

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Castlereagh Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Castlereagh Borough Council, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB, on Thursday, 22nd February 2007 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor J Spratt
(in the Chair)

ALDERMEN: M Copeland MLA
J Norris MBE
Mrs G Rice MBE
Mrs I Robinson MP MLA (until 8.15 p.m.)
P D Robinson MP MLA (from 7.25 p.m.)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs A M Beattie
J Beattie
Mrs M Chambers
Mrs J Cochrane
Mrs S Duncan
D Drysdale
C Hall
B Hanvey
M Henderson
Miss R Hughes MBE
M Long
T Jeffers
G Robinson (from 7.20 p.m.)
C Tosh
J White

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Technical & Environmental Services,
Director of Finance & Leisure Services, Director of
Administration & Community Services, Client
Manager, Planning Service Officer, Planning Officer,
and Assistant Members' Services Officer

APOLOGIES: An apology was received on behalf of Councillor
Bunting, and an apology for the late arrival of
Alderman Peter Robinson and Councillor Robinson

2007/66 : OPENING OF MEETING

Reverend Brown opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

Councillor Robinson arrived at this point at 7.20 p.m.

2007/67 : MINUTES

RESOLVED : That

- (a) the Minutes of the following meetings be accepted as a true record:
- Council meeting held on 25 January 2007
 - Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 1 February 2007
 - Central Services Committee meeting held on 12 February 2007
 - Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting of 10 January 2007
 - Special Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 13 February 2007
- (b) the Minutes of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 6 February 2007 be accepted as a true record, with the exception of Minute No. T&ESC/2007/41 which was being referred back to the Committee for further consideration

At this point Councillor Cochrane took the chair.

PLANNING

LETTERS OF OBJECTION RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE PLANNING SCHEDULE

2007/68 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM MR J NEWELL RE: PROSPECTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW DWELLING ADJACENT TO 22 CASAELDONA PARK, BELFAST (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

Alderman Peter Robinson arrived at this point in the meeting at 7.25 p.m.

2007/69 : LETTERS OF OBJECTION

At the request of Councillor Chambers, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that letters of objection be tabled on the Agenda after the Planning Schedule.

**SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 22 FEBRUARY 2007
(copy previously circulated)**

2007/70 : APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN

The Planning Service Officer advised that the following planning applications had been withdrawn:

- Y/2006/0172/0 – adjacent to 22 Casaedona Park, Castlereaigh : site for two storey detached dwelling house
- Y/2006/0685/F – land adjacent to 132 Ravenswood Park, Lower Braniel Road : erection of 4 apartments with associated on site car parking and landscaping.

Noted.

APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2007/71 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2004/0715/F – LANDS BETWEEN CARROWREAGH ROAD, UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD AND BELFAST ROAD, DUNDONALD : TO AMEND CONDITION NO.2 OF APPROVAL Y/1996/0238 TO ALLOW FOR THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DWELLINGS TO BE RAISED FROM 250 TO 350

Councillor White outlined that given that the above application was in respect of 100 houses over and above the previously approved application, he would be keen to see the drawings and layout of the development, and proposed that an office meeting be convened

The Planning Service Officer outlined that the original approval had been granted following a public inquiry and had been part of a wider release of land at the edge of the city. He added that this had been based on housing need at that time as opposed to capacity of the site to accommodate development, and this application was to increase the number of houses in recognition of a greater housing need. He outlined that this was a committed housing site which would help reduce pressure on the need to extend into other parts of the green belt.

Councillor Jeffers outlined that Members had previously raised a number of concerns relating to infrastructure, traffic volume etc in respect of the original application. He added that it was therefore reasonable for the Council to request an office meeting, given that the Planning Service was approving an additional 100 properties on the site.

Councillor Hanvey stated that over the past few years the volume of housing had increased in that area, and residents were still waiting for traffic lights to be

installed for new residential developments elsewhere in the Borough, ie Primrose Hill and Saintfield Road.

Alderman Rice sought clarification as to why the Planning Service did not implement Article 40 Agreements in order that land could be set aside for low cost or social housing.

Alderman Peter Robinson outlined that in addressing the issue of affordable housing for first time buyers then it had to be recognised that the problem was linked to the amount of land at the disposal of the developers. He added that the reality for the Council was due to the delay in producing the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan, and it was likely to be 4 to 5 years before new land was zoned. He outlined that unfortunately it would appear that the massive increase in house prices may continue until BMAP was forthcoming.

He referred to comments made by Alderman Rice, and stated that although it was law in Great Britain, there was no requirement on private developers to set aside land for social or affordable housing. He outlined that, in determining an application for housing developments, the Planning Service were, however, in a strong negotiating position to require an applicant to set aside land for this purpose.

He continued by stating that there were acres of land in public ownership which were surplus to requirements that could be transferred for social housing.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That consideration of Planning Application Y/2004/0715/F be deferred to enable a site meeting to be convened in liaison with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and Councillor White.

2007/72 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0182/RM – LANDS AT UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD/CARROWREAGH ROAD, DUNDONALD : ERECTION OF 108 DWELLINGS WITH GARAGES AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS (AMENDMENT TO PREVIOUS PLANNING APPROVAL Y/2003/0704/F)

Councillor White outlined that similar to the previous application, he would like to see the drawings and layout of this development, and proposed that an office meeting be convened.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Jeffers.

RESOLVED : That consideration of Planning Application Y/2006/0182/RM be deferred to enable an office meeting to be convened in liaison with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and Councillor White.

2007/73 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0458/0 – 12 MONTGOMERY ROAD, BALLYMACONAGHY, BELFAST BT6 9JD : SITE FOR NEW DWELLING ATTACHED TO NO. 12

Alderman Peter Robinson expressed the view that the Planning Service was being unduly harsh in its determination to refuse the above application as the site lay adjacent to the last house in a row of terraced dwellings, and there was ample space for a further dwelling. He added that he had noted in a document from the Roads Service that its recommendation to refuse had referred to a full planning application, yet the Planning Service's reference was for an outline application.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That consideration of Planning Application Y/2006/0458/0 be deferred to enable a site meeting, followed by an office meeting to be convened, in liaison with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and Alderman Peter Robinson.

2007/74 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0592/F – THE TOWN & COUNTRY SHOPPING CENTRE, CARRYDUFF : REDEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION OF THE TOWN & COUNTRY SHOPPING CENTRE WITH ASSOCIATION WORKS INCLUDING RELOCATION OF THE ASCOT PUBLIC HOUSE

Alderman Mrs Robinson outlined that she and the Mayor had been involved in discussions with the developer in respect of objections to the above application from the proprietors of Hollygate Lodge Private Retirement Home, and she was pleased that an amicable outcome had been reached.

She added that she hoped the Planning Service Officer could give an assurance that a condition would be placed for only a lounge bar and restaurant to operate within the new premises to ensure there would be no detrimental impact on the residents of Hollygate Lodge. She added that she hoped that consideration would also be given to the provision of adequate sound proofing.

The Planning Service Officer advised that the Planning Service would propose to attach a condition which would deal with those matters, and they would be directing the applicant to continue discussions with Environmental Health Officers in relation to potential noise nuisance.

Alderman Rice expressed her support for the application, and stated she was delighted for the residents that Mr Saggars was liaising with the PSNI to put in place security measures to help alleviate the problem of anti social behaviour in and around the shopping centre complex.

Councillor Hanvey also expressed his support, and outlined that as a former Member of the DPP he was well aware of the problems of anti social behaviour in that particular area, and he was pleased that Mr Saggars was taking steps to help alleviate the situation for residents.

Councillor Spratt stated that, given the major problems with anti social behaviour, he also welcomed the installation of CCTV.

Councillor Henderson welcomed the relocation of the bar and restaurant to the shopping centre complex, and he expressed the view that it would bring new life to the village of Carryduff.

Noted.

APPEALS LODGED WITH THE PLANNING APPEALS COMMISSION

2007/75 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0135/A – CAIRNSHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SAINTFIELD ROAD, CASTLEREAGH : HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SIGN BOARD

Councillor Hanvey outlined that there was already a sign located at the above location, and he expressed the view that by the time Planning Appeals Commission made a decision, the development would probably be completed and the houses occupied. He queried whether Planning Service was effectively implementing enforcement legislation relating to the illegal erection of signs.

Noted.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

2007/76 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM T SAGGARS AND C EMERSON DATED 10 DECEMBER 2006 RE: RELOCATION OF EXISTING BUSINESS, THE ROYAL ASCOT, 46-52 HILLSBOROUGH ROAD, CARRYDUFF (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/77 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE COUNCIL'S PLANNING OFFICER TO BELFAST DIVISIONAL PLANNING OFFICE RE: PROPOSED ERECTION OF 4 APARTMENTS WITH ASSOCIATION ON SITE CAR PARKING AND LANDSCAPING AT LAND ADJACENT TO 132 RAVENSWOOD PARK, BRANIEL (copy previously circulated)

The Planning Service Officer reminded Members that the above application had been withdrawn.

Noted.

2007/78 : LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS REGISTERED FOR THE PERIOD 16 JANUARY TO 5 FEBRUARY 2007 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

ANY OTHER PLANNING BUSINESS

2007/79 : PROPOSED NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT LAUREL GROVE

Alderman Rice stated that Laurel Grove was a well established residential area where children could play in relative safety. She added that access to the proposed new development would have an impact on the volume of traffic coming into Laurel Grove, and parents were very concerned for the health and safety of their children. She added that it would be her intention to seek an office meeting when the application appeared on the planning schedule.

At this point, Alderman Rice presented the Planning Service Officer with a number of letters of objection to the proposed new development.

Noted.

2007/80 : BELFAST METROPOLITAN AREA PLAN

Alderman Peter Robinson outlined that the Planning Service had given authority to the Planning Officer to make representation on behalf of the Council to the BMAP Hearings, and subsequently, she had forwarded a written submission. He added that he understood that the document had been returned to her because the 1500 word limit had been exceeded. He added that when dealing with a matter as important as future land use of the entire Borough, the BMAP Team should be paying much more attention to the Council's full submission, rather than relying on a summation. He added that Councillors had unanimously supported the EWay Scheme and were aware of how critical it was to address issues such as transport, infrastructure, traffic congestion, etc., and due consideration could not be given to all of these issues in such a brief summation.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council writes to the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan Team, enclosing the original full submission, and highlighting Members' concern that the Council's views on the draft plan had to be put into a summarised document and that the BMAP Team should be mindful of the full document when making its decision.

2007/81 : LAND AT EDGAR AVENUE

Alderman Rice outlined that land at Edgar Avenue had previously been zoned in the Carryduff Local Area Plan for social and community use, but was now identified within the Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan for housing. She added that she also understood that there was another portion of land zoned as open space.

The Planning Service Officer confirmed that there was an area highlighted in BMAP as existing open space.

Alderman Rice outlined that she was disappointed that the Planning Service had approved housing on land that had been zoned as a green area within BMAP. She added that, if in future, the Planning Service did not fall in line with BMAP, she would be referring the matter to the Ombudsman.

Noted.

Alderman Mrs Robinson left the meeting at this point at 8.15 p.m.

EDUCATION

2007/82 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RE: CLOSURE OF LISNASHARRAGH HIGH SCHOOL (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/83 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RE: REFUSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ROWALLANE INTEGRATED COLLEGE IN THE CROSSGAR/SAINTFIELD/CARRYDUFF AREA (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/84 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS & STRATEGY UNIT RE: CONSULTATION ON SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE : A POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS (copy letter previously circulated)

Following a proposal from Councillor White, it was

RESOLVED : That the correspondence from the Department of Education re: Consultation on Schools for the Future : A Policy for Sustainable Schools be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

**2007/85 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RE: SUPPORTING ETHNIC-MINORITY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
WHO HAVE ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (copy letter
previously circulated)**

Following a proposal from Councillor Henderson, it was

RESOLVED : That the correspondence from the Department of Education re: Consultation on Supporting Ethnic-Minority Children and Young People who have English as an Additional Language be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

HOUSING

**2007/86 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE HOUSING EXECUTIVE RE:
EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY ORDER NO.1 2006
CREGAGH, CAPPAGH GARDENS (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/87 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND
FEDERATION OF HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS RE: HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS
EQIA TIMETABLE (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/88 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING
EXECUTIVE RE: CORPORATE AND BUSINESS PLAN 2007-2010
CONSULTATION (copy letter previously circulated)**

Noted.

NILGA UPDATE

**2007/89 : NILGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE "SHAPING CHANGE" HELD ON
15-16 FEBRUARY 2007**

Councillor Beattie advised that he had attended the above conference which dealt with planning issues, women in politics, EU funding etc. He outlined that the conference had been well attended and was very informative.

Noted

FINANCE

2007/90 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the undernoted payments:

Capital Account (General) £ 19,047.87

General Account (Salaries)	£422,585.00
General Account (Suppliers)	£958,667.41

LEGAL

2007/91 : BUILDING CONTRACTS

It was proposed by Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Henderson, and

RESOLVED : That approval be granted for the Mayor and Chief Executive to Sign the building contracts for the following projects:

- (i) Carryduff Community Playground
- (ii) Moneyreagh Community Centre
- (iii) Cregagh Community Playground
- (iv) Lock Keeper's Cottage & Visitors' Centre

2007/92 : LANDS AT LADAS DRIVE

It was proposed by Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Henderson, and

RESOLVED : That approval be granted for the Mayor and Chief Executive to sign the Memorandum of Sale in respect of lands at Ladas Drive

MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS

2007/93 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR FEBRUARY 2007 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

GENERAL

2007/94 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL RE: PROPOSED ADMINISTRATION FACILITIES (copy previously circulated)

Alderman Peter Robinson expressed the view that Down District Council had acted outside their power by attempting to ensure the super council was located in their area. He added that it was clear from architect's drawings that by the time the building was completed, the lifetime of Down District Council would have passed. He outlined that the Council Chamber had been designed to accommodate 50 people and there were only 23 Councillors represented on Down District Council. He indicated that it was therefore clear that the building was being designed to a specification that would accommodate any future super council, and not intended for Down District Council's use only.

He continued by stating that in a radio debate that he had with a representative from Down District Council, she had put them in "hot water" by admitting that Down Council was attempting to take a decision which should lawfully be taken only when the super council was in place.

He referred to the above correspondence from Down District Council, in which the Clerk & Chief Executive had been instructed to ask Castlereagh Councillors to dissuade from engaging in matters which were not the business of this Council. He stated that he would like to point out to Down District Council's Chief Executive and Councillors that it was the business of Castlereagh Borough Council to be the guardian of ratepayers' money, and he did not want Castlereagh residents having to pay for the irresponsible behaviour of Down Council. He added if the super council did not come about, the ratepayers of Down would have to pay all the costs, and if this was the case, he was sure that the ratepayers of Down would raise the matter with the Local Government Auditor and surcharges would be imposed.

Alderman Peter Robinson outlined that he did not see any sense in writing back to these people as they had been warned that should Down District Council proceed, it was committing an illegal act and the law would come down even heavier on them.

Members expressed their support for Alderman Peter Robinson's comments.

Noted

2007/95 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL RE: REMARKS MADE BY STEPHEN NOLAN IN RELATION TO RECYCLING (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Chambers asked if arrangements had been put in place for Mr Nolan to spend the day with one of the Council's refuse collection squads, and she stressed the need to ensure that the visit focused mainly on recycling.

The Client Manager advised that he had spoken with the producer to discuss the itinerary, and he explained that Mr Nolan would be accompanying the blue wheeled bin collection and the black box kerbside collection. He added that there was also an offer for him to visit the Bryson House facility and possibly the landfill site at Mallusk.

Noted.

2007/96 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM ROYAL MAIL RE: ROYAL MAIL'S CHRISTMAS STAMP ISSUE FOR 2006 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/97 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM ARDS BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: RESOLUTION – BBC’S STEPHEN NOLAN SHOW – ADVERSE REMARKS ABOUT RECYCLING (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/98 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE – POLICING DIVISION RE: DRAFT NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD (NI) ORDER 2007 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/99 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE – POLICING DIVISION RE: LAUNCH OF THE APPOINTMENT COMPETITION FOR INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD (copy letter and details of the competition previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/100 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER RE: CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL FOR A DRAFT ORDER IN COUNCIL: THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES REFORM (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2007 (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/101 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY RE: REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS OF NEW HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANISATIONS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/102 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES COMMISSIONER FOR NORTHERN IRELAND RE: REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES: VENUES FOR INSPECTION OF REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS (copy previously circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council grants permission for the Local Government Boundaries Commission for Northern Ireland to place copies of the Review of Venues for Inspection of Revised Recommendations within the reception area of the Civic Centre.

2007/103 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY RE: HIDDEN CRIMES, SECRET PAIN – A CONSULTATION PAPER ON A PROPOSED REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR ADDRESSING SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/104 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM LOGAN & CORRY SOLICITORS RE: APPLICATION FOR PROVISIONAL GRANT OF A LICENCE – SUPERVALU, 13 KINGS SQUARE, KINGS ROAD, BELFAST (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/105 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE SOMME ASSOCIATION RE: 2007 SOMME PILGRIMAGE FOR THE 91ST ANNIVERSARY (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Henderson outlined that he understood that there was a Council resolution that only Members who had not previously attended the Somme Pilgrimage should attend.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that Councillors Cochrane, Henderson, Robinson and Tosh attend the 2007 Somme Pilgrimage.

2007/106 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY RE: CONSULTATION ON THE INTRODUCTION OF A VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION SCHEME FOR NORTHERN IRELAND (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/107 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY RE: FAMILIES MATTER: SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND (copy letter enclosed)

Noted.

2007/108 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM SHEAN DICKSON MERRICK SOLICITORS RE: APPLICATION FOR PROVISIONAL GRANT LICENCE, UNIT 3, THE TOWN & COUNTRY SHOPPING CENTRE, 16/20 BALLYNAHINCH ROAD, CARRYDUFF (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2007/109 : COPY OF COUNCIL'S EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE
(copy previously circulated)**

Councillor Chambers advised that whilst fire drills had been carried out for staff, the Council had a requirement to carry out fire drills for evening users of the Civic Offices including Members. She added that it had been agreed at the last Central Services Committee meeting to provide Members with a copy of the Emergency Evacuation Procedure, with a view to carrying out a fire drill sometime in the near future.

Councillor Henderson referred to the above document, and in particular to the reference to the "Councillors' diary" which was used to record when Members arrived and left the Civic Offices. He added that he had never been asked to sign a register when he arrived or left the offices, either during the day or evening.

RESOLVED : That Officers clarify the procedure within the Council's Fire Evacuation Policy in relation to recording when Councillors arrived and left the Civic Offices, and report back to the next Council meeting.

ANNUAL REPORTS

**2007/110 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS
IN PUBLIC LIFE RE: PUBLICATION OF THE ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE (copy letter previously
circulated)**

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**2007/111 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT – TRADING STANDARDS
SERVICE RE: CONSUMERLINE (copy circulated at the meeting)**

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the correspondence from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment be referred to the IT Section, with a view to setting up a link to the Consumerline website.

IN COMMITTEE

2007/112 : STAFF COMPUTERS

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services reported that at the last Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting, Members had agreed the immediate

purchase of staff computers through the Government Purchasing Agency. He added that he was therefore seeking Council approval to progress the matter.

Following a query from Alderman Peter Robinson, the Director of Finance & Leisure Services explained that an expert in IT was to be seconded from Belfast City Council to carry out a diagnosis on the Council's computer system, and to advise if the purchase of new computers was the correct course of action. He advised that the Officer was to arrive earlier that day, but unfortunately had not turned up.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council authorises the Director of Finance & Leisure Services to proceed with the purchase of staff computers, subject to the specialist in IT from Belfast City Council advising that this was the correct course of action required to solve the problem.

2007/113 : REPORT FROM THE CLIENT MANAGER RE: LAND ISSUE IN DUNDONALD (COPY OF THE REPORT AND THE LEGAL ADVICE TO BE TABLED AT THE MEETING)

The Client Manager circulated for Members' information the legal advice in respect of the above, and referred to a map highlighting the exact portion of land in question.

Alderman Peter Robinson asked what evidence the resident had that the land had been transferred into his ownership.

The Client Manager outlined that the resident had alleged that he had reached an agreement with a Council Officer in 1991 to fence in the land, however, there was no record of this agreement. He indicated that there would appear to have been maps drawn up around 1999, but nothing more formal had been progressed.

Councillor Tosh referred to the timescale for adverse possession, and asked if Officers could check if this was in fact the case, as he understood that the timescale was longer in relation to publicly owned land.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Alderman Peter Robinson, seconded by Councillor Drysdale, and

RESOLVED : That the Client Manager

- (a) seek legal advice on the timescale for adverse possession of unregistered land, and whether the timescale was longer in relation to publicly owned

- (b) arrange for the Council's solicitor to write to the owner of 92a Comber Road requesting evidence of his claim to the land in question, and to advise him that the Council was prepared to enter into negotiations for the sale of the land

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE