

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 24 April 2008 at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Chambers
(in the Chair)

ALDERMEN: M Copeland
J Norris MBE
Mrs G Rice MBE

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs A M Beattie
J Beattie
Mrs J Cochrane (until 9.30 p.m.)
Mrs S Duncan
D Drysdale
C Hall
B Hanvey
Miss R Hughes MBE
T Jeffers
M Long
Mrs V McCoy
G Robinson
J Spratt MLA
C Tosh (from 6.53 p.m.)
J White

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received on behalf of Alderman Robinson, Councillors Bunting, Henderson and Walker

2008/173 : OPENING OF MEETING

Reverend McIlveen opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2008/174 : PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT RE: RAPID TRANSPORT SCHEME

Councillor Chambers welcomed to the meeting Mr Gavin Hamilton and Mr Alan Preston from the Department for Regional Development.

Mr Preston advised that a study had been carried out to determine the best rapid transit system for Belfast, in terms of light rail versus bus rapid transit. He took Members through the detail of each of the options on the basis of technology, routes; demand and cost.

He outlined the proposed Pilot Network routes were follows:

- Dundonald in the East to the city centre (EWAY)
- Titanic Quarter to city centre and onwards to Queen's University (CITI)
- From the city centre to the Royal Victoria Hospital and beyond into West Belfast (WWAY)

Councillor Tosh arrived at 6.53 p.m.

Mr Preston advised that the key recommendations related to the Pilot Network being progressed to preliminary/detailed design and outline business case stages. He added that, in accordance with the findings, each scheme should be a bus-based rapid transit system and each of the routes identified were economically viable for each scheme. He outlined that the design of the schemes would include consideration of the following:

- integration of planned/committed developments in each area
- infrastructure requirements and consideration of planning conditions and developer contributions

With regard to procurement, he advised that the recommendations included a reform of the institutional arrangements for transport delivery and this would mean that independent private sector operators would be provided with the opportunity to bid.

Councillor Spratt thanked Mr Hamilton and Mr Preston for their very informative presentation. He added that he welcomed the Minister's announcement on the rapid transit system, particularly as it came so soon after the Assembly was up and running which showed signs of joined-up government. He outlined that, given the current congestion problems and increasing number of visitors to Belfast, there was a need for a fast and efficient public transport service.

Councillor Robinson commented that, based on the findings of the study, it had been determined that bus transit represented value for money in this instance and he urged the Minister to make a decision as quickly as possible.

Councillor Hanvey indicated that, in progressing the Pilot Network, he hoped that the Department was taking on board BMAP and the Transportation Strategy. He added that he hoped that the pilot would prove successful and the scheme could be extended to other areas of growth such as Carryduff.

Councillor Long expressed the view that, if the aim was to increase passenger numbers, he did not feel it was financially prudent to spend money on a bus system if the Department felt that it may have to upgrade to light rail in the future.

Mr Preston then addressed Members' queries in relation to the following:

Procurement:

Mr Preston advised that value for money could be achieved through the presence of a high level of competition and that Translink would have the opportunity to bid.

Timeframe:

He indicated that following the outcome of consultation with key players and consideration of the feasibility studies, the Minister and Executive colleagues would reach a final decision to enable the project to advance to a detailed design and implementation stage.

Extension to other routes:

He outlined that the success of the Pilot Network would determine how the scheme would be extended into other areas and its design would include potential migration of the system to light rail in the future.

Potential Loss of Leisure Amenity:

Mr Preston advised that it was felt that there was scope to retain the green area at Comber Greenway with no adverse impact on the cycling/walking amenity.

Bus Rapid Transit Option:

He advised that, compared with other major cities of the UK, Belfast would not have the same density of population to justify the development of a light rail system which was a significantly more expensive option. He added that Belfast would need to have three times its current population to make light rail economically viable.

Councillor Chambers thanked Mr Preston and Mr Hamilton for attending.

Noted.

2008/175 : MINUTES

RESOLVED : That

- (a) the Minutes of the following meetings be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings:
 - (i) Council meeting held on 27 March 2008
 - (ii) Central Services Committee meeting held on 14 April 2008

- (iii) Economic Development Sub Committee meeting held on 10 March 2008
- (b) the Minutes of the following meetings be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings, subject to the following amendments:
 - (i) Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 1 April 2008
include an apology on behalf of Alderman Mrs Rice
 - (ii) Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 8 April 2008
Page 5 – Minute No. LS/2008/72
Delete “Zero Tolerance” throughout the Minute and the resolution and insert “Behavioural Code”

Page 2 – Minute No. LS/2008/65 – Resolution (a)
Insert “The gentleman also be advised that, when considering any offence, the Council would give due regard to the behavioural code, which in turn had regard to human rights and child protection legislation”.
- (c) Defer adoption of the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 9 April 2008 to “Staff in Committee” to enable further consideration of Minute No. F&GP/2008/129
- (d) The Minutes of the Robinson Centre Working Group meeting held on 5 March 2008 be referred back to the Working Group for further consideration.
- (e) The Minutes of the Leisure Park Board meeting held on 18 February 2008 were noted

MATTERS ARISING

2008/176 : ROBINSON CENTRE CAFÉ (Minute No. LS/2008/79 refers)

Following a query from Councillor J Beattie in relation to the above, the Director of Leisure Services advised that, where there was the potential for redundancies, the Council was obliged to consult with the staff concerned, should this be necessary.

Noted.

2008/177 : PRESENTATION BY CONSILIUM RE: E-PROCUREMENT (Minute No. CS/2008/110 refers)

Councillor Robinson proposed that the proposal to have responsibility for central purchasing located within Administration & Civic Services be amended to be based within the Finance Department, and subsequently all related issues be dealt with by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor White.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the proposal to have central procurement located within the Administration & Civic Services be amended to be based within the Finance Department, and subsequently all related issues be dealt with by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

2008/178 : SINGLE STATUS WORKING GROUP (Minute No. F&GP/2008/108 refers)

Councillor J Beattie advised that the next meeting of the Single Status Working Group would be held on Wednesday 14 May 2008 at 6.00 p.m., prior to the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting.

Noted.

PLANNING

2008/179 : NOTES OF THE OFFICE MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2008 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 24 APRIL 2008 (copy previously circulated)

APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2008/180 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2007/0035/F – LAND BETWEEN LAUREL GROVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, KNOCKBRACKEN ROAD AND BALLYMACONAGHY ROAD : ERECTION OF 38 DWELLINGS (25 DETACHED, 13 TOWNHOUSES) AND GARAGES AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS

Alderman Rice requested a site visit in relation to the above application.

Councillor Robinson outlined that he was aware that there had been a significant number of objections to this application. He added that at an office meeting had been held on 11th April 2008 to consider a separate application, but that this particular development had been raised and the developer had indicated that he would be happy to meet with the residents.

Alderman Rice advised that she had already arranged to meet with the developer and Roads Service to discuss residents' concerns about the access to the development being located at Laurel Grove. She added that this was a quiet cul de sac where the residents were generally families with young children who were used to playing out in front of the houses. She outlined that the houses did not have boundary fences and residents were naturally

concerned about road safety issues. She indicated that what had been approved for the area 12 years ago would no longer be acceptable.

The Planning Service Officer outlined that, in terms of best practice and the type of housing already in the area, the current proposal was a comparatively well designed scheme.

Councillor Robinson indicated that as the developer was currently negotiating with Roads Service for access to be provided off the Ballymaconaghy Road, the Council should be supporting him in this respect. He added that he did not therefore feel that deferring the application was the best way forward.

Councillor Chambers outlined that similar to other areas in and around Cairnshill/Saintfield Road, a hammerhead had been left at Laurel Grove which unfortunately allowed for potential future development.

Councillor Spratt commented that it was clear that the developer was keen to meet with the residents to address their concerns and he also felt that nothing would be achieved by deferring the application.

Councillor Long expressed the view that it may be beneficial for the residents to retain any leverage they currently have and he suggested deferring the application until after the meeting with the developer.

Alderman Rice indicated that she did not wish to delay the application, but she felt that it was important for the access issue to be resolved.

Councillor Hanvey outlined that unfortunately he had not been able to attend the Office meeting in April, but he had had an opportunity to meet with the developer and to view the drawings. He added that he was pleased to note the traffic calming measures being proposed, and he hoped that this would be a stipulation of the approval.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that a meeting be convened in the Civic Offices in relation to Planning Application Y/2007/0035/F involving Councillors for the area; residents; Planning Service, Roads Service, Planning Officer and the developer.

2008/181 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2008/0008/F – 43 BALLYREGAN ROAD, DUNDONALD : ERECTION OF 4 APARTMENTS AND 4 DETACHED HOUSES ALONG WITH THE ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS (DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DWELLING)

Councillor Robinson outlined that the above application was included in the planning schedule as a refusal, but he understood the developer had indicated that he would change the 4 apartments to housing units. He referred Members to correspondence requesting an office meeting to enable the applicant to discuss the new proposal.

The Planning Service Officer outlined that the best way forward was for the Planning Service to advise the applicant to submit an amended application.

Noted.

2008/182 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2008/0082/F – 45 BRED A PARK, BRED A : ERECTION OF TWO STOREY EXTENSION TO REAR OF DWELLING WITH BATHROOM AND DINING EXTENSION TO SIDE (AMENDMENT TO PREVIOUS PLANNING PROPOSAL UNDER REFERENCE Y/2007/0464/F)

Following a proposal from Councillor Robinson, it was

RESOLVED : That consideration of Planning Application Y/2008/0082/F be deferred for one month to enable a site visit to be held at a date and time to be agreed with the Chairman of the Planning Committee

APPLICATIONS DEFERRED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION

2008/183 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2005/0076/F – 309 GILNAHIRK ROAD, BALLYHANWOOD : CHANGE OF USE FROM OFFICES TO 10 APARTMENTS INCLUDING PART DEMOLITION AND ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING BUILDINGS

Councillor Robinson indicated that although the Council was not opposed to the application, there were a number of road safety issues, in terms of ingress/egress, road structure, etc. He added that an office meeting had previously been convened to consider these issues, but he was not aware of the level of communication there had been between the Roads Service and Planning Service since then. He indicated that it may be worthwhile meeting with the Roads Service to reiterate these concerns.

Councillor Spratt referred to the historical significance of the building and outlined that he would like to see something progress before it was completely destroyed by vandals. He added that he was aware that the developer was trying to move forward and resolve the various issues, in terms of sewage system, access point, sight lines, etc.

The Planning Service Officer confirmed that he was expecting the developer to submit information on the various issues outlined by Councillor Spratt.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the Planning Officer writes to the Planning Service in relation Planning Application Y/2005/0076/F expressing the Council's concerns in relation to increased traffic volume, roads and sewage infrastructure, historical significance of the building, etc.

2008/184 : WEEKLY PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 11 MARCH 2008 TO 31 MARCH 2008 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/185 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE FOLLOWING: GORDON AND MAUREEN JOHNSTON; MORTIMER LOFTUS AND SHARON MADIGAN; JONATHAN BRADY RE: PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2008/0025/F – NOS. 31-33 AND LANDS TO REAR OF NOS 25-29 NEWTOWNBREDA ROAD : PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF 12 'ECO' APARTMENTS (TO INCLUDE DEMOLITION OF NOS 31-33 NEWTOWNBREDA ROAD & STORAGE SHEDS (copies previously circulated)

Following a query from Councillor White, the Planning Officer confirmed that it was normal practice to write to objectors advising them whether an application had been refused or approved at Council.

Noted.

2008/186 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM MRS A B WILSON TO THE PLANNING SERVICE AND TO COUNCILLOR J SPRATT MLA RE: PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2007/0599/F – ERECTION OF 4 TOWN HOUSES AT 2 FRANKHILL DRIVE, CARRYDUFF (copies previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/187 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RE: PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN TULLYCARNET (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Robinson outlined that this issue had initially been raised in relation to the Granton Heights site and the fact that the land had been sold to a private developer instead of being used for social housing. He added that as the Minister had not addressed this issue in her response, that the Council should write again requesting her comments on this particular matter.

Alderman Rice indicated that Article 40 required developers to set aside land for social and affordable housing and to work with Housing Associations to this end.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write to the Minister for Social Development asking that she clarify why the Granton Heights site had been sold to a private developer instead of being used to address social need. Furthermore, that there should be a requirement for the Planning Service to use its existing powers to ensure that social need was addressed and not just private.

2008/188 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM PRAGMA RE: PRIVATE SHELTERED HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT 99 TO 107 COMBER ROAD, CASTLEREAGH (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Robinson advised that a number of Councillors had attended a presentation in Dundonald Elim Church and had viewed the drawings of the sheltered housing development. He added that whilst most people were happy with the development, particularly given the fact that it was aimed specifically at the elderly, some residents had expressed concerns in relation to the four storey element. He added that the consultant was now requesting a meeting with Members to discuss the matter.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the Planning Officer writes to Pragma declining its offer to meet with Members, and advising that whilst the Council was supportive of the provision of private sheltered housing for the elderly, residents had concerns in relation to the four storey element of the development.

2008/189 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE RE: 40 CHURCH ROAD, BREA : PROPOSED REPLACEMENT DWELLING (DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DWELLING) WITH GARDEN AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS (AMENDED PLAN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION) (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

ANY OTHER PLANNING BUSINESS

2008/190 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM WHITE YOUNG GREEN RE: PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2008/0008/F – ERECTION OF 4 APARTMENTS AND 4 DETACHED HOUSES ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS (DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DWELLING AT 43 BALLYREGAN ROAD, DUNDONALD (circulated at the meeting)

Noted.

2008/191 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM MR A GEORGE RE: PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2005/0470/F 38, 40, 42, 44 AND 46 OLD DUNDONALD ROAD (circulated at the meeting)

Noted.

2008/192 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAND & PROPERTY SERVICES RE: DISPOSAL OF BELVOIR PARK HOSPITAL (circulated at the meeting)

The Planning Officer advised that Land & Property Services had advised that it was not aware of any restrictive covenants on the above site.

Councillor Mrs Beattie indicated that the former Planning Officer had researched this issue and she understood that there were restrictive covenants in place.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the Planning Officer investigate further the issue of restrictive covenants on the Belvoir Park Hospital site, and report back.

2008/193 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM DR H STOATE MP RE: CROSS PARTY INQUIRY INTO CHILDHOOD LEUKAEMIA AND POWER LINES

Noted.

**REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES
(circulated at the meeting)**

2008/194 : TEMPORARY MAST AT LOUGH MOSS – FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE WIND TURBINE

The Planning Officer presented the Director's report and took Members through the detail, as follows:

The Director of Leisure Services reported that planning permission had already been obtained for the final installation of the wind turbine at Lough Moss and that supporting funding had been secured from the Department of Finance & Personnel. She advised that a requirement of the grant offered was that a wind analysis study should be undertaken on the site, and to this end, a temporary wind analysis mast was to be installed to give site-specific data for a period of up to six months.

The Director reported that contractors had gone on site on 23 April but it had not been possible to place the temporary mast in the planned position. Due to existing constraints of the site and the need to locate the mast adjacent to the site of the permanent turbine, finding an alternative location had been difficult.

A site meeting had been held on 24 April with Officers from Technical & Environmental Services Department to agree a location that would not adversely interfere with the use of the pitches,

Members were referred to a map attached to the Director's report indicating the proposed site adjacent to pitch 5, and were advised that at present no planning application had been submitted for this site.

The Director outlined in her report the dimensions of the mast and advised that it was supported by guy ropes radiating outwards over 4 compass points. She indicated that all four anchor points and the base of the mast would be cordoned off by secure fencing for Health & Safety reasons.

The Director reported that extensive consultation had taken place with the Planning Officer, whose advice had been followed in identifying the alternative site. She advised that, if the project was delayed until planning permission was approved, then the deadline for utilising the Department of Finance & Personnel grant would have expired.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council authorises the Planning Officer to submit a retrospective planning application for the erection of a temporary wind analysis mast to be located adjacent to pitch 5 at the Lough Moss Leisure Centre.

ROADS

2008/195 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE RE: WYNCHURCH ROAD AREA – PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/196 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE RE: CARROWREAGH ROAD, DUNDONALD – PROPOSED 40 MPH SPEED LIMIT (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

HOUSING

2008/197 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE HOUSING EXECUTIVE RE: ELEVENTH ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE HOUSING EXECUTIVE'S HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION STRATEGY (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/198 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER RE: SEMINAR ENTITLED "THE FUTURE OF HOUSING IN NORTHERN IRELAND" BEING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL 2008 IN MALONE LODGE (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/199 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE HOUSING EXECUTIVE RE: NIHE SOUTH EAST AREA MANAGER (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

NILGA UPDATE

2008/200 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM NILGA DATED 16 APRIL 2008 RE: DRAFT RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE REFORM (copy previously circulated)

Councillor J Beattie referred to the above document and asked if Members were in agreement with the content of NILGA's draft response.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees with the draft response from NILGA to proposals for Health and Social Care Reform.

FINANCE

2008/201 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the undernoted payments:

Capital Account (General)	£101,529.79
General Account (Salaries)	£502,900.19
General Account (Suppliers)	£1,012,558.79

LEGAL

2008/202 : LICENCES BETWEEN CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL AND THE SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD IN RELATION TO MONEYREAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

RESOLVED : That approval be granted to sign the licences between Castlereagh Borough Council and the South Eastern Education & Library Board in respect of Moneyreagh Community Centre.

MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS

2008/203 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR APRIL 2008 (copy Previously circulated)

Noted.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

2008/204 : REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES RE: TENDER FOR THE RENEWAL OF SOFT DRINKS TO COUNCIL FACILITIES (copy previously circulated)

The Director of Leisure Services advised Members that the current soft drinks contract had been in place for the past three years and was due to expire in August 2008. She outlined that the facilities involved in the sale of soft drinks, whilst predominantly leisure facilities, were governed by a variety of Boards and Committees.

She added that Corporate Vending facilitate the distribution of a large element of the soft drinks supply and currently report to the Leisure Park Board, and in an effort to streamline the tender process, she was recommending that the Leisure Park Board facilitate the tender for the supply of soft drinks to the Council for the period post August 2008.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the Leisure Park Board facilitate the tender process for the supply of soft drinks to the Council post August 2008.

GENERAL

2008/205 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM BELFAST CITY COUNCIL RE: BELFAST CITY COUNCIL – SEARCH FOR LAND FOR BURIAL PROVISION (copy previously circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the Chief Executive continue to liaise with his counterpart in Belfast City Council in respect of its new cemetery proposal.

2008/206 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM CARRICKFERGUS BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: TACKLING SUICIDE (copy previously circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write to Carrickfergus Borough Council in support of its motion on tackling suicide.

2008/207 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM NEWRY & MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL TOGETHER WITH ITS RESPONSE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER RE: MSC IN EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP – INTERREG PROGRAMME (copies previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/208 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL RE: "JOINED-UP THINKING" ON ENERGY AND THE ALL-ISLAND ENERGY MARKET (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/209 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT RE: DELIVERY OF THE NI RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2007-2013 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/210 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT RE: FREE TRAVEL FOR PEOPLE AGED 60-64 : POLICY CONSULTATION AND DRAFT EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (copy previously circulated)

Members agreed to write in support of the above.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write the Department for Regional Development outlining the Council's support for free travel for people aged 60-64 years.

2008/211 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE POST OFFICE RE: NETWORK CHANGE PROGRAMME AREA PLAN PROPOSAL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND (copy letter and leaflet previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/212 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM POSTWATCH NORTHERN IRELAND RE: POST OFFICE CLOSURE PROGRAMME – NORTHERN IRELAND (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/213 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT RE: PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS – MEMBERS : NORTHERN IRELAND TOURIST BOARD (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/214 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL RE: REDUCTION OF RATING MAXIMUM CAPITAL VALUE (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/215 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE RE: COUNCIL TAX RELIEF FOR ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL DEPLOYED ON OPERATIONS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/216 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION RE: LAUNCH OF A CONSULTATION ON THE REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTY DESCRIPTIONS (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

Councillor Cochrane left the meeting at 9.30 p.m.

2008/217 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM ARMAGH CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL RE: BT CHARGES FOR NON DIRECT DEBIT CUSTOMERS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/218 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE SERVICE RE: WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY: HERITAGE AND REGENERATION (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/219 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ULSTER SPECIAL CONSTABULARY ASSOCIATION RE: SHOOTING RANGE PREVIOUSLY LOCATED AT THE LOUGH MOSS CENTRE, CARRYDUFF, TOGETHER WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSE (copies previously circulated)

Councillor Robinson sought clarification on the content of the above correspondence.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the Chief Executive contact Mr T R Scott explaining that a risk assessment had been carried out, and based on the advice in terms of health & safety implications, the shooting range at the Lough Moss Leisure Centre had been closed.

2008/220 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER RE: BUDDY BEAR SCHOOL OF CONDUCTIVE EDUCATION IN DUNGANNON (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/221 : REQUEST FROM THE BUDDY BEAR TRUST TO ATTEND A FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING FOR A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY INVOLVING THE PRESS TO HELP RAISE THE PROFILE OF THE CHARITY (copy previously circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council writes to the Buddy Bear Trust declining its request for a photo opportunity at a future Council meeting.

2008/222 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM WWF NORTHERN IRELAND RE:

EARTH HOUR 2009 (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Long expressed the view that the Council should be supporting the above initiative.

Members noted that this would involve the Council agreeing to switch off its lights for an hour.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to support the Earth Hour 2009 initiative and that the correspondence from WWF Northern Ireland be tabled and dealt with as a Civic matter at a future Central Services Committee meeting.

2008/223 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT & RURAL AFFAIRS RE DRAFT MARINE BILL (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/224 : STUDY PROPOSAL RE ABSENTEEISM IN NORTHERN IRELAND COUNCILS 2007-08 FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2008/225 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM SUSTRANS, TOGETHER WITH A COPY OF ITS CORRESPONDENCE TO THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT RE: BELFAST RAPID TRANSPORT PROGRAMME : E-WAY (circulated at the meeting)

Councillor Robinson proposed that the Council writes to Sustrans advising that the majority of the Members wholeheartedly supported the EWay Bus Rapid Transit Scheme. He referred to the presentation earlier in the meeting and stated that he was pleased to learn of the proposal to retain the green area at Comber Greenway for activities such as cycling, walking etc

Councillor White seconded the proposal.

Councillor Long referred to the comments he had expressed earlier in the meeting in relation to Bus Rapid Transit option and he outlined that he could not support the proposal if the letter indicated that it had the full support of the Council.

Councillor Chambers asked Members to vote on the proposal, and a recorded vote was requested, as follows:

In favour of the proposal:

Councillor J Spratt
Councillor J White
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor G Robinson
Councillor T Jeffers
Alderman J Norris
Councillor Mrs V McCoy
Councillor Mrs A Beattie
Councillor C Tosh
Councillor Miss R Hughes
Councillor B Hanvey
Alderman Mrs G Rice
Councillor C Hall
Alderman M Copeland
Councillor D Drysdale
Councillor Mrs M Chambers

Abstentions:

Councillor Mrs S Duncan
Councillor M Long

With 16 voting in favour and two abstentions, the proposal in the name of Councillor Robinson was duly carried.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write to Sustrans outlining the Council's support for the Bus Rapid Transit Schemes.

2008/226 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE RE: FOOTWAY IN CANBERRA PARK (circulated at the meeting)

Noted.

2008/227 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM MKB RUSSELLS SOLICITORS RE: APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A LICENCE FOR PREMISES AT KINGS SQUARE SHOPPING CENTRE, KINGS ROAD (circulated at the meeting)

Noted.

2008/228 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM MKB RUSSELLS SOLICITORS RE: APPLICATION FOR THE PROVISIONAL GRANT OF A LICENCE FOR PREMISES AT KINGS SQUARE SHOPPING CENTRE, KINGS ROAD (copy circulated at the meeting)

Noted.

2008/229 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM MCCONNELL KELLY & CO SOLICITORS RE: THE KOSY SOCIAL CLUB – REGISTRATION OF CLUBS (NI) ORDER 1996 (copy circulated at the meeting)

Noted.

IN COMMITTEE

2008/230 : REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE – FIRST DRAFT OF THE COUNCIL’S YEAR END MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE 2007/2008 (copy previously circulated)

The Director of Finance asked Members to note the current underspend on the Council’s District Fund for the year end 31 March 2008. He also indicated that the accounts contained year end transfers to the Capital Account, along with adjustments for the disallowed accruals in relation to the 2006/2007 year.

Noted.

2008/231 : TRANSFER OF TWO PORTIONS OF LAND FROM CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL TO THE HANWOOD TRUST

The Director of Finance circulated for Members’ information a map detailing the two portions of land in question. He advised that the content of the draft agreement had been approved by both the Council’s and the Hanwood Trust’s solicitors, and the contract would be signed off within the next week.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to the transfer of two portions of land from Castlereagh Borough Council to the Hanwood Trust (as indicated in the map circulated by the Director of Finance).

2008/232 : RIGHT OF WAY AT LISNASHARRAGH PARK

Councillor Robinson referred to the above site and asked if the Director of Technical & Environmental Services would arrange for the area to be tidied, as a one-off measure.

RESOLVED : That the Director of Technical & Environmental Services liaise with Councillor Robinson, with a view to the Director arranging for a tidy up of the Right of Way at Lisnasharragh Park.

The meeting went into “Staff in Committee” and the Assistant Members’ Services Officer left the Council Chamber.

STAFF IN COMMITTEE

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.50 p.m.

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE