

COOKSTOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Proceedings of a DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 16th September 2008 at 7.00 pm

Present: **Councillor Baker (Chairperson)**

Councillors: **Clarke, Glasgow, Lees, Molloy, McAleer, McCartney, McCrea, McGarvey, McIvor, McNamee, Quinn, Wilson**

Officers: **M J McGuckin Chief Executive
 **Adrian McCreesh Director of Development
 **Christine Aiken Town Strategy Assistant
 Emma Bell Admin Officer******

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of Councillor Greer.

Councillor McCartney entered the meeting at 7.03pm.

Councillor Wilson proposed that the meeting commenced with Agenda Item 19. Any other business. Agreed by all.

2. LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2.1. Applications

Members NOTED report on the status of Council's first tranche of Local Economic Development Applications made to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment under the auspices of the new Competitiveness Programme.

Councillor Wilson and the Chief Executive declared an interest in the matter.

It was proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and RECOMMENDED

2.1.2 Engineering Innovation Programme

That Council submit a Stage 2 Application to DETI for an 'Engineering Innovation Programme', incorporating DETI's comments to increase the scale of the project to enable it to have a greater strategic and economic impact. It was further RECOMMENDED to increase the programme cost from £73,000 to £91,500 to allow comprehensive business plans to be prepared for each participating business.

2.1.2 High Quality Office Accommodation for Small Businesses

It was further RECOMMENDED that a Stage 2 Application be submitted to DETI for High Quality Office Accommodation for Small Businesses at a contribution of £125,000, to be built at Cookstown Enterprise Centre.

2.2. NI Broadband Fund

Members NOTED a letter from The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, dated 19th August 2008, announcing the launch of the Northern Ireland Broadband Fund.

2.3. Princes Trust

Members APPROVED request from the Princes Trust for the Economic Development Manager to sit on the panel for their Business Programme.

2.4. Building Sustainable Prosperity Programme

Members NOTED report prepared by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding the Post Programme Evaluation of ERDF Measure 1.4. The Director of Development advised that it was a very positive post programme evaluation. The Committee congratulated the Development Department for their performance in delivering this programme.

2.5. Agenda NI Magazine Advertorial

It was retrospectively AGREED

That Council place an advertorial promoting the Cookstown District, in the September 2008 edition of the Agenda NI magazine at a cost of £1,800 (+VAT).

2.6. Telecommunications Provision

Members NOTED the final report on the Telecommunications Provision within the Western Sub-Region of Northern Ireland, conducted by Analysis Mason, on behalf of the Western Economic Strategy Team (WEST). The Director of Development identified key infrastructural weaknesses which are negatively impacting upon the quality of ICT and broadband provision within this region.

Discussion ensued regarding the deficiency of Telecommunications Provision in the Cookstown District in comparison to other areas in Northern Ireland.

3. RURAL CHAMPION CONSULTATION

Members NOTED a letter to consider Consultation on the proposed role of a Rural Champion and the enhancement of a Rural Proofing process which will run from the 13th August 2008 for 12 weeks, until 5th November 2008. The Director of Development drew attention to the consultation documents which are available in electronic format on the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development website.

4. IRISH CROSS BORDER AREA NETWORK

4.1. ICBAN Interreg Application

The Director of Development gave an update regarding the status of the ICBAN Interreg Application. Members were advised that the Tradable Services Proposal has been deferred, and with regard to this the Director of Development, Chief Executive and Economic Development Manager are meeting with SEUPB on Monday 22nd September 2008. No final decision has been reached on the Settlement Regeneration Project, however early assessment by SEUPB indicates that it may not be successful.

General discussion ensued regarding the ICBAN Interreg Application.

Councillor McCrea entered the meeting at 7.26pm.

4.2. ICBAN Financial Contribution for 2008 Financial Year

It was proposed by Councillor McGarvey
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and RECOMMENDED

That Council provide a financial contribution of £15,000 for the 2008 financial year.

5. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION STRATEGY

5.1. Town Centre Forum

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and RECOMMENDED

That minutes of Town Centre Forum meetings held on 2nd June 2008, 7th July 2008 and 26th August 2008 be ADOPTED.

5.2. Town Centre Living Initiative Sub Committee

Members NOTED minutes of Town Centre Living Initiative Sub Committee meeting held on 22nd May 2008.

5.3. Burn Road Environmental Improvement Steering Group Committee

Members NOTED minutes of the Burn Road Environmental Improvement Steering Group meetings held on 8th July 2008, 7th August 2008 and 4th September 2008.

The Director of Development advised that key Stakeholders including Statutory Agencies, Utility Providers and Town Councillors have been invited to attend a meeting on Thursday 25th September to discuss the proposed scheme. Members will be updated accordingly.

The Chief Executive informed Council that the Director of Building Control will deliver a presentation to update members on the scheme in the near future.

6. A29 COOKSTOWN BYPASS

Members NOTED response from Mouchel regarding Stage 1 Assessment for proposed Bypass and that they will now progress a Stage 2 assessment to identify and report the advantages, disadvantages and constraints of defined route options within an eastern corridor.

7. COMMUNITY SERVICES

7.1. Citizen Advice Bureau

Councillor Molloy declared an interest in the matter.

The Director of Development advised members that the situation was the same as was discussed and agreed at the Statutory meeting on the 9th September 2008.

7.2. Department for Social Development Local Community Fund Programme

The Director of Development updated Members on behalf of the Community Services Manager on the Local Community Fund. Members were advised that Letters of Offer had been issued to groups with the Ardboe and Dunamore wards by Cookstown District Council.

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 7.47pm.

8. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Director of Development updated Members on Rural Development and PEACE 3 Programmes. Members NOTED a letter from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development confirming receipt of Strategy for Local Rural Development under Axis 3 of the NIRDP 2007 -2013.

Members are to be advised of training details for L.A.G. Members when finalised.

It was proposed by Councillor McGarvey
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and RECOMMENDED

To approve retrospectively, support of up to £25,000 per annum towards administration fees for each of the first three years of the Peace III Programme.

9. PLAY AREA PROVISION

Members NOTED the report which provided an update on Play Provision in Cookstown District.

10. TOURISM

10.1. Sperrins Tourism Ltd

Members NOTED minutes of Sperrins Tourism meetings held during 14th May (Product Development Meeting) and 5th June (Board Meeting) 2008.

10.2. Cookstown Tourist Information Centre

Members NOTED report regarding the TIC Living History Project and History Tours in Cookstown and Moneymore.

10.3. Tourism Sub-Committee

Members NOTED minutes from Tourism Sub-Committee, held on 18th July 2008.

10.4. Western Regional Tourism Partnership

Members NOTED minutes of meeting held on 20th May, 6th June, 16th June and 29th July 2008.

10.5. Ballyronan Marina and Battery Harbour Enhancement Grant

The Director of Development advised Members that following the Leisure Services Report to the Sport and Leisure Committee on 17 June 2008, Council granted approval to proceed with applications for funding to DARD to supplement the capital works completed at Ballyronan Marina and Battery Harbour during 2007. In August 2008, funding applications were submitted to DARD for enhancement works to Ballyronan Marina and Battery Harbour. Members were advised that this is 'slippage money' which must be spent by 31 October 2008.

Applications have been made to the Landfill Community Fund for the remaining 50% funding of both projects. In the event where grant approval is not received from the Lough Neagh Partnership, the cost to Council for the above projects would be approximately £54,284.00. The Director of Development advised Members that the Director of Corporate Services has confirmed that the shortfall of £54,284.00 can be made available in the event of Council's Landfill Community Fund Applications being unsuccessful.

It was proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Glasgow and RECOMMENDED

That approval is given to accept the DARD Letters of Offer and for these works to commence at Ballyronan Marina and Battery Harbour.

11. CIVIC AWARDS

Members NOTED the Civic Awards Assessment report for 2008. The Director of Development advised that Cookstown Drama Group should be included in the nominations for consideration and approval.

It was proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and RECOMMENDED

That Cookstown Drama Group is included within the recommendations and it was further AGREED to commence preparation for the Awards Ceremony on 6 November 2008.

12. BURNAVON

12.1. Arts and Cultural Sub Committee

Members NOTED minutes of Arts and Cultural Sub Committee for 11th June 2008 and 27th June 2008.

It was proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and RECOMMENDED

That the minutes of the Arts and Cultural Sub Committee meeting held on 10 September 2008 be ADOPTED.

12.2. Tullaghoge Fort

Update regarding Tullaghoge Fort was DEFERRED

12.3. Draft Irish Language

Members NOTED the Proposed Irish Language Development Plan (September 2008 - March 2010) prepared by the Irish Development Officer.

13. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Members were advised that they will receive details in advance of the Silver Award Presentation ceremony on 25 November 2008.

14. HOLY TRINITY COLLEGE

Members NOTED letter of thanks from Holy Trinity College, Cookstown, in relation to their Specialist Schools status in Sport designation. Members RECOMMENDED that a letter be sent to Holy Trinity College congratulating them upon their successful bid.

15. WESTERN ECONOMIC STRATEGY TEAM

It was proposed by Councillor McGarvey
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and RECOMMENDED

That the minutes of WEST meetings held 9th April 2008 and 14th May 2008 be ADOPTED.

16. POMEROY FOREST

Members NOTED letter of response from Michelle Gildernew, dated 23rd July 2008, regarding the future use of the former forestry school at Pomeroy Forest.

17. CONFERENCES

17.1. Newry and Mourne Tourism Conference

It was proposed by Councillor Quinn

Seconded by Councillor McAleer and RECOMMENDED

That if any interested member wishes to attend the Newry and Mourne Tourism Conference, taking place on Friday 10th October 2008, they should contact the Development Department.

18. NOTICE OF MOTION

A notice of motion was submitted by Councillors Baker and McGlone stating that,

“This Council proposes that a civic reception be held for Loup Comhaltas Group who won All-Ireland medals at Grupai Cheoil in Tullamore and 11 of the group won medals in the senior instrumental group session competition.”

It was proposed by Councillor Quinn

Seconded by Councillor McAleer and RECOMMENDED

That the Motion be ADOPTED and FURTHER amended to also include Cookstown Drama Group.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19.1 Letter from Councillor Greer

The Chief Executive advised Members that a letter had been received from Councillor Greer advising that he would be unavailable to perform his duties, for the foreseeable future, due to ill health.

It was proposed by Councillor Glasgow

Seconded by Councillor Wilson and RECOMMENDED

That Councillor Wilson act up as Council Chairman on behalf of Councillor Greer for the interim period.

19.2 Closure of Cookstown Local Strategy Partnership

Members received letter on behalf of Jim Eastwood informing of the formal closure of Cookstown Local Strategy Partnership on 30 November 2008. An update was given on the projects which are currently being finalised. He recorded his thanks to Cookstown District Council, Councillors and Voluntary members for all of their support over the years. Members NOTED the letter for information.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and RECOMMENDED

The Cookstown District Council agree to undertake the duties as identified within the letter from the Local Strategy Partnership and that a Civic Reception be held for Cookstown Local Strategy Partnership as recognition for the excellent work carried out in the District.

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm.

Chairman

Clerk/Chief Executive

Date

TABLED FOR INFORMATION

- 1. Queen's University Belfast – Regulatory Planning for Economic Development in the Countryside: A Pilot Study.**