

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting Minutes
Thursday 4th June 2009

1. Attendance: Mai Quaid, Phyllis Flanagan, Ann Patterson, Chris Murray, William Paterson, John Vernon, Paul Gorry, Andrew Pender, Ken Browne, Cait Clerkin, Orla O'Sullivan, Anne Leigh, Cathy O'Toole, Marie McCormack, Fran Quaid, Aoife Flynn, Gerorda Stamps.

2. Apologies: Paul McGowan, Liam MacGabhann, Martina Power, Mary Vernon.

3. Introduction

The Chairperson being absent the meeting was chaired by the Secretary, Mai Quaid who welcomed all the members attending.

4. The Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th May were accepted as read.

5. Matters arising

Fund-raising. The list of paid-up members was submitted. Those non paid-up members to be written to and requested to forward their subscription.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to be dealt with.

7. Financial Report

The Quiz Night raised €385.00 and the current balance is €94.21

Reports from Sub-committees

8. Roads

A further meeting had to be postponed until the pilot route was analysed and a format established to deal with the other routes. Liaison with the Gardai to be established. Sgt Hipwell or a community liaison Garda to be asked to attend the Forum as an observer, later in the year.

9. Fund Raising

Ann Patterson said that the Quiz Night did what was required in raising €385.00 and put to bed the issue of fundraising for the moment. Paul Gorry complimented Mai, Ann, Noel and Fran on the effort put in.

Phyllis Flanagan had investigated the cost of staging the one man show by Richard Lynch "An Evening with Oscar Wilde" as a fund raising event. An audience of 100 @ €20.00 per head with cheese and a glass of wine would make it a worthwhile proposition. Mr Lynch would appear for a fee of €750.00 but would prefer a live audience rather than tickets sold. The consensus was that we should go ahead with the project in October. It was carried by an overwhelming majority.

10. Social Group

An article on money-saving ideas for the Summer will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

11. Any Other Business

Ann Patterson felt that the Forum is insufficiently representative of the local community. Cait Clerkin said that the newsletter should carry a notice of the Forum election to be held in 2010 and invite residents to put forward representatives. There is no representation from local businesses or residents associations, even the GAA no longer has a presence at the Forum.

Help with the setting up of residents associations should be offered. The newsletter could contain guidelines on the subject.

Wicklow Sports Partnership organiser Tracy Bunyan and the Chairman of the Blessington Forum Michael Sargent met with our Secretary in Blessington where she outlined her brief with regard to West Wicklow.

A meeting organised by Blessington Forum with the prospective candidates for the forthcoming Co.Council elections was attended by Mai & Fran Quaid.

A vote of thanks was passed to show the appreciation of the Forum for the support and assistance given throughout the year by William Paterson and Orla O'Sullivan.

It was stated that the current Citizens Information Centre would make a great location for an adult drop-in centre.

The Forum wished to distance themselves from the implication contained in the leaflet distributed by Mr Tommy Cullen with reference to the Baltinglass Resident's Association. As far as the Forum is concerned this association does not exist. If it does, however, they are invited to send a representative to the Forum. In the meantime Wm. Paterson and Orla O'Sullivan were requested to highlight this anomaly in their reports and to emphasise that the Forum is strictly non-political.

A Notice-board containing information on the local community services is to be installed by Wicklow Co Co. The Social Committee to contact the relative people to establish the most appropriate location.

The meeting was addressed by Aoife Flynn of Wicklow Co Co who is a designated contact person for people with a specific disability to help them negotiate their way through the system and access the available aid or assistance on offer with particular reference to improving access etc. She may dispense funds where available and appropriate and she is contactable at aflynn@wicklowcoco.ie

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 3rd September 2009 at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.

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