

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Administration & Community Services Committee meeting held, in committee, in the Function Suite, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Monday, 10th January 2005 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillor Ms B McBurney (in the chair)

Councillor J Beattie
Councillor Miss J Bunting
Councillor D Drysdale (until 7.50 p.m.)
Councillor Mrs S Duncan
Councillor Miss R Hughes MBE
Councillor M Robinson

IN ATTENDANCE:- Director of Administration & Civic Services,
Community Services Manager, Acting Community
Development Officer, Arts Officer, Assistant Members'
Service Officer and Councillor M Long (Observer)

APOLOGIES:- Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillor
Rice, and Aldermen Henderson and Hall.

Following agreement from Members, it was agreed that the deputation from Newtownbreda United Churches would be tabled as the first item for discussion.

A&CS/2005/01 : DEPUTATION FROM NEWTOWNBRED A UNITED CHURCHES

The Director of Administration & Community Services reported that the Officers had been in discussion with the Knockbracken Trust to ascertain the likelihood of a site for community facilities at Forster Green, which had been the preferred site arising from the findings of the recent Community Services survey.

She then outlined that Newtownbreda United Churches Group had already conducted a similar survey in the area, and the Chairman welcomed the three representatives from the Group to tonight's meeting.

Mr Bill McClean from Newtownbreda Baptist Church commenced his presentation by giving a brief outline and circulating a report relating to the history of Newtownbreda Baptist Church.

He then referred to the 3 current community projects organised by the Baptist Church and in conjunction with Newtownbreda United Churches Group, namely:-

- The Dream Scheme
- BalliNotSlow
- Newtownbreda United Churches

The representatives then took Members through the background, aims and objectives of each of the three schemes and outlined their requirements in respect of assistance from the Council.

Mr McClean reported that the Newtownbreda United Churches Group were seeking to work with the Council on possible environmental improvement projects to include, for example, hanging baskets, litter pickups/bins etc.

Members were also informed that the BalliNotSlow project was due for launch this Friday and its aim was to create a safe environment on the Internet. Several of the main organisations had been involved, and an invitation was extended to the Councillors of Castlereagh.

With regard to the Newtownbreda United Churches scheme, Mr Alan Jones, Youth Officer, discussed the project's objective in targeting those people, namely the youth in the area, who had little or no connection with the church or its environment. He was hoping for a base to create a Youth and Community Centre, and the SEELB had given an undertaking to provide training facilities, but they wished to work with the Council in partnership to achieve a new community centre, which they would make use of for this project.

Mr McClean outlined that most of the helpers in the community schemes were drawn from volunteers, although the Local Strategy Partnership had provided funding for a full-time Youth Officer.

Members then discussed potential locations for site facilities for the projects, and they commended the representatives for their hard work in setting up the schemes.

Before leaving the meeting, Mr McClean thanked the Council on behalf of his three representatives and said he was looking forward to a working relationship with the Members.

RESOLVED:- That matters relating to joint environmental projects with the Council be referred to Technical & Environmental Services.

A&CS/2005/02 : PRESENTATION BY RICHARD MILLS RE: FORUM FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT & THE ARTS

Richard Mills commenced his presentation by outlining the background to the formation of a Forum for Local Government & The Arts, and he referred to its proposed breakdown of the 26 local councils' representation.

He referred to the breakdown of funding charges and outlined that each local authority would not be expected to contribute in year one of the pilot, but that the proposed contribution from Castlereagh Borough Council in years 2 & 3 would be £554 annually, commencing year 2006/07.

In response to a query from Councillor Bunting regarding the funding from year 4 onwards, he stated that the Forum would be employing an Officer to ascertain funding from various other sources, and the Arts Council would continue to provide the Forum with financial assistance, as they had done so in the past. At this point, the Arts Officer informed Members of the financial contribution that had been made towards the Council's Arts programmes by the Arts Council in the previous 5 years, namely £100,000.00.

Mr Mills referred to the volunteers working for the Forum and confirmed that talks were in progress to pay their travelling expenses in the future.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Council be recommended to agree, in principle, to be included in the membership of the Forum for Local Government & The Arts and to make a financial contribution in years 2 & 3 of £554 per annum.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & CIVIC SERVICES

A&CS/2005/03 : ARTS

The Arts Officer took Members through the forthcoming Visual Arts Programme for the Borough, which was due to be held in February.

Councillor Mrs Duncan wished to congratulate the Officer on the large turnout for the recent First Friday Concert.

The Arts Officer responded that the East Belfast Observer were publishing a full picture spread of the event, and this should hopefully promote the first Friday concerts and increase numbers even further.

At this point, Councillor Drysdale, Arts Officer, and Mr Mills left the meeting.

A&CS/2005/04 : NEWTOWNBREDA SURVEY

The Director of Administration & Community Services drew Members' attention to the results of the Newtownbreda survey carried out on Community Facilities within the Newtownbreda area. She sought Members' direction with regard to the 2 options available, namely:-

- Pursue Vesting at Turner's Land (Four Winds) - She reiterated that this site was not particularly central to the Newtownbreda area, and the vesting process itself was very lengthy and costly and could not guarantee a successful outcome for the Council.
- Forster Green - The Director referred to preliminary discussions with the Knockbracken Trust on the Forster Green site, however they would be pressing for a decision from the Council fairly soon, in order to progress detailed drawings and the necessary site visit. She added that, although this site was regarded as central, it was of insufficient size to accommodate a children's playground and/or football pitch.

Following detailed discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Director of Administration & Community Services be authorised to liaise further with the Knockbracken Trust to discuss the size of the proposed site, what facilities they would be prepared to offer the Council, and the costs involved.

A&CS/2005/05 : PROPOSAL FOR COMMUNITY CENTRE FACILITIES AT MONEYREAGH

The Director of Administration & Community Services reported that she had met with the Council's Planning Officer to discuss the BMAP proposals for Moneyreagh and the fact that the proposed community centre site had not been zoned for community/recreational use. She advised Members that the newly formed Community Association were keen to support the Council in any planning application and were prepared to launch a petition in the area to seek support for the planning application.

Councillor Beattie indicated that the Council still had time to submit an appeal against BMAP's decision, as the final draft of their plan had not yet been published.

RESOLVED:- That

- (a) Officers submit an appeal against BMAP's decision.
- (b) Officers pursue the submission of an outline planning application for the community centre site at Moneyreagh.

A&CS/2005/06 : TSUNAMI DISASTER APPEAL

The Director of Administration & Community Services informed Members that she had received a request to use Tullycarnet Resource Centre as a base for a clothing collection point for the Tsunami Disaster Appeal. She indicated that staff had approached the Council's Borough Inspector, and he had foreseen no difficulties with this request.

RESOLVED:- That, the Council be recommended to agree to the use of Tullycarnet Resource Centre as a base for a clothing collection point on behalf of the Tsunami Disaster Appeal.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A&CS/2005/07 : ONE SMALL STEP CAMPAIGN

Tabled:- Correspondence from One Small Step dated 18th December 2004 regarding their campaign (copy circulated at meeting).

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Council be recommended to refer this matter to the Community Relations Officer to seek further information in this respect.

A&CS/2005/08 : CITIZENS ADVICE

Tabled: Correspondence from the Citizens Advice dated 3rd December 2004 re: Citizens Advice – Capital Appeal (copy circulated at meeting).

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Council be recommended to defer this correspondence to the next Estimates Committee for their consideration.

A&CS/2005/09 : MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that the minutes circulated with Members' papers were still in draft form, as they had not been ratified at the last Council meeting because of their close proximity in date to the December Council meeting.

Noted.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.05 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Adopted by the Council this _____ day of
_____ 2005 with the exception of
Minute Nos. _____

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE