

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, OF DUNGANNON & SOUTH TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL, HELD ON MONDAY 20 MARCH 2006 IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, CIRCULAR ROAD DUNGANNON

MEMBERS PRESENT: In the Chair, Councillor McGonnell (Chairman)

Councillors Badger, Brush, F Burton, Currie, McLarnon, Molloy (7.35pm), Monteith, Mulligan and O'Neill

OTHERS: Councillors Cavanagh, McGuigan (7.52pm)

OFFICERS PRESENT: Messrs Beggs, Campbell, Currie, Frazer and Mrs Forde

IN ATTENDANCE: Item No 1 – Presentation by representative of DP Energy re Proposal for Wind Turbines at Fardross Mountain (Slatbeg Wind Farm)

Mr Simon De Pietro representative of DP Energy

The meeting started at 7.30 pm

1 ORDER OF BUSINESS

Resolved That the order of business be changed as undernoted:

- (i) Impending strike action – report by Human Resources Manager;
- (ii) Communications – report by Chief Executive;
- (iii) Presentation by representative of DP Energy re Proposal for Wind Turbines at Fardross Mountain (Slatbeg Wind Farm);
- (iv) Consideration of report of the Chief Executive's Department March 2006 – presented by Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager, following which agenda items as detailed be taken.

2 IMPENDING STRIKE ACTION

The Human Resources Manager advised that confirmation had been received from GMB and UCATT that members were participating in a day of strike action on 28 March 2006 regarding proposed changes to pension schemes. He further advised that it was expected that NIPSA

would also confirm their members' participation in same. It was reported that the Strategic Management Team would meet on Tuesday 21 March to discuss the implications strike action would have on services. Members were advised that a letter would be issued to all staff regarding the strike action, annual leave would only be permitted in exceptional circumstances and that sickness reporting structures would be reviewed for the day.

Members stated that it was important that management did not impact on the unions' as their members were engaging in strike action for a very relevant purpose.

3 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT – (Communications)

The Communications section of the report (Appendix 1) of the Chief Executive was presented by the Chief Executive reference being made to the undernoted:

3.1 Communications – Media Relations (5.3)

In response to Members questions the Chief Executive advised that meetings would be held with all media providers both local and regional over the coming months.

3.2 Communications – Project and Activities (6)

The Chief Executive advised that he had approved the communications strategy and that it was hoped publicity opportunities would be maximised.

3.3 Intercultural Week – Anti Racism Campaign (6.4)

Members were reminded that the Mayor would be hosting the launch of the Anti Racism poster on Tuesday 21 March 2006 at 3.00 pm in the Council Offices.

3.4 Media Relations Survey (6.6)

The Chief Executive drew Members attention to results of a survey carried out with other Councils stating that Dungannon & South Tyrone were much more proactive than most but was endeavouring to improve both regional and national coverage. In response to Members questions the Chief Executive advised that press coverage was monitored and clippings filed.

3.5 Picnic in the Park 2006 (7.5)

The Chief Executive sought approval to allocate £10,000 from Events Budget to host the annual Picnic in the Park 2006 on Monday 29 August 2006.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Badger and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that approval as sought by the Chief Executive be granted.

3.6 Hall of Fame (6.7)

Members raised concern regarding the wording of the first point in the criteria regarding the Hall of Fame stating that it was ambiguous and could be interpreted as open to elected members only. It was also noted that the second point should not just include the fields of sports and media. Concern was also expressed regarding the location of the Hall of Fame stating that it should be as public as possible.

The Chief Executive left the meeting at 7.45 pm.

Councillor Cavanagh left the meeting at 7.45 pm.

4 PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVE OF DP ENERGY RE PROPOSAL FOR WIND TURBINES AT FARDROSS MOUNTAIN (SLATBEG WIND FARM)

The Chairman welcomed Mr Simon De Pietro representative of DP Energy to the meeting. Mr De Pietro made a presentation to the meeting outlining the proposals for wind turbines at Fardross Mountain making reference to the undernoted:

- Location – 6km to the south west of the town of Clogher on the lower northern slopes of Slieve Beagh mountain range within the townland of Fardross mountain;
- Site Description – site is surrounded by commercial forestry to the north and west, existing turf cutting tracks and agricultural buildings are on site and the site lies within an area of Special Area of Conservation;
- Proposal – 9 wind turbines, a small electrical substation and a meteorological mast. Turbines are three bladed, 70 meter hub height and 84 meter rotor diameter.

- Access – vehicular access to the site is from north and the existing line of the peat cutting tracks will be used to minimise ground disturbance - it is hoped stone for road construction would be won from the site rather than imported.
- Construction time – 10 months;
- Planning Application to be lodged in 2006;
- Over a year would supply enough green electricity for approx 12,000 homes;
- Grid Connection possibly to the 33kv Omagh Ballygawley circuit;
- Public Information Days would be held;
- Closest house is 1.4km away from the proposed site;

The Chairman thanked Mr De Pietro for his presentation and he responded to Members questions following which he departed from the meeting at 8.15 pm.

5 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT

The report (Appendix 1) of the Chief Executive was presented by the Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager reference being made to the undernoted:

5.1 Innovation West (1.2)

The Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager drew attention to the strategy and action plan detailed in the report regarding Innovation West. The Manager sought approval for

- (i) funding of £20,000 per year in 06/07 and 07/08; and
- (ii) adoption of the strategy and action plan.

In response to Members questions the Manager advised that the Programmes are supported by DETI/Invest NI and that the name of the organisation would be reviewed at their next meeting. It was also stated that Councillors serving on the project board should be diligent when agreeing to recommendations and should ensure that the interests of Dungannon are paramount.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that approval as sought by the Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager be granted.

5.2 Magdeburg, Germany (2.1)

The Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager advised that the proposed Trade and Business Alliance visit to Magdeburg would take

place sometime between 13 and 20 May and sought approval in principle for

- (i) Flights to be booked at an approximate cost of £100 per person;
- (ii) Accommodation at 120 euro per person per night;
- (iii) Delegation to include Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive, Parks Manager, Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager, S Koellner representative of Invest NI and representative of East Tyrone College of Further & Higher Education.

It was noted that 50% funding would be received from the Department of Enterprise Trade and Industry for eligible costs such as travel and accommodation.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that approval in principal as sought by the Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager be granted.

In response to concerns expressed regarding the benefits of the visit it was stated that successful business and training links had been established and that the visit would provide for SME2SME Alliances.

5.3 Smithsonian Folklife Festival – National Mall, Washington DC June 27 – 8 July 2007

The Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager tabled details regarding the Smithsonian Folklife Festival scheduled to be held in Washington in 2007. He advised that both the Chief Executive and himself would be meeting with Ms Pat Wilson Project Manager at Department of Culture Arts and Leisure regarding the festival and a report would be presented to a future meeting.

5.4 China Links (2.4)

The Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager tabled a press article which had appeared in a regional newspaper detailing Belfast City Council's progress in developing economic links with China.

Members expressed serious reservations in developing links with China when appalling human rights issues especially in relation to child labour existed there. It was stated that Council should set a barometer for

good practise and Trocaire who had researched the human rights issues be invited to make a presentation to the Committee.

In response the Manager advised that Council was looking at how Council can assist local SME's in the global economy and as China is the fastest growing economy it is appropriate to adopt an exploratory stage, as yet Council had made no commitment. It was also noted that the Liv Com Awards are to be held in China next year and it was seen as a window of opportunity to develop trade and business contacts. Discussion ensued following which it was

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that

- (i) Trocaire be invited to make a presentation to the committee regarding Human Rights Issues in China;
- (ii) the issue of Fair Trade and Human Rights be investigated; and
- (iii) that further information on Invest NI economic research be provided when available.

5.5 LED Plan/Council Structures/Corporate Plan 06/09 (3.4)

The Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager advised that the meeting referred to in 3.4 of the Chief Executives report had taken place in March and not February as detailed in the report.

5.6 Council/Private Sector Business Advisory Group

The Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager advised that a number of businesses had registered an interest in participating in the Council/Private Sector Business Advisory Group. The businesses represented cross gender, cross community and included manu`facturing, engineering, tourism, textiles, It and construction. In response to Members questions the Manager advised that the commitment was secured through networking and that many of the businesses had worked on Council projects in the past. Discussion took place regarding selection and it was suggested that the Enterprise, Investment and Grants manager can be provided with nominations put forward from Members and contact then be made with any additions.

5.7 Innovation West (1.2)

Members referred back to discussion on Innovation West stating that Council's finance department should have a control in monitoring finance. In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that unlike Into the West, Innovation West was

not a limited company. The Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager advised that it was proposed that the project is managed by Omagh District Council. Concern was expressed that Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council giving location and experience and in view of the impending Review of Public Administration was not managing the project.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council manage the Innovation West programme on behalf of the five Council's participating.

5.8 Adoption of Report

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor McLarnon and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the report of the Chief Executive be adopted and that all recommendations, subject to the foregoing, be approved.

The Enterprise Investment and Grants Manager left the meeting at 8.42 pm.

6 DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The report (Appendix 2) of the Director of Development was presented reference being made to the undernoted.

6.1 Dungannon EI Scheme/Coalisland Development Framework Plan

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that one company had been appointed to carry out both plans.

Declaration Of Interest

Councillor McGonnell declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Shop Front Improvement Programme.

6.2 Shop Front Improvement Programme (A2.1.3)

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that he would investigate if charities could apply for funding under the Shop Front Improvement Programme.

6.3 Tyrone Tourism (A3)

The Director of Development tabled a report updating Members on the Tyrone Tourism Meeting which took place on Thursday 16 March 2006 at which recommendations as undernoted were made regarding Destination North West and Review of Tourism Partnerships.

(i) Destination North West

Proposed by the membership of Tyrone Tourism to seek agreement at Council level to formally approve plans to participate as full members of the Destination North West Initiative and in doing so approve the financial contribution of £12,000 by each participating Council to the programme over the next 15 months.

The Director sought approval for the financial contribution detailed above.

(ii) Review of Tourism Partnerships

Proposed by the membership of Tyrone Tourism to seek agreement at Council level to formally support the general approach in relation to the proposed Regional Tourism Partnership structures and the North West of Ireland Tourism Advisory Group as recommended by BTS Marketing and Communication Consultants but to oppose the recommended proposals to absorb the existing RTO's as the main delivery mechanism for the new Regional Tourism Partnership.

The Director sought approval to support the recommendation.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Mulligan and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that approvals as sought by the Director of Development be granted.

6.4 Flavour of Tyrone (A3.6)

The Director of Development submitted letter of resignation dated 6 March 2006 received from Norah Brown MBE. The Director read the letter detailing Mrs Brown's resignation from the Flavour of Tyrone Board and sought approval to send a letter of thanks to Mrs Brown.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that approval as sought by the Director of Development be granted.

6.5 Familiarisation trip

Members expressed concern regarding the selection process for the business venues on the itinerary for the familiarisation trip on 30 March 2006 stating that the same businesses were chosen time and again giving them an advantage over others. In response the Director of Development advised that businesses selected were members of Flavour of Tyrone and that he would investigate who was responsible for organising the trip.

6.6 Flavour of Tyrone – Budget Variance

The Director of Development sought approval of £3,500 to be reallocated to cover Flavour of Tyrone budget variance.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Montieth and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that approval as sought by the Director of Development be granted.

6.7 CCTV – Leisure Centre (B1.3)

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that all legislation would be adhered to when choosing installation areas for CCTV cameras.

6.8 Parks and Open Spaces Tariff Proposal 2006/2007 (B3.2)

The Director of Development drew attention to the proposed tariffs for 2006/2007 advising that some of the costs had not been increased for a number of years.

Members complained that sporting teams were paying tariffs for changing rooms and the facilities were not available throughout the duration of the event. The Director advised that it was a staffing issue and that he would investigate possible solutions.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the proposed tariffs detailed in the Director of Development's report be approved.

6.9 Energy Support Grants (C1.3)

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that as the money available for energy support was limited it was recommended that organisations who had service level agreements with Council would not receive energy support grants also.

6.10 Moy Community Facility (C1.4)

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that the agreement regarding care-taking at Moy community facility had arisen because the Hobson Rooms which had been used previously did not have disability access and Council was no longer hiring them out thus the caretakers duties had been transferred to the Methodist Hall as detailed in the report.

6.11 Return of the Earls (C1.3)

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the application regarding Castlecaulfield District LOL4 be referred back to the Return of the Earls Committee for further consideration.

6.12 Clogher Valley Steering Group & Caledon Vintage Rally

The Director of Development referred to funding applications deferred from the February Committee regarding Clogher Valley Steering Group and Caledon Vintage Rally.

Members although accepting that the event met with the funding criteria expressed concern regarding the intention of the Clogher Valley Steering Group to open an Integrated School given that existing schools in the area were under subscribed. In relation to Caledon Vintage Rally the Director advised that the group were receiving the full amount requested ie £275.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that Clogher Valley Steering Group receive £495 and that Caledon Vintage Rally receive £275.

6.13 Community Arts (C3)

The Director of Development advised that the Community Arts Officer had tendered her resignation and was taking up a post at the Grand Opera House, Belfast.

6.14 Animate (C4)

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that the recommendations referred to in C4 had been presented at the February meeting of the Development Committee.

The Director of Development advised that the Project Manager of Animate had been invited to speak at a conference in Mallow, Co Cork on the 25 April 2006. The Director sought approval for the Manager to attend the conference that would be of no cost to Council.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that approval as sought by the Director of Development be granted.

6.15 Equality Training

Members expressed concern that the Equality Training that had been scheduled to take place 20 and 22 March 2006 had been postponed. It was also suggested that any future training should be delivered in the evening as well as during the day.

6.16 Approvals (Part 2)

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the aforementioned funding, as recommended by the Director of Development be approved.

7 MISCELLANEOUS

7.1 US Grants (B1.3)

The Director of Development submitted letter dated 7 March 2006 received from Mrs P Sharkey resident of caretakers dwelling at US Grants requesting a replacement fireplace for the residence. The Director sought approval for a replacement fire place at a cost of £480.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that approval as sought by the Director of Development be granted.

7.2 Killeeshil – A Short History (B1.4)

The Director of Development submitted letter received from Mrs Joan Ingram widow of the late Rev C Brett Ingram requesting a grant of £500 to assist with publication of a manuscript entitled 'Killeeshil – A Short History'. The Director advised that a policy was currently being prepared regarding support of publications of this nature and recommended that the request be held pending the adoption of the policy.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the recommendation of the Director of Development be approved.

7.3 HUG – Helping Unite the Ages (Help the Aged Campaign) (B1.5)

The Director of Development submitted letter dated 13 February 2006 received from Help the Aged seeking £300 contribution to assist with the HUG campaign.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that £300 financial contribution be made to Help the Aged Hug Campaign.

7.4 Tyrone Milk Cup Association (B1.6)

The Director of Development submitted letter dated 9 February 2006 received from Tyrone Milk Cup Association requesting a £1000 contribution towards the 2006 Tyrone Milk Cup Squads.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that £1000 financial contribution be made to Tyrone Milk Cup Squads.

7.5 Dungannon Rugby Football Club (B1.8)

The Director of Development submitted letter received from Dungannon Rugby Football Club dated 7 March 2006 seeking Council's support in an application to the New Lottery Building Support Scheme to develop a sports pitch within Dungannon Park in the area known as Nunnery Hill. The Director advised that the area known as Nunnery Hill was used for other sports and recommended that the application be supported but the location of the pitch be within the Meadows area of Dungannon park.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the recommendation of the Director of Development be approved.

7.6 Ceremony of Lights – Niamh Louise Foundation

The Director of Development submitted letter received from Mrs Anne Donaghy dated 10 March 2006. The letter requested funding of £500 towards hosting 'A Ceremony of Lights' organised by the 'Niamh Louise Foundation' on 26 April 2006 in memory of those in the Dungannon/Armagh area who died of suicide.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that a £500 financial contribution be made to the Niamh Louise Foundation.

7.7 Amalgamation of Official Northern Ireland Supporters Club

The Director of Development submitted letter received from the Amalgamation of Official Northern Ireland Supporters Clubs dated 10 March 2006 requesting to make a presentation to the committee entitled 'The Future of International Football in Northern Ireland'.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the request be granted.

7.8 Parades Commission

The Director of Development submitted letter for information received from the Parades Commission detailing venues for public meetings throughout March and April 2006.

7.9 Conferences (B2)

The Director of Development submitted details of the undernoted conferences all of which was marked read.

- (i) Greystones Town Council – 2006 La Touche Legach Seminar – Local Authorities and Minorities 29 September – 1 October 2006.
- (ii) Clare County Council – Enhancing an Enterprise Culture – The Role of Local Authorities 25 & 26 May 2006.
- (iii) Newry & Mourne District Council – Tourism Council – 18 & 19 October 2006.
- (iv) Clonmel Borough Council – Annual Clonmel Seminar – event over.

- (v) Newry & Mourne District Council/Belfast City Council/Louth County Council – The Challenge of Change- 5 – 7 June 2006.
- (vi) Kilkenny County Council – Local Authority Members Association 23rd Annual Conference – 20 & 21 April 2006.

7.10 Consultations (B4)

The Director of Development drew attention to consultations listed in the report and advised that a submission would be prepared for (1) Department for Social Development regarding Strategy for Supporting Delivery of Voluntary Advice Services to the Community. The Director advised the closing date for submission was 7 April 2006 and if any Member had comments to be included they should be forwarded to him as soon as possible.

Members raised concern at the NI Housing Executive – Extinguishment of Public Right of Way Order No 1 2001 and Order No 2 2004 both at Main Street, Donaghmore.

7.11 Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Housing Estate Green Sites

Members raised concern regarding the Northern Ireland Housing Executives proposed intention to sell green space within housing estates for private development and stated that Council should write to the undernoted stating Council's objection.

- (i) Northern Ireland Housing Executive Chief Executive;
- (ii) Northern Ireland Housing Executive Chairman; and
- (iii) Northern Ireland Housing Executive Local Manager.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that letters of objection be sent to the aforementioned.

7.12 SELB – Northern Ireland's Libraries: a Framework for Change

The Director of Development advised that a copy of the Northern Ireland Libraries 'Framework for Change' document was available if any Member wanted to view it.

7.13 Adoption of Report

Proposed by Councillor Mulligan
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the report of the Director of Development be adopted and that all recommendations, subject to the foregoing, be approved.

8 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

8.1 NILGA

The Director of Development submitted for information document detailing NILGA Commitments and a Vision for Local Government.

8.2 Dungannon Midnight Soccer Steering Group

The Director of Development submitted letter received from Dungannon Midnight Soccer Steering Group. The group are proposing to organise a mini world cup competition for young people between 14 and 18 throughout June and July at Dungannon Park from 8.30 pm until 11.30 pm.

8.3 Funding for Advice Centres

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that funding received from the Department of Social Development for advice centres had been allocated as per the funding criteria. The Director also advised that he had met with the Department to discuss funding criteria.

8.4 Castlecaulfield Pavilion

In response to Members questions the Director of Development advised that there was no further update regarding Castlecaulfield Pavilion and that the feasibility study and recommendations arising from it would take approximately six months to implement. Members expressed concerns regarding ongoing problems the users of the pavilion were experiencing in relation to heat and sound. The Director reminded Members that the pavilion was built from funding received from a grant and the users of the pavilion at that time had requested a sports hall. As an interim measure it was suggested that the costs of positioning a mobile unit at the pavilion for use by groups requiring a smaller room be investigated.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that the Director of Development bring costings to the April Development Committee regarding provision of a mobile unit at Castlecaulfield Pavilion.

9 DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting was called for 7.30 pm and ended at 9.55 pm.