

## COOKSTOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Minutes of Proceedings of a DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 7.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor McCartney (Vice Chair)

**Councillors:** Cassidy, Clarke, Glasgow, McAleer, McGarvey, Quinn and Wilson

**Officers:** Adrian McCreesh Director of Development  
Emma Bell Development Admin Officer

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of Councillors Baker, Greer, Lees, McIvor, McNamee and M J McGuckin.

#### 2. DAVAGH FOREST

**2.1** The Director of Development advised Members that a Recreational Trail Development Report for Davagh Forest had been received from Dafydd Davis, Trails Consultant, appointed by Cookstown District Council and the Countryside Access & Activities Network. In preparing this report, the Committee were advised that Mr Davis had incorporated the views of the Development Committee and the Tourism Sub Committee to produce this very comprehensive document. The report (page 57) provides a financial breakdown of the development and maintenance costs for each trail loop. The report addresses the needs/requirements for a variety of users starting with loop 1, providing basic walking facilities and moving up to loops 4 and 5 for the more ambitious recreational user. Mr Davis contacted numerous groups and users including the Forest Service to obtain vital information to meet Cookstown District Council's requirements. Estimated costings for each phase are outlined within the report (pages 59 to 61) and it is proposed that phases 1, 2 and 3 are achievable in the short term, whilst phases 4 and 5 are long term objectives.

The Director of Development confirmed that this report formed the basis for a further meeting with senior Forest Service Officials on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at which the Forest Service confirmed their eagerness to work in partnership with Cookstown District Council on this project. The Forest Service has accessed the initial trail report and indicated they had further work to complete to ensure that the various loops were compatible with the commercial operations within the forest.

It was agreed that the Forest Service would undertake further assessments, meet with Dafydd Davis and agree appropriate provisions. The Director of Development reminded Council that the project content must be completed to facilitate an application to the Rural Development Project by the end of April 2009. Failure to secure such funding would be detrimental to the project.

Councillor Clarke requested that provision is made for access to Eagles Rock, whilst Councillor McGarvey enquired if access from Bell's Pit could be incorporated into loops 1 and 2. The Director of Development advised the trail head is proposed for PA1 to minimise the risk of users coming into contact with operational traffic, however these issues will be raised with Mr Davis.

The Director of Development reminded Council that by progressing this project Council will be responsible for the health and safety of those people who use the forest walks and roads network throughout the whole forest as a result of this development scheme.

Councillor Quinn expressed his satisfaction that Davagh Forest would be reinstated to its former glory. The Director of Development advised that the Director of Corporate Services is satisfied that insurance and maintenance obligations can be met by Cookstown District Council. When asked about the next steps in the process, the Director of Development confirmed that Council will be required to:

- Commission a macro specification for each of the agreed routes and walkways at an approximate cost of £5,000.
- Commission an Economic Appraisal in accordance with DOE guidelines to develop and prepare the business case at an approximate cost of £5,000.

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

That Council approve this course of action to progress the project.

## **2.2 Davagh Forest Minutes**

Councillor Clarke advised that an apology should have been recorded for him for the Davagh Forest Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009. The Director of Development advised that the minutes would be amended to reflect this.

Members NOTED minutes of Davagh Forest meetings held 19<sup>th</sup> January, 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

## **3. GAELIC GAMES PROMOTION OFFICER PROPOSAL**

The Director of Development advised that at a recent meeting with representatives from Derry County Board on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009, a proposal was submitted to Council seeking support for Gaelic Games within the Co. Derry area of the Cookstown District. The main focus of the proposal was the employment of a Gaelic Games Promotion Officer for a two year period. The total cost of the project would be £25,000 and Derry County Board have proposed that Cookstown District Council contribute £12,500 per year for two years. The Director of Development advised that Officials have considered this proposal and instead propose a 2 year post for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 based at MUSA. This would ensure equality of service delivery for everyone at a total cost of £31,500, of which Cookstown District Council would contribute £10,500 to cover travel, office administration, facility hire and programme costs. Derry and Tyrone County Board would cover salary costs, employer costs and equipment.

Based on the number of clubs in the Cookstown District this equates to an investment of £8,750 from Derry County Board and £12,250 from the Tyrone County Board.

Discussion ensued amongst Members after which Members RECOMMENDED to decline Derry County Board's proposal.

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

That Council accept and put forward the Sports Services Manager's recommendation to employ a Gaelic Games Promotion Officer to be based at MUSA, for a two year period 2009/2010 and 2010/2011, with Council contribution of £10,500 and County Board investment of £21,000 per year for a two year period.

#### **4. REVIEW OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

A Review of Council Contributions was circulated to Members at the meeting. The Director of Development advised Members that the proposed changes reflect two major requests for support, as outlined below:

- (a) The Derry GAA County Board have made a request for funding (as outlined in the Sports Services Manager's report). This would require funding of £6500 from Council's Community Voluntary Budget without affecting other core funded projects. This award coupled with funding from MUSA's budget of £4,000, would address GAA development works throughout the entire District and ensure Council's support to GAA activity is on a par with its support package to the IFA.
- (b) Cookstown 100 is the single largest event in the Council District. Increasingly the organisers are finding accessing funding difficult. An increase of £1000 from Council (£4,000 to £5,000) would improve their business capacity.
- (c) Community Voluntary Small Grants – It is recommended that the grant level is raised to £500, thus potentially 12 groups could be assisted for larger amounts. This will be considered at the next Voluntary Contributions Sub Committee meeting.

The Director of Development advised that Citizen Advice Bureau's end of year report will be circulated to all Members for information. The issue of the CAB's location will be raised for the CAB to consider.

The Director of Development advised Members that funding for Pipe Bands will now be raised from the Good Relations budget. Councillor Wilson highlighted that a contribution increase of between £2,000 to £2,500 would be beneficial to the pipe bands. Councillor Quinn asked that this issue be raised for discussion at the next Good Relations Sub Committee. AGREED

Council Members felt that as Council is potentially the largest single financial supporter of the Cookstown 100 event, it is important that Council secures the necessary publicity as a key sponsor for the district as a whole. Members asked the Director of Development to meet with Cookstown 100 Officials to determine the level of publicity to be received by Council for the proposed investment of £5,000. If necessary, Members were happy to meet with representatives of the Cookstown 100.

*Core Funding Agreed for 2009/2010*

	<u>Approved</u>
CAB	74927
Civic Awards	6000
Civic Reception	2000
Pipe Bands	—
GAA	6500
Cookstown 100	5000
Milk Cup	1000
Others	—
Voluntary Contribution	6000
Group/Individual Awards	2000
Senior Citizens Dinner (Xmas)	2500
Contingency Fund	3000
	<hr/>
	108927

Discussion ensued among Members after which

It was proposed Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Cassidy and AGREED

To accept the recommendations outlined in the Review of Council Contributions Report including the amended contributions for 2009/2010 as set out above, subject to the following matters being resolved:

- An increase of between £2,000 to £2,500 funding for Pipe Bands to be discussed by Members at the next meeting of the Good Relations Committee.

- Agreement with Cookstown 100 Officials regarding the nature and content of publicity received for Councils' proposed investment of £5,000.

## **5. TYRONE MILK CUP ASSOCIATION**

Members were advised that a letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009 had been received from Iain McKenzie, Secretary, County Tyrone Milk Cup, seeking a contribution of £1,000 from Council towards the forthcoming Milk Cup tournament from 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

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

That Council contribute £1,000 to County Tyrone Milk Cup towards costs associated with the impending 2009 Milk Cup Tournament.

## **6. MID ULSTER SPORTS ARENA**

Members ADOPTED the Executive Summary of the Economic Appraisal (February 2009) prepared by BDO Stoy Hayward for the further development of facilities at Mid Ulster Sports Arena.

## **7. ICBAN**

The Director of Development advised Members that a letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009 had been received from Lynda Monteith, ICBAN, informing Council that due to the current economic climate a reduced contribution of £12,500 is requested for the financial year 2009/2010, which represents a reduction of £2,500.

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

That Council make a reduced contribution of £12,500 to ICBAN for the financial year 2009/2010.

## **8. FRIENDS OF LISSAN TRUST**

Members NOTED letter from Kieran Haughey, Friends of Lissan Trust, dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009 enclosing letters of support from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the Manifold Trust, for the Lissan House project.

## **9. TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE**

Members were advised that the Tourist Information Centre requires approval to place an advertisement in the local press advising that tenders are invited for the refurbishment of the Tourist Information Centre.

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

That approval be granted to Cookstown Tourist Information Centre to place an advertisement in the local press inviting tenders for the refurbishment of the Tourist Information Centre.

## **10. LOUGH NEAGH & LOWER BANN ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2009-2010**

The Director of Development advised Members that a letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009 had been received from Victor Hamill and Brian Cassells of Lough Neagh & Lower Bann Advisory Committee, requesting a contribution of £6,000 from Council to offset increased running/additional costs. Members AGREED to defer payment of this contribution at present.

## **11. PARKVIEW AMENITY AREA, POMEROY**

The Director of Development advised that a letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 had been received from Pomeroy Plunkett's G.A.C. regarding the Parkview Amenity Area, Pomeroy. He further advised that Pomeroy Plunkett's G.A.C. are proposing to expand their facilities to provide opportunities for an additional 150 children and young people to avail of opportunities for involvement in sports and physical recreation. The request asks Council to consider relocating the current play park in Pomeroy owned by Council to another portion of land owned by Council at Parkview and thus allowing the existing play park lands to be transferred to Pomeroy Plunkett's G.A.C, subject to the formal valuation process to facilitate the development of their facilities.

Discussion ensued among Members after which

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

That Council agree to facilitate this request from Pomeroy Plunkett's G.A.C. subject to the formal Valuation and Lands Agency process.

Councillor Wilson enquired why a previous request from Coagh Utd was not supported by Council. The Director of Development indicated that Council did not own any land on/near Coagh Utd's facilities, however Council does own both portions of land relating to the Pomeroy Plunkett's G.A.C's request.

## **12. PLAY AREAS**

Members were advised that a letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009 has been received from Northern Ireland Housing Executive regarding a proposed play area on land at Riverside, Dunman, Cookstown. The Director of Development advised Members that the Roads Service has declined the transfer of this land therefore NIHE are unable to dispose of the site. Councillor Cassidy requested a copy of the previous NIHE correspondence dated 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Councillor McGarvey proposed that the Chief Executive raise this issue with the Roads Service.

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



That Council ask the Chief Executive to contact the Roads Service to discuss their recent decision not to transfer ownership of lands at Riverside, Dunman, Cookstown, for the development of a play park.

### **13. BALLINDERRY RIVER ENHANCEMENT**

The Director of Development advised Members that an email request dated 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009 from Dr Claire Cockerill, WWF Northern Ireland, had been received on behalf of the Ballinderry River Enhancement Association. The email enclosed a Scoping Study to Assess the Economic Value of the Ballinderry River Catchment. The request asks Council to consider making a funding contribution to allow for the implementation of actions identified within the Scoping Study.

The Director of Development recommended that Dr Claire Cockerill, WWF and representatives of RIPPLE be invited to make a presentation at the next Development Committee and to answer any queries which Members may have.

It was proposed by Councillor Glasgow  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and AGREED

That Council invite Dr Claire Cockerill, WWF and a few members of RIPPLE to make a presentation at the next Development Committee meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009 to provide a brief synopsis on their request for Council funding, summarising the key actions within the Scoping Study and outlining specifically what their funding request relates to.

## **14. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION STRATEGY**

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

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

Members NOTED minutes of Burn Road EI Scheme meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

#### **14.1.2. Burn Road EI Scheme**

Members NOTED update from Town Strategy Manager dated 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009 regarding the Burn Road Environmental Improvement Scheme.

## **15. BURNAVON**

### **15.1 Arts & Culture**

Members NOTED minutes of Arts & Cultural Sub Committee meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

### **15.2. Tullaghoge Fort**

Members NOTED minutes of Tullaghoge Fort meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

## **16. TOURISM**

### **16.1. Tourism Sub Committee**

Members NOTED minutes of Tourism Sub Committee held 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009.

### **16.2. Western Regional Tourism Partnership**

Members NOTED minutes of WRTP meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008 and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

### **16.3. WRTP IFI Sub Group Meeting**

Members NOTED minutes of WRTP IFI Sub Group meetings held 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

## **17. COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **17.1. Peace III**

Members NOTED minutes of Peace III Council Joint Committee meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

## **18. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

**18.1** Members NOTED minutes of Rural Development Cluster Group meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

**18.2** Members NOTED minutes of Rural Development Programme Joint Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

## **19. NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE**

Members NOTED letter from Mr Paul Googins, MP, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, dated 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009 extending his thanks to Council and the Community Safety Partnership for co-ordinating his recent visit to Cookstown.

## **20. CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

Members NOTED letter of thanks from Mr Derek Alcorn, Chief Executive of the Citizens Advice Bureau, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009, regarding Council's support to ensure that the Citizen Advice Bureau service was maintained within the Cookstown area.

## **21. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

### **21.1. Ulster Business**

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

That Council renew their annual subscription with Ulster Business for 2009/2010 at a cost of £27.50 per annum.

The meeting ended at 8.07pm.

### **TABLED FOR INFORMATION**

1. Lough Neagh Partnership, Final Progress Report and Lough Neagh Co-operation Programme 2009-2013.
2. Workspace Annual Report 2007-2008.

---

Chairman

---

Clerk/Chief Executive

---

Date