

# BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting Minutes  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009

**1. Attendance:** Mai Quaid, John Vernon, Fran Quaid, Ann Patterson, Noel Lyons, Phyllis Flanagan, Ken Browne, Paul McGowan, Cathy O'Toole, Assumpta O'Neill, Liam MacGabhann, Anne Leigh, Andrew Pender, Paul Gorry, Martina Power, Michael Cogan, Cait Clerkin, William Patterson, Monica Brophy, Ann Marie O'Shea, Maria McCormack.

**2. Apologies:** Krystyna Pollard, Mary Vernon, Maria McCormack will be attending later.

**3. Introduction** The Chairperson welcomed the members and thanked all for attending despite the severe weather.

**4. The Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 11th December having been distributed were accepted as read.

**5. Matters arising** There were no matters arising.

**6. Correspondence**

A letter was received from Kildare County Council (National Roads Design Office) regarding the public consultation on the Constraints Study on the road improvement scheme proposed for the N81 from Hollywood Cross to Tallaght. They thanked the Forum for their submission and acknowledged the comments on the fact that the scheme did not extend as far as Baltinglass and contained no provision for any Luas or train lines. The funds for this scheme are being provided by the National Roads Authority and they therefore control the scope of the scheme.

The Council undertook to inform all local residents of the dates and location of further consultative meetings when the route options stage of the planning is reached.

Bus Eireann failed to reply to our letter of 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2008 and a draft of a further letter to be sent was read out. This is intended to be copied to all local councillors and also the Ministers for Transport and the Environment and points out the shortcomings in the service being provided and the failure to address the requirements of the community. It was also suggested that contacts in Tinahely and Carnew be asked to do what they can to influence the situation.

Geraldine Cole responded to our enquiry that both Dunlavin and Blessington forum have Public Liability Insurance through PJT Insurance Services in Tipperary.

Geraldine is resigning as secretary of Dunlavin Forum to pursue a career in local government.

The Secretary asked that the meeting express it's appreciation to William Patterson for the numerous articles and press mentions he has achieved on behalf of the Forum and about local issues.

## Reports from Sub-committees

**7. Roads and Transport**

Report on the progress on safe pedestrian and traffic routes across the town.

Route identification had been carried out and fifteen routes determined. Three of these have been chosen as key routes to be surveyed using photographs and maps. The sub-committee will re-convene on 12th January.

Planning application for development at Gillespie's which includes an exit from a car park onto the bridge was discussed. Paul McGowan stated that the Forum should not object but could use the project as an opportunity to achieve some progress on the desired footbridge. He will send a draft letter on Monday to the Secretary.

## **8. Fund Raising**

This sub-committee has yet to meet; however, some of the members were elected in their absence and were unaware that they had been co-opted.

## **9. Social Group**

The Community Centre. Eighty % of the cost of a feasibility study would be obtainable but as the likely cost would be €10,000 this does not look likely to happen soon. We got no feed back from the article in the Newspapers. The article to be re-worded and replanted in the Wicklow People.

J. Tyrell has agreed to do a draft logo for the Forum.

**A list of members co-opted to the various sub-committees is attached.**

## **10. Any Other Business**

The Secretary proposed a vote of sympathy to Marie McCormack on the recent death of her father Tommy who was well known to all the Forum members.

The Secretary introduced Mary Millett, recently appointed County development and Social Inclusion Officer for Wicklow who addressed the meeting. She expressed an interest in the proposals from the Social Sub-committee regarding, Community Centre, Youth Café, re-cycling facility etc. She has been involved with similar projects in other locations.

The Co. Wicklow partnership is functioning in East Wicklow and it will be rolled out to West Wicklow.

She mentioned the possibility of a pilot youth project and of tutors for sustainability projects all of which she hopes to achieve in the coming year. She also made clear that it was doubtful if any money was available.

## **11. Next Meeting**

**The next meeting of the Forum will take place on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 8.00 p.m. in Stratford Lodge. Following meetings are scheduled as follows:-**

<b>5<sup>th</sup> March 2009</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> May 2009</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> June 2009</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 (AGM)</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> November 2009</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009</b>	

# Baltinglass & District Forum

## Sub Committees 2009

### Road/Transport:

Paul McGowan  
Simon Murphy  
Ken Brown  
Martina Power  
John Vernon

Michael Coogan  
Lena Byrne  
Paul Gorry  
Noel Doody  
Andrew Pender

### Fundraising:

Chris Murray  
Liam McGabhann  
Pat Byrne  
Maria McCormack

Ned Kehoe  
Annette Mangan  
Assumpta O'Neill  
Eamonn Horan

### Social:

Cathy O'Toole  
Mary Vernon  
Phyllis Flanagan  
Orla O'Sullivan

Cait Clerkin  
Ann Paterson  
Ann Leigh