

# ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a Meeting of the **Public Services Committee** of Antrim Borough Council held in The Round Tower Chamber, Antrim Civic Centre, Stiles Way, Antrim on **Thursday 27 May 2010** at **2pm**.

In the Chair : Councillor H J Cushinan

Other Members Present : Aldermen -

S Dunlop  
R J Loughran  
M Rea

Councillors -

A K Brady  
T A Burns  
T Clarke  
A D Cochrane-Watson  
B Graham  
N Kelly  
A A Lawther  
P Lewis  
P Michael  
S Nicholl  
M Lucas  
D Ritchie  
J Smyth

In Attendance : Assistant Director - Building Control  
Planning Officer  
Planning Service Representative:  
Mrs Karen Doyle  
Roads Service Representatives:  
Mrs Deidre Mackle  
Mr Neil Balmer  
Committee Secretary (*K Smyth*)

Mr D Kinahan

Apologies : Councillors -

O C J Keenan  
A Logue

## **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

Mr Danny Kinahan addressed Committee to formally record his appreciation and express thanks to all the Members, colleagues and staff who had assisted him throughout his 5 years serving as an Elected Member. He acknowledged the competing difficulties associated with being an MLA and Elected Member. Party leaders individually recorded their appreciation to Mr Kinahan for his endeavours and commitment and wished him every success in the future. Councillors Neil Kelly and Paul Michael were welcomed to the Chamber for their first Meeting.

Mr Kinahan withdrew from the Meeting at this point.

## **PLANNING SCHEDULES**

The Senior Planning Officer updated Members on the Streamlined Consultation process, namely, that 31 applications had been received and 38 approvals had been issued.

### **STREAMLINED CONSULTATION SCHEME**

**NOTED:** Councillor Clarke requested that Planning Service issue guidance regarding the Streamlined Consultation Process to the Press to inform the public and the Senior Planning Officer undertook to discuss this with relevant officers upon her return to the Divisional Office.

## **DEFERRED APPLICATIONS**

**AGREED:** accept approval.

**T/2008/0709/RM  
MR G STEWART**

In response to an enquiry regarding retail, the Senior Planning Officer clarified that the approval opinion was ancillary to the sale of marketing for karting on the motor circuit.

**T/2009/0506/F  
NUTTS CORNER  
CIRCUIT LTD**

**AGREED:** accept approval, the objection letters having been previously noted.

**T/2009/0506/F  
NUTTS CORNER  
CIRCUIT LTD  
(continued)**

**NOTED:** Councillor Clarke requested his support for the objectors to be recorded.

**AGREED:** accept approval.

**T/2009/0662/O  
MR & MRS G  
McKAVANAGH**

**AGREED:** accept approval.

**T/2010/0028/F  
DR P FITZGERALD**

### **NEW APPLICATIONS**

The Senior Planning Officer declined the request for a Planning Clinic deferral but confirmed that the case officer was monitoring the application as the confusion related to DARD reference number / client number.

**T/2010/0094/O  
MR LOGAN**

**AGREED:** automatic deferral pending the outcome of Draft Planning Policy PPS21 Sustainable Development in the Countryside, the opportunity for new information to be submitted remaining open - Councillor Burns.

Councillor Cochrane-Watson left the Meeting at this point.

**AGREED:** defer one month for a Planning Clinic, the material planning reasons outlined and accepted - Councillor Michael.

**T/2010/0106/F  
MR J WILLIAMSON**

**NOTED:** the Senior Planning Officer undertook to ensure that the description was amended to include reference to the proposed distribution of agricultural plant and equipment, i.e. storage "and distribution of".

**NOTED:** the Senior Planning Officer sought permission to amend the schedule to reflect an increase from 2 to 3 objections.

**T/2010/0108/F  
MR T McCONVILLE**

**AGREED:** accept approval, the objection letters having been noted.

Councillor Nicholl joined the Meeting at this point.

**AGREED:** defer one month for a Planning Clinic, the material planning reasons outlined and accepted - Councillor Burns.

**T/2010/0128/F  
MR & MRS M  
DONNELLY**

**AGREED:** defer one month for a Planning Clinic, the material planning reasons outlined and accepted - Councillor Burns.

**T/2010/0145/O  
MR L WILSON**

**AGREED:** defer one month for a Planning Clinic, the material planning reasons outlined and accepted - Councillor Cochrane-Watson.

**T/2010/0151/F  
MR S HOOD**

**AGREED:** accept approval, the objection letters being noted.

**T/2010/0156/O  
MR N MILLAR**

**NOTED:** the Planning Clinic would be held on Wednesday 9 June 2010 commencing 10am in Meeting Room 1, Antrim Civic Centre.

**PLANNING CLINIC**

The Planning Service representative withdrew from the Meeting at this point.

## **OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

***Pages 15-16 of the Minutes of the Public Services Committee Meeting held on 25 February 2010 refers.***

**LETTER:** No. 3 had been circulated.

The Planning Officer spoke to the application for a relief road associated with the major housing development in Ballyclare and reminded Members of the content of Council's previous corporate response.

**AGREED:** to reiterate Council's previous endorsement of the wider proposal.

Councillor Lewis joined the Meeting at this point.

**REPORTED:** by the Planning Officer, that Pilot Area Plan teams in Northern Ireland were being stood down as a result of the uncertainties currently facing Planning Service.

Members expressed serious concerns regarding the continued delay of an Area Plan and the ongoing detrimental economic and development affect on the Borough's infrastructure as a result.

**AGREED:** to explore alternatives to ensuring the development of an Area Plan for the Antrim Borough taking into consideration the Antrim / Newtownabbey Pilot initiation.

***Page 135 & 30 of the Minutes of the Public Services Committee Meetings held on 22 October 2009 and 25 March 2010 refer.***

**AGREED:** the Planning Officer be permitted to submit a further letter of support in respect of planning application T/2003/1107/O to endorse the appellant's calls for clarity and transparency in the Planning Appeal Commission's (PAC) decision notice.

**U/2009/0407/F:  
BALLYCLARE  
HOUSING  
DEVELOPMENT -  
RELIEF ROAD  
7/6/5**

**UPDATE:  
ANTRIM /  
NEWTOWNABBEY  
PILOT AREA PLAN  
7/6/4**

**PAC REF: 2006/A1563  
HERON PROPERTY  
LTD, NUTT'S CORNER  
7/6/5**

## **ROADS**

**LETTER:** No. 5 and map had been circulated.

**AGREED:** to welcome the proposal from Roads Service to extend the existing time limited parking on Main Street, Toome to include the lay-bys adjacent to Centra and Village Flowers, however, highlight that this scheme may not alleviate all parking difficulties in Toome.

**INVITATION:** No. 6 had been circulated.

**AGREED:** that Councillor Ritchie (Secretary, Antrim District Road Safety Committee) represent Council at the NILGA Consultation Event '*Road Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland*' on Wednesday 2 June 2010 from 9.30am-1pm in the Craigavon Civic Centre.

**NOTED:** Councillor Dunlop, if available, would accompany Councillor Ritchie.

**PROPOSED WAITING  
RESTRICTIONS -  
MAIN STREET, TOOME**  
6/3/1

**NILGA  
CONSULTATION  
EVENT:  
ROAD SAFETY  
STRATEGY FOR  
NORTHERN IRELAND -  
2 JUNE 2010**  
6/3/1

## **PRESENTATION**

**REPORT:** No. 7 had been circulated.

**TABLED:** Press Release.

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Roads Service representatives Mrs Deirdre Mackle (Network Maintenance Manager) and Mr Neil Balmer (Section Engineer) who were in attendance to present the Roads Programme for the Antrim Borough for 2010/2011.

**NOTED:**

- Apologies from Mr Uel Wilson, Acting Divisional Roads Manager;
- Service Request / Enquiry Forms had been enclosed with the report and Members were encouraged to use these to raise local issues or operational matters with Roads Service.

**ROADS PROGRAMME  
FOR THE ANTRIM  
BOROUGH 2010/2011**  
6/3/1

Mrs Mackle spoke to the report detailing capital and maintenance schemes, works completed, works nearing completion and those scheduled for the incoming year. In addition she highlighted -

**ROADS PROGRAMME  
FOR THE ANTRIM  
BOROUGH 2010/2011**  
(continued)

- the £3million planned for structural road maintenance in the Antrim area this year;
- financial restrictions and reprioritisations as a result of the tightening public expenditure environment;
- ongoing work to improve the North Western Transport Corridor - construction of a dual carriageway between Randalstown and Castledawson;
- the work undertaken in conjunction with the Department for Social Development to complete Phase 1 of a £255,000 Environmental Improvement Scheme in Randalstown;
- the completion of various splay improvement schemes;
- projects incorporated in the programme for local transport and safety measures;
- the extensive damage caused to roads last winter due to severe weather conditions.

The following matters raised by Members were considered -

- **Street Lighting upgrade** - there was an acknowledgement that the level of demand exceeded the programme, however, only high priority schemes would be delivered together with some lantern changes.
- **Footway spraying** - it was confirmed that the programme would commence at the end of June.
- **Footway resurfacing, Oriel Road, Antrim** - request for inclusion of this scheme in the programme.
- **Splays at junction of Blackstown Road / Ballynadrentagh Road** - it was confirmed that completion of this scheme, from last year's programme, was subject to funding.

**ROADS PROGRAMME  
FOR THE ANTRIM  
BOROUGH 2010/2011  
(continued)**

- **Nutt's Corner Roundabout -**
  - **Lane markings** - request for a review in line with other roundabouts;
  - **Widening of circulatory carriageway** - request for Council to be informed if scheme negatively impacted on landscaping.
  
- **Road resurfacing schemes -**
  - **Mill Road, Crumlin** - scheme completion was confirmed as this year.
  - **Printshop Road** - request for this scheme to be considered.
  - **Greystone Road** - the first trunk would be delivered before the July holidays.
  - **Parkhall Road** - it was indicated that a temporary repair may help as the budget was not available for a complete resurface.
  - **Ballytromery Road (out of village)** - request for consideration.
  - **Loughbeg Road** - request for consideration.
  
- **Whitehill Drive / Barnish Road, Randalstown** - request to improve communication with Northern Ireland Water to ensure joint works could be completed at the same time to alleviate disruption.

Alderman Loughran gave his apologies and left the Meeting.

- **Traffic calming schemes -**
  - **Church Road and Barnish Road, Randalstown** - request to explore alternative cushion type humps at the brows of the hills on Church Road and Barnish Road, Randalstown to facilitate farm vehicles;
  - **Ballycraigy, Antrim** - this scheme would be extended although full details were not yet available;

**ROADS PROGRAMME  
FOR THE ANTRIM  
BOROUGH 2010/2011  
(continued)**

- **Sevenmilestraight, Antrim** - concern was relayed to the representatives on whether the scheme was successful.
- **Responsibility for off-street parking** - this was categorised as transportation related (i.e. "Park n Ride" and "Park n Share").
- **Provision of cycle path, Crumlin** - it was confirmed this scheme was in the early stage with ideas under consideration.
- **Motorway junction, Templepatrick** - request for improvements to lane directional signs.
- **Splays at junction of Printshop Road** - the scheme remains a high priority for delivery, however, land issues required resolution.

Councillor Cochrane-Watson returned to the Meeting.

- **Traffic lights at junction of Oldstone Road / Belfast Road / Path Head** - request for the right arrow signal to be reviewed to alleviate driver confusion.
- **Pilot Schools Safety Scheme** - the outcome of a speed management review consultation, based on mainland schemes, would be accorded a high priority and rolled out to all schools in due course.
- **Railway Street, Antrim** - request for improved consultation with traders prior to and during scheme disruption as some problems had been experienced.
- **Speed Limit at link road, Belfast Road / Dublin Road** - request for a reduction in the speed of traffic.
- **Airport access improvements on Dublin Road / Dungonnell Road** - this scheme, costing approximately £4million, had not been prioritised due to funding constraints.
- **Crossroads at Ballydonnelly Road / Roguery Road** - request for completion of this scheme.
- **Main Street, Crumlin** - request for consideration of car park provision.

- **Footway provision on Moneynick Road / Roguery Road on entry to village** - request for this scheme to be considered.

**ROADS PROGRAMME  
FOR THE ANTRIM  
BOROUGH 2010/2011  
(continued)**

During the course of discussion Members congratulated the Representatives on various schemes completed throughout the Borough.

There being no further questions the Chairman thanked the Roads Service representatives for addressing Committee and they withdrew from the Meeting at 3.45pm.

**ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

**Page 60 of the Minutes of the Development and Leisure Committee Meeting refers.**

Councillor Nicholl referred to discussions at the Development and Leisure Committee Meeting earlier in the day regarding 1<sup>st</sup> Randalstown Scouts and confirmed that expenses for the year of £30k compared with an income of £27k reflected a shortfall and permitted Council to fund a grant.

**AGREED:** approval of the recommendation from the Development and Leisure Committee, namely - that subject to all Council conditions being met, Council contribute £500 to 1<sup>st</sup> Randalstown Scouts towards their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.

**FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE  
REQUEST:  
1<sup>st</sup> RANDALSTOWN  
SCOUTS  
G/8**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Pages 12 & 28 of the Minutes of the Public Services Committee Meeting held on 25 February 2010 & 25 March 2010 refer.**

**NOTED:** details of a further response from Roads Service to Council's 2<sup>nd</sup> letter requesting representation at Monthly Planning Committee Meetings. Members reiterated their disappointment at the previous decision to decline representation remaining unchanged.

**NOTED:** details of letter from NILGA, enclosing a copy of the response from the Minister (Conor Murphy), to concerns submitted at the lack of gritting / salting on rural roads.

**REPORTED:** details of letter from Minister, Conor Murphy, in response to further consideration of the undernoted two Roads Service issues as discussed at the Meeting with Council representatives on 14 April 2010 -

- Capacity at the Park & Ride Facilities at Dunsilly and Templepatrick.
- A6 Dualling Scheme between Castledawson and Toome.

**NOTED:** Officers to obtain details from Translink regarding exact plans for the proposed Park and Ride Car Park at Ballymartin, the eventual intention being to create a Railway halt.

**ROADS SERVICE:  
REPRESENTATION AT  
MONTHLY PLANNING  
COMMITTEE  
MEETINGS**

6/3/1

**NILGA:  
LACK OF GRITTING  
AND SALTING ON  
RURAL ROADS**

6/3/1

**LETTER FROM DRD  
MINISTER:  
(1) PARK & RIDE  
FACILITIES AT  
DUNSILLY AND  
TEMPLEPATRICK;  
(2) A6 DUALLNG  
SCHEME  
BETWEEN  
CASTLEDAWSON  
AND TOOME**

6/3/1

This being the last Committee Meeting prior to the Annual General Meeting, the Chairman voiced his appreciation for the support and co-operation from all Members and Officers and expressed his thanks accordingly.

There being no further business the Meeting concluded at 3.55pm.

**Mayor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Executive** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_