

# Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Planning Committee

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015

## Ballymoney Courthouse Listing

### For Decision

<b>Linkage to Corporate Plan</b>	
<b>Strategic Priority</b>	Listed Buildings
<b>Objective</b>	Protection of Historic Buildings
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Denise Dickson
<b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>	

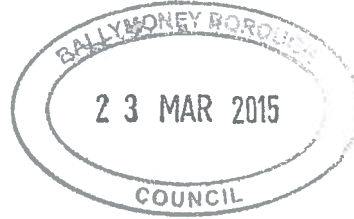
#### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015 the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) wrote to Ballymoney Borough Council advising that the listing of Ballymoney Court House, 75 Charlotte Street, Townparks, Ballymoney is being considered under Article 42(1) of the Planning (NI) Order 1991 (see report at Appendix A).
- 1.2 The building is classified as “an elegant, well-proportioned and nicely detailed former courthouse that played an important role in the history of the town for over 130 years. It also formed a part of a group with the adjoining jail; it is rare in Ireland that adjoining court houses and jails have survived.”
- 1.3 The extent of the listing covers the two storey bay rectangular building with adjoining road wall and steps, plus flanking gate and low side-lane wall.
- 1.4 NIEA has requested Council view on this proposed listing, within 6 weeks of the date of the letter (by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015).

#### 2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council agree the listing as detailed in Appendix A.

**ADVANCE NOTICE OF LISTING**



The Clerk to the Council  
Ballymoney Borough Council  
Riada House  
14 Charles Street  
Ballymoney  
BT53 DDZ

Tel: (028) 9054 3055

Our Ref: HB04/15/002

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: COURT HOUSE, 75 CHARLOTTE STREET, TOWNPARKS, BALLYMONEY, CO. ANTRIM**

**LISTING OF BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST**

At present, the listing of the above-mentioned property is being considered under Article 42(1) of the Planning (NI) Order 1991.

I would welcome receipt of the views of your Council on the proposed Listing within 6 weeks of the date of this Letter. *If there is no reply to this correspondence within the stated timescale we shall assume that you agree to the listing of the above building.*


I enclose a copy of the Second Survey Report of the building(s) for your information.

Yours faithfully

*Tina Clarke*  
**TINA CLARKE**

Enc Second Survey DC Report

LB3 – Advance Notice of Listing

<p><b>Address</b> Court House 75 Charlotte Street Townparks Ballymoney Co. Antrim</p>	<p><b>HB Ref No</b>      HB04/15/002</p> 
<p><b>Extent of Listing</b> Two storey four bay rectangular building with adjoining road wall and steps, plus flanking gate and low side-lane wall.</p>	
<p><b>Date of Construction</b> 1820 - 1839</p>	
<p><b>Townland</b> Townparks</p>	
<p><b>Current Building Use</b> Religious House</p>	
<p><b>Principal Former Use</b> Court House</p>	

<b>Conservation Area</b>	Yes	<b>Survey 1</b>	Not_Listed	<b>OS Map No</b>	22/13NW
<b>Industrial Archaeology</b>	No	<b>NIEA Evaluation</b>	B1	<b>IG Ref</b>	C9450 2569
<b>Vernacular</b>	No	<b>Date of Listing</b>		<b>IHR No</b>	
<b>Thatched</b>	No	<b>Date of Delisting</b>		<b>SMR No</b>	
<b>Monument</b>	No			<b>HGI Ref</b>	
<b>Area of Townscape Character</b>	No				
<b>Local Landscape Policy Area</b>	No				
<b>Historic Gardens Inventory</b>	No				
<b>Vacant</b>	No				
<b>Derelict</b>	No				

**Owner Category**      Church - Other

### Building Information

**Exterior Description and Setting**

Classical and symmetrical building comprising five bay ground floor surmounted by a three bay centrally placed first floor; the latter with a slated pyramidal roof. The ground floor front facade, which comprises a centrally placed door flanked each side by two windows, is set back from Charlotte Street behind a low wall, which serves as a podium, with the entrance approached from the pavement up a flight of seven steps. The facade walls are of coursed basalt blocks with the windows and the breakfront quoins of brick; the outer windows are each set in a slightly projecting breakfront, each flanked by wide pilaster-like projections. The frieze is composed of a smooth band of ashlar, above which runs a boldly

projecting cornice surmounted by a blocking course, all of ashlar. The main entrance, at the head of steps, is flanked by plain stone pilasters and Greek-style key-pattern motifs in the cross-lintel. The double wooden doors, each with three panels, is surrounded within the door opening by an over-light containing ten panes. The flanking windows have timber framed sliding-sashes of 6/6, these being replacements for plastic framed windows inserted pre-1990.

The east side elevation has seven bays with a centrally placed doorway; the walls similarly are of basalt blocks, the windows have brick surrounds, and the frieze, corning and blocking continue here from the front elevation. Door set in a plain ashlar surround, while flanking windows, like those of the front, have timber sliding-sashes of 6/6. The ground floor west elevation is cement rendered and contained five windows openings. In the rear of the ground floor, which is rendered, there is a single door entrance with two small window openings on the east side. The first floor comprises three-bays square; there are three windows (all with timber sliding-sashes of 6/6) on the front and two side elevations; there are none to the rear. The windows of the first floor have no brick surrounds; instead they have moulded ashlar surrounds, while the snecked courses of basalt blocks on this floor first floor have ashlar quoins at the building corners. The pyramidal slated roof above has a prominent cornice with an ashlar cornice band below.

---

**Interior Overview**

Interior not visited.

---

**Architects**

Lanyon, Charles

---

**Historical Information**

Built adjacent to the jail (1830) in 1838 at a cost of £1,125, plus an additional sum of £40 for the 'bench and fitting up'. In his 'Court Houses and Market Houses' of Northern Ireland, the late Sir Charles Brett stated that he believed, probably correctly, that the building was 'an early modest work of Charles Lanyon, who became the County Surveyor in the year when the decision was taken'.

Having served as a court house for 140 odd years, the building ceased being used as a court house around 1990 and the building subsequently became vacant. In 2001 the congregation of the Ballymoney Reformed Presbyterian Church acquired the former Court House, and after extensive renovation in 2009 mostly by voluntary labour, the building was brought into service in 2009 and has been used for outreach to the community through public meetings.

**References:**

Brett, Sir C (1973) Court Houses and Market Houses. Belfast, Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, p28;  
Girvan, D. (1972) North Antrim. Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, p41;  
Brett, Sir C. (1996) Buildings of County Antrim. Ulster Architectural Heritage Society and Ulster Historical Foundation, p246.

---

**Criteria for Listing**

<b>Architectural Interest</b>	<b>Historical Interest</b>
K. Group value A. Style B. Proportion C. Ornamentation J. Setting	Z. Scarcity X. Local Interest Y. Social Importance

---

**Evaluation**

An elegant, well proportioned and nicely detailed former courthouse that played an important role in the history of the town for over 130 years. It also formed part of a group with the adjoining jail (HB04.15.001) ; it is rare in Ireland that adjoining court houses and jails have survived.

---

**Replacements and Alterations**

Appropriate

**If inappropriate, Why?**

New timber sliding-sash windows (6/6) were installed in 2008-9 - all appear well done and in keeping

**General Comments**

Listing criteria R - Age; S - Authenticity and T - Historic Importance also apply to this building

**Monitoring Notes – since Date of Survey**

**Date of Survey** 13/01/2015

---