

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting Minutes
Thursday 11th December 2008

1. Attendance: Frank Quaid, Ken Browne, John Vernon, Mary Vernon, Noel Lyons, Paul McGowan, Mai Quaid, Phyllis Flanagan, Chris Murray, Ann Patterson, Cathy O'Toole, Paul Gorry, Michael Cogan, Cait Clerkin

2. Apologies: Pat Byrne, Anne Marie O'Shea, Monica Brophy, Ann Leigh, Liam MacGabhann, Martina Power

3. Introduction The Chairperson welcomed the members and thanked all for attending.

4. The Minutes
The minutes of the meeting of 6th November having been distributed were accepted as read.

5. Matters arising There were no matters arising.

6. Correspondence
A letter was received from the Tidy Towns committee in response to our financial situation as set out at the AGM telling us that they have cleared our outstanding account at the printers, Fintan Doyle's, as a contribution to our funding. The Chairperson proposed a vote of thanks to the Tidy Towns Committee and requested the Secretary to write and express our sincere thanks.

Letter from Wicklow Co. Co. re the development at "The Dutchman's". Mr Pat O'Neill has withdrawn his planning application in respect of this property. It is understood that he has however sought planning permission for a "take-away" at the adjoining property.

An invitation was received from the Credit Union to attend their AGM. Mary Vernon attended.

Reports from Sub-committees

7. Roads and Transport
The Sub-Committee held a first meeting on 1st Dec and established terms of reference under which to operate.

1. Safety
2. Environment
3. Amenity and
4. Accessibility

It was also decided to pick a strategic target – **Safe pedestrian routes across the town.**
To this end it was decided to devise an overall schematic to establish the routes required. To then seek the approval of the Forum and draw up a proposal with which to approach the Gardai and the local authority.

It is proposed to come back to the Forum at the meeting after next, i.e. February '09

8. Fund Raising
The Rev. McCullagh has been approached with regard to any monies due to the parish for rental of Stratford Lodge and/or any insurance required and is only seeking a notional fee to cover lighting

and heating. It was thought that we had paid a sum up to June/July this year and should now pay for the year from that date.

The annual subscription of €25.00 was collected from all members present.

The subscription of €690.00 paid by the Tidy Towns committee towards our printing costs greatly enhanced the financial position.

9. Social Group

The Social Group sub-committee had held a meeting and discussed various projects such as a Forum Shop offering pre-used clothing and bric-a-brac and thought maybe the GAA might permit local team uniforms be sold. The shop to be part of a Community Centre with a drop-in coffee and chat facility. If the project was approached in this manner it was thought most likely to access any local authority social funding available.

Phyllis Flanagan suggested the shop should be called “The Forum Outlet”.

It would have to be established which local groups would be likely to use the community centre if available. Research on this and also on what premises might be obtainable could be established by putting an appeal in the local paper or by issuing a flyer. Cait Clerkin undertook to draft the notice asking anyone to donate any suitable premises and pass it to the Secretary for distribution.

It was further suggested that we should issue a quarterly newsletter to advise residents what the Forum is about and what they are trying to achieve.

Possible sites suggested included the old Badminton Court, the Mill House, the Handball Alley and Fatima Hall.

10. Any Other Business

Bus Stop: The Secretary was asked to write to Bus Eireann to request action on the re-location of the stop. Paul Gorry will draft the letter.

It is understood that the problem is concerning the Bus Eireann drivers who were not consulted about the change and have some dispute.

Insurance: The Secretary agreed to contact Geraldine Cole of Dunlavin Forum to ascertain how they have handled their insurance.

Membership: Ann Patterson tendered Frank Quaid as a representative to the Forum from the Cultural group.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on January 8th at 8.00 p.m. in Stratford Lodge. Following meetings are scheduled as follows:-

5th February 2009	5th March 2009	2nd April 2009
7th May 2009	4th June 2009	3rd September 2009
1st October 2009 (AGM)	5th November 2009	3rd December 2009