

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting Minutes
Thursday 2nd April 2009

1. Attendance: Mai Quaid, John Vernon, Mary Vernon, Fran Quaid, Noel Lyons, Phyllis Flanagan, Paul Gorry, Andrew Pender, Ken Browne, Orla O'Sullivan, Cait Clerkin, Michael Cogan, Maria McCormack, Ann Marie O'Shea and Hugh O'Keefe.

2. Apologies: Cathy O'Toole, Martina Power, Liam MacGabhann, Paul McGowan, Chris Murray, Ann Patterson, Assumpta O'Neill.

3. Introduction The Chairperson welcomed all the members attending.

4. The Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 5th March were accepted as read. Acceptance proposed by Michael Cogan and seconded by John Vernon

5. Matters arising An apology from the Secretary re the proposed letter to the non-attending members. This will be sent this month.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence other than a Certificate of Participation issued by the Cultural Group in respect of the St Patrick's Parade. John Vernon complimented the Cultural Group on their efforts and said it showed that a small committee (4) can be effective. The Secretary was asked to write to compliment the Cultural Group on the success they achieved.

7. Financial Report

The Treasurer reports a balance of €609.21 in credit. It was asked that the Treasurer be queried as to how many members had paid their subscription so far. Could a list be provided?

It was further suggested that when the Treasurer is writing to the non-attending members they should be asked to pay their outstanding subscription.

Reports from Sub-committees

8. Fund Raising

Most of the sub-committee had met recently. The only project planned in the immediate future remains a pub quiz. Suggested dates for the quiz were 14th or 21st May and availability to be checked with "The Judge's Inn". The sub-committee does not apparently see itself involved in the actual running of this event merely suggesting the idea.

The sub-committee also raised the question of why fund raising should be necessary and to what use the residue of funds would be put. They suggested that they specify a deserving charity to receive any surplus.

In light of the fact that no funds had yet been raised by the sub-committee and none looked likely to be Fran Quaid suggested that the sub-committee should get on with what they were asked to do, raise funds, and leave the disposition of these to the Forum Committee.

9. Social Group

A Draft copy of the March Newsletter was presented to the meeting and congratulations expressed for a well thought out project which with some corrections is ready to go to press.

10. Roads

The fifteen routes have all been surveyed now but photos are required and a complete analysis may not be ready for the next meeting but more realistically the June meeting.

11. Building Project at Main Street

The Forum had agreed to an address by Eamonn Brett in respect of this project on the site and land adjoining the premises formerly owned by Mr John A. Doyle. The developers were represented by Mark Byrne, Donnocha O'Brien, Kevin Rooney and Eamonn Brett.

Kevin Rooney showed sketches of the proposed development and explained the changes envisaged from the original submission, which had initially been granted planning permission by Wicklow Co. but turned down by An Bord Planala. These changes include a full width road access to the residential and commercial units and the riverside park area with dual pavements through an archway. This would require partial demolition of the existing house and rebuilding over the roadway to maintain the present streetscape.

The members had numerous queries and were given details and made several suggestions as to how the project might be more likely to succeed. These included alternative access to alleviate the obvious traffic problems. The conversion from apartments and retail units to other facilities such as a nursing home which is badly needed in the community. There are currently 23 vacant retail premises in the town.

The developers agreed to look at all suggestions.

12. Any Other Business

There being no other business to discuss the Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 7th May 2009 at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.

Following meetings are scheduled as follows:-

4th June 2009	3rd September 2009	
1st October 2009 (AGM)	5th November 2009	3rd December 2009