

## CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Castlereagh Borough Council meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh BT8 6RB on Thursday, 28th August 2008 at 7.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Mrs A M Beattie	(Mayor)
Alderman J White	(Deputy Mayor)
Alderman M Copeland	
Alderman Norris MBE	
Alderman Mrs I Robinson MP MLA (from 7.55 p.m.)	
Councillor J Beattie	
Councillor Mrs J Cochrane	
Councillor Mrs M Chambers	
Councillor D Drysdale	
Councillor Mrs S Duncan	
Councillor B Hanvey	
Councillor Miss R Hughes MBE	
Councillor J Spratt	
Councillor M Long	
Councillor Mrs V McCoy	
Councillor G Robinson	
Councillor J Spratt	
Councillor L Walker	

**IN ATTENDANCE:-** Chief Executive, Director of Administration & Community Services, Director of Leisure Services, Acting Environmental Health Manager, Economic Development Manager, Planning Officer, Building Control Manager, Planning Service Officer and Assistant Members' Services Officer

**APOLOGIES:-** Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors Tosh, Hall, Henderson and Alderman Rice.

### **2008/534 : OPENING OF MEETING**

Alderman Norris opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

### **2008/535 : MINUTES**

RESOLVED:- that,

- (a) the minutes of the Council Meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and
- (b) the minutes of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2008 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings, subject to the taking back of Minute No: T&ESC/2008/296 as a report was being tabled by the Economic Development Manager on this issue during the course of the meeting.

### **2008/536 : SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

Councillor Spratt, at this point, asked Members to agree to a Suspension of Standing Orders to permit one of the residents affected by recent flooding in the Meyrick area to speak on the matter.

He stated that on the evening in question he had again witnessed some horrendous scenes in South Belfast and he paid tribute to the Council's Chief Executive, who had been the only Chief Executive actively working on the ground, in comparison to other Councils, as well as other senior Council staff members.

Councillor Spratt went on to comment that the Chief Executive had remained in contact with him, and the other Elected Representatives, throughout the evening and he complimented the council staff, especially the OSU cleansing staff, who were still continuing to tidy up the Borough following the events, and the other Technical and Environmental Services staff who had been working hard to assist those residents affected by flooding.

The Chief Executive further paid further tribute to Mr John Thompson, the Council's Emergency Planning and Health & Safety Officer for his assistance during the flooding.

At this stage, Councillor Spratt wished to record his sheer condemnation of the Nolan Show and those in association with the production of the show who had criticised the Chief Executive. He again reiterated that Castlereagh Borough Council had been the only council who had a Chief Executive actively on the ground and he congratulated him for the way he had directed the operation during the flooding.

These comments were echoed by the Mayor, who hoped that the recent severe wet weather would ease off to prevent any further distress to those affected residents.

Mr Philip Blakely, a resident from Merok Crescent affected by the flooding, then addressed the Council Chamber.

Mr Blakely reiterated that this had been the second time that he had been affected by flooding in 11 months and he sought the Council's support to urge the DRD and the DOE to look at resolving the problem.

He went on to say that work had been carried out in areas such as Burren way which had gone some way to alleviate the problem and he hoped that similar works could be carried out in Meyrick Crescent and the residing streets.

Councillor Robinson advised that the MP for the area had, during the previous flooding incident, brought together the various groups and agencies to discuss the situation and he would take the matter back to the MP with regard to setting up a similar meeting.

Alderman Copeland expressed concern that the same locations had flooded twice in less than a year, despite the residents being informed the first time that this would be a "once in a lifetime" event. He was pleased that the residents of Castlereagh felt that they were able to access the Council Chamber for support of their plight. He felt that it was unfortunate that this flooding would most likely re-occur because the infrastructure was not in place to prevent it. He also stated that the 3 Emergency Call-Centres which had subsequently been put in place to deal with such incidents was now recognised as inappropriate for the scale of the flooding and lessons needed to be learnt.

Alderman Copeland congratulated the Mayor and Councillor Spratt for highlighting the matter and hoped that the Council could use its expertise to ensure that such events would not happen in the future and that this was a golden opportunity to make politics happen for local residents.

Councillor Long reiterated that he too had visited the affected areas on Saturday and Sunday and wished to thank the Chief Executive for the work he had carried out and the regular updates that had been provided on a regular basis. He again paid tribute to the Council Staff and the other Emergency Services.

He commented that he shared a lot of the residents' concerns as the Council had highlighted these problems last year, but the infrastructure had still not improved and the accessibility issues required to be sorted out. He was fully supportive of the residents, but it was clear that with the changing climate, the appropriate infrastructure would have to be put in place to cope with these needs.

Councillor Hanvey stated that, although he did not represent the area, he had received regular updates from the Chief Executive and had been kept fully informed. He concurred with the urgency to resolve the problem and get an assurance from the Statutory Agencies that action plans would be put in place and routine maintenance would be carried out. On behalf of the SDLP, he also wished to commend the council staff and Chief Executive for the sterling job that they had carried out in very difficult circumstances.

Councillor Beattie referred to the geographic location of Belfast which was prone to flooding and felt that there was no quick and easy solution. The permitted development within Belfast had also created a large sewerage problem which would take years to resolve. However, he felt that if the Agencies took steps, such as providing more switchgear equipment or maintaining gullies, this would hopefully help in alleviating the problem, but he assured local residents that the Council would continue to put pressure on the Agencies to remedy the situation.

Councillor Walker agreed that the Council would do everything in its power to resolve the situation in Mount Merrion Park and Meyrick Crescent for the local residents.

Noted.

## **PLANNING**

### **SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 28 AUGUST 2008**

(copy previously circulated)

**2008/537 : DEFERRED APPLICATION NO: Y/2008/0125/A – HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SIGN BOARD – CAIRNSHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SAINTFIELD ROAD, CASTLEREAGH**

Councillor Hanvey wished to express his disappointment at the Planning Service's decision to refuse this application, especially as the Construction Industry was facing such uncertainty and the facilitation of a sign may have eased the problem for the Taggart Homes Development at Cairnshill.

Noted.

**2008/538 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2007/0591/F – 20M WEST OF 60 LOUGH MOSS PARK, CARRYDUFF – DWELLING & DOUBLE GARAGE FOR PRIVATE PURPOSES (amendment to previously approved dwelling and double garage under planning reference: Y/2006/0380/F)**

In response to a query from Councillor Spratt, the Planning Service Officer clarified that a number of objections had been received from the same person and the application had been determined under planning terms, but that the land ownership issue would need to be dealt with elsewhere.

Noted.

**2008/539 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2008/0128/F – ERECTION OF 7 No. 1-BEDROOM APARTMENTS IN ONE BLOCK WITH ASSOCIATED CAR PARKING AND LANDSCAPING**

The Planning Service Officer advised Members that there had been a clerical error in the Planning Schedule and this application related to 7 No. 1-bedroom apartments and not 10 as stated.

Councillor Robinson reported that the Council could only consider the application as it was presented and therefore the Planning Service should take this back until next month.

The Planning Service Officer clarified that although there was a misprint in the Schedule, the application had been considered on the basis of 7 units, but there

had still been concerns in relation to the scale, bulk and form of the proposed development.

Councillor Robinson suggested that the Council hold an Office Meeting to seek further clarification. He expressed his concern that the Planning Department were objecting to Elected Representatives' requests for site and office meetings and reiterated that the Council had not abused this system in the past. Councillor Spratt concurred with these comments.

Councillor Robinson then gave a brief history of the site and advised Members that the applicant had amended his scheme on a number of occasions to appease the Planning Service and he felt that it was only fair that he be given an opportunity to hold an office meeting.

Councillor Beattie commented that as Chairman of the Planning Committee within NILGA, he was concerned at the Planning Department's policy with regard to site and office meetings as this had not been the case in the past. He stated that the Planning Service were basing their recommendations on PPS regulations but these stipulations were so restrictive that no Council consultation was permitted.

Alderman Mrs Robinson arrived to the meeting at 7.55 p.m.

The Planning Service Officer referred to the circular that had been published by the Planning Department detailing the rationale for the deferral of planning applications.

Councillor Robinson stated that he was aware of the document but indicated that other councils seemed to be getting more site and office meetings at the discretion of the Divisional Planning Officer.

At this point, the Planning Service Officer took on board Members' concerns and, because of the background to the application he was prepared to concede to an Office Meeting.

RESOLVED:- that, consideration of Planning Application No: Y/2008/0128/F be deferred for one month to enable an Office Meeting to be held at a date and time to be agreed by the Chairman of the Planning Committee in liaison with Councillor Robinson.

**2008/540 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2008/168/F – 12.5M HIGH HUTCHINSON FLEXI-CELL 2TYPE E, STREET FURNITURE COLUMN WITH SHROUDED ANTENNA AT TOP, 2G CANNON STREET FURNITURE CABINET AND 3G CANNON STREET FURNITURE CABINET (amendment to Approval Y/2004/0465/F) – GRASS VERGE, ROUNDABOUT AT MANSE ROAD AND BALLYMACONAGHY ROAD, BELFAST**

Councillor Drysdale sought clarification, in the absence of Councillor Hall, in relation to this application.

The Planning Service Officer responded that this application referred to a previous planning approval and a new network provider had purchased the old telecommunications site and was replacing it with O2 equipment, thereby avoiding the need to erect additional masts in the area.

Noted.

**2008/541 : PLANNING APPLICATIONS NOS: Y/2008/0295F & Y/2008/0298/F RELATING TO 2 SEPARATE INSTALLATIONS OF 10kW WIND TURBINES ON 12M HIGH FREE STANDING MASTS AT 83 MANSE ROAD, CLONTONAKELLY**

Councillor Spratt requested clarification in relation to these applications and the Planning Service Officer confirmed that they were two separate planning applications.

Alderman Copeland enquired if there was any difference between an application for 1 turbine or 2 turbines in planning terms and asked if the applicant had submitted just one application for 2 wind turbines if it would have been treated differently in relation to potential noise pollution levels etc.

The Planning Service Officer responded that the Department had taken into account that there would be 2 wind turbines in close proximity to each other and had considered the cumulative impacts. Following consultation, he advised that the relevant agencies had not identified any concerns with regard to noise levels etc.

Councillor Chambers expressed her concern in relation to the commercial aspects of the selling of electricity to the National Grid.

The Planning Service Officer referred to the Regional Planning Policy and the good practice it promoted with regard to encouraging alternative forms of power.

Following agreement, it was

RESOLVED:- That, any Councillor wishing to comment in relation to these two applications should send their concerns to the Planning Department directly.

**2008/542 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2008/0334/F – ERECTION OF 36 x NO. 2 BEDROOM “ECO” APARTMENTS WITH ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS (DEMOLITION OF NOS: 17 & 19 BALLYGOWAN ROAD) RETENTION OF NO. 15 BALLYGOWAN ROAD) – AT 15-19 BALLYGOWAN ROAD, CARNAMUCK**

Members were advised that this planning application had now been withdrawn.

Noted.

**2008/543 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2008/0357/F – ERECTION OF TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION WITH FAMILY ROOM AT GROUND FLOOR AND BEDROOM EXTENSION ABOVE – 30 BRERTON CRESCENT, BALLYDOLLAGHAN**

Councillor Duncan proposed a site meeting to view this proposal, in the absence of Councillor Tosh.

The Planning Service Officer advised that although he was aware of the issues involved, he felt that there was no basis for withholding permission and the Department were reluctant to defer the scheme.

Councillor Mrs Beattie indicated that as this proposal did not conform with existing houses in the area, a site visit was necessary.

The Planning Service Officer reported that he had copies of the relevant drawings and photographs with him at tonight's meeting.

Alderman Mrs Robinson asked when Civil Servants had determined the right to ignore the views of Elected Representatives.

The Planning Service Officer responded that there were no grounds advanced for the basis of deferring this application and it had been considered very carefully.

Councillor Mrs Chambers agreed that a site visit was necessary to see the proposal at first hand and seconded the proposal by Councillor Duncan.

Councillor Drysdale referred to the good record that the Council had in attending site meetings and both he and Alderman White felt it was ridiculous that the Council were being penalised for the abuse of the system by other councils.

Alderman Copeland concurred that despite the abolition of attendance allowances, the Council had continued to maintain an excellent record of attendance and had represented the genuine concerns of the ratepayers. He therefore asked the Planning Service Officer to relay to his peers that Castlereagh did not abuse the system for deferrals.

The Planning Service Officer advised that one of the reasons that Councillors were notified in advance of applications was to enable Members to raise matters beforehand, and whilst he appreciated that this scheme would have some impact, he reiterated that the proposal was for a small extension and felt that Members were being unreasonable in this instance.

Councillor Beattie advised that there was a need to have a site meeting with Councillors collectively in attendance and expressed his concern that the Council was being denied this opportunity.

The Planning Service Officer reiterated that the Department were of the view that there was no basis for a refusal.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Planning Officer be instructed to write to the Planning Service requesting the need for a site visit to view this proposal and reiterating that the Council does not abuse the deferral system and should therefore not be penalised accordingly.

Furthermore, that the Planning Officer ensures that all Members receive a copy of the correspondence.

**2008/544 : WEEKLY PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 8/7/08 – 4/08/2008** (copy enclosed)

Noted.

**2008/545 : ERECTION OF EXTENSION TO EXISTING HOTEL AT JUNCTION WITH MILLTOWN ROAD**

Tabled:- Correspondence from McVeigh & Brown, dated 6 August 2008, re: Erection of Extension to existing Hotel to facilitate 112 additional Bedrooms with two No Level Basement Parking Areas, new OMNI Health & Beauty Centre, Formation of Internal News Agency/Gift Shop, Erection of Detached Block of 39 No Executive Suites with two No Level Basement Car Parking, Erection of detached two-storey Dwelling for Manager, enhanced Landscaping Proposals and Provision of new Slip Roadway at Junction with Milltown Road, including new Traffic Signalling for Andras House Ltd (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2008/546 : PROPOSED YOUTH CENTRE AT BROOKLANDS SCHOOL**

Tabled:- Correspondence from J Wilkinson, dated 25 July 2008, re: Application Y/2008/0131/O - Proposed Youth Centre at Brooklands School (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2008/547 : RESTRUCTURING OF THE PLANNING SERVICE AT SENIOR MANAGERIAL GRADES**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Planning Service dated 24 July 2008 (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Robinson proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr John Cummings for his work with Castlereagh Borough Council as Divisional Planning Manager, his assistance to Elected Members in the past and wishing him well in his new position as Strategic Projects Manager.

RESOLVED:- that, the Chief Executive be instructed to write to Mr John Cummings thanking him for his work with the Council, his assistance to Members and wishing him well in his new post.

**2008/548 : SITE TO THE NORTH OF UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD AND TO THE WEST OF DUNLADY ROAD, ADJACENT TO 2 DUNLADY ROAD, DUNDONALD**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Planning Service, dated 20 August 2008, re: Site to the North of Upper Newtownards Road and to the West of Dunlady Road, adjacent to 2 Dunlady Road, Dundonald, Belfast, Construction of Residential Development, comprising 165 Dwellings, associated Car Parking, landscaped Open Amenity Space, Children's Play Area and General Site Works (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Long referred to this application and the large number of objections and complicated issues relating to the scheme.

Alderman White concurred with Councillor Long in relation to the prominent position of the development especially with regard to the height of the flats which would look totally out of character with the existing properties.

Alderman Copeland enquired if the proposal had been subject to a flood risk assessment.

The Planning Service Officer referred to the Planning Schedule which was circulated in advance and the rationale ensured that it provided opportunity for discussion prior to the Council's Planning Meeting. He stated that this scheme had been subject to much consultation and the previous application had raised a number of issues which had been taken on board as part of the ongoing process.

He commented that the Planning Service could either look at every planning application or have a process in place to regulate applications and he reiterated that there must be sound planning basis for deferrals. He reported that the Rivers Agency had been a consultee, along with other agencies and the Planning Authority had made a determination.

Councillor Jeffers advised that the Developer had already been granted approval for the proposal and local residents were unhappy with the Planning Service's determination.

He asked to see a copy of the Rivers Agency's correspondence in relation to the potential for flooding incidents.

Councillor Drysdale stated that the Planning Schedule contained 58 applications yet the Council had asked for 3 Office or Site Meetings but the Planning Service Officer had only granted 1 site meeting.

Noted.

**ANY OTHER PLANNING BUSINESS**

**2008/549 : OBJECTION RE: PLANNING APPLICATION 7/2007/0591/F – 20M WEST OF 60 LOUGH MOSS PARK, CARRYDUFF**

Tabled:- Correspondence from local resident together with the Chief Executive's response in relation to Application Y/2007/0591/F : 20m west of 60 Lough Moss Park, Carryduff, BT8 8PD - Dwelling and double garage for private purposes (amendment to previously approved dwelling and double garage under planning reference Y/2006/0380/F) (copy tabled at meeting)

Noted.

**2008/550 : OBJECTION RE: PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2008/0357/F – 30 BRERTON CRESCENT, BALLY DOLLAGHAN**

Tabled:- Correspondence from local resident in relation to Application Y/2008/0357/F : 30 Brerton Crescent, Ballydollahagan, Belfast, BT8 6QD - Erection of two-storey rear extension with family room at ground floor and bedroom extension above (copy circulated at meeting)

Noted.

**2008/551 : CORRESPONDENCE RE: PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2007/0618/F – CONSTRUCTION OF NEW 4 UNIT APARTMENT BUILDING (DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDING) – AMENDED PROPOSAL AT 188 KING'S ROAD**

Tabled:- Correspondence from Allen & Daphne Abraham and J W O Morrison : Application Y/2007/0618/F – Construction of new 4 unit apartment building (demolition of existing building). Amended proposal at 188 King's Road (copy circulated at meeting)

Noted.

**2008/552 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE RE: FORSTER GREEN HOSPITAL, 110 SAINTFIELD ROAD**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Planning Service : Erection of fencing for In Patient Adolescent and Child Mental Health facilities approved under planning reference Y/2005/0539/0 – Forster Green Hospital, 110 Saintfield Road (copy circulated at meeting)

Noted.

**2008/553 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES COMMISSIONER FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner for Northern Ireland, dated 26 August 2008, re: Review of Local Government

Boundaries: Venues for Inspection of Provisional Recommendations (copy circulated at meeting)

Noted.

**2008/554 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE RE: 31/33 OLD DUNDONALD ROAD, BELFAST**

The Council's Planning Officer advised that the Council had written to the Planning Service requesting an Office Meeting and had now received a response on the matter.

She reported that the Planning Service would permit an Office Meeting on the basis that the applicant withdraws his application.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- that, the Planning Service will contact the applicant and if he is willing to withdraw his application, that the Council will arrange for an Office Meeting to take place.

**ROADS**

**2008/555 : WANSTEAD AVENUE, DUNDONALD**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Roads Service, dated 3 July 2008, re: Wanstead Avenue, Dundonald (copy previously circulated)

Alderman White proposed that the Council write to the Roads Service expressing their dissatisfaction at the Department's response and outlining the fact that Roads Service were currently carrying out works to Wanstead Road, despite the footpaths at Wanstead Avenue being in worse state, and suggesting they continue the improvement works to Wanstead Avenue whilst they are working in the locality.

RESOLVED:- that, the Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Roads Service expressing the Council's dissatisfaction with the Department's response and asking them to ensure that a continuation of the urgent works at Wanstead Avenue are carried out, as Roads Service staff are already working at the Wanstead Road vicinity.

**2008/556 : NILGA UPDATE**

Noted.

**FINANCE**

**2008/557 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED:- That, the Council approves the under-noted payments.

Capital Account	:	General	£	44,019.68
General Account	:	Salaries	£	507,319.68
General Account	:	Suppliers	£	1,146,393.10

### LEGAL

#### **2008/558 : APPROVAL TO SIGN DEED OF CONVEYANCE RE: MILLTOWN ROAD ROAD/BELVOIR ROAD**

RESOLVED:- That, the Council grant approval for the signing of the Deed of Conveyance in relation to Milltown Road/Belvoir Road Improvement and Signalisation Scheme between Castlereagh Borough Council and the Department for Regional Development, Roads Service

#### **2008/559 : APPROVAL TO SIGN DEED OF VARIATION FOR ROBINSON CENTRE**

RESOLVED:- That, the Council grant approval for the signing of the Deed of Waiver in relation to the Robinson Centre.

#### **2008/560 : APPROVAL TO SIGN AGREEMENT TO PROTECT SPORT NI FUNDING FOR PHASE 3 OF THE HANWOOD CENTRE**

RESOLVED:- That, the Council grant approval for the signing of the necessary agreement to protect the draw down of funding from Sport NI in relation to Phase 3 of the Hanwood Centre project. That this be signed upon agreement of the wording by the Council's solicitor.

#### **2008/561 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR AUGUST 2008 (copy enclosed)**

Noted.

### REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

#### **2008/562 : REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES – SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND** (copy previously circulated)

The Director of Leisure Services referred Members to her report in relation to the potential funding opportunities from Sport Northern Ireland and the three new funding opportunities which will be launched in September 2008 namely: Active Communities, Places for Sport – Surfaces and Investment in Performance Sport.

She outlined the details of each of the programmes in relation to the projects that could be funded and who could apply to these programmes.

The Director stated that because the launch of the programme was scheduled for September, submissions for funding were to be received by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008 and the timetable for preparation was extremely tight. She therefore sought approval to progress the matter and would bring back the proposal to Council prior to submission of the application as this would enable the necessary information to be collated to ensure that the deadline would be met.

Councillor Spratt commented that, whilst he appreciated the tight deadline, the Council were having to work in tandem with Lisburn City Council and he expressed a degree of concern regarding Officers seeking retrospective permission as there would be little time for the information to be tabled at the respective committees. He therefore proposed a Special Council Meeting be held when all of the relevant information has been collated to update Members and facilitate Officers to progress the matter in the interim.

The Director of Leisure Services advised that the information would be available for the September Council Meeting but she was seeking approval to go out to tender immediately thereafter to tender for the design associated with the projects as approved by Council.

She went on to state that the Council could submit as many applications as it wished, however one of the assessment criteria is likely to be the level of capital funding the council is willing to commit to the project.

Councillor Spratt asked that Officers ensure that if any additional funding is required, this information must be brought to the attention of Members, as any expenditure of a major nature must be given prior Council approval.

In response to a query from Councillor Walker, the Director of Leisure Services confirmed that going out to tender did in no way commit the Council to anything.

Councillor Spratt asked that Officers ensure that if any additional funding is required, this information must be brought to the attention of Members, as any expenditure of a major nature must be given prior Council approval.

In response to a query from Councillor Walker, the Director of Leisure Services confirmed that going out to tender did in no way commit the Council to anything and the approximate cost, going by her previous experience, would cost in the region of £500-800.

The Director reiterated that she was merely drawing up a Select List at this stage to gauge expressions of interest and once Members approved the project, she would then draw up a shortlist.

Councillor Beattie expressed concern that the Council would have to commit more expenditure to the project in the future.

The Director responded that once she had collated the necessary information and tabled it at the September Council Meeting, at that stage Members could agree which projects they wished to proceed with.

She reiterated that this opportunity provided 3 funding opportunities for the Council and only the Active Communities programme required an application in tandem with Lisburn City Council.

Councillor Robinson proposed that the Council authorise the Director of Leisure Services to progress the matter, which was seconded by Councillor Drysdale.

The Chief Executive confirmed that although the short timeframe was putting Officers under pressure, it was providing the Council with an opportunity to consider projects that had been deemed desirable, not just essential.

**RESOLVED:-** That, the Director of Leisure Services be authorised to progress the recommendations within her report and verbal addendum relating to the potential funding opportunities from Sport Northern Ireland and that a proposed list for all council projects be brought to the September Council meeting

Furthermore, that she be given approval to progress the tender for design options once the projects have been approved by Council and to lodge the necessary planning applications for the proposed leisure based projects.. Once the information for the funding opportunities have been collated, that the information will be tabled at the September Council Meeting to enable Members to agree which project they wish to progress.

## **REPORT FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

### **2008/563 : LOCK KEEPER'S COTTAGE – TENANT FOR THE TEA ROOMS WITHIN THE VISITORS' CENTRE**

The Economic Development Manager referred to his report and outlined that Officers had liaised with the Council's Solicitor and Mr Kirk McCambley to draft a lease and he went on to detail the conditions of the lease for Members' information.

**RESOLVED:-** That, the Council approve the terms and conditions as outlined in the Economic Development Officer's report and authorise the signing of the lease.

### **2008/564 : HANWOOD BUILDING PHASE 1**

The Economic Development Manager outlined the background to the licence to grant exclusive possession of the Hanwood building to the Hanwood Trust for 21 years and reiterated that it was still subject to Ministerial approval.

He reported that the Housing Executive had verbally confirmed that it will accept the granting of a licence for the whole of the premises from the Council to the Hanwood Trust to protect against any delay which may arise from having to amend the head lease.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED;- that, the Council approve that the licence is developed and granted for the whole of the premises as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Economic Development Manager's report, however the granting of the licence remains subject to Ministerial approval.

Furthermore, that the Economic Development Manager will table a copy of the final licence and a summary of the terms and conditions at the September Council Meeting.

## **REPORT FROM THE ACTING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGER**

### **2008/565 : STAFF MATTERS**

RESOLVED:- That, this item would be discussed "In Committee" at the end of the meeting.

### **2008/566 : CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR**

The Acting Environmental Health Manager referred to his report in which a request had been made by the Youth Diversion Officer within the PSNI in relation to the progressing of juvenile offenders and which deviated from Council policy.

He reported that the proposal stated that juveniles would be progressed through the PSNI's Youth Diversion Scheme for alcohol issues including the consumption of intoxicating liquor. This would satisfy the PSNI's Corporate Plan. The proposal had further detailed that Councils could be advised of the number of juveniles progressed in this manner and the information could be used to determine compliance with the target in relation to juveniles in the Local Policing Plan.

He highlighted that this deviation would only apply to juveniles and adult offenders would be progressed in the usual manner.

Councillor Spratt expressed his opposition to this suggestion from the PSNI and stated that Members had been pressing the PSNI at DPP level to increase their targets with regard to the detections of alcohol-related anti-social behavioural incidents. He stated that if this proposal was allowed to happen, the Council would be severely criticized and therefore Officers should continue to deal with incidents of this nature under the by-laws and subsequent prosecution procedures, if there was a second incident. Furthermore, he felt that the PSNI should be out patrolling and policing the community rather than introducing schemes such as this.

Councillor Long concurred with Councillor Spratt's comments as anti-social behaviour was a problem throughout the Borough but he stressed that education was very important. He asked for clarification of the scheme and asked if juveniles could be prosecuted for being in possession of alcohol.

The Officer responded that under Council by-law, possession of alcohol was not an offence, however this had been included under the auspices of the Youth Diversion Order.

Councillor Chambers also stated that she was opposed to any change in legislation and did not want to change policy to accommodate the PSNI's statistical data requirements.

Councillor Drysdale did not support this "watering down" of law and order and both he and Alderman White strongly opposed the PSNI's soft approach.

In response to a query from Councillor Long, the Acting Manager advised that the Council would have no legal implications if it decided not to adopt the new proposal.

**RESOLVED:-** That, the Council strongly oppose the PSNI's proposal to progress juveniles through the Youth Diversion Scheme of the PSNI and that the Council continues to implement the Council's by-laws and progress offenders in the usual manner.

#### **2008/567 : DISPLAY OF CIRCUS SIGNS IN DUNDONALD**

Councillor Jeffers referred to the circus which was currently performing in Dundonald on privately owned land and asked if the Entertainments Licence was being adhered to. He added that there had been fly posting issues in relation to the display of the posters and asked Officers to investigate the matter.

Councillor Jeffers then asked if there was any way in which the Council could write to the owner expressing the Council's concerns in relation to the circus's close proximity to housing, disruption to local residents, noise implications and traffic impacts.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED:-** That,

- (a) The Environmental Health Officers would progress the issue of fly posting.
- (b) The Council will write to the owner of the land commenting that whilst the Members did not object to the Entertainments licence, they opposed the siting of the circus due to its close proximity to housing, disruption to local residents, noise implications and traffic impacts.

#### **REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONAL SERVICES MANAGER**

#### **2008/568 : UPDATE ON PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY – GILNAHIRK ROAD AND GILNAHIRK AVENUE**

The Operational Services Manager referred to his report and advised that the developer had provided two options for diversion and clarification had been sought by the Council from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the Council's Solicitor to ascertain whether two separate applications could be processed under Article 15 of the Access to Countryside (NI) Order 1983.

Councillor Robinson commented that whilst further information was required on the matter, he stated that DUP Members were unified that a meeting should be held with the residents of the area and the developer invited to attend to hear the proposals. He personally felt that Option 2 was the more preferred option however there was a possibility that a third option could be put forward at the meeting.

Councillor Long concurred with these comments and it was

RESOLVED:- That, Officers arrange a public meeting with local residents and the developer in attendance to put forward these 2 options and hear their views on the matter, with the possibility that a third option may be feasible.

#### **2008/569 : ASSERTED PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY – MILLTOWN ROAD TO LOCK KEEPER'S COTTAGE**

The Economic Development Manager referred Members to the response received from McVeigh & Brown regarding comments sent from Council.

Noted.

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

#### **2008/570 : OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that she had a number of items which were being tabled at full Council in view of the fact that the decisions required could not wait until the September meeting of the Central Services Committee.

Noted.

#### **2008/571 : APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO NEW PEACE III PARTNERSHIP**

The Director of Administration & Community Services reported that, as Members were aware, an interim working group had been established to develop an action plan for Peace III funding, in conjunction with Lisburn City Council.

Part of the process was to appoint a Partnership Body and advertisements were currently running in the local press for the Social Partner Applicants.

The next step was to appoint the Council Representatives, and as agreed, a total of seven members from Castlereagh Borough Council was required.

It was anticipated that the first meeting of the new partnership would be held during late September/early October and Members were therefore being asked to nominate seven representatives to the Peace III Body.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the 7 Members would be made up as follows:-

- |                   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 4 DUP Members     | : | Alderman J Norris<br>Councillor Mrs M Chambers<br>Councillor L Walker<br>Councillor T Jeffers |
| 1 UUP Member      | : | Councillor M Henderson  |
| 1 SDLP Member     | : | Councillor B Hanvey   |
| 1 Alliance Member | : | To be agreed and clarified with Members' Services   |

#### **2008/572 : CIVIC OFFICES DEFECTS - REPAIRS TO BACK DOOR**

The Director of Administration & Community Services reported that it was necessary to make emergency repairs to the rear door situated off the Members' Corridor, due to damage caused to the frame by the wind catching the door and contorting the frame. This was affecting the Council's ability to set the alarm, thus leaving the building vulnerable.

Removal, Repair and Refitting would cost in the region of £679.00 + VAT. If a temporary door was required while repairs were being carried out, an additional cost of approx £500 would be incurred, however this would not be established until the door is removed.

She also recommended that a Handrail be fitted to prevent further damage at a cost of £50 labour, and £100 for materials.

The Director sought Members' approval to proceed with this work as soon as possible as it compromises the security of the civic building. She asked Members to note, however, that this work was not budgeted for within the current financial estimates and therefore an overspend may occur.

Councillor Beattie sought clarification of the defect and asked if the door closure may need adjustment.

The Chief Executive advised Members that the wind had banged the door shut and would most likely require a heavier duty closure.

RESOLVED:- that, the Council approve emergency repairs to the rear door at a cost of £679.00 + vat for the removal, repair and refitting with the possibility of an added cost of £500 should a temporary door be required.

Furthermore, that the Council approve the fitting of a handrail to prevent further damage at a cost of £50 labour and £100 for materials.

The costs of these repairs were not budgeted within the current financial estimates and Members approved that there may be an overspend.

### **2008/573 : GRANTS COMMUNITY RELATIONS - OVER 50'S GROUP BALLYBEEN WOMEN'S CENTRE**

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that "New Beginnings" was a 6-week course that had been developed with the over 50's group within Ballybeen Women's Centre. The course would involve 15 members of the group who would meet and discuss issues they would like to address. The consultant/facilitator will encourage the group to debate, learn about women's role in politics, the history of Northern Ireland and have a better understanding of the political institutions of Northern Ireland.

The course is scheduled to begin in September 2008 and she outlined that a full course programme was attached to her report. Zora Molyneaux an independent consultant who had vast experience of working with communities in North Belfast was facilitating the course.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that the project met the Good Relations Criteria as it would:-

- implement ways of addressing community conflict issues.
- promote respect for diversity in own, other and shared cultural traditions.

Members were then given the budget breakdown, namely:-

Total costs of project:

Facilitator fees - £60/session x 5 weeks =	£300.00
Transport to Stormont x2	£100.00
Books, Files and photocopying during course	£100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£500.00</b>

RESOLVED:- that, the Council approves an award of £500.00 to the "New Beginnings" Project and to implement the programme as above, as it meets with two of the Good Relations grant criteria.

### **2008/574 : ADVISORY MEETINGS PROPOSAL**

The Director advised that Members would be aware that a number of advisory meetings were scheduled for September, however at the last AGM, Officers were asked to review the current approach with a view to making a number of changes

RESOLVED:- That any planned Advisory meetings are put on hold until the Central Services Committee has had an opportunity to consider a number of recommendations in this regard.

### **2008/575 : UPDATE ON MONEYREAGH COMMUNITY FACILITY**

The Director of Administration & Community Services confirmed that several legal meetings have now taken place with the Council's Advisers and a number of matters had now been actioned. These included:

- The Bond Company had been on notice that the Council intends to make a claim.
- A "failure to complete contract" letter had been issued to the contractor. A twenty-four day timescale would have to be followed before any further action could be taken.
- A creditor's claim, in respect of loss of revenue and cost of completion, had been lodged with the Contractor's Financial Advisers.
- A legal opinion was being sought as to contracting with subcontractors direct.
- The Architects had been instructed to provide estimated costings to complete the contract.
- The Primary School would be provided with a car park key as a gesture of 'goodwill', in advance of license being signed.

The Director advised that the bond would pay up to £67,000, and £19,100 was being held in retention.

She reported that the Council were covered financially but it was important to cease the security once the alarm was connected and this was currently being progressed. She therefore advised that the Council should continue to maintain static security of the building for one further week until work on the alarm had been completed.

Councillor Spratt expressed his concern that, near to the end of the contract, the contractor seemed to be dragging his heels and not doing the work as required. He was alarmed that the Officer in charge had not brought this matter to the Members' attention much earlier. He advised that the Director and Chief Executive should be notified that this was not the first time that an incident such as this had happened to the Council.

Alderman White referred to the completion works and asked if new prices were required.

The Director responded that the company was on notice with a 20-day legal period before the contract could be determined. She advised that she was taking a further report to the September Central Services Committee.

Councillor Chambers expressed her reluctance to negotiate with the Sub-contractors as she was concerned with the increase in costs.

The Chief Executive commented that some of the contractors had dealt with the Council in the past and had agreed to assist the Council at this point.

Councillor Spratt concurred and advised that a number of local firms had also been stung by recent events and it was his understanding that every single sub-contractor had not been paid. He asked that Officers ensure that the works are closely monitored and guarantees obtained in relation to certification.

He went on to express his sympathy to those local firms who had suffered and had to make employees redundant.

The Chief Executive explained that the building was mainly completed and merely required certification. He stated that it was cheaper to bring the companies in who installed the equipment and ensure that they were adequately supervised and there was very little actual works involved.

Councillor Hanvey asked what could be done to preserve the warranties on the building as he wanted an assurance that difficulties would not arise in the future. He also expressed concern that members of the public would not accept that the building was closed despite being completed and it was important that the Council gave confidence that the project was being progressed.

Councillor Mrs Beattie responded that most of the local residents knew the recent history of the facility and were aware that the fault of incompleteness did not lie with the Council.

The Chief Executive reiterated that other Councils had been affected by recent events.

Following lengthy discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Architect and Capital Projects Officer would be invited to the September Central Services Committee Meeting in order that the Architect would get a clear directive of the Council's requirements to complete the Moneyreagh Community Facility and have it ready for occupation.

#### **2008/576 : UPDATE ON ENLER**

The Director of Administration & Community Services reported that the Council had been advised by Landmark East that the date selected for a sod cutting for the Enler Project will be 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at 10.30am.

She confirmed that Landmark East Staff were currently liaising with Council Employees in this regard and a letter of invitation had now been circulated to all Council Members.

Noted.

## GENERAL

### **2008/577 : ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - CREGAGH/WANDSWORTH ORMEAU BRANCH - DONATION**

Tabled:- correspondence from the Royal British Legion, Cregagh/Wandsworth Ormeau Branch, dated 7 August 2008, re: Donation (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

### **2008/578 : CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT – PROPOSALS FOR HEALTH & SAFETY (FEES) REGULATIONS (NI) 2009**

Tabled:- correspondence from HSENI, dated 13 August 2008, re: Consultative Document: Proposals for Health and Safety (Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

### **2008/579 : PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON NEW REGULATORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

Tabled: Correspondence from the Department for Employment & Learning, dated 11 August 2008, re: Public Consultation on: New Regulatory Arrangements for Vocational Qualifications in Northern Ireland (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

### **2008/580 : REVIEW OF MONETARY LIMITS FOR CERTAIN GAMING MACHINE STAKES & PRIZES AND ASSOCIATED SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ISSUES**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Department for Social Development, dated 8 August 2008, re: Review of Monetary Limits for Certain Gaming Machine Stakes and Prizes and Associated Social Responsibility Issues (copy previously enclosed)

Noted.

### **2008/581 : ISSUES RAISED AT PRESENTATION OF THE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME TO COUNCIL ON 13 MARCH 2008**

Tabled:- Correspondence from Northern Ireland Water, dated 18 July 2008, re: Issues raised at Presentation of the Capital Works Programme to Council on 13 March 2008 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

### **2008/582 : CONSULTATION ON RESPONSIBILITY AND COST-SHARING PROPOSALS**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, dated 28 August 2008, re: Consultation on Responsibility and Cost-Sharing Proposals (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Beattie was unhappy that the Department was offloading some of its costs to abattoirs and farmers and increasing the prices of Northern Irish exports. He therefore requested that the Council write back to the Department suggesting they find more savings within their own department and stop offloading costs on to the consumer.

RESOLVED:- that, the Chief Executive be instructed to write back to the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development outlining the Council's opposition to their proposals and asking that they look within their own Department to save costs rather than offloading them on to consumers, abattoirs and farmers and resulting in dearer export prices.

### **2008/583 : CONSULTATION DOCUMENT – PROPOSED WATER SUPPLY (WATER FITTINGS) REGULATIONS (NI) 2009**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Department for Regional Development, received on 30 July 2008, re: Consultation Document: Proposed Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009

Noted.

### **2008/584 : CONSULTATION ON PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL DENTAL SERVICES IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

Tabled:- correspondence from the Western Health & Social Services Board, dated 16 July 2008, re: Consultation on Provision of Additional Dental Services in Northern Ireland (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Long wished to declare an interest.

Noted

### **2008/585 : OBJECTION TO APPLICATION FOR THE PROVISION GRANT OF A BINGO LICENCE**

Tabled:- Correspondence from Bing7 Magic Group, dated 6 August 2008, re: Objection to Application for the Provisional Grant of a Bingo Licence for Premises located at Unit 1, Eastpoint Entertainment Village Dundonald (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED:- that, as the Council object to the application for a provisional grant of a Bingo licence for premises located at Unit 1, Eastpoint Entertainment Village, Dundonald), Members agreed not to meet with the applicant to discuss the proposal further.

**2008/586 : REFORM ON THE LAW OF MURDER, MANSLAUGHTER AND INFANTICIDE**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Office, Criminal Law Branch, dated 29 July 2008, re: Reform on the Law of Murder, Manslaughter and Infanticide (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2008/587 : REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES – CORRESPONDENCE FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES COMMISSIONER FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

Tabled: - Correspondence from the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner for Northern Ireland, dated 31 July 2008, re: 2008 Review of Local Government Boundaries (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Robinson commented that Castlereagh Borough Council would be contacted shortly in relation to a presentation on 11 of the anticipated new Councils and announcing provisional proposals.

Noted.

**2008/588 : CIRCULAR NO: LG 13/08 TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Housing Council, received 4 August 2008, re: Circular No LG 13/08 Travelling Allowance (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2008/589 : CASTLEREAGH DISTRICT HOUSING PLAN**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, dated 31 July 2008, re: Castlereagh District Housing Plan (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2008/590 : ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RESPONSE DATE TO THE RE-  
ISSUED GUIDING PRINCIPLES 2 AND 4**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, dated 1 August 2008, re: Acknowledgement of Response date to the Re-Issued Guiding Principles 2 and 4 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2008/591 : GANGMASTERS (LICENSING) ACT 2004**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, dated 24 July 2008, re: Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2008/592 : GLA LICENSING STANDARDS CONSULTATION**

Tabled:- Correspondence from Gangmasters Licensing Authority, dated 4 August 2008, re: GLA Licensing Standards Consultation

Noted.

**2008/593 : HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY TRUST COMMEMORATIVE BOOK  
FOR 2008**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, dated July 2008, re: Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Commemorative Book for 2008

RESOLVED:- that, further consideration of this matter will be deferred to the September meeting of the Civic Committee.

**2008/594 : FINE DEFAULT IN NORTHERN IRELAND : A CONSULTATION**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Office, dated 29 July 2008, re: Fine Default in Northern Ireland: A Consultation (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2008/595 : AMAI'S 95<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland, re: AMAI's 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo, 11-13 September 2008

Noted.

**2008/596 : REVIEW OF CHILD PROTECTION INSPECTION STANDARDS**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety, dated 22 July 2008, re: Review of Child Protection Inspection Standards

The Chief Executive confirmed that Officers would be looking at this matter.

Noted.

**2008/597 : PRELIMINARY EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Tabled:- Correspondence from DEL Equality Unit, re: Preliminary Equality Impact Assessment (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2008/598 : NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF A LICENCE – UNIT 2, 78 OLD MILLTOWN ROAD, BELVOIR**

Tabled:- Correspondence from L'Estrange Brett Solicitors, dated 31 July 2008, re: Notice of Application for Grant of a Licence authorising the Sale of intoxicating Liquor on premises situated at Unit 2, 78 Old Milltown Road, Belvoir, Belfast (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2008/599 : NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF BOOKMAKING OFFICE LICENCES – 799 UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD**

Tabled:- Correspondence from O'Hare Solicitors, dated 11 July 2008, re: Notice of Application for the Renewal of Bookmaking Office Licences on premises situated at 799 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, Unit 20 Kings Square Shopping Centre, Belfast, and Unit 5, Milltown Road Development, Milltown Road, Belfast (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2008/600 : NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF BOOKMAKING OFFICE LICENCES – UNIT 20, CARRYDUFF SHOPPING CENTRE**

Tabled:- Correspondence from Edward F McAllister Solicitor, dated 12 August 2008, re: Notice of Application for the Renewal of Bookmaking Office Licences on premises situated at Unit 20, Carryduff Shopping Centre, Units 2 and 3, Inns Cross Development, Newtownbreda, and 43 Rosetta Road, Belfast (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

## **ANNUAL REPORTS**

### **2008/601 : TRANSLINK – NORTHERN IRELAND TRANSPORT HOLDING COMPANY/TRANSLINK ANNUAL REVIEW 2007-2008**

Tabled:- Translink – Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company/Translink Annual Review 2007-2008

Noted.

### **2008/602 : NORTHERN IRELAND WATER –DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT 2007**

Tabled:- Northern Ireland Water – Drinking Water Quality Report 2007

Noted.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **2008/603 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE RE: A23 MONEYREAGH ROAD/B178 HILLSBOROUGH ROAD (MILLIGAN'S CROSSROADS)**

Tabled:- Correspondence from Eastern Division , Roads Service dated 20 August 2008 re: A23 Moneyreagh Road/B178 Hillsborough Road (Milligan's Crossroads) (copy circulated at meeting)

Councillor Spratt expressed his anger at the Roads Service's appalling response in relation to this major blackspot within the Borough. He commented that in the week that the Roads Service had made their presentation to the Council there had been 3 accidents at that junction within 2 days. He referred to their investigation into a number of options with the developer of adjacent land, and responded that the necessary infrastructure for sewerage etc. was not in place.

He pointed out the number of fatal accidents that had occurred at this junction and stated that the Council should reiterate its concerns and ask the Department to urgently re-look at this scheme. Furthermore, he pointed out their correspondence would indict the Roads Service if there were anymore fatalities at this junction.

Councillor Beattie concurred at the number of serious accidents that had occurred at this junction and would continue until the Roads Service carried out urgent improvements.

Councillor Mrs Beattie concurred with the previous comments and stated that on the night of the Roads Service's presentation to Council, she had witnessed an accident at that junction.

Councillor Hanvey wished to endorse these comments and concurred that this correspondence was a serious indictment on the Department and asked how Members would further have to demonstrate their concerns to Roads Service.

RESOLVED:- that, the Council instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Roads Service reiterating their concerns in relation to the dangers of this junction and the numbers of fatalities that have occurred in the past.

**2008/604 : RESERVE FORCES & CADETS ASSOCIATION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND – ANNUAL ASSOCIATION DINNER – 23 OCTOBER 2008**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Northern Ireland dated 20 August 2008 (copy circulated at meeting)

RESOLVED:- That, the Council would grant approval for Councillor Jeffers to attend the Annual Association Dinner at a cost of £30, as the Council's representative on the Reserve Forces & Cadets Association for Northern Ireland.

**2008/605 : SALE OF GEORGE BEST'S FORMER HOME**

Councillor Long referred to the fact that George Best's former home in Burren Way was currently for sale and there had been some speculation in relation to the feasibility of turning it, or the former Cregagh Clinic, into a George Best museum. He asked if there was any viability in a project of this nature and he asked if Officers could provide an update in relation to funding possibilities in order that there could be further consultation with the residents of Cregagh.

The Chief Executive responded that Officers had no suggestions in relation to this proposal but they would be willing to investigate it further. He referred to the suggestion in relation to purchasing the house at Burren Way but reported that the Planning Service would refuse this application on the basis of its location as a terraced house within a narrow street and the subsequent lack of parking, environmental impacts, health & safety implications and traffic impacts.

Councillor Long stated that he would convey this information back to those residents who had raised the matter but he asked if Officers could comment on the proposed former Clinic site.

Councillor Spratt proposed that this matter be raised at the next Central Services meeting. He also referred to the financial burden that the ratepayers would have to incur should a project of this nature proceed.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Long.

RESOLVED:- That, further consideration of the possibility of a George Best Museum should be deferred to the September meeting of the Central Services Committee.

### **IN COMMITTEE**

#### **2008/606 : UPDATE ON PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY BETWEEN GILNAHIRK ROAD & GILNAHIRK AVENUE (Minute No: T&ESC/2008/296 refers)**

Councillor Robinson indicated that this matter had now been clarified in the Operational Services Manager's report.

Noted.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STAFFING MATTERS**

#### **2008/607 : REPORT OF THE ACTING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGER –STAFF TRAINING – ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN HEALTH PROMOTION**

Councillor Walker commented that he had asked Officers to clarify the actual costs which would be incurred by this staff member attending this training cost and he thanked the Officer for doing so.

Councillor Chambers enquired if it was possible for the staff member to attend the course in their own time, however the Officer responded that this was not a feasible option for the employee.

The Director of Administration & Community Services reiterated that the Council's training policy had been approved by the Finance & General Purposes Committee. She advised that a considerable number of staff had applied through the appropriate channels and been permitted day release to do a number of academic courses and the Council would have to justify why it was turning the employee down.

She reiterated that the Council had a rigid policy in place to recover costs should an employee leave the Council, but she commented that Members could review the training policy if they wished.

Councillor Hanvey stated that he was very supportive of staff being given the opportunity to move forward following RPA. He felt that, as a caring employer, the Council should demonstrate to employers that if the training is relevant to the post, the Members would support them.

Councillor Chambers expressed concern that Councils, in the run-up to RPA, were having a predicament in recruiting staff and the Council should be looking at the training of employees with an immediate benefit up to 2011, however she appreciated that the time factor was the biggest issue.

Councillor Long stated that as there was expenditure in the budget and Officers were of the opinion that it would be of benefit to the employee, the Council should approve the staff training request.

Councillor Mrs Beattie asked the Officer to clarify that if the employee was granted permission for day release, would this would create a staffing shortage within his Department.

Councillor Robinson felt that if the Acting Environmental Health Manager was satisfied that he could demonstrate that there was a need for the course and the necessary expenditure was within the budget, he would support the request for staff training.

The Acting Environmental Health Manager commented that if he did not promote future development within his staff, he felt that his department would stagnate. He further advised that officers were required to obtain a minimum of 20 hours continuous professional development per annum and that this course would assist in this objective.

Councillor Hanvey stated that if the Managers felt that there was merit in the courses he proposed that this applicant and the employee who's request for training was also tabled for discussion, should receive approval for the course.

Councillor Long seconded this proposal.

Councillor Beattie then suggested that it might be pertinent to raise the matter of the Council's training policy at the next Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED:- that,

- (a) the Council grant approval for the Environmental Health Services officer to attend the specialist training in Health Promotion course at a cost of £503.00 per academic year excluding the associated £1,802.14 costs resulting from her absence from contracted duties, subject to the officer signing the Council's training agreement form.
- (b) That further consideration of the Council's Training Development policy be discussed at the September meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting.

## **2008/608 : STAFF TRAINING – NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME**

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Officer be approved to attend the Next Generation Leadership training programme at a cost to the Council of £500.00 excluding the associated £307.87 of costs resulting from her absence from contracted duties.

**2008/609 : FUNCTION SUITE CHAIRS**

Alderman White referred to previous discussion in relation to the possible replacement of the function suite chairs.

The Director of Administration & Community Services confirmed that there had been expenditure and storage issues, therefore it had been decided that several of the upholstered chairs from the Council Chamber Waiting Room would be placed in the Function Room as an alternative form of seating, should individual Members require them.

RESOLVED:- That, Officers would ensure that there were several of the upholstered chairs from the Council Chamber Waiting Room placed in the Function Suite as a form of alternative seating.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.10 p.m.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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MAYOR