of Social Development (DSD) and the Assistant Director – Development were in attendance to answer queries where possible.

The Assistant Director – Development outlined proposals which would form the DSD framework for regeneration of Antrim over the next 10 years. Members were reminded of the window of opportunity for funding which DSD intended to bid for in respect of this project.

Mr McQuitty explained DSD's intention to publicly launch the Masterplan in June, subject to Council's approval of the proposals.

Councillor Cochrane-Watson entered the Meeting at 10.12 am.

**PRESENTATION:
ANTRIM TOWN
MASTERPLAN
ED/92**

The Assistant Director – Development responded to Members’ queries and several Members spoke of their approval and support for the much needed regeneration of Antrim’s Town Centre.

**PRESENTATION:
ANTRIM TOWN
MASTERPLAN**
(continued)

RECOMMENDED: on the proposal of Councillor Cochrane-Watson, seconded by Councillor Graham that Council endorses the Antrim Town Centre Masterplan and Delivery Strategy to drive forward the regeneration of Antrim over the next 10 years.

The Chairman thanked the DSD and Council Officers for the hard work involved bringing this project to this stage. He thanked Mr McQuitty for his attendance and he withdrew from the Meeting.

It was agreed that copies of the presentation should be forwarded to Members for information.

DEVELOPMENT

REPORT: No 3 had been circulated.

Members voiced their support for the Draft Tourism Strategy subject to inclusion of reference to the prioritisation of Lough Neagh in the document and the strategic importance of Belfast International Airport.

In addition, the need for equitable focus and support across Northern Ireland, and particularly for the Borough, through the Strategy and Action Plan was to be highlighted.

RECOMMENDED: that Council responds to the Department of Enterprise Trade & Investment’s (DETI) draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 as follows:

1. Council agrees that the 5 critical success factors will deliver on the key target to grow visitor revenue to £1 billion provided there is a more equitable spread of investment across Northern Ireland.
2. The Council supports the 3 ‘Priorities for Action’ (People, Product and Places and Promotion) as they are consistent with a marketing approach that would be used by the private sector.

**CONSULTATION:
DRAFT TOURISM
STRATEGY FOR
NORTHERN
IRELAND 2020**
G/134

3. That the cross-cutting theme of Partnership and the associated actions in the Action Plan are supported by Council, provided that the partnerships are genuine at both strategic and local delivery levels.
4. Council supports the proposal to develop an approach for working collaboratively at a local level to deliver for tourism in each Council area, subject to more detail on the mechanisms and assistance that will be made available for the development of the 'Tourism Area Plans' referred to in the Draft Strategy.
5. One significant area not covered by the Strategy or Action Plan is Lough Neagh. Council wishes to record its disappointment that once again the Lough's importance and potential have been overlooked and recommends that it should be included as a priority by Northern Ireland Tourist Board.
6. The strategic importance of Belfast International Airport as a key regional gateway and an important tourism partner be highlighted and that improvements to its transport infrastructure, particularly a rail link be highlighted by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board.

**CONSULTATION:
DRAFT TOURISM
STRATEGY FOR
NORTHERN
IRELAND 2020**
(continued)

Councillor Lucas entered the Meeting at 10.30 am.

RESOLVED: on the proposal of Alderman Loughran, seconded by Councillor Ritchie that the next item of Committee business be taken 'In Confidence'.

IN CONFIDENCE

Country Lifestyle Festival: Request For Sponsorship
E/29

RESOLVED: on the proposal of Alderman Loughran, seconded by Councillor Ritchie that the remainder of Committee business be taken 'In Open Session'.

INTERVAL

There was an interval at 11.00 am.

The Meeting resumed at 11.20 am with all Members previously present resuming their seats, with the exception of Councillor Lucas.

IN OPEN SESSION

PRESENTATION

REPORT: had been circulated prior to the Meeting.

The Chairman welcomed representatives from Farranshane Community Trust – Mr Andrew Cunningham, Chairman and Mrs Roisin Lynch, Secretary to the Meeting.

A Powerpoint presentation was given outlining details of Farranshane House social economy project which had been handed over to the Board of Directors in December 2009.

Mrs Lynch highlighted the community facilities available and utilisation to date. She pointed out that 4 shell office spaces required fitting-out at an estimated cost of up to £10,000 per unit and Council was asked to consider grant funding some or all of these units in order to assist the Group to attract potential tenants as the start-up capital required was off-putting to the target small businesses. Offices rented out as turnkey would also command a higher rental income to Farranshane Community Trust in comparison to an office rented from shell condition. The Project's sustainability would therefore be enhanced.

Mrs Lynch and Mr Cunningham responded to Members' queries and advised that any group including the local youth club would be welcome to view the facilities on offer to ascertain suitability. However, the limitations of the hall with its partial dropped ceiling and acoustics issues meant that it was not necessarily suitable for some activities.

The Chairman and several Members commended the Farranshane Community Trust for bringing the Farranshane project to fruition and wished the Trust every success in the future.

RECOMMENDED: that

- i) Officers explore options for grant aid for Farranshane Community Trust's office fit out and a report brought to Meeting.
- ii) Following an invitation by the Group a date be arranged for Members to visit Farranshane House.

**PRESENTATION:
FARRANSHANE
COMMUNITY
TRUST**

REPORT: No 4 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that

1. In the light of current budgetary constraints, Council declines the offer from Airnet Limited to enter into an annual service agreement to maintain the Wi-Fi installations in Antrim town centre at a cost of at least £2,400 per annum, plus the cost of replacing equipment that may break down.
2. Officers investigate alternative opportunities to sustain a Wi-Fi facility in Antrim.

**WI FI PILOT
PROJECT IN
ANTRIM TOWN
ED/136**

REPORT: No 5 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: approval to provide up to £3,750 in match funding towards the costs of producing a masterplan for Toome from existing agreed budgets, subject to Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey Borough Councils confirming their commitment to similar sums for locations in the respective Boroughs for the year to 31 March 2011.

**PROPOSED
VILLAGE
RENEWAL
MASTERPLANS:
REQUEST FOR
MATCH FUNDING
ED/143**

REPORT: No 6 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that Lough Neagh Rescue be awarded free use of a meeting room at the Six Mile Water Caravan Park for the purposes of voluntary crew training from 7pm-9pm one evening per week until a suitable alternative venue can be identified.

**LOUGH NEAGH
RESCUE:
REQUEST FOR
USE OF COUNCIL
FACILITIES
T/15(b)**

NOTED: a Capital Grant application was being considered by Lough Neagh Rescue to GROW South Antrim for funding to enable them to set up and manage a lifeboat station in Antrim.

CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

REPORT: No 8 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that Full Council Powers be delegated to the Development and Leisure Committee meeting of 27 May 2010, in accordance with the Provisions of Section 18 (i) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, to ratify the Council's response to the consultation paper on 'Local Partnership Working on Policing and Community Safety'.

**LOCAL
PARTNERSHIP
WORKING**
G/134

Full Powers granted in accordance with the provisions of Section 18 (1) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 – Minutes of Development and Leisure Committee Meeting held on 25 March 2010 Page 28 and Full Council of 8 April 2010 Page 31 refers

**EVENTS GRANT
SCHEMES 2010**
CS/48a

REPORT: No 9 had been circulated.

RESOLVED: that *Full Powers having been granted to the Development and Leisure Committee in accordance with the provisions of Section 18 (1) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, that Council*

- a) awards funding as listed in Table One below to applicants, subject to compliance with the Events and Festivals criteria, totalling £2,000.
- b) awards funding as listed in Table Two below to applicants, subject to compliance with Summer Scheme criteria, totalling £3,117.
- c) grants free use of community centres for summer schemes where required.

TABLE ONE: Applications which successfully met the criteria and scoring threshold		
Events & Festivals	Amount Requested £	Recommended By Panel £
Small Fun Days		
Greystone Primary PTA	500	400
Eye Feel Good	500	400
Mid Antrim Terrier & Lurcher Club	950	400
Ulster Scots Cult. & Dev. Trust	500	400
Inter Estate Partnership	500	400
Total - E & F grant applications	£2,950	£2,000

**EVENTS GRANT
SCHEMES 2010**
(continued)

TABLE TWO: Applications which successfully met the criteria and scoring threshold		
Summer Schemes	Amount Requested	Recommended by Panel
	£	£
Tir Na Nog GAC	1,900	1,900
Antrim Hockey Club	800	800
Kids Kabin Afterschool Club	500	232
Crumlin Irish Language Nursery School	990	185
Total - summer scheme applications	£4,190	£3,117

REPORT: No 10 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: Antrim Citizens Advice Bureau be forwarded a letter of comfort in respect of funding, based on last year's figures with 3% inflationary increase, pending receipt of a letter of offer from Department of Social Development (DSD).

**ANTRIM DISTRICT
CITIZENS ADVICE
BUREAU SERVICE
LEVEL
AGREEMENT**
CS/52

REPORT: No 11 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that approval be given to:

- a) the Good Relations Action Plan for 2010 – 2011
- b) allow officers to make minor amendments to the content of the Good Relations Action Plan, whilst keeping within the broad principles, should Elected Members or the Community Relations Unit so direct.

**GOOD RELATIONS
ACTION PLAN**
CS/67

REPORT: No 12 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that Council endorses the development of a proposal to the Carrickfergus, Antrim and Newtownabbey (CAN) Peace III Partnership as outlined in the circulated report and if successful approves the hosting of an Engagement, Integration and Diversity officer within Antrim Civic Centre.

**ENGAGEMENT,
INTEGRATION AND
DIVERSITY
PROGRAMME**
CS/198

RECREATION

REPORT: No 13 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that for consistency officers bring a report on discretion for officers on concessionary use to include Antrim Forum in addition to Allen Park.

**ALLEN PARK –
CONCESSIONARY
USE OF GOLF
COURSE BY
CHARITIES AND
LOCAL SPORT
CLUBS
M/14**

REPORT: No 14 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that

- i) the current tee off times and license conditions granted to Antrim Golf Club continue whilst a new licence is negotiated with the Club.
- ii) Officers prepare a report for consideration taking into account the ongoing economic appraisal for Allen Park, points raised by the Club in a letter recently received by the Mayor and options for setting up a focus group involving Members, Club representatives and officers.

**ANTRIM GOLF
CLUB
GC/18**

REPORT: No 15 had been circulated.

NOTED: Council's application to the Northern Ireland Elite Facilities Programme for an Indoor Elite Athletics Facility in Antrim has been designated 'the provisional preferred bid for an athletic facility', subject to addressing a range of queries arising out of the assessment by Department of Culture and Leisure and Sport Northern Ireland.

RECOMMENDED: that

**NORTHERN
IRELAND ELITE
FACILITIES
PROGRAMME:
ANTRIM INDOOR
ELITE ATHLETICS
FACILITY
O/22(e)(i)(j)**

- i) Officers meet with Sport Northern Ireland informally in the first instance to discuss Council's bid for an Indoor Elite Athletics Facility in Antrim to explore outstanding application issues, funding package, etc before bringing a detailed report to Committee;
- ii) Officers investigate what forms of recourse would be available to Council further to the significant delays in the application process

**NORTHERN
IRELAND ELITE
FACILITIES
PROGRAMME:
ANTRIM INDOOR
ELITE ATHLETICS
FACILITY
(continued)**

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

REPORT: No 16(a) had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that representatives from Randalstown Rugby Football Club be invited to make a presentation to May Committee on their request for funding in respect of renovations to their Clubhouse and maintenance to Rugby pitches; with a detailed report by officers to be presented to the same Committee Meeting.

**RANDALSTOWN
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB
G/8**

REPORT: No 16(b) had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that £200 plus marketing materials supplied by Council through Coca Cola be awarded to the Brain Injury Association for their fundraising Fun Run event.

**BRAIN INJURY
FUN RUN
G/8**

TENDERS

RECOMMENDED: that Alderman Dunlop, Alderman Loughran and Councillor Ritchie attend Antrim Civic Centre on Thursday 29 April 2010 at 12.15 pm to open Tenders for the Appointment of the Main Contractor in respect of Antrim Castle Gardens Restoration and Development Scheme.

**TENDER:
ANTRIM CASTLE
GARDENS
RESTORATION
AND
DEVELOPMENT
SCHEME:
APPOINTMENT OF
MAIN
CONTRACTOR
S/2(a)(w), A/19,
G/71(c)(ii)**

FOR INFORMATION

NOTED: Council's Planning Application for Allen Park Development is expected to be included in the May Planning Schedule.

**PLANNING
APPLICATION:
ALLEN PARK
DEVELOPMENT**

ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

TABLED: report and maps on Northern Ireland Water's updated proposals for landscaping at the Pumping Station at Antrim Forum.

**NORTHERN
IRELAND WATER:
PUMPING
STATION
F/6**

NOTED: Changes to tree types and numbers. Details on boundary wall and railing feature to be clarified at this afternoon's Public Services Committee.

The Director thanked the Vice Chairman, Alderman Dunlop for Chairing today's Meeting in the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Nicholl.

There being no further business the Meeting concluded at 12.35 pm.

Mayor

Chief Executive

Date
