

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Castlereagh Borough Council held, in the Council Chamber, Castlereagh Borough Council, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Thursday 19th May 2005 at 6.20 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor T Jeffers
(in the Chair)

ALDERMEN: J Norris
G Rice
I Robinson MP MLA
P D Robinson MP MLA

IN ATTENDANCE: A M Beattie
J Beattie
M Chambers
J Cochrane
M Copeland MLA
D Drysdale
S Duncan
C Hall
B Hanvey
M Long
J Norris
A Ramsey
G Robinson
J Spratt
C Tosh
J White

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive, Director of Technical & Environmental Services, Director of Finance & Leisure Services, Economic Development Manager, Planning Service Officer, Planning Officer and Assistant Members' Services Officer

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received on behalf of Alderman Copeland, Councillors Bunting, Henderson and Hughes

2005/245 : OPENING OF MEETING

Councillor Norris opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2005/246 : MINUTES

RESOLVED : That

- (a) the following Minutes be accepted as a true record:
- Council meeting of 24th March 2005
 - Castlereagh Borough Council Working Group meeting of 7th April 2005
 - Castlereagh Borough Council Working Group meeting of 21st April 2005
 - Special Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting of 19th April 2005
 - Special Staff & Office Accommodation Committee meeting of 21st April 2005
 - Special Planning Committee meeting of 25th April 2005
- (b) the Council approve the list of decisions taken during the suspension of Council and Committees during the 2005 elections.

MATTERS ARISING

2005/247 : RESPONSE TO COUNCIL'S CORRESPONDENCE TO NIE RE: REMOVAL OF DISUSED ELECTRICITY PYLONS IN THE RODDENS AREA

Alderman Peter Robinson proposed that the Council write to the NIE outlining dissatisfaction at their response, and pressing further for the removal of the pylons.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write to Northern Ireland Electricity outlining Members' dissatisfaction at NIE's response, and pressing further for removal of pylons in the Roddens area.

PRESENTATION

2005/248 : PRESENTATION BY THE ROADS SERVICE

Members agreed to postpone the above presentation until the June Council meeting.

The Chief Executive asked Members to retain their copy of the Roads Service report for the June meeting.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to hear the presentation from the Roads Service at the June Council meeting.

PLANNING

2005/249 : NEW PLANNING OFFICER

The Chief Executive introduced to Members the Council's new Planning Officer, Nicola Monroe.

Noted.

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS (copy previously circulated)

2005/250 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2003/0640/F – DUNLADY NURSING HOME, 18 DUNLADY ROAD, DUNDONALD, BT16 1TT : ALTERATIONS AND ERECTION OF EXTENSION TO FRONT ELEVATION AND ERECTION OF LIFT SHAFT AND REMOVAL OF PORTACABIN FOR NEW LAUNDRY AND STAFF BUILDING AND EXTENSION TO SIDE AT GROUND AND FIRST FLOOR LEVEL TO INCLUDE BEDROOM ACCOMMODATION

Following a query from Alderman Mrs Robinson, the Planning Service Officer confirmed that all the conditions placed on the application had been met.

Noted.

2005/251 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2004/0093/0 : 84 DRUMALIG ROAD, CARRYDUFF : SITE FOR ERECTION OF RETIREMENT FARM DWELLING

At the request of Alderman Mrs Robinson, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to defer consideration of Planning Application Y/2004/0093/0 to enable further discussion between the applicant and the Planning Service.

2005/252 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2004/0135/0 – MARKS AND SPENCER STORE AND ADJACENT CAR PARK, FORESTSIDE SHOPPING CENTRE : EXTENSION TO EXISTING RETAIL STORE AND ERECTION OF DECKED CAR PARK (AMENDED)

Councillor Chambers outlined that that she had been approached by a number of residents who had expressed concern on the possible impact the above proposal may have. She asked if she could be provided with a copy of the plans to enable her to discuss this with the residents.

Alderman Peter Robinson indicated that although this application had already been deferred, he was of the view that as the newly elected Members had not had an opportunity to deal with the issue before, that it should be deferred for a further month, particularly since Councillor Chambers had been asked to do by local residents.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to defer consideration of Planning Application Y/2004/0135/0 in order for Councillor Chambers to be provided with a copy of the plans to enable her to discuss the proposal with concerned residents.

2005/253 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2004/0436/F – 12 LISDOONAN ROAD, KILLYNURE, CARRYDUFF : ERECTION OF TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION TO DWELLING

At the request of Alderman Mrs Robinson, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to defer consideration of Planning Application Y/2004/0436/F to enable further discussion with the Planning Service.

2005/254 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2004/0441/F – FOOTPATH AT ALANBROOKE ROAD : PROPOSED STREET FURNITURE RADIO BASE STATION, 1 STREET FURNITURE POLE AND 2 FURNITURE CABINETS (ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

Members referred to the significant number of applications within the schedule relating to the erection of telecommunication/radio masts and equipment, and the fact that the Planning Service did not appear to be adhering to its own guidelines in terms of shared masts.

Alderman Peter Robinson proposed that the Planning Officer obtain a plan of the Borough outlining all existing telecommunication/radio masts and equipment, and as well as those, which the Planning Service had approved but not yet erected.

Alderman Mrs Robinson seconded the proposal.

Councillor Hanvey outlined that there had been no scientific evidence forthcoming to prove that these masts did not pose a health risk, and it was the

duty of the Elected Representatives to pursue this matter on behalf of the ratepayers.

Members agreed to defer consideration of all such applications until they had an opportunity to discuss the map/plan.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees

- (a) to declare a moratorium on all planning applications relating to the erection of telecommunication masts and equipment within the Borough which includes those within the May Planning Schedule as follows:
 - (i) Application Y/2004/0441/F
 - (ii) Application Y/2004/0465/F
 - (iii) Application Y/2004/0599/F
 - (iv) Application Y/2004/0534/F
 - (v) Application Y/2004/0686/F
 - (vi) Application Y/2005/0012/F

- (b) the Planning Officer liaise with the Planning Service Officer in order to draw up a plan/map showing all existing telecommunication sites and those which the Planning Service had approved but had not yet been erected, for Members' consideration.

2005/255 : APPLICATION NO: Y/2004/0586/F – ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY INDUSTRIAL UNIT WITH PART MEZZANINE FLOOR TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS & PARKING AT 96 BEECHILL ROAD, BELFAST

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, consideration of this planning application be deferred for one month to enable a site visit to be held at a date and time to be arranged with Councillor Mrs Duncan.

2005/256 : APPLICATION NO: Y/2004/0609/F – ERECTION OF 1 NO. TWO STOREY PRIVATE DETACHED RESIDENCE (AMENDED PLANS) TO REAR OF 1 BALLYNAHINCH ROAD, AND ADJACENT TO 2 QUEENSFORT PARK SOUTH, CARRYDUFF

RESOLVED:- That, consideration of this planning application be deferred for one month to enable a site visit to be held at a date and time to be arranged with Alderman Rice, in liaison with the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

2005/257 : APPLICATION NO: Y/2004/0686/F - INSTALLATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS APPARATUS TO INCLUDE A 15M HIGH RACAL PHASE 3 MONOPOLE (17.5M INCLUDING ANTENNAE), 3 NO. 3G PANEL ANTENNAE AND 3 NO. 2G PANEL ANTENNAE, 1 NO. 600MM MICROWAVE DISH, 1 NO. VODAFONE 3101 OUTDOOR CABINET, 1 NO. 2106 OUTDOOR CABINET & 1 NO. VODAFONE METER CABINET (ALL CABINETS TO BE PAINTED GREEN) & A 1.8M HIGH GREEN PALISADE FENCE – TO REAR OF BLOCK C, PRINCE REGENT TRADE CENTRE, PRINCE REGENT ROAD, BELFAST

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- that, consideration of this planning application be deferred in light of the Council's earlier resolution with regard to all planning applications relating to the erection of telecommunication masts and equipment within the Borough, including those within the May Planning Schedule

2005/258 : APPLICATION NO: Y/2004/0698/RM – CONSTRUCTION OF 9 DETACHED DWELLINGS AND GARAGES AT 115-177 BALLYNAHINCH ROAD, MEALOUGH, CARRYDUFF

RESOLVED:- That, the Planning Service Officer forward Alderman Rice a copy of the application details.

2005/259 : APPLICATION NO: Y/2004/0710/F – CHANGE OF USE FROM LIGHT INDUSTRIAL TO USE AS AN EMBALMERS STUDIO AT UNIT 12, ALANBROOKE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BELFAST

Following a request from Councillor Drysdale, it was

RESOLVED:- That, consideration of this planning application be deferred to enable a site visit to be held at a date and time to be arranged by the Chairman of the Planning Committee, in liaison with Councillor Drysdale.

2005/260 : APPLICATION NO: Y/2004/0702/F – ERECTION OF NEW TWO & A HALF STOREY DWELLING AT SITE ADJACENT TO 39 OLD DUNDONALD ROAD, DUNDONALD

In response to a query from Alderman Mrs Robinson, the Planning Service Officer commented that the Department had received no objections in relation to the application and they felt that the proposal fitted in with the existing frontage.

Noted.

2005/261 : APPLICATION NO: Y/2005/0081/F – RETENTION OF ROOF SPACE CONVERSION WITH DORMER WINDOW AT 4 CARNBRAE AVENUE, BREDA

The Planning Service Officer clarified that this application had been submitted retrospectively and the Department had recommended refusal.

In response to Members' comments, the Planning Service Officer stated that his department would enforce its decision, but as the applicant could still appeal, any enforcement action would be suspended until the Appeal outcome, should the applicant go down this route.

Noted.

2005/262 : FORMER POST OFFICE AT DUNDONALD VILLAGE – CHANGE OF USE TO AMUSEMENT ARCADE

Alderman Mrs Robinson referred to the proposal to change the use of the former post office at Dundonald village to an amusement arcade, which had sparked a massive opposition. As the planning application had not yet been approved, she asked if the Council could overturn the previous Council's decision to permit a gaming licence at the premises, in light of the premises' close proximity to a number of schools and churches in the area.

She further commented that she had discussed the matter with the District Commander with regard to problems in policing the arcade, and hoped that they would write to the Council and Planning Service in opposition to the application.

The Chief Executive stated that the new Council would be able to overturn the previous Council's decision, but in the interim he would ask the Environmental Health Manager to review the situation and request that the licence be withheld until planning permission had been granted.

At this point Councillor Robinson left the meeting at 7.10 p.m.

Alderman PD Robinson stated that in his view, the proposal for an amusement arcade was totally unsuitable in light of its situation at the junction of Upper Newtownards Road and Church Road and it would detrimentally impact on the "family character" of this shopping area.

He commented that he was confident that when the Department were determining this application, it would fail to satisfy any of the requisite criteria required for a change of use of this nature.

He further reiterated that the Council had to operate under tight legal restraints in permitting gaming licences and therefore had a responsibility to take into account the environmental suitability issues with regard to noise etc. He therefore felt that the Council should hold back and let each of the licensing and planning matters be dealt with in tandem, as both should be deemed unsuitable for approval.

The Chief Executive asked Members to encourage members of the public to write in opposition to the application en masse to support the Council's case to refuse an amusement arcade at this location.

2005/263 : APPLICATION IN RESPECT OF LISNASHARRAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

In response to a query from Councillor Long in respect of the above planning application, the Planning Service Officer indicated that he had contacted the applicants who had assured him that no work had been carried out in advance of an initial decision. He informed Members that the only planning application that had been received in the past relating to the Primary School referred to palisade fencing, but he would clarify this again for Members' information.

In reply to Councillor Long's comments that the tenders for the work had already been advertised in the local press, Alderman PD Robinson asked if the Planning Service could expedite this application to ensure that the Council were consulted before the matter became a fait accompli.

Noted.

2005/264 : APPLICATION NO: Y/2004/718 – PSYCHIATRIC UNIT

Alderman PD Robinson referred to the Forster Green planning application for a new psychiatric unit at Glencregagh, which had been in the planning system for a considerable length of time.

Councillor Duncan outlined that she had received correspondence from the Glencregagh Residents Association stating that this proposal had been withdrawn from that particular Greenfield site.

Alderman PD Robinson responded that he was not surprised that the Trust were looking at other sites within the Forster Green complex as he felt that the proposal for a psychiatric unit had already been approved.

The Planning Service Officer confirmed that the application had been withdrawn.

Noted.

2005/265 : RAVENHILL RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB GROUNDS

Alderman PD Robinson stated that as the above facility was located on the boundary of the Castlereagh Borough, he asked if the Planning Officer could ascertain if the Club's planning permission extended beyond leisure and recreational use, as the likelihood of pop concerts etc. would impinge on the residents within the Castlereagh Borough.

RESOLVED:- That, the Planning Officer ascertains if Ravenhill Rugby & Football Club's planning permission extends beyond recreational and leisure use, as anything else could impinge on the residents living within the Castlereagh Borough boundary.

2005/266 : PROPOSAL FOR LARGE APARTMENT DEVELOPMENT - WILLOWBANK CRESCENT

Alderman PD Robinson referred to the planning proposal for a large apartment development within an extensive garden plot at Willowbank Crescent, which had been in the planning system for some considerable time.

The Planning Service Officer confirmed that this application had not been listed on the schedule as yet, to which Alderman PD Robinson indicated that there would be massive opposition to the development.

Noted.

2005/267 : PLANNING APPLICATION - 164 LOWER BRANIEL ROAD

Alderman PD Robinson referred to the above application and indicated that there would be enormous opposition to this development once it came before Council.

Noted.

2005/268 : SLIP ROAD AT 214-240 COMBER ROAD, DUNDONALD

Councillor Drysdale referred to the slip road between Nos. 214-240 Dundonald Road, which was used by residents to access their houses, but as yet had not been adopted.

Alderman Mrs Robinson responded that she had held many site visits with Roads Service in the past with regard to this area, but Roads Service would not move from their stance that frontages had to be brought up to a certain standard before roads could be adopted

Noted.

**WEEKLY LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 28TH
MARCH TO 9TH MAY 2005**

**2005/269 : APPLICATION NO: Y/2005/0132/F - 1 NEWTOWNBREDA
COURT**

Councillor Chambers reported that constituents had contacted her with regard to the condition of this site following demolition of the original house, which had suffered from subsidence. In light of the history of the site, she asked that it be,

RESOLVED:- That, the Planning Service and the Council's Building Control Officer be instructed to monitor the situation to prevent this situation from recurring in the future.

2005/270 : NEW SUPERMARKET AT TESCO'S, NEWTOWNBREDA

Councillor Chambers stated that it had been brought to her attention that the proposed Tesco's supermarket at Newtownbreda was increasing the size of its store and carparking area.

RESOLVED:- That, the Planning Service Officer forward Councillor Chambers a copy of the plans for the new supermarket, and that he would ascertain if there was any proposal to increase the size of its store and/or carparking space.

**2005/271 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DIVISIONAL PLANNING
SERVICE DATED 26TH APRIL 2005 RE: XFLAM (EDM CECO), 22
CEDARHURST ROAD – DECISION TO SERVE A PLANNING
CONTRAVENTION NOTICE**

Councillor Mrs Duncan welcomed this correspondence as the residents living nearby the facility had always complained about a "chemical" smell and had been reluctant to let their children play outside as a result.

Councillor Hall suggested that the residents living nearby should receive a copy of this letter to inform them of the Department's decision.

Noted.

**2005/272 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE CHIEF
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE DATED 1ST APRIL 2005 RE: DIVISIONAL PLANNING
MANAGER – BELFAST DIVISION**

The Chief Executive informed Members that he had already written to the new Divisional Planning Manager – Belfast Division, on behalf of the Council, congratulating him on his new post.

Noted.

ROADS

2005/273 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE DATED 19TH APRIL 2005 RE: REGIONAL STRATEGIC TRANSPORT NETWORK TRANSPORT PLAN 2015

Noted.

2005/274 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE DATED 18TH APRIL 2005 RE: REQUEST FOR DISABLED PARKING BAY – 76 CASTLEDILLON ROAD, BELVOIR

Noted.

2005/275 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE DATED 18TH APRIL 2005 RE: REQUEST FOR DISABLED PARKING BAY AT 63 ENLER PARK EAST, DUNDONALD

Noted.

2005/276 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE DATED 22ND APRIL 2005 RE: EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC CONTROL SCHEME – MOTORCYCLES IN BUS LANES

Noted.

2005/277 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE DATED 22ND MARCH 2005 RE: ROUTE C369 MANSE ROAD, CASTLEREAGH – PROPOSED 40 MPH SPEED LIMIT

Noted.

2005/278 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE DATED 22ND MARCH 2005 RE: ROUTE C0302 PURDYSBURN ROAD AND HOSPITAL ROAD, CASTLEREAGH – PROPOSED 50 MPH SPEED LIMIT

In response to Alderman Mrs Rice's concerns about the difficulty in accessing this junction, the Chief Executive replied that he had already contacted the Roads Service who were currently considering the installation of road markings at the site.

Noted.

2005/279 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE DATED 28TH APRIL 2005 RE: CHANGES TO OPERATIONAL TIMES OF SOME OF THE BUS LANES IN CASTLEREAGH/BELFAST

Noted.

2005/280 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE DATED 5TH MAY 2005 RE: URBAN CLEARWAYS, BELFAST

Noted.

2005/281 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE DATED 27TH APRIL 2005 RE: STREET WORKS (NI) ORDER 1993 – DESIGNATION OF TRAFFIC SENSITIVE STREETS

Noted.

EDUCATION

2005/282 : MINUTES OF THE SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD HELD DURING MARCH/APRIL 2005

Noted.

2005/283 : CONSULTATION PAPER DATED APRIL 2005 RECEIVED FROM SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD RE: REVIEW OF CONTROLLED PROVISION IN THE DUNMURRY AREA

Noted.

2005/284 : CONSULTATION PAPER DATED APRIL 2005 RECEIVED FROM SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD RE: REVIEW OF CONTROLLED PROVISION IN THE CASTLEREAGH DUAL CARRIAGEWAY AREA

RESOLVED:- That, the Members' Services Section be instructed to forward Members with a copy of the above Consultation Paper.

2005/285 : CONSULTATION PAPER DATED APRIL 2005 RECEIVED FROM SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD RE: REVIEW OF CONTROLLED SCHOOL PROVISION IN LISBURN

Noted.

2005/286 : OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, GILNAHIRK – PROPOSAL TO ERECT NEW BUILDING TO INCREASE NUMBER OF CLASSROOMS

Alderman PD Robinson referred to Our Lady & St Patrick's College, Gilnahirk, which had grown in size and now wished to build a new school to accommodate an increased number of classrooms.

He outlined that the school's Board of Governors and local residents wanted to build the new school at the same location and on the same footprint, but the Education & Library Board were planning to relocate it elsewhere on the site. He asked that the Council's Building Control Officer look at the costs involved to submit a strong case to retain the same site, and sought the Planners' views with regard to encroachment of existing properties.

Furthermore, he felt that there would be merit in writing to the Minister of Education to highlight the extent of opposition that will result should it be permitted that the school will be located on a different site.

Councillor White indicated that he had attended a meeting regarding this application at the behest of the school, as part of the resident's consultation process, and the Principal had been adamant that the school wished to retain its existing site. He then referred to existing drainage problems at the location, which would have to be reviewed as part of the overall development.

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) The Council write to the Minister for Education highlighting that the school staff, the school's Board of Governors and local residents are in favour of retaining the new school at the same site and within the same footprint as the existing building, and that any change to the location will result in large scale opposition.
- (b) The Council's Building Control Officer be authorised to meet with the school to ascertain the costs involved and put forward a strong case to retain the existing site.

HEALTH

2005/287 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE EASTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD RE: TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN – DRAFT CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN FOR 2005-2008

Noted.

2005/288 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE EASTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD RE: HEALTHY AGEING SEMINAR : INTERACTION – TOWARDS AN ACTION PLAN - EVENT TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY 20TH MAY 2005 AT THE RAMADA HOTEL

Noted.

2005/289 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY DATED 1ST APRIL 2005 RE: MAKING THE BEST USE OF THE PHARMACY WORKFORCE : A CONSULTATION PAPER

Noted.

REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & LEISURE SERVICES

2005/290 : INCIDENT AT DUNDONALD ICE BOWL

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services informed Members that the Ice Bowl Operations Manager had been subjected to an unpleasant ordeal in her home in which she had been held captive, prior to an attempted robbery taking place at the Dundonald Ice Bowl, and the incident had left her severely traumatised.

In light of a number of recent robberies at the Ice Bowl, and the duty of care that the Council owed to its employees, the Director requested authority to remove the responsibility for key holding from Ice Bowl staff and employ a security company to open and close the facility.

Alderman PD Robinson stated that he had asked the Director to raise this matter publicly as he had been totally dissatisfied with PSNI responses to previous robberies at the Ice Bowl which were, in his view, organised gang raids. He agreed that the Council had a duty of care to its staff.

In addition, he asked DPP Members to raise this item at the earliest DPP meeting as such incidents had implications on staff, loss of income and the standard of the facility which had been diminished through acts of mindless vandalism and damage.

The Alderman informed Members that the employment of a security company to oversee the opening and closure of the Ice Bowl would cost in excess of £10,000 per annum, and he expressed his anger that such measures, albeit necessary, were costing the ratepayers money.

Members wished to express their sympathy to the Operations Manager who had been subjected to this ordeal.

Both Councillors White and Drysdale wished to condemn this attack and agreed that this matter would be brought up urgently at the next DPP meeting, and Councillor Spratt outlined that during his election campaign, the lack of policing in the Castlereagh Borough had been the topic most consistently raised by constituents.

Following a further suggestion from Councillor Long, it was

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) Flowers and best wishes from the Council be sent to the Ice Bowl Operations Manager in light of her unpleasant ordeal in which she was held captive, prior to an attempted robbery at the facility, and
- (b) That the Council authorises the employment of a security company, at a cost of in excess of £10,000 per annum to oversee the opening and closure of the Ice Bowl facility.

GENERAL

2005/291 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT DATED 7TH APRIL 2005 RE: HARE COURISING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Noted.

2005/292 : POLICY PAPER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL RE: RATE RELIEFS FOR BUSINESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Noted.

2005/293 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM CREGAGH COMMUNITY FORUM DATED 21ST APRIL 2005 RE: PLANNING FOR REAL CONSULTATION STAKEHOLDERS DAY

Noted.

2005/294 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM EQUALITY COMMISSION FOR – NORTHERN IRELAND RE: SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (NI) ORDER 2005 AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON A NEW DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR FURTHER & HIGHER EDUCATION

Noted.

2005/295 : LETTER FROM THE EASTERN DRUGS & ALCOHOL CO-ORDINATION TEAM DATED 14TH APRIL 2005 RE: BRIEFING REQUEST

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Eastern Drugs & Alcohol Co-ordination Team be invited to make a presentation at a future meeting of the Council.

2005/296 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NI COURT SERVICE DATED 14TH MARCH 2005 RE: INCLUSION OF 17-YEAR OLDS IN THE YOUTH COURT : DEFERRAL OF COMMENCEMENT

Noted.

2005/297 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER DATED 21ST MARCH 2005 RE: PUBLICATION OF A SHARED FUTURE – THE POLICY AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR GOOD RELATIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Noted.

2005/298 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRAL POLICY BRANCH RE: CONSULTATION ON REPORT “RESEARCH ON THE EQUINE SECTOR IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Noted.

2005/299 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM LONDONDERRY CITY COUNCIL DATED 12TH APRIL 2005 RE: FOYLE CONNECT TRANSPORT SERVICE – PROPOSED CHANGE

Noted.

2005/300 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE CONFEDERATION OF EUROPEAN COUNCILLORS DATED 15TH MARCH 2005 RE: SEMINAR ON “THE POTENTIAL FOR SPORT IN MODERN IRELAND” TO BE HELD AT THE MULLINGAR PARK HOTEL ON 24TH JUNE 2005

Noted.

2005/301 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ULSTER FARMERS UNION DATED 6TH MAY 2005 RE: EU NITRATES DIRECTIVE – ULSTER FARMERS’ UNION RESPONSE – ALTERNATIVE ACTION PROGRAMME MEASURES

The Chief Executive informed Members that this correspondence had been forwarded to each of the political parties.

Noted.

2005/302 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MS SOCIETY DATED 25TH APRIL 2005 RE: THE MS SOCIETY'7TH ANNUAL BALL, AUCTION & GALA EVENING

Noted.

2005/303 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM NORTHERN IRELAND REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION DATED 23RD MARCH 2005 RE: REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

RESOLVED:- That, this correspondence be referred to the next meeting of the Finance & Leisure Services Committee for further consideration.

REPORTS AND ANNUAL REPORTS

2005/304 : SERVICE AGREEMENT MONITORING REPORT FROM THE EASTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD RE: QUARTER ENDING 31 MARCH 2005

Noted.

2005/305 : CLOSURE OF LIBRARIES AND OTHER SEE&LB SERVICES WITHIN THE CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH

Alderman PD Robinson proposed that the Council write to the Minister of Education highlighting the difficulties currently being experienced by schools and libraries in the Borough as a result of the SE&ELB financial crisis.

He indicated that there was a real prospect that most of the libraries within Castlereagh would close and he expressed particular concern at the potential closure of Tullycarnet library, which was situated in a designated TSN area of severe educational need.

He added that the withdrawal of school patrols would create safety issues whilst the absence of classroom assistants would impact on those children who required additional help. Furthermore, it had also been brought to his attention that consideration was being given by the Board regarding a possibility of teacher post redundancies.

Alderman PD Robinson referred to equality impact issues relating to these closures and he urged the Council's representatives on the SE&ELB to oppose the cuts and ensure that legal measures were taken on board.

He outlined that the undoubtable financial mismanagement by Education & Library Boards had raised the issue if the resources had been adequate in the first instance, and he felt it was grossly unfair that the Minister was penalising those most needy sections of the community as a result, and he wanted the Council to ensure that these deadly cuts did not continue.

Councillor White supported the Alderman's comments with regard to the retention of Tullycarnet library, and he highlighted the fact that many libraries were used by mother and toddler groups, senior citizens and school children after school hours.

Following agreement, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Council write to the Minister for Education urging her to reconsider the educational cuts as outlined in the above minute, that were being made as a result of financial mismanagement by the Education & Library Board and were penalising the most needy sections of the Castlereagh Borough as a result.

2005/306 : SAFETY OF HAND RAILS AT THE ROBINSON CENTRE

Alderman PD Robinson drew Members' attention to a letter received from the parent of a child who had injured his eye on the metal hand rails at the Robinson Centre and passed the letter on to the relevant Officer for his attention.

Noted.

2005/307 : MOAT PARK BOWLING CLUB – BOWLING FEES

RESOLVED:- That, consideration regarding the above matter be discussed at a meeting of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee.

2005/308 : DAMAGE TO USC MEMORIAL

Alderman PD Robinson stated that it had been brought to his attention that the USC Memorial located at the rear of the Civic Offices had been attacked with acid and had sustained considerable damage to the lettering.

He asked that Officers examine CCTV footage and that, in future, additional cover through the provision of a wide lens fitted to the CCTV camera be installed to prevent future incidents.

RESOLVED:- That, Officers arrange for CCTV footage to be examined regarding the USC memorial damage and that, in future, a wide lens be fitted to the CCTV camera to prevent further incidents.

2005/309 : REFUSE COLLECTION & RECYCLING SERVICE

Alderman Mrs Robinson informed Members that she had received many complaints regarding the Council's current bin collection service and had promised her constituents that she would raise this issue at the first available opportunity. She indicated that, in her view, the system was not operating effectively and although she was aware of present EU directives and potential cost implications, she felt that urgent action was required to address the problems and proposed that the matter be discussed at the next appropriate Committee.

Councillor Chambers indicated that she had witnessed the brown bin collection in her street earlier that day in which only 4 brown bins out of a total of 50 houses had been left out for collection, and she expressed concern that the situation would worsen during winter months once the amount of garden waste was reduced even further.

Councillor Long stated that the present system had been successful in the fact that the amount of waste going to landfill had reduced, and he indicated that any changes to the current operation may impact on the rates. However, he felt that once brown bins were able to accept kitchen waste, this measure would reduce the amount of waste that was being put into black bins and would help alleviate current problems.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Council's current bin collection service would be discussed at the next Technical Services & Environmental Services Committee meeting.

2005/310 : REMOVAL OF COMPUTER FROM ULSTER UNIONIST PARTY ROOM

Councillor Drysdale wished to seek support from the Council in view of the fact that the Ulster Unionist computer had been removed from his Party Room by the PSNI. He expressed concern at the timing of the removal in light of the local government elections and stated that there had been a lot of information relating to constituency work stored on the computer and as he was therefore unable to respond, he felt that his constituents had suffered as a result.

Noted.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MAYOR