

## **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 12<sup>th</sup> September 2005 at 7.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs M Chambers  
(in the chair)

**ALDERMEN:** Mrs G Rice (Deputy Mayor ex officio)

**COUNCILLORS:** C Hall  
T Jeffers  
M Long (Mayor ex officio)  
Miss R Hughes MBE (Vice Chairman)  
G Robinson  
J Spratt

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were recorded on behalf of Alderman Norris, Councillors Mrs J Cochrane, Ms Bunting and J Beattie

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

### **CS/2005/46: OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The Chairperson, Councillor Mrs Chambers introduced Gordon Walker, the new Community Services Manager to Members.

Noted.

### **CS/2005/47 : NAME OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that the Chief Executive had asked her to seek clarification if the Chairman and Members wished to change the name of the Committee.

Following discussion,

**RESOLVED :** That the Council be recommended to agree that the Committee continue to be named "Central Services".

**TABLED: MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2005 AND SPECIAL CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2005**

**MATTERS ARISING**

**CS/2005/48 : VISIT BY THE MAYOR TO KENT, USA**

Alderman Mrs Rice asked if there was any update in respect of the above.

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that the Administration Manager had written to Mayor White, but to date a response had not been received. She added that she would keep the Committee advised of progress.

Noted.

**CS/2005/49: REQUEST FROM THE PRESS FOR ADVANCE RELEASE OF THE COUNCIL AGENDA AND ASSOCIATED PAPERWORK (Minute No. CS/2005/40 refers)**

Councillor Robinson outlined that he did not agree with the press receiving these papers in advance of the Council meeting commencing.

Alderman Rice indicated that under Freedom of Information, the press had a right to receive the papers.

The Director of Administration & Community Services pointed out that under FOI, there was a requirement to provide the public with Minutes within 21 days, but under the 1972 Local Government Act, the Minutes had to be provided to the press as soon as they had been ratified.

She explained that the Agenda and associated papers, with the exception of any documents to be considered "In Committee" would be provided to those members of the press who turned up to report on the Council meeting. She added that none of the Minutes would be released until they had been ratified, and if there were any changes or corrections on accuracy, the Minutes would not be released until after the appropriate amendments had been made by the Assistant Members Services' Officers.

She outlined that this arrangement had already been agreed by Council, but should any member of the press report on the content of Minutes before they were ratified or they misrepresented the Council, then Members could request that we revert back to the old system.

Councillor Robinson stated that he was satisfied with the arrangement as outlined by the Director.

Noted.

**CS/2005/50 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2005 RE: SITE VISIT TO FORSTER GREEN**

The Director explained that these Minutes had not been ratified by Council yet and had been tabled to facilitate discussion on this matter later in the meeting.

Councillor Spratt, Long and Jeffers outlined that they had requested an apology be recorded on their behalf.

The Director advised that she would arrange to have their apologies included in the Minutes before going for ratification.

Noted.

**CIVIC SERVICES MATTERS**

**REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATION MANAGER**

The Director of Administration & Community Services reported that due to the current civil unrest, she had advised the Administration Manager not to journey back for the meeting, and she would therefore be presenting the Civic report.

**CS/2005/51 : MINUTES OF THE MALCOLM BRODIE WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2005 (CIVIC RECEPTION)**

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that at the Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2005, it had been resolved that the Malcolm Brodie Working Group would be granted executive powers in order to progress the necessary arrangements within the timeframe. She added that she required Committee approval of the above Minutes as this meeting had taken place before the granting of executive powers.

She took Members through the content of the Minutes, advising that the Civic Event would be held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005 in Castlereagh Hills Golf Club at 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. She then outlined the detail in respect of the format, gift, budget and guest list.

Following a query from Councillor Chambers, the Director confirmed that the next meeting of the Malcolm Brodie Working Group would be held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2005 at 4.30 p.m. in the Ice Bowl (prior to the Leisure Park Board meeting).

RESOLVED : That the Committee approve the Minutes of the Malcolm Brodie Working Group meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2005.

**CS/2005/52 : MINUTES OF THE LA MON COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2005**

The Director of Administration & Community Services took Members through the detail of the above Minutes and provided an update on the Bursary Awards Scheme.

Councillor Spratt referred to his comments in the Minutes relating to the provision of a grant to those travelling abroad to undertake missionary work. He added that he had also suggested that this should also include those involved in humanitarian/voluntary work abroad, but this had not been reflected in the resolution.

The Director advised that the Minutes had been tabled for information only and that she would have the resolution amended before going back to the next La Mon Committee for approval.

Noted.

**CS/2005/53 : BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR**

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised that the Service of Commemoration to mark the Battle of Trafalgar Anniversary would be held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2005 in Gransha Presbyterian Church and notification had been given to the Trafalgar Weekend Committee.

She outlined that an email had been received from the Trafalgar Organisation regarding bell ringing and beacon lighting for the event. She advised Members that these activities would have both public liability and staffing implications.

Councillor Spratt enquired if the date chosen for the Service, i.e. Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2005 had any relevance to the Battle of Trafalgar, as Reverend Mark Brown from Gransha Presbyterian Church had a difficulty with that date. He explained that the church had organised a family weekend to Newcastle and they would not be returning until the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> October. He added that this would also mean that the ladies of the congregation may not be available to provide catering.

The Director of Administration confirmed that 23<sup>rd</sup> October was during the date of National Trafalgar weekend, and it had been intended that the Council would organise the event to fit into the National timetable.

She outlined that she and the Administration Manager would be meeting with Reverend Brown to clarify the date, and if necessary, they would suggest bringing in caterers.

Following a query in respect of the guest list, the Director confirmed that she would ensure that representatives from the Sea Cadets would be included.

The Director suggested that as the Chair of the Central Services Committee was also the Chair of the Malcolm Brodie Working Group, that if there were any urgent matters requiring approval in order to progress the arrangements, if she could refer these to the next meeting of the Working Group being held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

Councillor Chambers also suggested that should there be any urgent matters after 19<sup>th</sup> September that these be referred for approval to the September Council meeting.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that

- (a) the Director of Administration & Community Services and the Administration Manager meet with Gransha Presbyterian to clarify the date of the Church Service to commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar and also the catering arrangements.
- (b) urgent decisions requiring approval in relation to the above be referred to the next meeting of the Malcolm Brodie Working Group being held on 19<sup>th</sup> September or the Council meeting being held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005.

#### **CS/2005/54 : CHRISTMAS TREE WORKING GROUP**

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that the first meeting of the Interdepartmental Christmas Tree Working Group would be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2005, and the Minutes would be tabled at the October Central Services Committee meeting.

Councillor Jeffers outlined that due to the significant insurance costs involved, the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony traditionally organised at Moat Park by the Dundonald Regeneration Group may have to be cancelled. He added that this was a community event going back many years, and he asked if the Council would consider organising the Tree Lighting Ceremony at Moat Park.

The Director of Administration & Community Services commented that the Council had previously made the decision to organise one Christmas Tree

Lighting Ceremony at the Civic Offices and to switch the lights on simultaneously at the other three trees located in each of the remaining electoral areas.

Councillor Robinson asked if there were any grants available to help the Regeneration Group.

The Director of Administration & Community Services indicated that if the Committee wished, the Christmas Tree Working Group would consider offering grants to voluntary groups wanting to organise their own community tree lighting event out of the Special Projects Scheme. She added that the Dundonald Group, and any other voluntary group interested in organising this type of event, could apply for assistance towards the costs involved, including insurance.

She also pointed out that Officers had contacted the Council's Insurance Broker with regard to the difficulties community groups were experiencing in meeting high insurance costs for events. She added that the Broker was currently looking at various options including a joint community group policy.

The Community Services Manager stated that some of his staff were involved in risk management and they would also be of assistance to the community groups when seeking insurance for events.

Noted.

#### **CS/2005/55 : ARMISTICE DAY**

The Director of Administration & Community Services reported that the Armistice Day Service would be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2005 and would follow the usual format. She outlined that following the event, brunch would be provided for Members at Castlereagh Hills Golf Club. She added that a letter setting out all the details would be forwarded to Members in due course.

She further advised that following receipt of a letter from Cregagh Wandsworth and Ormeau Royal British Legion which had been tabled at the February Civic Committee meeting, the Ravenhill Temperance Band had been engaged for this year's service, as they had provided an excellent accompaniment to the VE Day Event on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

Councillor Jeffers outlined that as Ravenhill Temperance Band were a flute band, Officers would need to obtain the services of a bugler.

**RESOLVED :** That the Council be recommended to agree that the musical accompaniment for the 2005 Armistice Day Service be provided by Ravenhill Temperance Band.

### **CS/2005/56 : MAYOR'S ALLOWANCE**

Councillor Jeffers declared an interest.

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that at the start of the 2004/2005 Mayoral Year, a new bank account had been set up by the Mayor's Office to ensure that there was no overlap on the account. She outlined that, as a result, there was a balance of £145.45 and £10.92 in the Mayor/Deputy Mayor's account dating back to that time.

She reported that Officers had suggested that this money be transferred to the charity account held by the current Mayor.

The Director sought Members' approval to action this request in order that the old account could be closed.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** : That the Council be recommended to agree that the balance of £145.45 and £10.92 remaining in the 2004/2005 Mayor/Deputy Mayor's accounts be transferred to the charity account held by the current Mayor.

### **CS/2005/57 : NORTHERN IRELAND FOOTBALL TEAM**

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that at the Special Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2005, it had been agreed to host a Civic Function for the Northern Ireland Football Team, Manager and Officials whilst they were in the Province playing the next World Cup Qualifying Match against Wales.

She advised Members, however, that the Northern Ireland Team had a heavy schedule prior to the match, and their acceptance would be subject to their availability. She added that a press release had been issued to that effect, as requested by the Council.

She indicated that the team would be in the Province 3 days prior to the match being played on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2005, and that a letter had been sent to the Irish Football Association inviting the team to play a round of golf at Castlereagh Hills Golf Course, followed by a Civic Luncheon in the Clubhouse.

She outlined that she would keep Members' advised on progress.

Noted.

### **REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

## **ADMINISTRATION MATTERS**

### **CS/2005/58 : ADDITIONAL CCTV CAMERA FOR COVERAGE OF USC MEMORIAL STONE – REPORT FROM THE MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL ENGINEER**

The Director of Administration & Community Services provided Members with some background information in respect of the piece of land beside the Civic Centre where the USC Memorial Stone was located. She then took Members through the detail in the Mechanical & Electrical Engineer's report and the Officer's recommendation in terms of the possible compromise to the security of the Civic Centre.

Following a detailed discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that

- (a) due to the possible compromise to the security of the Civic Centre, an additional CCTV camera would not be purchased at this stage to cover the USC Memorial Stone.
- (b) in the meantime, the Mechanical & Electrical Engineer obtain further costings for the provision of a stand alone camera.
- (c) with regard to the damage caused to the Memorial Stone by vandals, as reported to Council in May 2005, the Director of Administration & Community Services ascertain the detail of this incident and report back to the Committee

### **CS/2005/59 : CIVIL PARTNERSHIP**

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that in preparation for the introduction of the Civil Partnership Law 2004, effective in Northern Ireland from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005, she and the Registrar had been looking at the required arrangements in terms of the use of the Civic Offices.

She explained that under the legislation, Registrars would be required to take notes and prepare the schedule and necessary paperwork, however, there would be no exchange of vows and the Registrar would not be involved in any formal ceremony or declaration of words. On this basis, it would be possible to undertake this requirement in the Registrar's own office.

The Director outlined that it was understood that private companies were gearing up to organise Civil Partnership Ceremonies, although there was no way to

gauge the likely impact that this new Law would have, or the number of requests which the Registrar would receive.

Having considered the implications, the Director of Administration & Community Services stated that couples may, however, request the hire of the Function Suite for a private ceremony which could be booked through Reception in the normal way, with the relevant fee being levied.

She sought Members' views as to the possible approach which would mean that the Registrar would not be involved in any ceremony but would fulfil the obligations of the legislation which would be carried out in her own office.

The Director then provided Members with an overview of her understanding of the various legal requirements etc., but asked Members if they would prefer her to seek further legal advice.

Councillor Jeffers proposed that the Council seeks legal advice on what was being proposed.

Councillor Spratt outlined that should the legal advice state that civil partnerships could take place in the Function Suite, then he would have some concerns for the staff involved. He added that the Council had a duty of care for its staff and he would therefore be interested to see what the legal advice had to say in this respect.

The Director of Administration & Community Services indicated that the General Registrar's Office had considered this issue and had advised that staff would have to meet their legal responsibilities. She stated, however, that the above proposal represented her intention to keep the requirements of the Registrar separate from any proposed ceremony, but at the same time, meet the Council's Equality obligations in terms of the booking of the Function Suite.

Councillor Long asked that if heterosexual couples were getting married, could they sign the registrar in the Function Suite.

The Director of Administration & Community Services confirmed that as the Registrar had to be in attendance to conduct the ceremony, then this would be the case.

The Director of Administration & Community Services confirmed that there were three rooms within the Civic Centre used for weddings, i.e. the Registrar's Office, the upstairs committee room and the Function Suite. She explained the booking arrangements and the costs involved.

She outlined that it was her understanding that one of the other Local Authorities had agreed to designate a separate room for civil partnerships.

Councillor Long asked that it be recorded that he had no objection at all to civil partnerships, and that he was totally opposed to having a separate room designated for this purpose room. He added that everyone should be given the same choice and he too would be interested to see the legal opinion.

Councillor Rice asked that it be recorded that it was her view that people had the right to be treated equally.

Councillor Chambers stated that from a Christian and moral point of view, she was totally opposed to civil partnerships.

Councillor Spratt asked to be recorded as being totally opposed to civil partnerships. He added that it was his view that Equality legislation should allow him to voice his objection, and that this was something being forced on people by a Government that had no morals.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that a legal opinion be sought on the format being recommended for civil ceremonies, in that, the signing of the registrar takes place in the Registrar's Office, with no formal ceremony or arrangements, and that the Function Suite would not be made available for any private ceremony.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES MATTERS**

### **CS/2005/60 : FORMER CREGAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, CAPPAGH GARDENS**

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that as Members would be aware, all Groups who had used the former community centre at Cappagh Gardens, had now transferred to the new Youth & Community Centre, with the exception of the Bright Lights Drama Group.

She added that arrangements had, however, been made for this Group to move to the Downshire Hall from September onwards. She therefore recommended that the Cappagh Gardens premises be put out of use and boarded up, in order that the Council incurred no further electricity, maintenance costs etc as this could be deemed nugatory expenditure.

Councillor Robinson outlined that Oaklee Housing Association was planning to take over that particular site, and that he would be attending a meeting shortly to discuss the Cregagh Concept plan with them. He asked that the Council postpone boarding up the premises until after that meeting, but when carrying out the work the centre be made as secure as possible.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that the former Cregagh Community Centre at Cappagh Gardens be boarded up, but that this work be postponed until after Councillor Robinson had met with Oaklee Housing Association. When boarded up the centre should be made as secure as possible to avoid any problems with vandals.

### **CS/2005/61 : UPDATE ON MONEYREAGH COMMUNITY FACILITY**

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that as previously agreed by Council at the June Council Meeting, an advertisement for Design Services had been put out to Select List in July 2005, and the returns had been assessed by the Acting Capital Projects Officer.

She then referred Members to his report detailing the submissions received and his recommended Select List for Members' approval in order to proceed to the next stage.

The Director then outlined the timetable for the development of the Moneyreagh facility in order that Members could approve the recommended schedule. She asked Members to note that the timetable was dictated by the Big Lottery Funders who had asked that we progress the project within the stipulated dates.

She also asked Members to note from the timetable below, that a Special Meeting of the Committee would be required on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2005, in order to approve the Design Scheme and to proceed to Final Design Stage D before the Christmas holiday period.

#### **PROPOSED TIMETABLE**

09.09.05	Finalise Consultant Select List
12.09.05	Committee Approval of Select List 10 day gap
22.09.05	Council: Ratify Minutes
23.09.05	Consultant Tenders Let (3 week period)
29.09.05	Provisional date for Stakeholders Meeting
14.10.05	Consultant Tenders returned Tenders assessed
21.10.05	Consultant recommended 1 week gap
27.10.05	Council ratify Appointment of Consultant
28.10.05	Consultant Appointed
28.11.05	Consultant presents Outline Scheme Design Stage C to Special Committee Meeting for approval or amendments

20.01.06	Consultant presents Final Design Scheme Stage D
26.01.06	Council approval to Stage D
27.01.06	Consultant instructed to proceed to Tender Stage 6 week period
10.03.06	Tenders Let to Contractors (3 week tendering period)
31.03.06	Tenders returned from Contractors Tenders assessed
24.04.06	Council Approval to acceptance of recommended tender
25.04.06	Contractor Appointed
01.05.06	Start on Site 9 Month Contract
01.02.07	Contract Completion

She recommended that:

- (a) Members approve the Select List as recommended in the Acting Capital Project Officer's Report
- (b) Members approve the timetable for the development of the Moneyreagh project as outlined above.
- (c) Members agree that a Special Meeting of Committee be convened on 28th November 2005 in order to approve Design Stage C, with the Council being asked to give the Committee full powers to deal with this matter.

Councillor Spratt commented that he had received a letter inviting him to a meeting in Moneyreagh Primary School on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2005, and he asked if Officers had any details of those representatives who had been invited to attend.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that before the summer, a new Community Association had been formed, and they had convened a meeting to discuss the proposed new centre with Elected Representatives. She added that the Members present had given an undertaking to report back to them when the project had gone to the Big Lottery stage.

Councillor Spratt stated that he was not sure whether Moneyreagh Community Association would be totally representative of all those groups that would have an interest in using the new centre. He added that there was a well established Women's Institute and church groups involved in youth and community work in surrounding areas that he felt should be involved in the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

The Community Services Manager outlined that he would arrange for Officers to send the list of interested stakeholders to Members and if they had any additional suggestions, they should forward these to him for inclusion.

Alderman Rice expressed the view that the Elected Representatives should make the local community aware that the Council's hands were tied in moving the project forward at this stage due to planning and covenant issues.

The Director explained that the site had not been zoned within BMAP for social and recreational purposes, and the Council had registered an objection. She added that should there be a public enquiry into BMAP and the Council did not have planning permission in place, it would not be possible to build the centre within the proposed timetable.

She outlined that before attending the meeting in Moneyreagh, she would ascertain from the Council's Planning Officer how the planning application was progressing.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to

- (a) approve the Select List as recommended by the Acting Capital Project Officer's Report, as follows:
  - Anderson Williams Ltd
  - David Ferguson & Associates
  - Tate, Stevenson Architects
  - KFA
  - Knox & Clayton
- (b) approve the timetable for the development of the Moneyreagh project as outlined above
- (c) agree that a Special Meeting of the Committee be convened on 28th November 2005 in order to approve Design Stage C, with the Council being asked to give the Committee full powers to deal with this matter.
- (d) Officers to forward the list of stakeholders being invited to the meeting in Moneyreagh Primary School on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2005 to Members. If Members have any additional suggestions, they should forward these to the Community Services Manager for invites to be issued.

**CS/2005/62 : NEWTOWNBREDA COMMUNITY FACILITIES – FORSTER GREEN**

The Director of Administration & Community Services referred Members to the Minutes of the Site Visit which took place on Monday 22 August 2005, together with a colour copy plan. She indicated that Members should note that the Trust

was looking for formal confirmation of the Council's intention to enter into a partnership to provide community facilities on the Forster Green site. She therefore asked Members to give this matter full consideration in order that she could respond to the Trust by the end of September 2005

She recommended:

- (a) Members adopt the Minutes of the Special Central Services Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2005
- (b) Members give further consideration to entering into a partnership with the Trust in order to provide Community facilities on the Forster Green Site.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that some of the Councillors who had attended the site visit, and who had been in office during the previous Council term, had expressed a preference for the centre being located at the bus turning circle at Upper Knockbreda Road. She updated Members on the difficulty with that site in terms of access, planning permission and vesting issues.

She added that a survey of a wide cross section of the community had been carried out in the Four Winds area and 62% had indicated a preference for the Forster Green site rather than the site at Four Winds. She added that the majority were in favour of a community type facility rather than a leisure facility. She pointed out that the Forster Green site would have a wider catchment area.

Councillor Chambers outlined that some residents had expressed their concern when they had learned exactly where the centre would be located on the Forster Green site, via Glencreagh Road access.

Alderman Rice expressed the view that the Forster Green site was the best location, and she proposed that the Council enter into a partnership with the South Belfast Trust. She added that entering into the partnership may also reduce the costs to Council.

Councillor Hall seconded the proposal.

Discussion then ensued on the provision of finances for both the Moneyreagh and Newtownbreda Centres and the Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that she would raise the matter at the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting being held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2005, and report back to Members.

Councillor Chambers asked that the Committee be kept fully up to date throughout the design stage for both centres.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree to

- (a) adopt the Minutes of the Special Central Services Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2005
- (b) enter into a partnership with the South Belfast Trust to consider the new community facility at the Forster Green site, and the Director of Administration & Community Services report on this matter to the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS MATTERS**

#### **CS/2005/63 : ULSTER SCOTS ST ANDREW'S CEILIDH**

The Community Services Manager advised Members that the Community Relations Officers of Castlereagh and Newtownabbey wished to arrange a joint Ulster Scots event on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2005 in Belvoir Players Studio. He added that such an event would be another way of supporting and encouraging the ongoing development of the Ulster Scots community in Castlereagh and encouraging more interest.

He reported that the total cost of the event was £4,000.00, making the Council's contribution £2,000.00.

He then took Members through the detail of the event and recommended that as the project met Community Relations criteria that a grant of £2,000.00 be awarded.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that

- (a) a Community Relations Grant of £2,000.00 be awarded towards the costs involved in the Castlereagh/Newtownabbey joint Ulster Scots St Andrew's Ceilidh being held in Belvoir Players Studio on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2005.
- (b) given Councillor Bunting's interest in Ulster Scots, Officers arrange to forward details of the project to her.

#### **CS/2005/64 : TULLYCARNET MURAL PROJECT – REQUEST FOR A GRANT OF £1,000.00**

The Community Services Manager outlined that 'Pagit', a local group, intended to cover the existing mural at the Kings Road with a picture of "James Magennis", a

Royal Naval Officer who had received the Victoria Cross for his service in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.

He outlined that as the project met the required criteria, it was being recommended that a Community Relations grant of £1,000.00 be awarded towards the Tullycarnet Mural Project.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to award a grant of £1,000.00 from the 'Hard Issues' budget within the Community Relations Programme, to the group towards the costs involved in the Tullycarnet Mural Project.

**CS/2005/65 : NEWTOWNBRED A MURAL PROJECT – REQUEST FOR A GRANT OF £1,000.00**

The Community Services Manager advised Members that the Community Relations Officer, in partnership with the Development Officer for the area, had been developing a mural project with the young people from Newtownbreda, who regularly congregated at the football pitches at Cairnshill.

He outlined that the pavilion was covered with graffiti and it was proposed that the young people from different community backgrounds work with artists to provide a more pleasing design. He indicated that another aspect of the project was the opportunity for social contact among the young people.

He hoped that the project would begin in October 2005, subject to approval of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee, who had responsibility for the management of the building. He then detailed for Members a breakdown of the costs involved.

Councillor Robinson suggested that in an effort to improve relations between the police and local youths, that Community PSNI Officers be asked to get involved in the project

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded towards the costs involved in the Newtownbreda Mural Project, out of the Activities & Promotions budget within the Community Relations Programme.

**CS/2005/66 : REQUEST FROM BRIGHT LIGHTS DANCE GROUP FOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS GRANT OF £500.00**

The Community Services Manager advised Members that the above group wished to carry out a project introducing Highland dancing into primary schools

within the Borough. He added that the aim of the project was to develop cultural awareness through the means of dance.

He advised that the first phase of the project would take the format of 13 workshops, one per week, in Leadhill Primary School. He added that initially the group approached Leadhill because of their interest in the activity, but it was envisaged that the project would be offered to other interested schools in the coming years.

The Community Services Manager provided a breakdown of the costs involved, and as the project met the required criteria, the Community Relations Officer was recommending approval.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That a grant of £500.00 from the Community Relations Programme be awarded to Bright Lights Dance Group towards the costs involved in the Primary School Highland Dancing Project.

**CS/2005/67 : CREATING COMMUNITY TRAINING COURSE – REQUEST FOR \$500.00 GRANT**

The Community Services Manager outlined that as agreed with the Community Relations Unit, it was intended to organise a training course with a concept of creating an imaginary community. He added that participants would be asked to imagine an area where they would want to live in, and then put the training to practical experience within their local areas. He indicated that the groups taking part would be from Cairnshill Methodist Church, Church of Ireland Carryduff and Church of the Immaculate Heart, Drumbo.

He detailed the topics to be covered and provided a breakdown of the costs involved.

Councillor Robinson expressed the view that he would like a bit more information on the project.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that during the previous Council term, some Members had expressed the view that more should be done in Moneyreagh, Newtownbreda and Carryduff. She added that, within the Community Services Section, the work had previously been split into 5 geographical areas. She reported that this had been changed to 9 areas, allowing Officers to focus on new areas to include the above.

She outlined that the project met the criteria within the Community Relations budget and also had a cross community element.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That a grant of £500.00 be awarded towards the costs involved in the Creating Community Training Course.

**CS/2005/68 : GREENGRAVES DRAMA GROUP – REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR £490.00**

The Community Services Manager reminded Members that the above matter had been deferred from the July Council meeting, and arose out of an original enquiry at the June Central Services Committee as to why the group had not yet put on a performance with the Council monies already granted.

He referred Members to a detailed record of all grants the group had received from the Council in the past two years totalling £2,495.00. He added that this latest application was for £490.00 to cover the costs for a drama facilitator to take 7 workshops at £70.00 each.

He outlined that, as requested, the receipts to account for the use of grants received so far, as well as an explanation as to why the performance of 'Rainbow Valley' had still not taken place yet were attached to the Director's report for Members' consideration.

Following a detailed discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that no further grants would be awarded to the Greengraves Drama Group at this stage, but that this decision be reviewed again when the play had taken place.

**CS/2005/69 : CASTLEREAGH SENIOR CITIZENS TEA DANCE : CREGAGH YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Community Services Manager outlined that this matter had been discussed at the July Council meeting, and the following had been resolved:

- (a) In respect of the shortfall in funding for the Castlereagh Senior Citizens Tea Dance attempt to cover the shortfall within the existing budgets.
- (b) A letter be forwarded to the Community Relations Unit, representing a stronger case for an increase in funding.
- (c) Officers ascertain the criteria for funding, any recent changes to these criteria, specifically the range of groups that have been funded to date and to report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

- (d) Officers ascertain when the existing funds of £1,000.00 will be spent in full and to report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

He informed Members that Castlereagh Senior Citizens Tea Dance attempted to cover the shortfall within the existing budgets. He added that Officers had looked at other budgets within the Community Relations Programme to determine if the shortfall in funding could be reallocated from another heading. He indicated that this had not been possible due to the constraints of other priorities. He commented that Officers had requested application packs from 'Awards for All' as a means of applying for funding to cover the shortfall in this financial year.

He outlined that the Community Relations Officers had written to the Community Relations Unit requesting an increase in Castlereagh Senior Citizens Tea Dance funding, but the criteria stated that tea dances were a low priority project and that they were moving towards the priorities stated in the Shared Future Document. He outlined that CRU had stated, however, that next year they would look at this again with reference to an enhanced programme for senior citizens.

He advised Members that the group was proposing to organise 16 tea dances between September 2005 and March 2006 and he provided a breakdown of expenditure and income, resulting in a shortfall of £1,705.00.

The Community Services Manager advised Members that he had written to the Community Safety Officer in respect of potential funding, but as yet a response had not been received. He added that he would also be approaching the South Belfast Trust, through its Healthy Living Programme, and again, he was waiting for a response.

He continued by stating that in the meantime, he would be looking at funding options for the long-term sustainability of the project.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that Officers were working with the group in order to draw up a constitution and this should assist them in attracting funding. She recommended that in the interim, the shortfall could be met through Community Services Special Projects budget.

Following further discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** : That the Council be recommended to charge the shortfall in Castlereagh Senior Citizens Tea Dance costs for the 2005/2006 year to Community Services Special Projects budget, but that Officers continue to source funding for the group, and report back to the Committee at a later stage on progress made.

**ARTS MATTERS**

**CS/2005/70 : FIRST FRIDAY CONCERTS**

For Members information, the Director attached to her report advance publicity in respect of the above Concerts, which were being organised by the Council's Arts Officer on behalf of Castlereaugh Arts.

Noted.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.15 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIRMAN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Adopted by the Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of**

\_\_\_\_\_ **2005 with the exception of**

**Minute Nos: \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MAYOR**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**