

# BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Annual General Meeting  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008

The Annual General Meeting of the Baltinglass and District Forum took place at 8.30 p.m. with the following members present:- Noel Lyons (Chairperson), Paul McGowan (Vice – Chairperson), Mai Quaid (Hon. Secretary), Mary Vernon, John Vernon, Ann Patterson, Phyllis Flanagan, Paul Gorry, Andrew Pender, Ken Browne, Monica Brophy, Cathy O’Toole, Michael Cogan, Assumpta O’Neill, Pat Byrne, Maria McCormack, Anne Marie O’Shea, Ned Keogh, Cait Clerkin and several observers.

**1. Apologies:** Liam McGabhann, Noel Doody, Mick Browne, Ann Leigh, Chris Murray, Ray O’Toole and Orla O’Sullivan

## **2. Chairperson’s Report**

The Chairperson welcomed the members to the first AGM of the Forum and declared that it had been an interesting year with some successes and some outstanding issues. On the positive side liaison had been established with other local groups and authorities and some ideas formulated on how we might influence local issues like traffic management, anti-social behaviour and town planning. He felt it would be appropriate to establish more sub-committees this year and get more of the members involved. He then thanked the Officers and members of the Forum for their work during the year.

## **3. Secretary’s Report**

The Honorary Secretary commented on how quickly the year seemed to pass and that even so the Forum had achieved quite a few of its objectives. After a lot of hard work the constitution was finally completed and passed. Over the same period we have as a group had an input into aspects of town planning and our members will continue to bring their views on the future development of the town and district to local Council and National authorities.

The Honorary Secretary wished to thank all the Committee and the members for their attendance, support and all round participation in the Forum and hoped that in 2009 we can make a difference in Baltinglass for the betterment of all.

She also wished to thank Rev. McCullagh for the use of Stratford Lodge for the Forum Meetings.

## **4. Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer’s report showed a balance of €315.00 at present and an outstanding account of €690.00 for printing etc. It is also agreed that we should be contributing to the upkeep of Stratford Lodge while using it as our meeting venue.

This would indicate that fund-raising should become one of our major priorities for 2009. An annual subscription from members was suggested and the amount of this should be decided when any insurance premium required and the rental fee for meetings was arrived at.

## **5. Sub Committee Reports**

The sub-committee dealing with social issues reported through Cathy O’Toole and Cait Clerkin on the interest generated by speakers such as Donal Kiernans and Supt. Tom Mulligan. Public order offences were alleviated by an increased Garda presence at night.

## 6. AOB

Paul McGowan proposed that the group should move into 2009 in a more structured fashion with a work program and approach their various objectives by appointing sub-committees to deal with

- (a) Traffic Management
- (b) Social Issues
- (c) Fund Raising

The Chairperson said that he would like to see most members involved with at least one sub-committee and that the members should come to the November meeting with a clear idea of where (i.e. on which sub-committee) they as individuals would like to apply themselves.

Without pre-empting the operation of the sub-committee it is apparent that, for Traffic Management, the ESB involvement in re-positioning of cables etc and any contingent road works must be carried out prior to any repair work on streets or pavements and that this should precede the marking out of streets for traffic flow or parking.

For the Social Issues sub-committee it is obvious from the Tidy Towns Adjudication that litter is a continuing problem with the dumping of litter at the re-cycle bins, the broken glass on the streets after the weekend Wild West show and the inadequate street lighting.

The Fund Raising sub-committee were presented with several ideas most immediate of which is a table quiz organised for October 31<sup>st</sup>. It was also suggested that members should pay an annual membership fee which could help to defray the cost of any insurance cover that we require and also the cost of our meeting venue. A suggestion was also made that we should run a cabaret and also a draw with subscribed lines. An approach to several businesses in the area for a subvention was also suggested.

Ken Browne enquired about progress on the rehabilitation of the river walkway. Billy Timmins has undertaken to pursue this with WCC.

Paul Gorry was congratulated by the members on his work in getting the bus stop moved to a more central and accessible location in Weaver Square.

On the same subject a letter was received from the Outdoor Education Centre requesting our support to get the bus stop moved again due to coach parking restrictions outside the centre.

The Secretary to reply to the Outdoor Education Centre.

On the subject of insurance the Secretary to ascertain what arrangements are in place at Dunlavin and Blessington Forums.

The Secretary to contact the Office of Public Works with regard to necessary maintenance work required on the Abbey. This should be possible to organise as it is a Heritage site.

## 7. Next Meeting

**The next Forum meeting will take place on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 8.00 p.m. in Stratford Lodge.**