



Economic Development Committee Minutes

Date: 07 August 2014

Venue: Council Chambers

Time: 09.15 am

<u>Present:</u>	Chairman:	Hon Lawson Henry
	Deputy Chairman:	Hon Derek Thomas
	Members:	Hon Bernice Olsson
		Hon Leslie Baldwin
		Hon Gavin Ellick
		Acting Financial Secretary, Mr Dax Richards
		Director ENRD, Mr Trevor Graham
		Director of Enterprise, Mr Robert Midwinter
	Apologies:	Hon Financial Secretary, Mr Colin Owen (Overseas)
		Government Economist, Mr Ian Smyth (Overseas)
	In Attendance:	CEED, Mr Niall O'Keefe
		Head of ANRD, Mr Darren Duncan
		Vet, Mr Joe Hollins
	Secretary:	Mrs Connie Johnson

OPEN SESSION

10.1 Attendance and Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present to the Economic Development Committee (EDC) meeting. The Acting Financial Secretary was attending another meeting and would be joining the EDC later. He welcomed back the Hon Baldwin & Hon Ellick from overseas leave and informed the Committee that the Financial Secretary and Government Economist were on overseas leave. He also welcomed the member of the public in attendance.

10.2 Declaration of Interest

The Hon Derek Thomas declared his interest as an Accommodation Provider.

10.3 Confirmation of Open Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting of the 05th June 2014 were confirmed without any amendments.

10.4 Matters Arising

- Although it had been planned to invite David Goodrick, Iain Robertson & Cathy Alberts from ESH to the next EDC meeting to give updates, it was later agreed that it would be more productive for the ESH team to give update to all the Elected Members.

- Trevor Graham informed the Committee that he had passed the related information to Planning to take forward regarding the parking and hygiene concerns.
- The Chairman advised Committee that no EDC meeting was held in July 2014.

10.6 Update on Enterprise St Helena - Mr Rob Midwinter

Rob advised that the ESH team would be meeting all Elected Members tomorrow in the Council Chamber so he would give a brief overview because more in-depth information would be given to all Councillors then. Rob said that the Main Street re-pavement is well under way and progressing very well and some positive feedback has been received especially with regard to the cobble stones. Members expressed concern that some of the bollards are quite wide apart so some members of the public are still parking their vehicles on the pavement. Rob reported that there are a limited number of bollards available but he knows there are some plans being discussed regarding a disabled access and a safe crossing area but he is not sure when they are to be implemented. Members suggested that the only way to stop the illegal pavement parking and destruction was to implement heavy fines that were widely publicised and this might be a deterrent to others.

Rob continued that with regard to skills development, David was implementing this with the Education Directorate and this would also be a part of the presentation to members tomorrow. Rob said that some staff from ANRD would be going away on the RMS to do some Warden Training and the Health and Hygiene training is ongoing. He said the Sea base tourism project is now funded in partnership with the Bank and the new grant scheme was approved by the Board last month and advertising in the newspapers will start this week.

With regarding to attracting Investment Rob said that on a local level the Printech building is coming along very well and the Laundry Contractors with the opening of Tasty Bites have also started another successful venture. He also highlighted that the Yon Brothers high class accommodation and eatery in Market Street is also progressing along soon so on the smaller scale at a local level there are promising signs. He said that Cathy would give an update on Tourism Promotion and the Governor's Cup Yacht race which is the last of its kind post Airport. He reported that the Cannon had been mounted outside the Museum and took note when advised that it would be helpful if plaques could be placed on the Cannon which detailed their history to visitors.

The MFV Extractor has averaged about six tonnes per trip and this week undertaken an exploratory trip but had a mechanical problem so was back shore side this morning. Rob also gave handouts showing the location of the fishing mounts and said that since the Extractor had been out they had noticed that the other ships that were in the area had moved further away but again this would be covered in more detail in tomorrow's update.

10.7 Amendment to Bees Import Health Standard - Head of ANRD - Mr Darren Duncan & Joe Hollins

The Chairman welcomed Darren & Joe to the meeting.

Darren said that he would let Joe discuss the details of the paper but for members benefit he pointed out that there is a Policy relating to import health standards and some will be under animals, some under bees and some under plants for example but they were requesting through this paper an amendment to the Policy by way of a slight change to the import health standard.

Joe reiterated that this was a request to adjust the Import Health Standards for specified bee products and quoted that one of the principal regulatory arms of the legislation is the 'prescribed health standard', *as may be prescribed from time to time by a Council Committee in respect of the importation of bee products and bee equipment.* In this, it is basically specified as far as bee products and equipment are concerned there are some prohibited items which are honey and beeswax, there are items that can come in under licence and there are items that do not require a licence. In the health standard all types of bee products are specified and the licence is determined on the percentage of bee product within it which is currently set at 50%. Joe said that products with a content of 15% or less of honey, pollen, or royal jelly would not require a licence to import – allowing all those low risk products such as cereals, honey mustards, salad dressings, granola bars, sweets, face creams etc. Products containing more than 15% would require a licence. In addition, honey is currently prohibited. This would broaden the definition of honey, the key threat and potential disease carrier. Honey is currently defined as: *'Honey: which includes all types of honey, fruits and nuts preserved in honey and honey products where the honey ingredients make up 50% or more of the product by weight and volume'*. The amendment would mean that anything containing over 15% honey would be prohibited. Joe said that no licence would be issued for these honey products.

Joe said that the bee population on Island is remarkable because it is one of the very few populations left in the world that is free from serious diseases and this is possibly due to our isolation.

All Members supported the recommendation that Option 2 on the paper is adopted in the form of products with a content of 15% or less of honey, pollen, or royal jelly would not require a licence to import.

The Chairman thanked Joe & Darren for their presentation.

10.5 Introduction to CEED Niall O'Keeffe

The Chairman welcomed Niall to the EDC meeting and all members introduced themselves. Niall thanked everyone for the invitation to meet the Committee and said that he has only been on Island for a short period of time; he was still finding his feet and still meeting people. Previously Niall said he worked as CEED of an organisation called Natco in Ireland which is the largest co-operative organisation in Ireland in terms of economic development and growth. He is Global Vice President of Corporate Housing and also one of eight representatives on a sustainable organisation liaison group. He added that he has a broad spectrum of experiences but he comes from a community background and was trained as a community worker working in areas of high poverty and high unemployment. He said there are clear links between Education, development, training and opportunity and essentially confidence. Niall said that implementing small sustainable developments in Communities led to greater improvement. He said he would be focusing on supporting local businesses, up skilling and Education, and said that fishing, agriculture and tourism need capital support. Niall also highlighted the excellent team in ESH and said he hopes to maximise the use of resources there.

Members were pleased to hear Niall's emphasis being placed on local businesses but also acknowledged that overseas investment was also vital.

The Chairman thanked Niall for giving up his time to attend the meeting and talk to the Committee.

10.8 Introduction of New imports License Fee Head of ANRD - Mr Darren Duncan & Joe Hollins

Darren said that members would be aware that under our import structure they basically have a number of licence requirements or imports that come into the Island of an Agriculture or Fisheries related nature and they are slowly closing the gap as this paper seeks the introduction of a new import licence fee related to ornamental fish. Therefore they are recommending that Option 3 of the Paper put together by Joe is supported in the form of a moderate fee of £5 being charged per import of ornamental fish. Darren said that this is comparable to other ANRD import fees such as the importation of Agriculture related products.

Joe explained that this paper is to correct an anomaly because this has been law since 1944 under the Animal Diseases Ordinance but was overlooked and it was brought to his attention by Jill Key that live fish were coming through Customs. Joe explained the reasons why this is needed; he said we need to protect local fish on Island and have controls to prevent diseases coming on Island, there are also a number of species of fish that are protected and because fish come basically in their own world of water, there could also be a number of pests and diseases, aquatic snails and larvae present and pointed out that all around the world there are examples of exotic or alien weed leading to choked reservoirs and so it was important to prevent marine tropical's being released into the sea as this will also damage the natural environment.

Joe said that for the nominal fee they will check the fish and its health & welfare they also will check they are not a protected species, ensure that the water is clean and there are no weeds, and pointed out that while the £5 is not the full cost recovery of the inspection etc it is not their intention to deter people from importing live ornamental fish but to keep the risk down without prohibiting them.

Members agreed that there was justification for the introduction of this import and Joe advised that he had also produced an Advisory leaflet about sourcing healthy fish, changing the water regularly and using bottle not carbonated water.

All Members supported recommendation that Option 3 is adopted in the form of a moderate fee of £5 being charged per import of ornamental fish.

The Chairman thanked Darren & Joe for their presentation.

The items on the Open Session of the Agenda were concluded and Committee moved onto the items on the Closed Session of the Agenda.

Minutes Approved:

Date:

Chairman