

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Leisure Services Committee held, in committee, in the Belvoir Activity Centre, Belvoir Drive, Belvoir, on Thursday, 3 November 2005 at 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT:- Alderman M Copeland (in the Chair)
Alderman Mrs G Rice
Alderman J Norris
Councillor Mrs A M Beattie
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor Mrs J Cochrane
Councillor Mrs S Duncan
Councillor Ms J Bunting
Councillor M Henderson
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor A Ramsey
Councillor C Tosh

IN ATTENDANCE:- Director of Finance & Leisure Services, Sports Development Officer and Assistant Members' Services Officer.

APOLOGIES:- No apologies were recorded.

Alderman Copeland welcomed Members to the meeting.

LS/2005/56 : ADVERTISEMENT IN 'CHRISTIAN IRISHMAN'

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services tabled copies of 'Christian Irishman' and drew Members' attention to an advertisement for Council's leisure facilities. The Director informed the Committee that this publication had a circulation of approximately 8,000 and the cost of the advert had been £250. Members congratulated the Director for his ingenuity.

Noted.

LS/2005/57 : MINUTES OF THE LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2005

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services informed the Committee that there were a number of matters arising, which were covered in his report.

Noted.

**REPORT FROM THE
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & LEISURE SERVICES**

LS/2005/58 : PAPERLESS AGENDA

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services stated that this month's agenda had been sent to Members via email to determine whether this practice could be adopted in accordance with the Council's strategy to become a paperless operation. The majority of Members had received their agenda and felt that IT training could be provided in order to allow all Councillors to become proficient in the use of email.

Alderman Copeland enquired as to the cost of stationery, the distribution of hard copies of agendas and related administration. The Director of Finance & Leisure Services replied that he would investigate and report back at a future Committee meeting.

Councillor Bunting felt that this matter should be referred to the Central Services Committee, and after further consideration, it was

RESOLVED: That the Central Services Committee be asked to investigate and determine the cost of stationery, the distribution of hard copies of agendas and related administration.

**LS/2005/59 : CASTLEREAGH SPORTS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
(Minute LS/2005/47 refers)**

The Sports Development Officer outlined a new strategy to lead the way for sports development initiatives in the area. It was hoped that additional funding could be achieved for specific initiatives. The five key categories and aims of the new strategy are as follows:

- (a) Young people
The aim is to make more quality sporting opportunities available for young people in their chosen sport.
- (b) Coach development
It is planned to provide more qualified coaches, officials and volunteers in order to be able to sustain a sports development programme.
- (c) Healthy communities
The aim is to increase awareness and participation of the community, together with key partners.

- (d) Sport and community development
It is hoped to tackle issues such as social exclusion through targeted sports development initiatives, thereby improving community development.
- (e) Club development
It is planned to provide opportunities for all members of the community to choose a sport and the level at which they would wish to participate by providing appropriate facilities in sports clubs.

The Castlereagh Sports Development Association has applied for funding of approximately £115,000 from the Training for Women Network under PEACE II. The purpose for this funding is a two-year project, which would offer training and encouragement for women to become more involved in sports in Castlereagh.

At present a small grant aid scheme of up to £100 per application is in place through the Castlereagh Sports Development Association to help members of sports clubs to develop their talents.

The Castlereagh Sports Development Association intends to hold a press launch, and it is hoped that this will coincide with the publication of a sports directory for the area.

During the ensuing discussion, Members enquired as to how the funding, if successful, would be distributed. Members felt that the Council would benefit from increased representation in the Castlereagh Sports Development Association. The Sports Development Officer replied that a meeting of the Committee was scheduled to take place on 14 November 2005 in order to discuss all details of the strategy and distribution of available funding. She agreed to investigate the possibility of increasing Council representation on the CSDA and report back at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Sports Development Officer investigate the possibility of increasing Council representation on the Castlereagh Sports Development Association and report back to the Committee at a future meeting.

LS/2005/60 : IFA GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The Sports Development Officer reported that the IFA were currently shortlisting for interview for the 14 available positions of Grassroots Development Officer. She continued to say that, as the Council was entitled to one representative on the interviewing panel, suitable dates for interviews would have to be decided soon.

Members entered into a discussion regarding areas of concern. The Director of Finance & Leisure Services felt that youth development was of utmost importance. The Sports Development Officer agreed and informed the Committee that funding was available from McDonald's to schools for this purpose.

Councillor Duncan stated that transport to sporting venues could prove problematic for individuals. The Director of Finance & Leisure Services informed the Committee that he would be commenting on transport later in the meeting. The Sports Development Officer assured Members that an Officer would be in place by January 2006 who would address all relevant issues.

Noted.

LS/2005/61 : ROBINSON CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP (Minute LS/2005/41 refers)

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services confirmed that the first meeting of the Robinson Centre Redevelopment Working Group would take place on Monday, 7 November 2005, at 11.00 am in the Civic & Administrative Offices.

Noted.

LS/2005/62 : BILLY NEILL JOINT WORKING GROUP (Minute LS/2005/42 refers)

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services confirmed that the first meeting would take place on Monday, 7 November 2005, at 12.00 noon in the Civic & Administrative Offices.

Noted.

LS/2005/63 : CASTELREAGH HILLS GOLF CLUB – CONSIDERATION OF VIDEO MACHINES

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services sought Members' views regarding the installation of video machines at the Golf Club. He hoped to be in a position to provide an overview of the cost involved in the near future.

Members were concerned that these plans included the installation of gaming machines, but the Director assured the Committee that this was not the case. He further stated that the business plan should be brought forward.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Director of Finance & Leisure Services take on the task of bringing forward the business plan relating to the installation of video machines at the Castlereagh Hills Golf Club.
- (b) That the Director of Finance & Leisure Services provide Members with an overview of the cost involved in the installation of video machines at Castlereagh Hills Golf Club.

**LS/2005/64 : ASSISTANT MANAGERS' PERFORMANCE-RELATED PAY
(Minute LS/2005/46 refers)**

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services confirmed that the Committee's congratulations had been passed on to those Assistant Managers who had reached performance targets. The Director added that the two Assistant Managers from the Robinson Centre were now applying the Framework Document Process, and he would report the results at the December Committee meeting. The Director further stated that, should performance continue to fall short of set targets in November, the Assistant Managers' bonuses would be withheld until such time as performance improved to the set levels.

Alderman Copeland enquired whether individual targets and weighting had been set for each centre. The Director of Finance & Leisure Services replied that individual targets had been applied, but no weighting.

After further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Director of Finance & Leisure Services report to the Committee the progress of the application of the Framework Document Process in the Robinson Centre by the two Assistant Managers at the December meeting.

**LS/2005/65 : DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, ARTS & LEISURE – NEW
SPORTS STRATEGY (Minute LS/2005/48 refers)**

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services informed Members that he had taken steps to arrange a meeting with Sports Officials to discuss available sporting facilities in the Borough. He continued to say that MPs were lobbying the Secretary of State regarding the possibility of hosting one or more Olympic events in Northern Ireland. The Director felt that funding for this purpose might be obtained in order to upgrade facilities where necessary, and he would report back to the Committee at a future meeting.

The Director also intended to contact Mr Eamon McCartan, Chief Executive of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland, in respect of this purpose.

After some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Director of Finance & Leisure Services make contact with Mr Eamon McCartan from the Sports Council regarding the possibility of holding some Olympic events in Northern Ireland and report back to the Committee at the December meeting.

LS/2005/66 : FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services reported that, due to the meeting being held on only the third day of the month, he was unable to provide Members with the most recent report on the October accounts. However, he assured Members that he would forward the report and related commentary as soon as it became available.

Noted.

LS/2005/67 : DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL – RECEPTION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND FOOTBALL TEAM AND DOWN MINORS

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services tabled correspondence received from Down District Council relating to a joint celebration for the Northern Ireland Football team and the Down Minors GAA. As one of the Down Minor team members is from the Castlereagh area, Members are being asked if Council would consider a financial contribution to the event.

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services outlined that the reception would be held in the Canal Court Hotel in Newry. He further suggested that the matter could be referred to the Castlereagh Sports Development Association for their consideration, as this would fall into their remit and was the normal procedure for requests for sporting events.

Members entered into a discussion, following which it was

RESOLVED: That this matter be referred to the Castlereagh Sports Development Association for consideration.

LS/2005/68 : HEALTH PROMOTION PROPOSAL

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services drew Members' attention to an email received from the Area Leisure Manager regarding a health promotion proposal. It had been proposed that the BBC's 'Children in Need' event be used for the promotion of cycling for children at home and abroad. Unused, repairable bicycles could be donated at collection points provided and staffed by the Council. The bicycles would be repaired and distributed to children according to need.

As 'Children in Need' would be hosted in two weeks' time, the Director felt there was not much time, therefore he asked Members for their views.

Members agreed that this event would provide good publicity for the Council's vision to promote a healthy lifestyle and asked that the Director investigate further.

RESOLVED: That the Director of Finance & Leisure Services investigate the possibility of using the BBC's 'Children in Need' to promote cycling for children at home and abroad.

LS/2005/69 : LOUGH MOSS LEISURE CENTRE – DEVELOPMENT PLANS

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services informed Members that a presentation would take place at the December Committee meeting regarding plans for the Development of Lough Moss Leisure Centre.

Noted.

LS/2005/70 : LEISURE SERVICES MINIBUS

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services reported that approval in principle had been obtained some time ago for the procurement of a Leisure Services minibus to transport school children to leisure facilities in the area. The Director added that a business case was currently being prepared to consider the feasibility of the project.

Members agreed that the procurement of a Leisure Services minibus would assist the Council's promotion of a healthier lifestyle. Councillor AM Beattie stated that care should be taken to ensure that requirements such as seat belts were adhered to for insurance purposes.

Alderman Copeland suggested that a bus using hybrid fuel or electricity could be obtained, as Government aid of 80% of the cost was available.

Attention then turned to the amount chargeable for the use of the bus. The Director advised that £1 per head would be reasonable. However, Councillor Bunting felt that a charge of 50p might be more reasonable.

After some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Director of Finance & Leisure Services draw up a business case in respect of a minibus and a driver and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

LS/2005/71 : SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services tabled correspondence received from Special Olympics Ulster, requesting funding towards hosting the Special Olympic Games in Northern Ireland in 2006. The funding request consisted of a one-off payment of £600,000 and an annual amount of £250,000 towards the cost of Special Olympics Northern Ireland. Special Olympics Ulster asked that this request be brought to the attention of the Secretary of State, Peter Hain, during his meeting with Council representatives.

Members asked that the Grants Officer carry out an investigation and report back to the Committee regarding the type of grant support that could be obtained.

After some discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council's Grants Officer investigate the possible funding initiatives available towards hosting the Special Olympic Games in Northern Ireland in 2006.
- (b) That the above request be brought to the attention of the Secretary of State.

LS/2005/72 : CASTLEREAGH HILLS GOLF CLUB RESTAURANT

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services sought Members' views in respect of plans that the restaurant should be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day for logistical reasons.

The Director also informed Members that there were plans to install an Epos control system to be used by staff when placing an order. It was hoped that this system would assist with stock control.

Councillor Cochrane reported that the telephone number provided for the restaurant appeared to connect with the restaurant's fax machine, and she asked the Director to investigate.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Officers ensure that staff and Elected Members receive the correct telephone number for Castlereagh Hills Golf Club Restaurant.
- (b) That the Director of Finance & Leisure Services continue with the installation of the Epos stock control system.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LS/2005/73 : SPONSORSHIP FOR ROUNDABOUTS

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services informed Members that approval had been granted by the Roads Service for the Council to progress with arrangements to secure sponsorship for the various roundabouts in the Borough. He also stated that the sponsorship also needed to cover the maintenance of the roundabouts, which was previously provided for by the Department of the Environment.

During the ensuing discussion, Alderman Rice raised concerns regarding insurance for such a scheme, and the Director agreed to investigate.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Director of Finance & Leisure Services investigate the Council's position regarding insurance to cover plans to enhance the appearance of the Borough's roundabouts.
- (b) That tenders be sought regarding sponsorship for the enhancement of roundabouts in the Borough.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE