

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 24 June 2010 at 10.00 am.**

In The Chair : Alderman S Dunlop

Other Members Present : Alderman R J Loughran

Councillors -

H Cushinan
B Graham
N Kelly
A Lawther
S Nicholl
D Ritchie

Non-Committee Members : Councillor J Smyth

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

Representatives of Muckamore Credit Union –
Mr Billy Carnwath and Mr Morris Cairns

Representatives of PlayBoard –
Mr Alan Heron and Ms Roisin McCooey

Apologies : Councillors -

A D Cochrane-Watson
M Lucas

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman stated that he was looking forward to working with everyone in his role as Chairman of the Development and Leisure Committee. He acknowledged the challenging times ahead with the budgetary pressures that the public sector is facing and also in establishing the way forward now that RPA is not going ahead but he expressed his confidence that Council would continue to do the best for the community.

Sincere sympathies were expressed to Cathy McNally and her family on the recent death of her father.

The Chairman went on to congratulate Karen Steele and Natasha Belshaw on another very successful event at the Lough Shore Park on 12 June. The Pirate Boat Race which attracted around 2,500 spectators and raised £5,500 for Lough Neagh Rescue had been very well received.

The winners of this year's Chief Executive's Making a Difference Awards were congratulated with particular mention of Beth Robb from the Development and Leisure Department who received an Outstanding Achievement Award.

It was noted that Council's application to GROW South Antrim for Crumlin Environmental Improvements Scheme had been successful with up to £230,000 in grant aid being awarded to the project to include undergrounding the overhead electricity cables in the village, new street furniture and hard landscaping.

Members were advised that a summer youth intervention programme is planned for those areas where anti social behaviour concerns were being raised. Council Officers working with NEELB and CSP hope to start the programme the second week in July.

PRESENTATIONS

The Chairman welcomed representatives from Muckamore Credit Union to the Meeting - Mr Billy Carnwath, Chairman and Mr Morris Cairns, Treasurer.

**MUCKAMORE
CREDIT UNION**
S/1(a)(xxiii)

Councillor Graham declared an interest as a Director of Muckamore Credit Union and Councillor Nicholl declared an interest as a Member.

Councillor Smyth entered the Meeting at 10.05 am and declared an interest as a Director of Muckamore Credit Union.

Mr Carnwath outlined the value of Muckamore Credit Union to the local community particularly in the current recession with the need for financial security.

**MUCKAMORE
CREDIT UNION**
(continued)

Mr Cairns gave a Powerpoint presentation outlining the history of Muckamore Credit Union which opened in 1992 based from leased offices at Muckamore Orange Hall. There were currently 450 active members and 150 junior members and all Board members and tellers were volunteers.

Investments in the branch include upgrade of the software system and plans to employ a Business Development Worker and improve the office to enable better services to members and expand services provided.

The leased section of the office premises requires a new roof at a cost of approximately £30,000 and Council was asked to consider capital grant funding in this respect.

Mr Carnwath and Mr Cairns responded to Members queries as follows:

- The premises were leased from Muckamore Orange Lodge on a full repair lease basis.
- Most of the membership were from the Antrim area but there were also members from outlying towns and villages.
- Savers with the Credit Union were shareholders.
- Only dividends from bonds or interest received from loans may be used for branch improvements.
- Membership restrictions set out in the Common Bond were outlined.

The Chairman and several Members acknowledged the excellent service provided by Muckamore Credit Union for those in the local community and thanked Mr Carnwath and Mr Cairns for their comprehensive presentation after which they withdrew from the meeting.

RECOMMENDED: that Officers bring a report on this and other capital grant requests to next Committee meeting for consideration.

The Chairman welcomed representatives from PlayBoard – Alan Heron, Director of Services and Roisin McCooey, Senior Research Officer to the meeting.

**NORTHERN
IRELAND
ASSEMBLY:
PLAY AND
LEISURE POLICY
G/134**

Mr Heron outlined that a Play and Leisure Policy Statement and Implementation Plan had been developed by a broad based partnership of organisations, all of whom have an active interest in developing and supporting children and young people's play and leisure. The Office of the First and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) were supported by PlayBoard in the development of the implementation plan and were also working with them in their engagement with Councils regarding the development of Play and Leisure Partnerships.

The focus was to build child friendly communities through:

- The establishment/identification of a Play and Leisure partnership structure within each council area;
- Completion of an audit of Play & Leisure within each locale;
- Development of local operational plans linked to the regional plan;
- Embedding of partnership engagement with wider strategic bodies eg Children's Services Planning.

To deliver the Plan OFMDFM were negotiating a level of support aimed at realising the Play and Leisure strategy through the following:

- one-off financial support to initiate partnership process – level to be determined;
- Delivery of a series of risk seminars aimed at supporting local delivery;
- Delivery of Play Shaper programme;
- Access to research data to assist with audit process.

Several Members voiced their support for the principle of the Play and Leisure Implementation Plan but expressed their concern regarding the budgetary constraints facing the public section.

Mr Heron stated that the Plan was to build local partnerships with local people, including young people, to provide shared spaces within communities.

Mr Heron and Ms McCooey responded to Members queries as follows:

- It was hoped that in working together with other statutory bodies any land banks held would be released for recreation purposes.
- Young children as well as older teenagers would be considered within the Plan.
- One-off financial support, of a level to be determined, to initiate the partnership process would be available within this financial year but no further financial commitment had been made.
- Funding for Park Wardens or similar posts would be a partnership consideration.
- Children with disabilities and their carers were involved in the consultation process.

**NORTHERN
IRELAND
ASSEMBLY:
PLAY AND
LEISURE POLICY**
(continued)

The Chairman thanked Mr Heron and Ms McCooey for their presentation and they withdrew from the Meeting.

RECOMMENDED: that a full report on the Play and Leisure Policy/Implementation Plan is brought to the next Committee Meeting.

DEVELOPMENT

REPORT: No 4 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that Alderman Loughran and Councillors Clarke and Cushman be nominated to the Toomebridge Masterplan Sub-Group.

**TOOMEBRIDGE
MASTERPLAN:
NOMINATIONS
FOR STEERING
GROUP**
ED/143

REPORT: No 5 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that Officers consult with Alderman Rea and Councillor Lucas prior to forwarding Council's response to the five questions on the future funding of the Common Agricultural Policy forwarded by NILGA's Agricultural and Rural Development Group, before the closing date of 9 July 2010.

**FUTURE FUNDING
OF COMMON
AGRICULTURAL
POLICY**
ED/1

REPORT: No 6 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: approval of plans to hold a Halloween Spooktacular at Junction One on Thursday 28 October 2010 with Junction One as the main sponsor and a Halloween Fest throughout the Borough during October - both from existing agreed budgets.

**HALLOWEEN
FESTIVAL 2010
T/63**

CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

REPORT: No 7 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Alderman Loughran that an economic appraisal is commissioned at an estimated cost of between £5,000 and £8,000 in support of an application to the GROW (South Antrim) programme for an extension to Crumlin Community Centre.

**GROW: REQUEST
FOR ECONOMIC
APPRAISAL
CS/109(a)**

REPORT: No 8 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that in respect of the Peace III Shared Neighbourhood Programme, Council:

- 1) Consults directly with Springfarm residents and works to establish if a business case can be developed, in partnership with relevant agencies, for the delivery of a facility within the context of the play strategy;
- 2) Considers in principle, working with NIHE and other parties on the project including financial support in terms of revenue costs of £5,000 to £10,000 per annum for the play area within the Springfarm Estate.

NOTED: Members felt that any forthcoming play provision at Springfarm under this scheme be considered as a first phase with further consideration being given to planned Council facilities included in the capital programme.

**SHARED
NEIGHBOURHOOD
PROGRAMME –
PEACE III
CS/198**

INTERVAL

There was an interval at 11.05 am.

The Meeting resumed at 11.25 am with all Members previously present resuming their seats.

RECREATION

REPORT: No 9 had been circulated.

Councillor Smyth declared an interest as a Member of Steeple Community Association.

The Director updated Members on the access path issue, indicating that the Community Association was already in discussion with NIHE.

RECOMMENDED:

- a) Officers reconsider options for opening/closing Steeple play area to include an extension of existing arrangements with Inter Estate Partnership and bring a further report to Committee;
- b) Approval for access for planned programmes of activity in the Multi Use Games Areas free of charge for local groups if booked at least 2 weeks in advance.

REPORT: No 10 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that Officers

- (i) Have approval to proceed to conduct site technical assessments at Ballygrooby at a cost in the region of £10,000;
- (ii) Continue to determine the views of local Clubs on the delivery options.

NOTED: A further update report will be available at August Development and Leisure Committee.

**STEEPLE PLAY
AREA
S/2g(y)**

**RANDALSTOWN
RECREATION
FACILITIES
R/16(g)**

REPORT: No 11 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that Sport NI is invited to make a presentation to Committee on the "Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009-2019".

**SPORT MATTERS:
THE NORTHERN
IRELAND
STRATEGY FOR
SPORT AND
PHYSICAL
RECREATION
2009-2019
R/53**

REPORT: No 12 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that gym equipment surplus to Council requirements, currently in storage at Crumlin Community Centre, is disposed of by way of a public advertisement, subject to a legal undertaking as regards the condition and future use of the equipment.

**CRUMLIN
COMMUNITY
CENTRE:
TIR NA NOG –
REQUEST FOR
EQUIPMENT
CS/5**

REPORT: No 13 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: approval, subject to final approval to proceed with the capital project, of the

- i) Relocation of bowling at Crumlin Community Centre to the area adjacent to the play park as per local agreement, and
- ii) Provision of a synthetic bowling green as opposed to the current grass provision (approximate cost of £150,000 as part of overall project cost).

**CRUMLIN
COMMUNITY AND
RECREATION
FACILITIES
S/5(b)(iii)**

TENDERS

REPORT: No 14 had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that

- i) Henry Brothers (Magherafelt) Limited, 108-114 Moneymore Road, Magherafelt, Londonderry BT45 6HJ be appointed as Main Contractor for the Restoration and Development Scheme at Antrim Castle Gardens in the sum of £5,088.040.00.

**ANTRIM CASTLE
GARDENS
RESTORATION
AND
DEVELOPMENT
SCHEME
S/2(a)(w), A/19,
G/71(c)(2),
ED/28(e), S/2(x)**

- ii) Considering the favourable variance between tender sum and total construction phase budget, combined with the additional grant aid secured from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Main Contract to include the Victorian Garage restoration in the provisional sum of £260,000.

**ANTRIM CASTLE
GARDENS
RESTORATION
AND
DEVELOPMENT
SCHEME**
(continued)

CORRESPONDENCE

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

REPORT: No 15 (a) had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that £400 be awarded to the Rotary Club of Antrim towards hosting the Youth Development Leadership Competition and prize money.

**THE ROTARY
CLUB OF ANTRIM**
G/8

REPORT: No 15 (b) had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that due to the imminent start date, the financial assistance request from Inter Estate Partnership for aesthetic improvements at the Courtyard, Parkhall Shopping Centre be deferred to Full Council on 8 July to enable further information to be provided.

**INTER ESTATE
PARTNERSHIP**
G/8

NOTED: Visit to Galgorm Health Suite to view project completed by Council's appointed architects (RPP Architects) will take place on Thursday 1 July 2010 at 3.30 pm to which all Committee Members were invited.

**VISIT TO
GALGORM
HEALTH SUITE**

Alderman Dunlop and Councillors Graham, Ritchie and Smyth expressed an interest in attending - Officers to make contact with other Members not in attendance today in respect of the visit.

There being no further business the Meeting concluded at 12.15 pm.

Mayor

Chief Executive

Date
