

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Central Services Committee meeting held, in committee, in the Function Suite, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB, on Monday 14th November 2005 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Chambers
(Chairman)

COUNCILLORS: J Beattie
Mrs J Cochrane
C Hall
T Jeffers (from 8.50 p.m. until 10.00 p.m.)
Miss R Hughes MBE
M Long
J Norris
G Robinson
J Spratt

APOLOGIES: Apologies were recorded on behalf of Alderman Rice and Councillor Bunting

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Administration & Community Services,
Community Services Manager, Administration
Manager and Assistant Members' Services Officer

CS/2005/101 : PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM NEWTOWNBRED A UNITED CHURCHES

The Director of Administration & Community Services explained that, before the Agenda had been sent out, Officers had attempted to contact the representatives from the above organisation to confirm their attendance, but without success. She outlined that, although not on the Agenda, she was seeking Members' permission to allow the organisation give their presentation.

Members agreed to this request.

Councillor Chambers welcomed Mr Norman Uprichard, Mr Alan Jones and Mr Billy McClean to the meeting.

Mr McClean provided an overview of the church scheme, outlined some of the projects that the Church had been involved in. He stated that there was a real need for an outreach centre in the area, to attract young people who would not normally be involved in church youth groups.

He continued by advising that they had initially looked at Vi Sport premises, but found that there may be a problem with the lease, this then lead them to investigate alternative sites. He added that during the course of the exercise, they had identified the property at Colby Park, which was on the market, and adjacent to the Council's play area. He indicated that this option offered a more viable proposition than the Vi Sport premises. He added that they were currently drawing up a more detailed business plan in respect of the purchase of the property at Colby Park and its conversion into a youth centre, which was estimated would cost in the region of £300,000.00. He concluded by stating that it would be the Church's intention to address the Council at a later stage, in the hope of securing some financial assistance for this project, and possible agreement to make use of the play area at Colby Park.

Councillor Spratt expressed his support for this proposal, which he felt would be greatly beneficial to the youth of the area, and stated that he hoped the Council would be able to provide advice and assistance in progressing this project forward.

Members in attendance agreed with Councillor Spratt, and expressed their support for the project.

Following a detailed discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That

- (a) Administration staff be instructed to investigate whether there were any restrictive covenants in respect of Colby Park and the adjoining play area
- (b) the Committee await further details from Newtownbreda United Churches regarding the youth centre project, and also details in respect of any assistance the organisation may require from Council, including the possible use of Colby Park

TABLED:102 MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10TH OCTOBER 2005 (copy previously circulated)

MATTERS ARISING

CS/2005/103 : CIVIC RECEPTION FOR DR MALCOLM BRODIE MBE (Minute No. CS/2005/73 refers)

Councillor Robinson congratulated the Working Group and the caterers at the Golf Club. He added that it had been a great evening with excellent food, and he passed on Members' appreciation to Mrs Edel Patterson, for all the hard work she had put into organising such a successful event.

The Administration Manager advised Members that she had received a letter from Dr Brodie who had stated that he had been delighted with the evening. She outlined that he had also mentioned in the letter that the Northern Ireland

Writers' Association were seriously considering hosting their Ladies' Night in the Golf Club.

Noted.

REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATION MANAGER CIVIC MATTERS

CS/2005/104 : BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR HELD ON SUNDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2005 IN GRANSHAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Administration Manager reported that the serving forces had been well represented at the above event, together with a large contingent from the Sea Cadets. She added that the general public had not supported the event in big numbers, and it had also been disappointing that only six Elected Representatives and the Mayor had been in attendance.

She explained that at the last Committee meeting, Members agreed that a donation would be made to Granshaw Presbyterian Church to cover expenses incurred in assisting the Council with the provision of caretaking staff, flowers, organist, soloist, choir and after service tea (Minute No CS/2005/74 refers. She added that, as agreed, she was now seeking approval to make a donation of £500.00 to Granshaw Presbyterian Church. She also sought Members' approval to make a donation of £100.00 to the Sea Cadets to cover their travel expenses.

Alderman Norris expressed his disappointment at the low turn out of Members at the Service.

Alderman Norris then proposed that approval be granted for a donation of £500.00 to Granshaw Presbyterian Church, and this was seconded by Councillor Hall.

Councillor Spratt proposed that a donation of £100.00 be made to the Sea Cadets, and this was seconded by Councillor Robinson.

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that

- (a) a donation of £500.00 be made to Granshaw Presbyterian Church for their assistance with arrangements for the Battle of Trafalgar Service,
- (b) a donation of £100.00 be made to the Sea Cadets to cover their travelling expenses.

CS/2005/105 : MINUTES OF THE LA MON COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2005

The Administration Manager advised Members that the Schools Bursary Scheme was being well supported.

Councillor Robinson asked to be provided with a list of the schools involved.

Following a query from Councillor Long in respect of the possibility of launching a Bursary Scheme for individuals, the Administration Manager responded by stating that a scheme for individuals had previously been launched, and unfortunately, only three people had submitted an application.

Councillor Long outlined that he realised that this was a matter for the La Mon Committee to consider, and that he would raise it at the next meeting. She reported that IT staff were currently working on the Council's website, and it was planned to include information on the role of the La Mon Committee.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Administration Manager forward to Councillor Robinson a list of those schools involved in the La Mon Schools Bursary Scheme.

CS/2005/106 : 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOMME ON 1ST JULY 2006

The Administration Manager outlined that there would be celebrations planned to take place both in France and at home in commemoration of the above. She indicated that as budget flights came on-line 6 months in advance, Members were being asked at this stage to consider whether a delegation from Council would be travelling to France for the celebrations, in order for her to include the costs in the estimates. She outlined that Members may, however, wish to consider marking the occasion with an event in the Borough.

She reported that members of the Cregagh, Wandsworth and Ormeau Branch of the Royal British Legion had already indicated that they would be sending a delegation to France, but had asked if the Council would consider marking the occasion with an event similar to those held in previous years in the Civic Offices.

Alderman Norris stated that, should it be decided to send a delegation to France, that it comprise Members who have not previously been to the Somme before.

Councillor Robinson indicated that it was his view that, given that this was the 90th Anniversary, it would more appropriate for Council's resources to be put into an event within the Borough. He suggested that the visit to the Somme could be considered again next year.

Councillor Long referred to the ceremony held in previous years whereby a ceremony had been held at the Civic Offices, followed by a breakfast in the Function Suite. He felt that Officers could consider organising something similar for the 90th Anniversary.

Councillor Hall suggested organising something similar to the Remembrance Day Service, recently held at the Cenotaph.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That, Officers draw up proposals for an event within the Borough to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Somme, and report back to the Committee.

CS/2005/107 : CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The Administration Manager sought approval for the costings outlined below, as detailed in the Minutes of the Christmas Tree Working Group meetings held on 11th October and 2nd November 2005 and the Supplementary Report from the Operations Manager (copies attached to the Manager's report)

	Total Cost
1. vintage vehicle for the Mayor and his party to travel from Cregagh Youth & Community Centre to the Council Offices at a cost of £125.00 (Minutes of 2 nd November 2005 as recommended by the Administration Manager)	£125.00
2. Christmas Trees (Supplementary Report as recommended by the Operations Manager)	£8,050.00
3. Marketing Section (Supplementary Report as recommended by PR & Marketing)	£4,748.00
4. Hospitality (Supplementary Report as recommended by Civic Services)	£4.00 per head

The Administration Manager pointed out that all of the above expenditure had been provided for in the 2005/06 estimates.

Councillor Robinson sought clarification as to whether the Council owned its own PA System, in order to avoid the costs of hiring this equipment year after year.

The Administration Manager confirmed that the Council did own a PA System that could be used for events, but outdoor events required the services of a professional Sound System company.

She then advised Members that briefing letters would be sent to all Councillors over the next couple of weeks reminding them of the arrangements for the ceremony.

The Administration Manager outlined that as Members would be aware, community groups wishing to organise their own tree lighting event (in an area which no longer held such an event), could apply to the Christmas Tree Working Group for financial assistance.

She reported that the Dundonald Regeneration Group had been responsible for organising a tree lighting ceremony in Dundonald over the last couple of years, and had made a request for a contribution towards their tree lighting ceremony planned for 2nd December 2005. She recommended that the group be awarded £200.00 towards the event.

Councillor Jeffers arrived at this point, at 8.50 p.m., and declared an interest in the issue under discussion.

Councillors Beattie and Long expressed their concern that a precedent could be set, with other community groups approaching the Council for a financial contribution.

The Director of Administration & Community Services commented that, as Members would be aware, a couple of years ago the Council had agreed not to organise tree lighting ceremonies in Carryduff and Dundonald, but to organise one central Tree Lighting Service at the Civic Offices. She indicated that, since that time, the Regeneration Group had organised a Tree Lighting and Carol Service themselves in Dundonald, but due to financial constraints and insurance issues, the group required financial assistance to keep this event going for the local community.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to approve

- (a) the costs involved in the 2005 Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony which had been included in the 2005/2006 estimates, as follows:

Mayoral car	£125.00
Cost of erecting and decorating the trees	£8,050.00
PR & Marketing	£4,748.00
Hospitality	£4.00 per head

- (b) that a grant of £200.00 be awarded to the Dundonald Regeneration Group towards the costs involved in a Tree Lighting and Carol Service in Dundonald on 2nd December 2005.

CS/2005/108 : DEDICATION OF UDR MEMORIAL

The Administration Manager advised Members that preparations were well underway for the Service of Dedication of the Memorial Stone Tablets to the fallen of the Belfast battalions of the UDR and the Royal Irish Regiment being held on Tuesday 22 November at 6.30 p.m. in the Civic Offices.

She reported that it would, however, be necessary to erect two small platforms to hold the stone tablets, as the wall in the Members' corridor was not strong enough to bear the weight. She added that staff from Technical Services had recommended that the platforms be finished in Rosewood to match in with the existing finish, at a cost of approximately £250.00, and she sought approval for this work to be carried out.

The Administration Manager advised Members that cards of invite had been issued and an early response would be appreciated to allow for catering arrangements to be put in place.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the erection of two small platforms in the Members' Corridor to hold the UDR Memorial Stone Tablets, at a cost of approximately £250.00

CS/2005/109 : MAYOR'S AT HOME ON FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2005 IN THE FUNCTION SUITE FROM 4.00 P.M. TO 7.00 P.M.

The Administration Manager reported that invitations to the above would be issued from the Mayor's office in due course.

Noted.

CS/2005/110 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE CREGAGH, WANDSWORTH & ORMEAU BRANCH OF THE BRITISH LEGION RE: ARMISTICE DAY SERVICE

The Administration Manager outlined that, as Members would be aware, the above correspondence had been tabled at the February Committee meeting, and as requested, she had compiled a recommended list of bands that could be asked to perform at Civic events throughout the year.

She reported that a letter had subsequently been forwarded to the Symington Memorial Band appraising them of this decision, and advising them that the band would be not be required for the 2005 Armistice Service. She added that the correspondence also invited the band to perform at the Council's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

She referred Members to the response from the Secretary of the Symington Memorial Silver Band, and sought Members' views on how they wished her to respond.

Councillor Robinson asked if he could be furnished with a copy of the letter that the Administration Manager had written to the Symington Band.

Councillor Spratt outlined that, as there were a number of bands in the Borough, he felt that compiling a list and giving each of these bands an opportunity to participate in events was an excellent idea. He commented

that the members of the Ravenhill Temperance Band had been were very smartly turned out on Armistice Day, and they had excelled themselves in the way they had paraded and performed the music.

Councillor Long agreed, but felt that the Symington Band should have been given more notice that they were not required for the Armistice Service this year.

Councillor Spratt stated that Officers involved should also be congratulated for the way the Service had been organised. He commented that he was amazed, however, that the RUC and RUC Widows Associations had not laid a wreath on the day, considering that 302 RUC men and women had paid the supreme sacrifice.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that Officers would investigate why the RUC had not been represented on the day.

She then advised Members that over the last couple of years, the PSNI had not coned the route, and parked cars, particularly in Thiepval and Bapuame Avenue area had caused disruption to the parade this year. She added that Officers would therefore be writing to the District Commander to rectify this problem in future years.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that

- (a) the Administration Manager writes to Symington Memorial Band advising that the Civic Committee had considered its correspondence, and had reaffirmed its decision that in order to give all bands an opportunity to participate in Council events, that a recommended list of bands would be referred to when seeking bands to perform at civic events throughout the year.
- (b) Officers liaise with the Cregagh, Wandsworth & Ormeau Branch of the British Legion to ascertain why the RUC and RUC Widows Associations had not laid a wreath at the recent Armistice Day Service.
- (c) Officers write to the District Commander, PSNI at Castlereagh requesting that the Armistice Day Parade route be coned, particularly in the Thiepval/Bapuame Avenue area.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CS/2005/111 : SISTER CITIES

The Administration Manager reported that an email had been received from Kent, USA asking for the Council's preference on the future direction of the sister city relationship, and whether we would be in a position to reinvigorate

the relationship with some solid programming of mutual interest in order for them to plan the 2006 activities relative to Castlereagh.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that there had been no budget set aside for this over the last 3 to 4 years, and she asked if Members wished her to include financial resources in the estimates for the 2006/2007 year.

Councillor Beattie outlined that some years back the programme had been signed and agreed by Kent and Castlereagh, and as he understood, it had been intended that Castlereagh College and other organisations in the Borough would take the programme over.

The Director of Administration & Community Services stated that several organisations had commented that they did not feel that they should be left to fundraise for events and exchanges, with no contribution from the Council, particularly, as the Council had initiated the link in the first place.

Members considered the benefits of the sister city link, and discussed the projects that had not progressed, i.e. Chamber of Commerce, Prison Service Exchange. They also discussed the conference involving all five sister city member countries.

Councillor Jeffers suggested liaising with 'B for B' (Business for Business), a business networking club run by Castlereagh Enterprises.

Councillor Long expressed the view that the countries involved in the Kent Sister Cities Association were too far away, and it was difficult to develop the link and potential business opportunities for Castlereagh. He felt that, if resources were not put in, there was a need to question whether the Council should continue with the sister city link.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that Officers make contact with Kent, USA to ascertain if it was possible to look again at developing the projects, as outlined by the Director of Administration & Community Services, and to investigate the "B for B" Initiative, in terms of the Sister City link.

CS/2005/112 : TREE PLANTING CEREMONY IN MEMORY OF MRS GRETTA FALLOON MBE

The Director of Administration & Community Services reported that Officers had discussed the above, and as long as it suited Gretta's family, were recommending that the above event take place in the gardens of the Civic Offices on the same evening as the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that, if it suited the family, that a tree planting ceremony be held in the gardens of the Civic Centre on the evening of the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, in memory of Mrs Gretta Falloon MBE.

At the November Council meeting it was decided to postpone this minute for further consideration at a future date.

ADMINISTRATION/OFFICE ACCOMMODATION MATTERS

CS/2005/113 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM DUNDONALD ELIM CHURCH RE: CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

The Director of Administration & Community Services referred Members to the above correspondence attached to her report, and also to her supplementary report on Civil Partnerships, which she circulated at the meeting.

She outlined that the above correspondence detailed the concerns of residents in respect of forthcoming Civil Partnership legislation, and expressing the view that their rates should not be used to facilitate any form of ceremony for those seeking to record a civil partnership.

Councillor Robinson expressed the view that the Council should write advising Elim Church of the Council's policy in this regard, as agreed last month.

Councillor Long outlined that it was his opinion that anyone wanting to have their civil partnership recorded at a ceremony was quite within their right to do so.

The Director of Administration & Community Service reported that following on from the legal opinion, as reported at last month's meeting, the Registrars had since attended training organised by the General Registrars Office. She outlined that the training notes provided by GRO were recommending a formal ceremony. She added that she subsequently contacted the Council's solicitor again advising him of this, and he had reaffirmed his earlier opinion that, there was no legal requirement for the Registrar to conduct a formal ceremony, and the mechanics of registering the civil partnership could be carried out in the Registrar's own office.

She reported that she would now contact senior officials at GRO advising them of the legal opinion received, and how the Council's Registrars would be implementing the legislation, in terms of the requirements for civil partnerships.

The Director further reported that there were currently two venues within the Borough that could be used for weddings, namely, La Mon House and Ramada Hotels. She added that, as in keeping with the decision taken by Members at last month's Committee meeting, it was being recommended that

all paperwork relating to civil Partnership ceremonies at outside venues would require to be signed in the Registrar's office in the Civic Offices, with no requirement for her to attend the hotel.

She advised Members that It had been some years since Council reviewed its charges in respect of weddings, and as the General Registrar's Office were recommending an increase in fees, with effect from 5th December 2005, it was felt appropriate that the Council also looked at its costs. She indicated that, on this basis, she asked Members to not the increase in fees from GRO for Notice of Marriage and Ceremony, and recommended an increase in room hire, with effect from 5th December 2005, as follows:

FUNCTION SUITE	<u>Current</u> <u>Fees</u>	<u>Recommended</u> <u>Fees</u>
<u>Monday to Friday</u>		
Notice of Marriage	£30.00	£30.00
Ceremony	£20.00	£25.00
Room Hire	<u>£50.00</u>	<u>£100.00</u>
Total	£100.00	£155.00
<u>Saturday</u>		
Notice of Marriage	£30.00	£30.00
Ceremony	£93.00	£112.00
Room Hire	£75.00	£125.00
Security	<u>£25.00</u>	<u>£30.00</u>
Total	£223.00	£297.00
COMMITTEE ROOM/WAITING ROOM	<u>Current</u> <u>Fees</u>	<u>Recommended</u> <u>Fees</u>
<u>Monday to Friday</u>		
Notice of Marriage	£30.00	£30.00
Ceremony	£20.00	£25.00
Room Hire	<u>£25.00</u>	<u>£25.00</u>
Total	£75.00	£80.00

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to

- (a) agree that the Director of Administration & Community Services contacts the General Registrars Office outlining the Council's legal opinion on Civil Partnerships, and advising that, based on this opinion, the Council's Registrars would not have to conduct any ceremony in a function room, but rather the mechanics of registering the civil partnership would be carried out in the Registrar's own office.
- (b) note the increase in GRO's wedding fees, and approve the increase in respect of room hire within the Civic Offices as outlined above, which would be effective from 5th December 2005.

- (c) the Director of Administration & Community Services writes to Elim Church, advising of the Council's policy in respect of Civil Partnerships and room hire

CS/2005/114 : 2006/07 ESTIMATES

The Director of Administration & Community outlined that as the Civic Offices were now five years old, it was felt that it would be prudent to renew the current state, and correct any matters requiring attention, for example paintwork, pathways, etc to avoid the building becoming run down. She sought permission from the Committee to include an amount of £4,000.00 for this work in the 2006/2007 estimates.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that £4,000.00 be included in the 2006/2007 estimates to carry out any necessary improvements to the appearance of the Civic Offices, such as paintwork, pathways, etc.

CS/2005/115 : REPAIRS TO AIR CONDITIONING UNIT IN CIVIC OFFICES

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that, following the power failure at the Civic Offices on 9th August 2005, it had been discovered that the Air Conditioning Unit in the IT Room was no longer functioning. She reported that as rising temperatures in the Server Room had caused extensive damage to IT equipment, immediate action had been required.

She outlined that a quotation for repair work had therefore been sought from the maintenance contractor, BL Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Ltd, and passed to the Chief Executive for his consideration.

The Director sought approval to pay the above company the sum of £2,600.00 plus VAT for the repair work. She advised Members that this expense, along with other costs incurred at the same time, had been forwarded to the Council's Insurers in order for them to assess if a claim could be made. She indicated that she would keep Members advised on progress in this respect.

Councillor Beattie sought clarification as to why the budget for maintenance work was not held within the Technical & Environmental Services Department.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that the arrangement within Council was that the Buildings, Repairs & Maintenance budget was held with the Director with responsibility for the building. She added that when she required Technical advice, she would call upon the expertise of the professional Officers within the Technical & Environmental Services Department. She added that as she was also responsible for Health

& Safety and Entertainment Licence issues, it made sense that the maintenance budget was held also within this cost centre.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to approve payment of £2,600.00 plus VAT to BL Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Ltd for repair work carried out to the Air Conditioning Unit in the IT Room, and Officers continue to pursue the insurance claim.

ANY OTHER ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

CS/2005/116 : ELECTION COSTS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS – 5TH MAY 2005

The Director of Administration & Community Services stated that it was unclear where the costs should be tabled, and she felt it may be better that they be tabled at the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the breakdown of Election Costs for the Local Government Elections held on 5th May 2005 be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

COMMUNITY SERVICES MATTERS

CS/2005/117 : COMMUNITY SERVICES STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Community Services Manager stated that he had hoped to provide a brief overview of the Community Services Strategy and Development Plan at the meeting. He added that due to the Chairman's acceptance of the deputation, which had not been included in the Agenda, it was agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting of the Committee.

Noted.

CS/2005/118 : REQUEST FOR SEEDING GRANT FROM KILLYNURE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AND THE LANGSTONE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The Community Services Manager outlined that having read the application forms, both groups met the funding criteria for seeding grants of £100.00, and recommended that both groups received a seeding grant of £100.00.

Councillor Robinson asked to be forwarded further details on the Langstone project.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that

- (a) Killynure Residents' Association and the Langstone School of Music receive a Seeding Grant of £100.00 each.
- (b) That further information on the Langstone School of Music be forwarded to Councillor Robinson.

CS/2005/119 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM BALLYBEEN YOUTH CLUB

The Community Services Manager advised Members that the above Club had asked if the Council would come to some arrangement, in order for them to pay back the arrears in rent of £603.00. He indicated that the club were keen to continue with its service to the young people of Ballybeen, he reminded Members of the particular circumstances surrounding this request.

He recommended that the normal rental be increased by £5.00 per session until the group get their financial position back on track. He advised Members that the Community Development Worker for the area would provide support to the group during this period.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that Ballybeen Youth Club's rental be increased by £5.00 per session in order to recoup the arrears owing of £603.00.

CS/2005/120 : COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER RESEARCH PROJECT

The Community Services Manager sought permission for the Community Development Worker responsible for the Bonfire Working Group, to conduct research with the residents of Milltown in respect of the bonfire celebration. He advised Members that this research would be part of the Officer's dissertation, and may be useful to the Council's Inter Agency Bonfire Working Group.

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that the research would be carried out during working hours, but that she felt it was relevant to the Officer's community development responsibilities.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that the Community Development Worker responsible for facilitating the Inter Agency Bonfire Group be authorised to carry out research with the residents of Milltown, in respect of the bonfire celebrations during his normal working hours. The

research would represent part of the Officer's dissertation, which may be useful to the Council's Inter Agency Bonfire Working Group.

CS/2005/121 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE BELFAST GROUP OF CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX RE: 2006/2007 BUDGETS FOR THE CASTLEREAGH OUTREACH PROJECT

The Director of Administration & Community Services reported that the budget including inflation at a rate of 3% on overall costings were as follows:

Staff Costs	£28,559
Establishment	£1510
Office	£1008
Professional Fees	£1008
Project Management	£2970
Total	£35055

She advised Members that the budget with an upgrade in salary based on Citizens Advice recommended salary scales were as follows:

Staff Costs	£32,719
Establishment	£1510
Office	£1008
Professional Fees	£1008
Project Management	£2970
Total	£39,215

The Director of Administration & Community Services recommended that this matter be included in the 2006/7 Financial Estimates, and considered at the time of agreeing the budgets.

Councillor Robinson asked for a more detailed breakdown of the above costings.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : The Council be recommended to agree that

- (a) the costings relating to Citizens Advice Bureau budget for the 2006/2007 in the sum of £39,215.00 be referred to the Estimates Working Group for consideration
- (b) Members be provided with a more detailed breakdown of the costings in respect of the above amount.

CS/2005/122 : COMMUNITY SPORTS

The Community Services Manager outlined that the information below had been provided in order to update Members as to how the Community Sports Programme was developing within the borough.

Funding Evening:

The Community Services Manager advised Members that a Funding Evening for all local community groups, sport clubs and athletes within the Borough was being held in the Function Suite on Monday 21st November from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. He added that it would be an excellent opportunity for groups and individuals to speak to funding bodies directly.

He detailed the funding bodies represented, as follows:

- The Community Relations Council
- Children in Need
- Several Lottery representatives will provide information on the following funding programmes –
 - (1) Active Lifestyles
 - (2) Awards For All
 - (3) Change Ur Future Fund,
- the Council's Community Relations Officer
- the Sports Council Building Sport Programme
- the LSP in relation to the peace II extension money that they will be awarding
- The CSDA (Castlereagh Sports Development Association)

The Community Services Manager pointed out that all funding bodies would be available to discuss grant awards and possible projects that they would be willing to fund. He added that if Members were aware of any groups wishing to attend, they should forward to him the contact details.

Projects for the Elderly:

The Community Sports Development Officer (CSDO) was currently planning a week long summer scheme of physical activity and a Senior Games Festival during the summer of next year. He advised Members that as a pre-requisite to these two events, the CSDO had been undertaking Boccia taster sessions (adapted bowls) around the specified target areas of Tullycarnet, Ballybeen and Cregagh. He added that additional taster sessions would be run in the sport of New Age Kurling around the target areas. He explained that this would provide the elderly age group with some experience of these physical activities before taking part in the summer schemes and senior games activities.

Inactivity within Young Adults

The Community Services Manager outlined that in order to encourage young teenagers to participate in sporting activities, who otherwise would not normally have an interest, he was currently arranging Hip Hop dancing for several youth groups within the following specified target areas:

Ballybeen Youth Club
Tullycarnet Young Women's group

He outlined that the young people were highly interested in this alternative version of physical activity, and they would be provided with six weekly taster sessions. He indicated that Officers would be seeking funding to help continue this activity.

Councillor Robinson outlined that Castlereagh Sports Development Association had initially come up with the idea of the Summer Scheme for the elderly, and he asked what other projects the Officer was working on.

The Director of Administration & Community Services explained that the Sports Development Officer and the Community Sports Development Officer worked in partnership on certain projects. She added, however, the focus of the CSDA was to initiate community development programmes to promote sporting activities at community level, particularly, in TSN areas.

She continued by stating that the Sports Council had been of the view that there was not enough being done at grass roots level, and had suggested that Officers be proactive in targeting groups that would not normally participate in sporting activities. She added that the CSDA programme was funded 100% by the Sports Council, and they set specific targets and objectives for staff which were closely monitored.

She stated that a more detailed report on the Community Sports Development Officer's work to date would be tabled at the next meeting.

Councillor Robinson asked whether the project had been tabled at a CSDA meeting to avoid duplication.

The Community Services Manager undertook to check into this matter. Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Community Services Manager review the current CSDA programme to ensure there was no duplication with the Castlereagh Sports Development Advisory projects.

CS/2005/123 : SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Alderman Norris expressed his concern that, when convening meetings, Officers were not taken into consideration Councillors who sat on outside bodies, which resulted in meetings be arranged on the same date. He asked if Officers could contact the outside bodies to find out when their meetings were held.

Councillor Chambers referred to a particular date in the month when a number of meetings had been convened by Officers, and she outlined that they should be liaising with Members' Services before scheduling meetings.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that, realistically, there was the potential for sixteen meeting days to be convened in any one month, if weekends were excluded. She added that if more than sixteen were called, then it was not possible to avoid a clash of dates, and Officers could only table them at different times. She advised that Members' Services were reliant on outside bodies and organisations to communicate their meeting dates, but the Council Officers may not be in a position to influence a change of date, if it clashed with Committee/Council meetings.

Noted.

Community Relations Matters

CS/2005/124 : REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS GRANT OF £500.00 FROM BELVOIR THURSDAY CLUB

The Community Services Manager advised Members that the above group had approximately 35 members aged 55 and over. He added that the group had been running for 35 years and held its meetings in Belvoir Activity Centre. He indicated that the group wished to invite a Senior Citizens group of a different religion from the Ormeau Road, to celebrate St Patrick's Day with them. He outlined that the event would take place in Belvoir Activity Centre on 16th March 2006.

Cost applied for:

65 people @ £6.00 per head for buffet	£390.00
Band for event	£60.00
Irish Dancers	<u>£50.00</u>
Total	£500.00

As the event met the required criteria, he recommended approval.

Members referred to the catering costs, and felt that that the group could get a more competitive rate from other sources, possibly using the Council's in-house caterers, and asked that the Community Services Manager to advise the group accordingly.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : The Council be recommended to agree that Belvoir Thursday Club be awarded a grant of £500.00 towards the costs involved in a cross community project being held on 16th March 2005.

CS/2005/125 : LANGSTANE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The Community Services Manager advised Members that as there was alcohol involved in the event, and therefore not meet the required criteria, the above organisation had withdrawn the application.

Noted.

Councillor Jeffers left the meeting at this point at 10.00 p.m.

CS/2005/126 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM GREENGRAVES DRAMA GROUP

The Community Services Manager reported that the above group had written to him advising that they had cancelled the drama production until further notice. He outlined that he had recently attended an Advisory Committee meeting, where members of Greengraves Drama Group had raised the issue of Council funding, and the discussion had been quite heated. He indicated that this was most inappropriate as the point of the committee was to discuss issues relating to centre usage.

Members asked that the Officer write to the group about their concerns that future requests for funding may have been jeopardised, advising that this was not the case, and that any applications would be processed and considered on the basis of the required criteria. They felt, however, that the Council had a right to inspect all financial accounts and details, when reviewing any application for funding. They also asked that he seek clarification as the funding the Local Strategy Partnership had provided the group.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that the Community Services Manager

- (a) writes to the Greengraves Drama Group advising that, once the play had taken place, and the accounts were acceptable, the application would be re-considered
- (b) liaises with the Local Strategy Partnership to ascertain what funding it had provided the Greengraves Drama Group

CS/2005/127 : NEWTOWNBRED A MURAL PROJECT : CAIRNSHILL PAVILION WALL

The Community Services Manager advised Members that, prior to the mural being painted on the wall of Cairnshill Pavilion, a letter had been delivered to local residents as a means of consultation.

Members outlined that this had been an excellent project and they expressed their disappointment that the mural had already been vandalised. They asked for the Committee's congratulations to be forwarded to the Community Relations Worker for all her efforts in working with the young people.

Noted.

CS/2005/128 : ST ANDREWS NIGHT CELEBRATION IN BELVOIR PLAYERS' STUDIO ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2005 AT 7.30 P.M.

The Community Services Manager indicated that entrance to the above event was free of charge, and any Member wishing to attend should contact the Community Relations Officer in advance, for tickets or further information.

Noted.

CS/2005/129 : COUNCILLOR FOR A DAY PROJECT BEING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2005 AT 7.30 PM.

The Community Services Manager outlined that, Members would be aware that as part of the above project, young people had attended part of the October Council meeting, as a way of getting an insight into proceedings. He added that the next stage of the project involved Newtownbreda Youth Council, made up of approximately 15 young people from the Newtownbreda area. He indicated that the young people would have previously been given scenarios to research and would be coming into the Council Chamber to take on the role of Councillors by debating the various issues. He commented that Members on the Central Services Committee would join in the debate, and any Councillor wishing to take part was being asked to contact the Community Relations Officer.

Councillor Beattie expressed his disappointment that he was unable to attend, as the date clashed with the Leisure Park Board meeting.

The Director of Administration & Community Services stated that it was intended to organise the project again next year.

The Community Services Manager outlined that the young people had thoroughly enjoyed attending the recent Council meeting.

Noted.

CS/2005/130 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS CULTURAL DIVERSITY FUNDING 2005/06 FOR ARTS PROGRAMMES

The Community Services Manager referred Members to the list of events and proposed funding breakdown for the Arts element of the Community Relations Funding. He added that it was being recommended that Council approve the £4,000.00 contribution to the Arts programme from the Community Relations Programme for 2005-2006. He advised Members that this amount had been approved by CRU.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that a contribution of £4,000.00 be made for the Arts Programme for 2005/2006 from the Community Relations Programme.

REPORT FROM THE ARTS OFFICER

CS/2005/131 : STREETWISE THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTIONS

The Community Services Manager advised Members that a series of Christmas themed shows had been organised and would be performed for the local community by Streetwise Theatre Company. He added that Streetwise was a unique company combining performance theatre and circus skills, and that four shows had been booked, with the costs being met from the Arts Development budget, as follows:

Tuesday 22nd November in Brooklands Primary School, a morning performance for invited schools in the Dundonald area, and an evening show for the community – entrance free of charge

Wednesday 23rd November in Carryduff Primary School, a morning show for the schools in the area – entrance free of charge

Wednesday 30th November, the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Civic Centre

The Community Services Manager stated that he had hoped that Streetwise would perform at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, but unfortunately, due to prior commitments, this would not be possible.

Noted.

CS/2005/132 : VISUAL ARTS FESTIVAL

The Community Services Manager reported that this year's Festival had taken place throughout the month of October, and had proved very successful. He reported that four workshops had been organised and had been fully booked. He added that one of the highlights of the Festival had been the Floral Art demonstration by Alan Beattie which had been held in the Function Suite, and raised £250.00 for the Mayor's charity. He commented that the Arts Officer would like to extend her thanks to all those who had supported the Festival.

Noted.

CS/2005/133 : CHRISTMAS SEASONAL SOUNDS CONCERT

The Community Services Manager reported that this year's lunchtime Christmas Concert would be held in the Function Suite on Friday 2nd December at 1.00 p.m., and would be performed by Grosvenor School Choir. He pointed out that this concert was very popular, and early booking was recommended.

Noted.

CS/2005/134 : ENLER PROJECT UPDATE

The Director of Administration & Community Services confirmed that Landmark East had reported that they now expected to have formal approval of funding for the Enler Project within the next few weeks. She added that a meeting of the Enler Project Steering Group would be held on Tuesday 29 November 2005 at 10.00 am to help Landmark East take the project forward. She outlined that a venue for the meeting had yet to be confirmed.

She advised Members that the meeting was being convened to map out a process which would include the following:

- finalising desired specification
- appointing design team
- agreeing final site and building plans
- securing planning permission
- appointing a contractor
- managing the contract to completion

Representatives from the following organisations had been invited:

- Ballybeen Improvement Group
- Castlereagh Borough Council
- Dept for Social Development / BRO
- International Fund for Ireland
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- South & East Belfast Trust

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that she and the Community Services Manager would be attending on behalf of the Council, and further information would be provided at the December Committee meeting.

Councillor Robinson noted that there was no involvement of the Councillors.

The Director reported that the Councillors' involvement was not required at this early stage, but Officers had called a special meeting several months previous for the Councillors of the area to meet with Landmark East.

Following a request from Councillor Drysdale at a recent Council meeting, the Director circulated a letter from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, detailing what was planned, should the Enler project not proceed. She outlined that Members may wish to take the correspondence away with them to read.

Noted.

CS/2005/135 : NEWTOWNBRED A COMMUNITY FACILITIES FORSTER GREEN – UPDATE ON MEETING HELD WITH THE TRUST ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2005

The Director outlined, that as Members would be aware, the Council had agreed to form a partnership with the Trust in order to progress the above project. She reported that the planning application had been submitted, and the Design Team had been appointed.

She indicated that Officers were providing details to the Board of the community facilities required, and had asked that more detailed costings be produced, including the land transfer aspect in order that she could report back to Committee. She reported that the Trust had indicated that the Valuation and Lands Agency may have to be involved.

RESOLVED: - That Officers keep Members advised of progress regarding the Council's partnership with the Trust, in respect of the Community Facility at Forster Green, and the costs involved..

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CS/2005/136 : COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN MONEYREAGH

The Director of Administration & Community Services confirmed that the Council had been granted Big Lottery funding of £90,000.00 towards the above. She added that there had previously been indications from the funders that this amount could be increased, and it was uncertain if any of this additional funding would be forthcoming.

The Community Services Manager reported that he was due to meet with Officers from the Big Lottery Fund, and would raise this matter.

The Director referred to the project timetable which had been considered at the September Committee meeting, and advised that the Special Central Services Committee meeting planned to be held on 28th November 2005 had been postponed and had been rescheduled for the 14th December. She added that she would not be in attendance, and would be attended by the Community Services Manager and the Acting Capital Projects Officer.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that

- (a) approval be granted to sign the acceptance of the Big Lottery funding of £90,000.00 in respect of the new community facilities at Moneyreagh;
- (b) the Special Central Services Committee meeting scheduled to be held on 28th November be postponed until 14th December 2005.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Adopted by the Council this _____ day of

_____ 2005 with the exception of

Minute Nos: _____

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE