

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting Minutes
Thursday 7th May 2009

1. Attendance: Mai Quaid, Noel Lyons, Anne Leigh, Phyllis Flanagan, Mary Vernon, Cathy O'Toole, Michael Cogan, Pat Byrne, Ken Browne, John Vernon, Chris Murray, Andrew Pender, Fran Quaid, Paul McGowan, Liam MacGabhann, Ann Patterson, Paul Gorry, Orla O'Sullivan.

2. Apologies: William Patterson, Martina Power.

3. Introduction The Chairperson welcomed all the members attending.

4. The Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 2nd April were accepted as read.

5. Matters arising

With regard to the building project at Main Street Paul Gorry had requested at the meeting that the broken windows be replaced.

6. Correspondence

The letter to the developers re the building project on Main Street and the subsequent reply from the developers thanking the Forum for the opportunity to put their case and for the ideas and suggestions put forward by the members.

Letter from Tracey Bunyan of the Wicklow Local Sports Partnership informing us of the aims of the organisation to involve more people in sports and utilise the available facilities more effectively. The Secretary and one other member of the forum to attend a meeting in Blessington on 2nd June.

Letter from "County Wicklow Partnership" (An amalgamation of Wicklow Rural Partnership, Arklow Community Enterprise and Wicklow Working Together) informing us of a set of public workshops organised to promote their work of providing technical support to the socially excluded or disadvantaged sections of the community. The Secretary agreed to attend the workshop at the Lalor Centre on Saturday 9th May.

Notice of refusal of planning permission by Kildare Co Co for a rape-seed processing plant in the Bigstone area.

7. Financial Report

The Treasurer reports a balance of €609.21 in credit.

Michael Cogan said that money is available from the Co Co under various community headings but Noel Lyons was of the opinion that this is a very inopportune time to approach them looking for any funding. Ann Patterson on the other hand said that it was the best possible time on account of the imminent elections.

The Secretary agree to write to local Councillors to ask that they address the forum on the subject of any available funding.

Reports from Sub-committees

8. Roads

No meeting in the last month.

9. Fund Raising

The feedback to the last meeting and the discussion at this meeting made it obvious that there were widely differing opinions as to the function of this sub-committee.

It was pointed out that the Forum needs to establish a budget, setting out projected expenditure, allowing the fundraising sub-committee target this amount and come up with undertakings or projects to raise the required funding. John Vernon said that when such projects are established the entire body of the Forum should wade in to bring the project to a successful conclusion.

Noel Lyons said that it would be impracticable to re-invent the sub-committee at this point as there were only two meetings to go before the A.G.M. The sub-committee should report back to the Forum at the next meeting to establish how many of the present sub-committee members wish to remain. The current fund-raising project – Quiz night in The Judge’s Inn – takes place on Friday 15th May 2009 at 9.00p.m. The venue has been booked, the scoreboard and answer sheets are ready and the quizmaster, Liam Murray, has agreed to officiate. The Secretary asked for any donations to the Raffle prizes on the night.

Phyllis Flanagan is to investigate the possibility of staging the one man show by Richard Lynch “An Evening with Oscar Wilde” as a fund raising event. Anne Leigh confirmed that the Lalor Centre could seat 100 persons and could be a suitable venue.

10. Social Group

The newsletter has been a great success and has all been distributed. For reasons of economy it was ultimately printed in monochrome. The committee were given the go-ahead to print the quarterly issues in colour at a cost of approx. €1,200 for the year.

The sub-committee are still seeking suitable premises for the Forum Shop.

11. Building Project at Main Street

The request from Paul Gorry about the broken windows has been dealt with, initially by boarding up, but after a written request from the Secretary and other members of the forum the glass has now been replaced.

The situation with regard to this development was reported incorrectly as the initial planning application was in fact turned down by Wicklow Co Co and this was supported by An Bord Pleanála. A resubmission in 2007 was passed by W.C.C. and turned down by An Bord Pleanála.

Further to the main proposal Ken Browne stated that the real object of the development is to introduce a new road onto Main Street to service the development area. The only reasonable approach would be to use the first avenue of Parkmore and a cross river bridge onto the Rathvilly road above the Garda Station.

Paul Gorry disagreed with most of what was Ken said and claimed that the traffic volumes were exaggerated. He also stated that the off-street parking would help the situation in Main Street.

Noel Lyons asked that the subject be put in abeyance until such time as permission, if any, was granted. This was agreed.

12. Any Other Business

Paul Gorry mentioned the Glendalough School project where the students are painting yellow footprints on the pavements in Wicklow town to remind people that they are for walking on. Traffic Wardens in Wicklow are sticking Yellow footprints on car windows where the vehicles are parked on footpaths.

Anyone aware of any change needed to details included in the local directory should contact the Parish Office as the directory goes to print shortly.

Anne Leigh had been contacted by a representative of W.C.C. who wished to address the Forum at the next meeting on the subject of available funds.

The Committee needs to devote some time to preparatory work leading to election of Forum members after the initial two year term.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 4th June 2009 at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.

Following meetings are scheduled as follows:-3rd September 2009 1st October 2009 (AGM) 5th November 2009 3rd December 2009