

## COOKSTOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Minutes of Proceedings of a DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 7.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor McGarvey (Chairman)

**Councillors:** Baker, Cassidy, Clarke, Glasgow, Greer, Lees, McAleer, McCartney, McFlynn, McNamee, Molloy Quinn, and Wilson

**Officers:** Adrian McCreesh Director of Development  
Oliver McShane Sports Services Manager  
Emma Bell Admin Officer

#### 1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was reported on behalf of Councillors McCrea and McIvor.

#### 2. PRESENTATION FROM CLUB TYRONE

The Director of Development welcomed Messrs Mark Conway, Patsy Forbes, Damian Harvey and Brian Murray from Club Tyrone, to the meeting to update Members on the progress of the new GAA Centre located at Garvaghey.

Mr Conway circulated copies of the presentation and the Club Tyrone Garvaghey Project brochure for Members information. He advised that 'Legacy' is the main theme of the project and it will enable future generations to utilise the Garvaghey Project. The centre will be located in the Omagh District and the building will be iconic in design forming the 'T' shape of the clubs logo. The centre will contain 6 pitches, 1 of which will be a full sized "4G" floodlit, artificial pitch and drills area, and 5 full sized floodlit sand carpet GAA pitches.

Mr Hugh McAleer arrived 7.02pm.

Mr Conway advised that based on Sport NI figures there is currently 75 available GAA pitches, including the pitches located at MUSA, however 125 pitches are needed in the Tyrone district. Therefore the 6 additional pitches located at the new centre will make a contribution towards reducing this number. In addition, the centre will contain changing and development facilities, recreational, cultural and heritage space. The current administration facilities located in Omagh town will be relocated to the centre in due course. The 43 acre site has already been purchased and full planning permission granted for the entire project. The project is estimated to cost £6.7 million, £2.9 million (43%) has been secured from Tyrone GAA and Central/Ulster GAA has agreed to commit £2.1 million (31%), therefore 75% of the project cost will be met by the GAA. At present Sport NI has no funding programme open, however it is hoped that within the next 5 years an opportunity will arise whereby Club Tyrone will be able to put forward an application for £1 million (15%). £0.7 million will be raised by other means. To date £1.4 million has been spent and £1.5 million has yet to be raised by Club Tyrone Members made up of £0.75 million from Club Tyrone Membership over 5 years, £0.5 million from Garvaghey Patrons and £0.25 million from Cead Mile Pixels. Applications have been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund, Department for Social Development and the Rural Development Programme.

Mr Conway advised Members that each of the four Councils, namely Cookstown, Dungannon, Strabane and Omagh are asked for a contribution of £75,000 each which equates to 1.1% of the total cost.

The Chairman thanked Club Tyrone representatives for their informative presentation, after which they answered a number of questions from Members.

The Director of Development advised that Council needs to consult with external agencies and review Council's current position in relation to existing facilities, finances, legalities, existing funding, policies and existing/planned financial commitments. After completion of this process Council will inform Club Tyrone of their decision.

Mark Conway, Patsy Forbes, Damian Harvey, Hugh McAleer and Brian Murray left the meeting at 7.32pm.

Members AGREED that Council consult with external agencies and review policies, legalities, finances and existing commitments before making a decision.

Mr McShane left the meeting at 8.42pm.

### **3. LOUGH NEAGH**

#### **3.1 Lough Neagh Partnership and Lough Neagh Cycle Trail**

Members were advised that a letter had been received from Gerry Darby, Lough Neagh Partnership, dated 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009, requesting a commitment in principle to contribute £8,500 for administration costs and £900 for the Lough Neagh Cycle Trail for the financial year 2010/11.

It was AGREED.

That Council provides a contribution of £7,500 to the Lough Neagh Partnership for the financial year 2010/11 to be paid in two instalments on the conditions that:

- (i) Lough Neagh Partnership provides written confirmation of all other funding committed to the organisation by Councils and other bodies;
- (ii) Lough Neagh Partnership provides Council with its financial projections for 2010/11;
- (iii) Council receives all requested documentation; and,
- (iv) Council receives evidence of the proposed INTERREG application and its outcomes.

Members also AGREED to provide a contribution of £900 towards the Lough Neagh Cycle Trail to be paid in one instalment, subject to receipt of the requested documentation.

#### **3.2 Lough Neagh & Lower Bann Advisory Committee**

The Director of Development advised Members that a letter had been received from Paul Garland, President and Carmel Meegan, Honorary Secretary of the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009, regarding funding for the Lough Neagh & Lower Bann Advisory Committee. He further advised that this issue was raised at the previous Development Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2009, when a letter was circulated from Mr Graham Seymour, Director of Development of Natural Heritage, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, dated 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009, outlining a withdrawal of funding for the Committee.

At the Development Committee meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2009 Council agreed to provide a contribution on the same terms as previously agreed at the Development Committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2009 outlined below:

*“Council agree to provide a contribution of £5,000 for the financial year 2009/10 on the conditions that (i) all other Councils provide funding at the same level and (ii) all requested documentation is received.”*

The Director of Development advised that he had attended a meeting with Brian Cassells, Lough Neagh & Lower Bann Advisory Committee and representatives from Magherafelt District Council and Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010 to discuss the withdrawal of funding from Central Government.

Members AGREED to provide a contribution, subject to the terms and conditions as set out above being abided by.

#### **4. COMMUNITY SERVICES**

##### **4.1 Cookstown District Community Audit**

The Director of Development provided Members with background to the Community Audit and advised that a periodic review of community groups and voluntary organisations within the Cookstown District had taken place. The aim of the Audit is to:

- Map groups and their demographic profile within the district
- Identify the level of support for a community forum within the district
- Identify groups with an interest in being represented on a community forum

The survey was forwarded to all community groups/voluntary organisations within the district and subsequently the surveys were analysed and a report including recommendations compiled which will be forwarded to the Department for Social Development.

An invitation will be forwarded to each of the groups inviting them to attend a Community Forum Meeting to be held in March 2010, which will assist Council to compile a Community Plan.

Discussion ensued amongst Members, after which Members AGREED to convene a meeting of the Community Forum in March 2010.

## **4.2 Citizens Advice Bureau**

Members were advised that an end of year update report from Sharon Dillion, Manager of Cookstown and Dungannon Citizens Advice Bureau, for the period December 2008 to December 2009 was received. The Director of Development advised that there was one inaccuracy within the report, the money back (including lump sum amount) should read £348,135 instead of £282,190. He further advised that approval is sought to review Cookstown Citizens Advice Bureau's Service Level Agreement for the period April 2010 to March 2011.

Members NOTED the end of year report and AGREED that Cookstown Citizens Advice Bureau's Service Level Agreement be reviewed for the period April 2010 to March 2011.

Councillor Wilson highlighted that he is satisfied with the service which is being provided by Cookstown Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor Greer left at 8.01pm

## **5. TOURISM**

### **5.1 Sperrins Tourism**

Members were advised that a letter had been received from Sperrins Tourism Ltd requesting a continuation of Council's annual contribution at the current level of £21,500 for the financial year 2010/11. The Director of Development proposed that Council maintain the current level of funding subject to satisfactory documentation being received, as per letter of offer.

It was proposed by Councillor Cassidy  
Seconded by Councillor Baker and AGREED

That Council maintain the current level of funding towards Sperrins Tourism Ltd of up to £21,500 for the financial year 2010/2011, to be paid in two six monthly instalments subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Sperrins Tourism provides written confirmation of all other funding committed to the organisation by Councils and other bodies;
- (ii) Sperrins Tourism provides Council with its financial projections for 2010/11; and
- (iii) Council receives all requested documentation.

## **5.2 Lough Fea**

The Director of Development advised Members that Cookstown Tourist Information Centre in conjunction with Mid-Ulster Angling Club have put forward a comprehensive proposal to enhance fishing facilities for the anglers' at Lough Fea. He further advised that the potential benefits of developing Lough Fea as a visitor destination are immense. The Tourism Officer has proposed the following recommendations:

- Council commission a consultant to liaise with members of Mid-Ulster Angling Club to prepare a project proposal on the potential development of Lough Fea as a visitor and angling destination.
- The project proposal will assist Mid-Ulster Angling Club to prepare future grant applications to the Rural Development Programme and the Department of Culture Arts & Leisure Inland Waterways programme, amongst others.

Members were advised that the cost of commissioning a consultant to prepare a project proposal would be approximately £3,000.

Members AGREED to accept the recommendations as set out above.

Councillor Wilson left at 8.04pm.

## **5.3 Tourism Sub Group**

Members NOTED minutes of the Tourism Sub Group meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

## **5.4 Davagh Forest**

The Director of Development advised that Council had compiled a draft letter and Memorandum of Understanding in response to a request made by Forest Service to form a partnership agreement, which would allow both organisations to proactively develop the recreation and social use of forests within the District.

Members **AGREED** for the draft letter and Memorandum of Understanding to be forwarded to Forest Service for their consideration.

## **6. IRISH CENTRAL BORDER AREA NETWORK**

Members were advised that a letter had been received from Shane Campbell, dated 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009 requesting £12,500 for the financial year 2010/11.

It was proposed by Councillor Cassidy  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and **AGREED**

That Council make its annual contribution of £12,500 to ICBAN for the financial year 2010/11, to be paid in two instalments and subject to the following conditions:

- (i) ICBAN provides written confirmation of all other funding committed to the organisation by Councils and other bodies;
- (ii) ICBAN provides Council with its financial projections for 2010/11, and
- (iii) Council receives all requested documentation.

## **7. LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **7.1 Cookstown Engineering Innovation Programme Seminar**

The Director of Development advised Members that they are invited to attend Council's Engineering Sustainability Through Innovation Seminar on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 9am in the Innotech Centre, South West College. In addition Members are invited to attend a photocall prior to the event and details will be forwarded in due course.

NOTED.

### **7.2 Wireless Broadband Update**

Members were advised that the wireless broadband project is nearing completion and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) has extended their contract with North West Electronics (NWE's) until the end of February 2010 to ensure the remaining works are completed. A number of wireless broadband sites have been installed and are operational, and a further three areas, namely Broughderg, Ardboe and Coagh are scheduled for completion within the next six weeks.

The Director of Development highlighted the significance of North West Electronics new partnership with Hibernia Atlantic, which will result in customers receiving high speed broadband through Project Kelvin.

Members NOTED the progress being made towards the rollout of wireless broadband across the Cookstown District by North West Electronics.

### **7.3 Sustainable Development Strategy**

Members NOTED the Sustainable Development Strategy Consultation Document issued by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister together with a letter outlining Council's response to the document, dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

### **7.4 Natural Gas Network**

Members NOTED the Report prepared by Council, dated November 2009, making the case for the extension of the Natural Gas Network to Cookstown.



## **8. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION**

### **8.1. Town Centre Forum**

Members NOTED minutes of Burn Road EI Steering Group Committee meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

### **8.2. Burn Road Environmental Improvement Scheme**

#### **8.2.1. Burn Road EI Steering Group Committee**

Members NOTED minutes of Burn Road EI Steering Group Committee meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

#### **8.2.2. Burn Road EI Scheme Update**

Members NOTED update report from the Town Strategy Manager regarding the Burn Road Environmental Improvement Scheme, dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

#### **8.2.3. Living Over the Shops (LOTS) Scheme Ministerial Visit**

The Director of Development advised Members that Minister Margaret Ritchie MLA, Department for Social Development will visit Cookstown on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010 to promote Cookstown's Living Over the Shops (LOTS) Scheme. Minister Ritchie will be arriving at Cookstown District Council Offices at 3.15pm for a brief photocall, followed by a visit to a LOTS Scheme premises at 57-59 Molesworth Street, Cookstown and a further photocall with property owners, the Council Chairman and Town Centre Forum Chairman.

NOTED.

### **8.3. Shop Mobility**

Members NOTED minutes of Shop Mobility meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

## **9. BURNAVON**

### **9.1 Arts & Culture**

Members NOTED minutes of Arts & Culture Sub Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2009.

### **9.2 Tullaghoge Fort Sub Group**

Members NOTED minutes of Tullaghoge Fort Sub Group meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

The Director of Development advised Members that a recent application to the Natural Heritage Grants Programme has been rejected, due to a reduction in the Northern Ireland Environment Agency's budget. As a result Council's plan to purchase land surrounding Tullaghoge Fort has been put in jeopardy. To date a meeting has been scheduled with the Chief Executive and Senior Directors of NIEA and Council representatives for 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 to discuss the rejected grant application and proposed way forward. In addition, an urgent meeting has been arranged with Minister Michelle Gildernew MLA, and Council representatives to discuss the Tullaghoge Fort project and the way forward.

## **10. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

**10.1.** Members NOTED minutes of the Rural Development Programme Joint Committee meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> October and 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

**10.2.** Members NOTED minutes of the South West Local Action Group meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> October and 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

## 11. SUBSCRIPTION

### 11.1. Association of Town Centre Management

Members AGREED that Council should renew their annual subscription with the Association of Town Centre Management for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 at a cost of £450 plus VAT.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.

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Chairman

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Clerk/Chief Executive

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Date