

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Castlereagh Borough Council held, in committee, in the Council Chamber, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Thursday, 18th August 2005 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:- Councillor T Jeffers (in the chair)

Alderman M Copeland
Alderman P D Robinson MP MLA
Alderman Mrs I Robinson MP MLA
Alderman J Norris
Alderman Mrs G Rice

Councillor Mrs A M Beattie
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor Mrs M Chambers
Councillor Mrs J Cochrane
Councillor D Drysdale
Councillor Mrs S Duncan
Councillor C Hall
Councillor B Hanvey
Councillor Miss R Hughes MBE
Councillor M Long (from p.m.)
Councillor A Ramsey
Councillor J Spratt
Councillor C Tosh

In Attendance:- Chief Executive, Director of Finance & Leisure Services, Director of Administration & Community Services, Client Manager, Planning Officer, IT Manager, Waste Management Officer, Planning Service Officer and Assistant Members' Services Officer.

Apologies:- Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors White, Henderson, Bunting and Long, who would be arriving late to the meeting.

2005/448 : OPENING OF MEETING

The Reverend Caldwell opened the meeting with a prayer.

2005/449 : MINUTES

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) the following Minutes be accepted as a true record
- (b) the following Minutes be accepted as a true record, subject to the following amendments:-

Council Minutes

- 2005/421 : Resolution (a) to be amended to omit the wording “bonfire projects” and replaced with “Cultural Events on the 11th July”. Resolution (b) to be amended to omit the wording “bonfire celebrations” and replace with the wording “Cultural events on the 11th July”.
- 2005/424 : To add the wording to the resolution to read “7-10 UDR marble Roll of Honour ...”
- 2005/425 : To delete Alderman Copeland’s name and add the names of Councillor Henderson and the Mayor.

PLANNING

PLANNING SCHEDULE DATED 18 AUGUST 2005

**2005/450 : DEFERRED PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2005/0225/F
LANDS OPPOSITE FOREST GROVE, NEWTOWNBRED A – ERECTION OF 4
STOREY OFFICE BLOCK CONTAINING 4 SELF-CONTAINED UNITS –
AMENDMENT TO PREVIOUS PERMISSION FOR 3 STOREY OFFICE BLOCK**

The Planning Service Officer informed Members that the description of the application had been incorrect and was being re-advertised, following which the proposal would be re-listed on the Planning Schedule.

Members agreed that there had been a lot of confusion with regard to this proposal, and were concerned about the visual implications of the finished development, although they appreciated the need for more office accommodation within the Borough.

Councillor Tosh stated that he wanted an assurance from the Planning Service that the 300-year-old trees and existing wall, which was under a Protection Order, would be retained intact.

RESOLVED:- That, following re-advertisement of the application, it will be listed on a future Planning Schedule.

2005/451 : DEFERRED APPLICATION NO: Y/2004/0565/F – ERECTION OF TWO STOREY DETACHED DWELLING WITH ACCESS TO LOWER BRANIEL ROAD (AMENDED PLANS) – ADJACENT TO 132 RAVENSWOOD PARK, BRANIEL

The Planning Service Officer informed members that the agent had marginally revised his scheme, which was acceptable to the Department.

Following discussion, Members expressed their disappointment that approval was being granted despite the scale of the proposal and access implications on to the Lower Braniel Road.

Noted.

2005/452 : DEFERRED APPLICATION NO: Y/2005/0126/F – EXTENSION TO SIDE OF DWELLING AT 29 ROYAL LODGE ROAD, BALLYDOLLAGHAN, BELFAST

The Planning Service Officer indicated that the Department had received further information with regard to the retaining wall and had sought further advice from their Construction Consultants.

Members agreed that following this exercise, should the Planning Service's opinion remain unchanged, that it was unnecessary to be included in the next Planning Schedule.

Noted.

NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

2005/453 : APPLICATION NO: Y/2005/0189/F – ERECTION OF 4 APARTMENTS, BIN STORE & ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS (REVISED CAR PARKING) AT MONEYREAGH SHOPPING CENTRE, CHURCH ROAD, MONEYREAGH

Alderman Mrs Robinson welcomed this application, which was fully supported by local residents and would enhance the area and reduce antisocial behaviour.

Noted.

**2005/454 : REPORT FROM THE PLANNING OFFICER –
TELECOMMUNICATIONS MASTS & EQUIPMENT IN THE BOROUGH**

The Planning Officer took Members through the content of her report, which provided a general picture of the distribution of telecommunication masts and equipment throughout the Borough of Castlereagh. Furthermore, in light of the possible health and safety implications, ratepayers' concerns and the visual detriment to the landscape that such installations create, it was necessary that the Planning Service, when making their determinations, should consider the cumulative effects and overall impact which such installations have and balance this against the information they receive from operators in support of their own applications.

The Planning Service Officer indicated that the Department requires each provider to initially consider a number of options, i.e. in the first instance the feasibility of mast sharing, prior to submission of a planning application. He referred to those deferred telecommunications installation applications currently listed in the Planning Schedule, which were of a street pole type and therefore less obtrusive in their design. Although he appreciated Members' concerns in relation to health matters, he stated that before the Department considered their proposals, each provider was obliged to submit an emissions report and detail how they had selected their site, as well as demonstrating that all alternative options had been pursued.

Alderman PD Robinson outlined that, taking into account those telecommunications installations erected before 1999 and considering those applications currently in the planning system, there were approximately 70-100 such installations currently in the Borough of Castlereagh. In his estimation, a massive duplication of installations existed in some areas, and he felt that the Government could no longer exercise control of the position.

In light of the massive scale of telecommunications developments, he urged the Department to consider the implementation of hire charges for providers using shared facilities rather than permitting duplication of installations. In view of the advances in technology, he was of the opinion that the number of telecommunications installations should be decreasing; yet the number of providers was actually increasing.

He therefore proposed that the Council write to the Government recommending that they take control of the matter and pursue the implementation of hire charges to providers with regard to the sharing of sites and asking those operators who are unable to share, to justify the reasons why they have to duplicate their installations. This proposal was unanimously agreed by the Members.

Alderman PD Robinson then referred to the Planning Officer's informative report and suggested that there would be merit in forwarding her report to those other Councils who employ the services of their own Planning Officer, to use this report as a guide to continue their own studies and obtain a more province wide picture of this problem.

At this point, the Members wished to thank the Planning Officer for her hard work in collating these statistics and presenting it in such an informative manner.

The Planning Officer, in response to Members' request, stated that she would periodically update the report.

Councillor Robinson further asked if the Planning Officer could again write to those providers who, as yet, had failed to submit their information.

The Planning Service Officer drew Members' attention to the deferred telecommunications applications on the Planning Schedule and reminded Members that the Department had an obligation to determine these proposals.

Councillor Chambers was amazed at this statement as those deferred applications had only come before Council in the past 2-3 months, yet had been in the Planning Service system for a considerable time, prior to that.

The Planning Service Officer responded that the reason for the delays was due to test requirements and the fact that each developer is held to account with regard to their exhaustion of other options. He appreciated Members' concerns and concurred that this was a broader issue that other Councils may be interested in pursuing.

Alderman PD Robinson enquired if those providers listed in the Planning Schedule had submitted the requisite information, to which the Planning Officer confirmed that they had been very forthcoming and it was providers who were now no longer operating, which were proving more difficult to track down.

Alderman PD Robinson commented that, in his view, it was strange that the Minister had written in complaint about delays in the planning system, yet the same Minister had deferred a study on retail development in Northern Ireland, which was, in his estimation, an absurd decision.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) The Planning Officer be instructed to write to the Minister proposing that the Government considers a hire charge to be implemented for mast sharing, and those providers who are unable to share equipment,

would be required to justify the reasons why they could not pursue this option.

- (b) That, the Planning Officer contact those other Councils in Northern Ireland who employ the services of a Planning Officer to ascertain if they would like to view the content of her report and carry out further studies of their own to ascertain a province wide picture of the problem of telecommunications installations in Northern Ireland.
- (c) That, the Council, remains opposed to all telecommunications installations within the Borough on the grounds of health and safety implications.

2005/455 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED:- That, the Minutes of the Special Planning Committee Meetings held on 10th August 2005 and 12th August 2005 be adopted, following an amendment to the Minutes dated 10th August 2005 to read “Wednesday” instead of “Friday”.

2005/456 : WEEKLY LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 19-25 JULY 2005

Noted.

2005/457 : REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING HIGH RISE FLATS AT GRANTON HEIGHTS

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Planning Appeals Commission dated 9 August 2005 re: Replacement of existing high rise flats at Granton Heights, Kings Road, Dundonald (copy previously circulated)

Members welcomed the decision by the Planning Appeals Commission to replace the existing high-rise flats at Granton Heights with 137 apartments.

Noted.

2005/458 : ALLEGED UNAUTHORISED USE OF LAND AT FARMYARD TO REAR OF 115 LOWER BRANIEL ROAD

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Planning Appeals Commission dated 9 August 2005 re: Alleged unauthorised use of the land for a garden and building

supplies business – land at farmyard to rear of 115 Lower Braniel Road, Castlereagh (copy previously circulated)

Following a request from Councillor Chambers, on behalf of Councillor Bunting, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Planning Officer would make arrangements to discuss the above matter with Councillor Bunting.

2005/459 : PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 12 – HOUSING IN SETTLEMENTS

Noted.

2005/460 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ULSTER FARMERS' UNION DATED 26 JULY 2005 RE: CONSULTATION PAPER ON AN AMENDMENT TO PLANNING PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS

Noted.

2005/461 : CONSULTATION PAPER ON THE DRAFT PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2005

Noted.

2005/462 : EXHIBITION IN FOYER OF CIVIC OFFICES

The Planning Officer informed Members that the proposed Planning Exhibition to be held in the Foyer of the Civic Offices had now been cancelled.

Noted.

2005/463 : PRESENTATION BY CLIENT MANAGER RE: TRICYCLE PHASE 3 SCHEME

The Client Manager referred Members to his report, which had been circulated for their information, and took them through the content. He outlined the background to the scheme, possible future developments and detailed the Programme for Phase 3, which was being rolled out to those parts of the

Borough that were not included in Phase 2 and consisted mainly of Belvoir, Cregagh, Castlereagh, Braniel, Tullycarnet, and Ballybeen. However, he asked Members to note that buildings of multiple occupancy would not be included in Phase 3 of the scheme.

In response to a query from Councillor Chambers, the Client Manager stated that the Phase 3 scheme would be completed by Christmas, with the exclusion of high-rise properties.

Councillor Ramsey referred to the Bryson House kerbie box scheme and the problem of attaching the lid of the kerbie box.

The Client Manager suggested that the use of Velcro tape might enable the lid of the box to remain closed, but that this would have to be looked at by the Council in conjunction with Bryson House.

Noted.

2005/464 : THE COUNCIL'S FLORAL DISPLAYS

Following comments from Councillor Chambers and Alderman Mrs Rice, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Client Manager be instructed to pass on the Members' thanks to the Officers and staff involved for the superb borough wide floral displays, which had attracted complimentary comments from a number of sources.

EDUCATION

2005/465 : LIST OF DISTRICT COUNCIL NOMINEES, TRANSFEROR/TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES AND GENERAL INTEREST MEMBERS FOR THE SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD

Councillor Chambers expressed her anger and disappointment that the protocol with regard to the recent appointments of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the SEE&LB had been breached.

Councillor Tosh expressed the view that at that meeting, he felt that the DUP had been usurped and other political parties had been canvassed for positions, even in instances where they had previously expressed an unwillingness to accept appointments.

Alderman PD Robinson stated that this incident had demonstrated the discriminative behavior of Education & Library Boards, which had led to overspending and mismanagement. In his view, the Government were now ensuring that those political parties who had objected, and subsequently exposed their practices, were being denied positions on the Board and this demonstrated one good reason why the role of Education & Library Boards should be demolished.

Noted.

HOUSING

2005/466 : NIHE – DISTRICT HOUSING PLANS 2005-2006

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, dated 24 June 2005, re: District Housing Plans 2005-2006 (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

HEALTH

2005/467 : EASTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON BEST PRACTICE: BEST CARE THE QUALITY STANDARDS FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Noted.

NOTICE OF MOTION

2005/468 : Proposed by Councillor J Spratt and seconded by Alderman P Robinson

“This Council notes the outstanding and gallant service that the Royal Irish Regiment has given to the people of Northern Ireland and the sacrifices which they have made for the community in the fight against terrorism, condemns the decision of the Government to proceed with the disbandment of the Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, which is especially reckless given the ongoing security threat and in light of the continued requirement for back-up for the police in certain areas of the Province”.

Councillor Spratt referred to his Notice of Motion and stated that the Royal Irish and Ulster Defence Regiments had stood firm in the face of horrendous murder and maiming against its ranks by faceless, mindless, cowardly thugs who had bombed and shot their way to being recognized and pandered by the Government, which now appeared to regard them as some sort of legitimate statesmen and women.

He commented that, having served 30 years in the Royal Ulster Constabulary, he had fought alongside the Royal Irish Regiment against the same barbaric enemy.

He then recounted how the news of the name change of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and RUC Full Time Reserve had been released to the press, despite false assurances given to him as Chairman of the Police Federation of Northern Ireland that this would not occur for a further year. He was disappointed to note that the news of the disbandment of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service Battalions had been released in a similar fashion.

He intimated that the fate of the Royal Irish Regiment had been sealed during the negotiations of the 2003 Joint Declaration which required a programme of demilitarization and troop reductions in return for moves by the Provisional IRA, which to date had amounted to nothing, and he felt that the responsibility for these actions lay with the negotiators of those other political parties in the Council Chamber who must stand indicted for their destruction of the RUC, RUC Full time Reserve and now the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service Battalions.

He expressed his disappointment that those Officers who had also served and held commissioned office had used former colleagues to return their service medals to the Government for, in his estimation, political gain and as a publicity stunt, having sat back and allowed their political leaders to agree to the Regiment's destruction in the first instance. In light of this, he asked that all soldiers retain their medals with pride, as they had been well earned for the proud part that they had played against the powers of evil in Northern Ireland.

At this point of the meeting, Councillor Long entered at 9.00 p.m.

Councillor Spratt stated that everyone in the Province owed a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service Battalions and he urged the Council to support his Notice of Motion.

Alderman Mrs Robinson concurred with Councillor Spratt's comments, but expressed concern that the outside world, on seeing Crown Forces disbanded i.e. the "B" Specials, the UDR, the RUC and now the Royal Irish Regiment, portrayed the message that our Crown Forces were at fault and to blame for the troubles in Northern Ireland, leaving Sinn Fein/IRA being viewed as a legitimate Freedom Fighting organisation, as they still retained their weapons and had the potential to strike at any time if the demands from their list of further concessions were not met.

She expressed concern that the Government had continued to undermine the democratic process, particularly the ballot box, and in her view they were disengaging themselves from Northern Ireland by stealth as the Labour Government was intent on seeking a United Ireland, regardless of the long

suffering people of Northern Ireland who wished to remain as an integral part of the United Kingdom.

Alderman Mrs Robinson was angry that the Labour Government had endeavoured to paint the Unionist community, along with the Crown Forces, as unreasonable and responsible for the “ills” in Northern Ireland, despite their unfaltering loyalty to the Queen, the United Kingdom and this Government.

She wished to place on record the fact that although loyalist terrorists existed, and had committed foul and evil actions against the Catholic community, the many decent Unionists in the Province had never given any great support to loyalist paramilitaries politically, compared with the huge vote given by nationalists to Sinn Fein/IRA during and after the worst atrocities they carried out over the last 35 years.

She wished to put down a marker to Government, namely that the Unionist people will never consent to a United Ireland, despite contemptuous Governmental attempts to undermine them when they voted in the hope that they will cease going to the poll, and would always remain “free and British”. In closing her speech, she saluted the bravery of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service Battalions.

Alderman PD Robinson concurred with previous comments, with regard to the betrayal of the Labour Government, whom he felt were “selling out their loyal friends” to appease enemies. He informed Members that he had met with soldiers from the 3 Battalions affected, and they were unanimously of the same opinion without exception, that terrorism in Northern Ireland had not ceased.

He indicated that those men and women serving in the Crown Forces had a right to dignity and respect, unlike the abysmal way they had been treated in the past by the Secretary of State for Defence, and he deplored the way the news of disbandment of the Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment had been relayed to its members.

Alderman Robinson continued that the disbandment of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service Battalions had arisen from a political decision achieved through negotiation, whose roots were based in the Joint Declaration of April 2003, an agreement, detailing in the most precise terms, the closure of military bases and reduction in security forces in Northern Ireland.

He reiterated that, at that time, the DUP had warned of the disbandment of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service Battalions thereby opposing this agreement, but had been accused, by other political parties, of scaremongering.

He informed Members that in the last few weeks the DUP had been involved in a major consultation exercise with the 3 battalions involved and emphasized the

need for a suitable financial, benefit and training package structure to be in place. For those soldiers who wish to join the Royal Irish Regiment General Service Battalion, he urged that arrangements be made for smooth transitions to positions of similar rank. He stated that there would be employers who would be reluctant to employ former members of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service Battalion, which would reduce the pool of jobs available for those soldiers affected by the disbandment and severely restrict their employment opportunities as a result.

Alderman Robinson strongly believed in the need to retain local knowledge and expertise, and he stated that the Province required the retention of a complement of soldiers with crowd control behavior knowledge to assist the PSNI, as a backup during periods of civil unrest.

Echoing his colleagues' comments, Alderman Robinson reiterated that although both the RUC had been expected to change and the RIR disband, no requirement had been placed on the IRA to cease and, in the interim, every appeasement was being offered to them.

Alderman Copeland referred to the historical background of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service Battalions, and asked if the Notice of Motion wording could include the General Service Battalion.

He agreed that the welfare and financial considerations of Royal Irish Regiment members should first and foremost, as society would never know the true debt that they owed these soldiers.

He referred to Councillor Spratt's comments, and indicated that he had not recommended that any soldier of the Royal Irish Regiment should hand back their medals.

Alderman Mrs Rice fully supported Councillor Spratt's notice of motion and stated that it had been her view, at the time of the "shared understanding" agreement that there would be a true and absolute decommissioning of Sinn Fein/IRA.

She believed that the Government should be primarily considering the safety of its population before this disbandment takes place, and she acknowledged the Royal Irish Regiment/UDR's role in containing IRA activities within the Province, in addition to the service of those armed forces in Iraq last year.

Councillor Long wished to voice his support for the motion, and referred to the grave sacrifices of the men and women of the Home Battalions, particularly faced by those serving in border areas. He condemned the Government's decision and the way in which it had ham-fistedly acted in notifying the Battalion Members, and also in its concessions to terrorists through the removal of watch towers etc., and its failure to confirm that the UVF ceasefire was at an end.

At this time, he felt that people needed to act with sensitivity and it was important to build trust and experience actions before any such disbandment should take place.

He referred to Alderman Mrs Robinson's comments and felt it was unacceptable to say that it was solely the unionist population who were tired of concessions being made to terrorists prior to decommissioning, as most decent people from all sections of the community were law-abiding and took this view.

Councillor Hanvey wished to state that, in his view, one life lost had not been worth 30 years of conflict, irrespective of the religion and although he had welcomed the IRA statement, he had wished it had happened earlier, but sought actions instead of words.

He commented that although the disbandment of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service Battalions had been speculative for some time, it was the right decision to proceed along the road to normalization and he hoped it would happen in the short-term. He welcomed the move away from an ethos of a military presence, from a nationalist perspective, which would lead to a goal to lasting peace, as he was of the opinion that some individuals within the Crown Forces had been willing to use their uniform against the nationalist community.

Councillor Drysdale spoke, as a former member of the UDR/RUC Reserve and expressed his disappointment at the proposed disbandment, and suggested that there had been merit in reviewing the situation on an ongoing basis before making any concrete decision.

He had been disappointed at certain aspects of Councillor Spratt's speech and stated that the problem had lain with the Government whereby they had rushed into action as soon as they had received any movement, no matter how small, from the IRA. In his estimation, they were firmly entrenched in republican sympathy, which had been exemplified by their choice of current and past Secretary of States, and it was important that each of the political parties worked together to ensure this did not happen.

Although Councillor Chambers spoke in support of the Motion, she took exception to Councillor Hanvey's comments as her father had been a member of the 'B' Specials who had worked to protect all sections of the community.

At this point, Councillor Spratt was delighted that the vast majority of the Council fully supported his Notice of Motion, but he was disappointed in Councillor Hanvey's comments as a member of the Crown Forces, he had served the whole community for 30 years. Furthermore, he pointed out that any officer who had been found failing to do so, had been brought to task accordingly, unlike those

innocent victims of terrorism who had received no justice, yet it was Councillor Hanvey's party who had granted Sinn Fein/IRA concession after concession.

At this point, it was agreed that Members would vote in favour of the Notice of Motion.

For the Motion:-

Alderman PD Robinson MP MLA
Alderman Mrs Iris Robinson MP MLA
Councillor Mrs M Chambers
Councillor C Tosh
Councillor J Spratt
Councillor G Robinson
Councillor Mrs J Gochrane
Councillor D Drysdale
Councillor A Ramsey

Alderman J Norris
Alderman M Copeland
Alderman Mrs G Rice
Councillor M Long
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor Mrs A Beattie
Councillor Mrs S Duncan
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor C Hall

Abstentions:-

Councillor B Hanvey

Councillor Miss R Hughes MBE

When the Chief Executive reported that 18 Councillors had voted for the Motion, and 2 Councillors had recorded abstentions, Councillor Hanvey objected that he had not abstained from the Notice of Motion but that he, and Councillor Miss Hughes had been opposed to it. The Chief Executive, however, confirmed that at the time whereby the vote had been taken, both Members had been recorded as abstentions.

RESOLVED:- That, Castlereagh Borough Council notes the outstanding and gallant service that the Royal Irish Regiment has given to the people of Northern Ireland and the sacrifices which they have made for the community in the fight against terrorism, condemns the decision of the Government to proceed with the disbandment of the Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, which is especially reckless given the ongoing security threat and in light of the continued requirement for back-up for the police in certain areas of the Province.

2005/469 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR AUGUST 2005

Noted.

2005/470 : REPORT FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, consideration of the Economic Development Manager's report be deferred for discussion "In Committee".

GENERAL

2005/471 : ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT ON THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND 2002-2012

Tabled: Correspondence from the Department of Regional Development dated 29 July 2005 re: Annual Monitoring Report on the Regional Transportation Strategy for Northern Ireland 2002-2012 (RTS) (copy previously circulated).

Alderman PD Robinson expressed his disappointment that there had been no further progress on the Eway scheme.

Noted.

2005/472 : CONSUMERLINE

Tabled: Correspondence from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment dated 4 July 2005 re: Consumerline (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2005/473 : PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE FLEXIBLY ROUTED BUS SERVICES

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Department of the Environment dated 21 July 2005 re: Proposal to Introduce Flexibly Routed Bus Services (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2005/474 : SUMMARY OF RESEARCH UPDATE

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Electoral Commission dated 28 July 2005 re: Summary of Research Update (copy previously).

Noted.

2005/475 : NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Tabled:- Notice of Public Consultation – Northern Ireland Fire Authority for Energy Regulation – Moyle Holdings Limited into Northern Ireland Energy Holdings and Integration of the South-North Pipeline.

Noted.

2005/476 : OCOM REVIEW OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION

Tabled:- Correspondence from Ofcom dated 27 May 2005 re Ofcom Review of the Universal Service Obligation (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2005/477 : RESPONSE TO COUNCIL FROM DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Department of Social Development dated 28 July 2005 re: Response to Council letter of 30 June 2005 (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2005/478 : REVIEW OF REGIONAL HOUSING GROWTH INDICATORS

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Department of Regional Development dated 29 July 2005 re: Review of Regional Housing Growth Indicators (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2005/479 : TOWERLINE AT SYDENHAM BY-PASS

Tabled:- Correspondence from Northern Ireland Electricity plc dated 28 July 2005 re: Towerline at Sydenham By-Pass (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2005/480 : NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILLORS' INDUCTION SEMINAR

Tabled:- Correspondence from Heather Moorehead , NILGA dated 22 July re: Newly Elected Councillors' Induction Seminar – Charges (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2005/481 : WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Tabled:- Correspondence from NILGA re: Workshop on International Development being held at the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings, Stormont on Wednesday 14 September 2005 (copy previously circulated).

RESOLVED:- That, any Member wishing to attend this Workshop should contact Members' Services to make the appropriate arrangements.

2005/482 : LICENCE AT RESTAURANT PREMISES AT CASTLEREAGH HILLS GOLF CLUBHOUSE

Tabled:- Correspondence from King & Gowdy Solicitors dated 9 August 2005 re: Application for Grant of Licence at Restaurant Premises at Castlereagh Hills Golf Clubhouse (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2005/483 : RENEWAL OF BOOKMAKING OFFICE LICENCE – 799 UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD

Tabled:- Correspondence from J G O'Hare & Co Solicitors dated 3 August 2005 re: Renewal of Bookmaking Office Licence at 799 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, Unit 20 Kings Square Shopping Centre, Belfast (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2005/484 : RENEWAL BOOKMAKING LICENCE AT 997 UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD

Correspondence from Gerard McClure & Co Solicitors dated 29 July 2005 re: Renewal Bookmaking Licence at 997 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2005/485 : RENEWAL OF A BOOKMAKING OFFICE LICENCE – UNIT 20, CARRYDUFF SHOPPING CENTRE

Tabled:- Notice of Application for the Renewal of a Bookmaking Office Licence : premises at Unit 20, Carryduff Shopping Centre, Carryduff (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2005/486 : RENEWAL OF A BOOKMAKING OFFICE LICENCE – 43 ROSETTA ROAD

Tabled:- Notice of Application for the Renewal of a Bookmaking Office Licence : premises at 43 Rosetta Road, Belfast (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2005/487 : RENEWAL OF A BOOKMAKING OFFICE LICENCE – UNITS 2 & 3 INNS CROSS DEVELOPMENT

Tabled: - Notice of Application for the Renewal of a Bookmaking Office: premises at Units 2 & 3 Inns Cross Development, Newtownbreda (also known as 65A and 67 Saintfield Road) (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2005/488 : ADDENDUM TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ORDER

Tabled:- Correspondence from Disability Order in Council Team dated 3 August 2005 re: Addendum to the Consultation on the Draft Disability Discrimination Order (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2005/489 : CEC OVERSEAS CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Confederation of European Councillors dated 15 July 2005 re: CEC Overseas Conference and Annual General Meeting (copy previously circulated).

Following a proposal from Councillor Beattie, Members agreed that it be

RESOLVED:- That, Councillor Norris be authorised to attend the CEC Overseas Conference & Annual General Meeting.

2005/490 : “SAFER COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND : TACKLING CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR THROUGH PARTNERSHIP”

Tabled:- Correspondence from the House Magazine re: Westminster Briefing in Belfast ‘Safer Communities in Northern Ireland: Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Through Partnership’ (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2005/491 : CAP REFORM CROSS-COMPLIANCE CONSULTATION PAPER

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development dated 18 July 2005 re: Cap Reform Cross-Compliance Consultation paper

Noted.

REPORTS AND ANNUAL REPORTS

2005/492 : PUBLIC SERVICE REVIEW: DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT

Noted.

2005/493 : NORTHERN IRELAND COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE : “A RIGHT TO PROTECTION” REVIEW OF VETTING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2005/494 : COMMEMORATIVE MEMORIAL STONE TABLET

Tabled:- Correspondence from the 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment dated 15th August 2005 re: provision of a final resting place for the above stone tablet which lists the names of the fallen from the Belfast Battalions of the Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Irish Regiment (copy circulated at meeting).

Following discussion, Members were informed that the Mayor, in conjunction with the Civic Committee, would be organising a ceremony in due course to coincide with the provision of a final resting place for the Commemorative Memorial Stone Tablet.

Noted.

IN COMMITTEE

2005/495 : REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Administration & Community Services informed Members that this report had been withdrawn.

Noted.

REPORT FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

2005/496 : LOCK KEEPER'S COTTAGE

The Economic Development Officer outlined that the Economic Development Steering Group had met to confirm/identify projects that could be delivered within a detailed timescale and, following their recommendations, Members agreed that it be

RESOLVED:- That,

(a) The Council proceeds with the renovation of the Lock Keeper's Cottage at Shaw's Bridge and the construction of complementary tea/coffee and office/meeting facilities in the grounds of the cottage.

(b) Negotiations should be undertaken with the Heritage Lottery Fund to determine the potential for this scheme to be delivered through the Council/LVRP funding application within the requisite timescales.

(c) If the Council cannot be certain that progress in point (b) can be achieved, this element of the Council/LVRP funding application should be withdrawn from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the project should proceed using only Council and EU Structural Funds.

2005/497 : HANWOOD CENTRE ENTERPRISE UNITS

At this point, Alderman PD Robinson and Councillor Drysdale declared an interest and left the meeting.

RESOLVED:- That,

(a) The Council accept the Economic Development Steering Group's recommendation to reconfirm its commitment to the contribution of £600,000 (£300,000 Council/£300,000 EU) towards the construction of enterprise units adjacent to the Hanwood Centre in Dundonald.

(b) The Hanwood Trust should be informed that they have until mid October 2005 to secure the additional match funding required to construct the full complement of (seventeen) enterprise units.

(c) Should the Trust be unable to secure this match funding during the period in question, they should be asked to proceed immediately to construct as many enterprise units as possible within the existing budgetary constraints.

2005/498 : TOURISM PROJECT

Following lengthy discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) Members agreed to decommit to the Megazone Project at the Leisure Park site in Dundonald and instead to commit to a tourism project to be located at the Leisure Park site in Dundonald.
- (b) The alternative project concept currently being developed is that of an International Skating Plaza, which would have a multi-purpose use, and Officers are authorised to secure quotations for the requisite Economic Appraisal to take this forward at the earliest convenience.
- (c) Further Economic Appraisals are due to be completed with staff at the Lough Moss, Robinson Centre and Belvoir Activity Centres with any feasible development suggestions being brought back to a future Council meeting for consideration by Members.

Furthermore, that discussion be given regarding the viability of a users' survey of the Lough Moss Centre to establish the type of scheme that the public would desire, in the hope that this "pride of ownership" would reduce vandalism of any future facility.

In addition, that the Officers consider options for the Newtownbreda/Belvoir areas, which currently have no leisure facilities.

- (d) Should the Council agree to proceed with a tourism project, any underspend should be redirected to the Hanwood Centre project to increase the number of enterprise units constructed.

2005/499 : ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP

RESOLVED:- That, the Council authorises the Finance & General Purposes Committee to consider keeping the Economic Development Steering Group in place over the forthcoming months to progress the above-mentioned Economic Development projects, given the time constraints on the expenditure of EU funding. However, this Steering Group will continue to report to and seek the

requisite approval from the Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee on all key and financial decisions.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2005/500 : REPORT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE RE: AMUSEMENT PERMIT FOR PREMISES AT 1 CHURCH ROAD, DUNDONALD

The Chief Executive referred Members to his report and outlined the Solicitor's legal opinion following consultation on various points previously raised by the Council.

Following lengthy discussion and consideration of this application, the Members' opposition to it and the Council's legal position, Alderman PD Robinson made a proposal, which was seconded by Alderman Mrs Robinson, that the Council declare the amusement permit final, subject to the applicant being granted planning permission for the premises and further subject to the legal compliancy of this condition. The Chief Executive confirmed that he would seek legal advice on this point.

RESOLVED:- That, the Council declares the amusement permit final, subject to the applicant being granted planning permission for the premises, and further subject to the legal compliancy of this condition being determined by the Council's legal advisors.

2005/501 : PURCHASE OF LAPTOPS

The Chief Executive drew Members' attention to the forms circulated by the IT Manager with regard to their personal requirements, and asked that these be completed and returned to Members' Services Section. However, he indicated that the IT Manager welcomed those Members who wished to seek additional information prior to choosing their computer equipment.

Noted.

2005/502 : MALCOLM BRODIE WORKING GROUP

Following a request from Councillor Chambers, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Council authorise the Malcolm Brodie Working Group with Executive Powers to progress the civic event commemorating his achievements, which has been scheduled for late October/early November.

2005/503 : DOWNSHIRE PARK CENTRAL - PROPOSED “KICKABOUT” PITCH

Councillor Long asked if the Technical Services Committee could investigate the viability of a kickabout pitch for local children at the site of the old Council Amenity Site at Downshire Park Central.

Alderman Norris referred to discussions regarding the proposal to use a portion of the grounds of Lisnasharragh Primary School as an area for this purpose, although there had been concern by residents that the landscaping would be damaged as a result.

Councillor Long stated that he had been approached by constituents who had sustained damage to their vehicles through footballs. Furthermore, local residents had commented that the Primary School would be too far away for younger children to access.

Alderman PD Robinson indicated that a petition had commenced opposing the proposal for a kickabout pitch at the Primary School and that one of the original objectors to the Council's civic amenity pitch proposal had now changed their opinion to one of support.

RESOLVED:- That, during the coming months, the Technical & Environmental Services Committee give consideration to the viability for a “kickabout” pitch at the site of the Council's Civic Amenity site adjacent to 268 Cregagh Road.

2005/504 : HALLOWEEN FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Director of Finance & Leisure Services be authorised to source the necessary funds in order to finance the Halloween Fireworks Display at the Dundonald Icebowl at a date which will not conflict with the date of the display organised by Belfast City Council.

2005/505 : BUSINESS CARDS FOR MEMBERS

Councillor Chambers asked that Members' business cards and email addresses be progressed urgently.

Noted.

2005/506 : MEMBERS APPOINTMENTS TO PARTNERSHIPS/LSP

Following a request from Councillor Duncan, the Chief Executive informed Members that the Council was continuing to pay Members for mobile phone use for Council business, and those Members who held directorships, or Partnership appointments. He reiterated that the Department of the Environment would be changing legislation in the next two years, but in the interim he had requested a “letter of comfort” which would cover the aforementioned payments.

Councillor Drysdale asked if the Chief Executive could clarify the position with regard to former Councillors who continued to hold directorships on outside bodies.

The Chief Executive advised that any former Councillor who sat on the Board of a Limited Company was no longer a representative of the Council and, therefore, the matter was one for the outside body to consider and any responsibility for directorship lay with the individual.

Noted.

2005/507 : FOOD SAMPLING DATABASE – APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANT

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services referred to a food-sampling database, which was being set up by Eastern Group. A similar project had been set up in Cork at a cost of approximately £20,000 and to minimise costs, the Group Chief Environmental Health Officer was proposing to appoint a Consultant at a cost of £6,000.

The Director outlined that this proposal had been approved by the Auditor from a value for money perspective and he asked if the Council would set aside its financial Standing Orders to authorise the Consultant’s appointment

Following a proposal from Alderman PD Robinson, which was seconded by Councillor Rice, it was

RESOLVED:- That, on the basis of the Officer’s recommendation and the Auditor’s approval, that the Council appoint a Consultant at a cost of £6,000 to set up a food sampling database for the Eastern Group, with the Council’s Fiscal Policies being set aside to facilitate this particular procurement.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 11.00 p.m.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MAYOR