

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting Minutes
10 January, 2008

- 1. Apologies:** Con Murphy
Liam McGabhann
Martina Cush
Noel Doody

- 2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read. Chairperson Noel Lyons addressed the meeting welcoming everyone and wishing them a happy New Year.

- 3. Elections**

The election of a P.R.O. and a Minute Secretary has been left over for next months meeting as there were no nominations.

- 3. Guest Speaker from Fair Trade**

Paul Gorry spoke for the Baltinglass Fair Trade explaining the Fair Trade mark and the role of the community in obtaining Fair Trade status for the town of Baltinglass (notes attached). 25th Feb.2008 begins the Fair Trade fortnight. Paul encouraged the Forum to send a resolution in support of Fair Trade. It was agreed, proposed by Ned Kehoe and seconded by Fintan Doyle.

- 5. Anti-Social Behaviour**

John Vernon prepared a paper on anti-social behaviour. A sub-committee was set up to address this problem. Volunteers are: - Cait Clerkin and Cathy O'Toole

- 6. Lobbying on Town Plan**

Noel Lyons, John Vernon, Fintan Doyle and Mai Quaid met with Edward Timmins and discussed re-zoning, infill housing and high density housing. The plan for the south ring road and Fire Station re-location to near sewage works.

John Vernon and Ken Brown attended the County Council meeting re the town plan which will be published in two weeks approx.

It was agreed to write letters of thanks to Jim Ruttle and Edward Timmins from the Forum as they were most helpful and supportive. It was also agreed to have a copy of the Town Plan and maps for the February meeting with a report highlighting the points of interest.

- 7. Public Relations**

The need for a P.R.O. was highlighted as some people in the town and district were not aware of the Forum and its work. A leaflet drop and promotion of the Forum by other means was discussed. This to be further explored in February.

- 8. Outline Forum Programme 2008**

Constitution. It was unanimously decided to set up a sub committee (to include the previous group of four: - Martina Power, Ken Browne, John Vernon and Mai Quaid) with two new members Paul McGowan and Fintan Doyle to prepare a draft constitution for discussion

Tourism. Baltinglass tourism was discussed and should be of interest to the Forum as this brings employment and increased numbers of people and revenue to the town.

Public Transport. The re-siting of the main bus stop in the centre of town and the erection of a safe, well-lit bus shelter. Paul Gorry and Mai Quaid will write to Bus Eireann about this and also the display of a time-table in a public and accessible place.

Community Drivers. This scheme was discussed and Wicklow Rural Transport was mentioned as they facilitate groups as well as individuals. The Lalor Centre is in discussion with W.R.T. to transport clients to work.

9. Web Site

Chris Murray reported that the web site for the Forum is up and running but needs input.

10. Any Other Business

Bank Account: It was agreed to open a Credit Union Account for the Forum as a letter had been sent to the various groups in the town requesting donations.

Donations: The Forum to date has received a cheque for €100.00 from Drs Clerkin and Carolan - many thanks.

February Speaker: Alison Fox, Youth Officer for Wicklow will speak at the February meeting.

Headed Stationery: Fintan Doyle produced headed stationery for the Forum.

**Date for Next Meeting. Thursday 7th February 2008 at 8.00p.m.
at Stratford Lodge.**