

ARDS BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council Services Committee was held in the Boardroom, 2 Church Street, Newtownards on Tuesday, 20 April 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

- In the Chair:** Councillor Elliott
- Aldermen:** Craig
Gibson
Shannon (8.22pm)
- Councillors:** Bell (7.13pm) T Hamilton (7.53pm)
Carson McBriar
Drysdale McIlveen
Ennis (7.35pm) Montgomery (7.48pm)
Fletcher Oswald
Gregory Smyth
S Hamilton (8.20pm)
- In Attendance:** Chief Executive, Director of Environmental Services, Director of Leisure Services, Borough Inspector, Public Relations Officer, Good Relations Officer & Committee Administrator
- Apologies:** Aldermen Ferguson & McCarthy,
Councillors Boyle & McDowell
Alderman Shannon & Councillors S Hamilton & Montgomery for lateness

DEPUTATION

CG 10858 **Eddie Irvine Sports Invitational Cup**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Thomas Fegan and Mr Bobby Murphy of Eddie Irvine Sports, and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Fegan introduced the proposal by stating that it was planned to organise an international youth football tournament for North Down and Ards in 2011.

He outlined the structure as follows:-

- Elite Football Tournament (U-12, U-14, U-16, U-18) between 7 and 14 August 2011

- Community Football Tournament between 1 and 6 August 2011
- 4000 players/224 teams = increased business, tourism, awareness of the potential in the Borough

Continuing, he stated that the format would be divided between Community Tournament and Elite Tournament:-

- Community Tournament – 160 local teams competing between 1 and 6 August 2011, ages would range between 7-17
- Elite Football Tournament – 64 teams would compete between 8 and 13 August across 4 separate age groups, which would incorporate international teams.
- The Community tournament would act as the driving force and momentum builder for the main event. Local pitches would be used to open up both Boroughs.

He next referred to the benefits to the community stating that it would provide:-

- Social Interaction around a large scale event to be proud of
- Annual Economic Benefits
- Annual Development and Growth
- Integration beyond racial, religious and national barriers
- Tourism, Leisure and Business involvement would allow for sustained development of the initial 5-10 years

Continuing, he referred to the proposed costings for the event:-

- A detailed cost assessment had been provided for the event in the document
- Anticipated cost of around £97,453
- Anticipated income from entry fees around £45,120
- Council funding
- NITB funding
- Sports Council funding
- Independent sponsors
- Leisure, Tourism, Accommodation, Business

Mr Murphy stated that a pilot scheme was scheduled for 13-15 August 2010, catering for five age groups – U-9, U-10, U-11, U-12 and Under 13 Girls, including eight teams in each age category at a cost of £5,780.

In conclusion, Mr Fegan stated that:-

- The Eddie Irvine Sports Invitational Cup had the potential to fill a sizeable gap in the market

- There would be benefits for Leisure, Tourism, Business and Regional Awareness
- It provided an opportunity to establish and develop an international standard event
- It also provided an opportunity to put both boroughs on the international map.

The Chairman thanked Mr Fegan and Mr Murphy for their presentation and invited members to ask questions.

One member referred to the Milk Cup and asked if the competition would be in opposition to that.

Mr Fegan stated that it was not in opposition as it would cater for a slightly different market.

(Councillor Bell entered the meeting at 7.13pm)

Continuing, he stated that the expectation was there would initially be more local interest in the Eddie Irvine Sports event, than international.

The member suggested that there could be an issue with accommodation.

Mr Fegan commented that he believed the issue could be addressed in the initial stages, however, in the longer term, there was ample accommodation within 10-15 miles of the area.

Another member asked if there was the potential for sponsorship by big business.

Mr Fegan stated that he had been in discussion with several businesses, but they would like to have a joint Council initiative with supplementary support.

The member asked if discussions would be held with local schools to use pitches for training purposes.

Mr Fegan stated that he envisaged the various teams using facilities across both Boroughs and would also include recreational days to benefit the Boroughs.

One member commented that the proposed dates of the event were just after the Milk Cup and would be impacted by the start of the new football season.

Mr Murphy stated that the event would be community linked. He commented that some local teams would be looking for pre-season friendlies. He also added that there was a commitment

from the IFA for the County Teams to participate plus Linfield, Glentoran, Crusaders and Cliftonville.

In response to a query, Mr Fegan stated that it would accommodate 224 teams over 2 weeks.

One member enquired why there was a need for a pilot scheme.

Mr Fegan stated that the pilot scheme would enable issues to be ironed out in advance of the commencement of the main event.

The member enquired what commitment had been received from North Down Borough Council.

Mr Fegan stated that there had been no formal presentation to North Down Borough Council as yet. He added that he would be keen for both Councils to support the event.

Continuing, he stated that he would be hopeful the event would attract primary event funding from the Council, due to its scale and potential. He referred to the Best Way Forward which had catered for 1,200 children over a two week period.

Another member enquired what the sponsors would receive for investing as headline sponsors for the event.

Mr Fegan stated that there would be the potential of hoardings, livery for vehicles etc, and the kudos of sponsoring the tournament. He added that the PR value of the investment would be significantly higher than the initial cost.

One member enquired how the Milk Cup Councils were involved in that event.

Mr Murphy stated that without Council support the Milk Cup would not happen.

(Councillor Ennis entered the meeting at 7.35pm)

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked Mr Fegan and Mr Murphy for attending the meeting.

NOTED.

CG 2618

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S
DEPARTMENT** (Appendix I)

Report from the Chief Executive's Department (copy previously circulated) was tabled.

It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND**, on the proposal of Alderman Craig, seconded by Councillor Smyth, **THAT** the report be adopted.

CG 9880

DRAFT CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT BILL (Appendix II)

Report dated 9 April 2010 from Borough Inspector and Principal Environmental Health Officer (copy previously circulated) was tabled.

The Chief Executive commented that the closing date for response was 23 April 2010, and asked that permission be granted for the response to be forwarded, if members had no objection.

He further confirmed in response to a query, that there would be no expense to the ratepayer.

It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND**, on the proposal of Councillor Carson, seconded by Councillor Oswald, **THAT** the report be adopted and the response be submitted for the closing date of 23 April 2010.

GOOD RELATIONS REPORT (Appendix III)

Good Relations Report (copy previously circulated) was tabled.

GREL 148 – Bonfire Programme 2009-2010

One member asked how much funding was involved, and also whether the approach complied with best practice.

The Good Relations Officer stated that the funding was £1,100 and agreed that it differed from best practice.

The member asked what timeframe had been put in place for the submission of receipts.

The Chief Executive expressed the view that no further funding would be provided until the receipts had been submitted.

One member enquired if the funding was being held back from one part of Comber Community Forum and enquired if there was any truth in the story that funding had been agreed if the bonfire was relocated from Dunsy Way to Lower Crescent.

The Good Relations Officer stated that it was not factually correct.

The Chief Executive added that as it was Council property at Lower Crescent, permission would be required from the Council before any actions could be undertaken of that nature.

One member enquired what the actual facts were.

The Good Relations Officer outlined that there was no longer a site at Dunsy Way due to the development of the land by a Social Housing Association. He added that there had been a number of meetings held, nothing had been agreed on any alternative site and no letter of offer had been issued for funding.

(Councillor Bell left the meeting at 7.46pm)

Another member referred to the issue of advance funding for the bonfire at Portavogie, enquiring if it was normal for these to be paid in advance.

(Councillor Montgomery entered the meeting at 7.48pm)

The Good Relations Officer stated that the funding had been for the Portavogie Historical Society Fun Day, which had been proposed for a number of occasions but postponed due to bad weather.

The member stated that there should be a prescriptive timeframe on when the funding should be spent.

The Chief Executive commented that the issue had also arisen due to a clash with an Ulster-Scots Agency funded event.

The member commented that it was a substantial amount of funding to be paid out to a service provider, for an event which had not yet taken place.

The Chief Executive commented that grants were made on receipt and approval of plans submitted by community groups. He also stated that the events in this case were unusual.

The member suggested that paying out for a service in full, in advance of delivery was not unusual.

(Councillor T Hamilton entered the meeting at 7.53pm)

Another member suggested that when placed in context of the level of grants paid out, the overall performance was impressive, adding that he did not see any major issues with the Portavogie funding and stating that assurances had been given from the service provider in question. He asked why funding would be withheld in the current year, given those assurances.

The Chief Executive stated that it was to ensure delivery of the initial event.

One member referred to the situation with Comber and asked why the three groups could not simply be reduced to two.

The Good Relations Officer stated that it was an option which had been discussed with them

It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND**, on the proposal of Councillor Carson, seconded by Councillor Bell, **THAT** the report be adopted.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

CG 2620 **Technical Services** (Appendix IV)

Technical Services Report (copy previously circulated) was tabled.

It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND**, on the proposal of Councillor McBriar, seconded by Councillor Smyth, **THAT** the report be adopted.

CG 2619 **Environmental Health** (Appendix V)

Environmental Health Report (copy previously circulated) was tabled.

It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND**, on the proposal of Alderman Gibson, seconded by Alderman Craig, **THAT** the report be adopted.

DR 6574 Pt II

ARC21 Contingency Funding Support Residual Waste Treatment Project (Appendix VI)

Report (copy previously circulated) was tabled from the Director of Environmental Services was tabled stating that decisions made by the Arc 21 Joint Committee were subject to the Terms of Agreement each of the 11 participant Councils were signature to. At the meeting held on the 25th March 2010, the Arc 21 Joint Committee agreed to set aside £250,000 as a contingency fund in order to ensure that the current procurement process in relation to the "residual waste treatment project" could proceed while awaiting confirmation of funding from Central Government.

Given the uncertainty surrounding continuing Government Grant support for the project for 2010/2011, the Joint Committee believed it would be prudent to take the action within its delegated authority. The contingency fund of £250,000 would be part of an overall estimated saving from the landfill contract gate fee based on the minimum guaranteed tonnage delivered to the contract i.e. 335,000 tonnes resulting in a saving of £500,000.

It was recommended that the Council agrees with the decision of the Joint Committee taken at the meeting on the 25th March 2010.

It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND**, on the proposal of Alderman Craig, seconded by Councillor McBriar, **THAT** the report be adopted.

CG 2621 **Building Control** (Appendix VII)

Building Control Report (copy previously circulated) was tabled.

It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND**, on the proposal of Alderman Gibson, seconded by Councillor Gregory, **THAT** the report be adopted.

CG2616 **Leisure Services** (Appendix VIII)

Leisure Services Report and Addendum (copies previously circulated) were tabled.

Addendum - ML15 – Public Telephone in Queen’s Hall Billiard Room

One member asked for an outline of the Health & Safety reasons for refusal.

The Director of Leisure Services stated that the Health & Safety Officer had considered the matter, and had believed it was an unreasonable request, particularly in light of the availability of mobile phones. He added that there were no implications for the Council if a phone was not installed.

Another member commented that there had been a telephone in the room in the past, and it had been removed at the request of the Snooker Club, due to the level of break-ins there.

The Chief Executive stated that the new secretary of the Billiard Room Trustees would investigate the matter and report back to members.

Noted.

SP 3149 – Play Area at Londonderry Park

One member enquired when the fencing would be completed.

The Director of Leisure Services stated that, subject to ratification, it could be completed by the end of May.

The member referred to the Harness Swing which was being considered for children with disabilities and asked if it could be installed across the various play areas.

The Director of Leisure Services stated that he believed it would be appropriate to install these items in Tier 1 and Tier 2 facilities.

It was agreed to recommend, on the proposal of Councillor McIlveen, seconded by Councillor Gregory, that the harness swing be installed in Tier 1 and Tier 2 facilities.

One member enquired if the vandalism had reduced at Londonderry Park in recent weeks.

The Director of Leisure Services reported that it was still happening from time to time.

(Councillor S Hamilton entered the meeting at 8.20pm)

In response to a query, the Director of Leisure Services reported that the playground in Comber was in the process of being brought up to Tier 2 standard.

(Alderman Shannon entered the meeting at 8.22pm)

Noted.

SD 60 – Development of Londonderry Park

The Director of Leisure Services reported that discussions had taken place with the Londonderry Estate, but no response had been received as yet. He commented that it had been hoped to have the Arena pitch ready by summer 2012, and in order to do so, work was required on Phase 1, which was primarily ground works. He stated that it was in keeping with the existing use of the land and sought permission to commence the works at a cost of approximately £300,000.

It was agreed to recommend, on the proposal of Councillor T Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Smyth that the work

commences phase 1 as recommended by the Director of Leisure Services.

OS 11321 – East End Community Centre

One member sought an update on the project.

The Director of Leisure Services reported that tenders would be opened at the conclusion of the meeting, and, if architects were appointed by September 2010, there was an estimated six month design stage, followed by twelve months building, for completion around spring 2012.

Noted.

It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND**, on the proposal of Councillor Oswald, seconded by Councillor Smyth, **THAT** the report be adopted, subject to the above decisions.

NOTICE OF MOTION

CG 10841 **Demense View Playground**

Councillor McBriar proposed, seconded by Councillor Carson that Council Officers' bring back a Report in consideration of creating an opening at the Demense View Playground, adjacent to the footpath serving the Demense Housing Development.

It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND**, on the proposal of Councillor McBriar, seconded by Councillor Carson, **THAT** Council Officers' bring back a Report in consideration of creating an opening at the Demense View Playground, adjacent to the footpath serving the Demense Housing Development.

CONFERENCES

ST 11209 **CIEH Best of the Best Conference**

21-23 September 2010 – Telford

Conference Fee £290 + Travel Costs £80 + Accommodation £100 = Total Approximate Costs £470

It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND**, on the proposal of Councillor Carson, seconded by Alderman Shannon, **THAT** the following officer be appointed to attend:-

Principal Environmental Health Officer

CG 10842 **Gaeltacht Quarter – Annual Conference 2010**

14 May 2010 – Colaiste Feirste, Belfast

It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND**, on the proposal of Councillor Carson, seconded by Alderman Gibson, **THAT** the conference be noted.

ST 2546 **Somme Heritage Centre – Battle of the Ancre Evening -29 April 2010**

The Chief Executive advised members that the event was open for members, and advised that any member who wished to attend, should advise the Council's administration section.

Noted.

Horticulture Training – SERC

(Councillors Ennis and T Hamilton left the meeting at 8.33pm)

One member stated that he had been in discussion with Ken Webb, Director of SERC, who had advised him the Ards Borough Council employees involved in Horticulture Training through the College were exemplary students and a credit to the organisation. He asked that congratulations be passed on to the staff in question.

Noted.

OPENING OF TENDERSSP 3198 **Provision of Procurement Services**

It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND**, on the proposal of Councillor Carson, seconded by Alderman Gibson, **THAT** the tenders to opened by the Chairman and Officers after the meeting.

ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESSST 11208 **Local Government Staff Commission**

The Chief Executive reported that the Local Government Staff Commission was advertising for the appointment of members process. He stated that any member who was interested could download the application forms via the Staff Commission website.

Noted.

SD 60

Londonderry Park Playground

Some information within this section is considered to be exempt from publication under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Part II, Section 22 (Information intended for future publication).

**THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting terminated at 8.45 p.m.)**