

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting Minutes
Thursday 3rd September 2009

1. Attendance: Noel Lyons, Mai Quaid, Phyllis Flanagan, Ann Patterson, William Paterson, John Vernon, Andrew Pender, Ken Browne, Orla O'Sullivan, Anne Leigh, Cathy O'Toole, Fran Quaid, Michael Cogan, Pat Byrne, Mark Lyons.

2. Apologies: Paul McGowan, Liam MacGabhann, Martina Power, Mary Vernon, Anne-Marie O'Shea, Cait Clerkin, Paul Gorry, Chris Murray.

3. Introduction

The Chairperson welcomed and thanked all the members attending.

4. The Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 4th June were proposed for acceptance by Ken Browne and seconded by John Vernon.

5. Matters arising

Ken Browne asked that the minutes should record that a comment at the May meeting in reference to representation of the G.A.A. be corrected to let the record show that he had been present and representing the G.A.A. at almost all meetings. The minutes secretary apologised in that he had reported the comment without stopping to think about the fact that it was obviously incorrect.

6. Correspondence

An e-mail from William Paterson passed on details of an environmental initiative being run under the PURE (Protecting Uplands and Rural Environments) project which was established by Wicklow Co. Co. to counter the increase in fly-tipping in the region. This new project called the PURE mile takes the form of a competition with prize money of €2000 for groups who adopt a mile of road/street way and undertake to maintain it.

This can be achieved through keeping a mile stretch of road (approx. 1.6 km), and the immediate environment litter/rubbish free, while simultaneously considering the preservation and careful maintenance of the flora and fauna, ditches, hedge-rows, and any other natural or man made features of the area. The simple act of clipping back a hedgerow on a dangerous bend, repairing or painting traditional gates, retaining stone walls and styles in good condition, identifying heritage features, and the regular picking up of litter and rubbish will benefit both local people and the local environment.

You can request an application form and information pack by emailing info@pureproject.ie or download it from www.pureproject.ie/the-pure-mile, or writing to PURE Project, Wicklow Mountains, National Park, Kilafin, Larah, Bray, Co. Wicklow and they will post out all the information.

You can also request an application form by phoning

Ian Davis - PURE - 0404 45547

Deirdre Burns - Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council, 0404 20100

Moira Byrne/ Jim Callery Environmental Awareness Office, Wicklow County Council, 1890 222 276

7. Financial Report

The Secretary reported a balance of €426.

A request to send €100 to defray costs in connection with the newsletter to John Barrett of Stratford was agreed.

8. Doyle's Main Street Development

Correspondence was received from Rooney and Associates in reference to this project which included a copy of a traffic study carried out in 2004 in the belief that this was the principle objection raised by the Forum and seeking to elicit our support for a further planning request. However on reviewing the traffic survey it was obvious the site in question was incorrectly designated and that Messrs Rooney and Associates had decided to disregard the suggestions made to them during their previous presentation. The submission was passed to the Roads Sub-committee for further study on the question of whether the town could bear a second road entering the traffic flow so close to the foot of the bridge... The Secretary was instructed to write to Rooney and Associates to advise them of this situation.

9. Social Group

The number of issues of the Newsletter was discussed and it was agreed to limit it to two issues – winter and summer due to time and financial constraints.

10. Any Other Business

It was agreed that the concert/entertainment featuring Richard Lynch to be organised by Phyllis Flanagan for the start of November.

A complaint was raised by the Secretary who was amazed that our local Garda station was not contactable by telephone for at least three days during the last week. Apparently the only method of contacting them was by using the emergency line at 999

It has been agreed that the Notice-board to be installed by Wicklow Co. Co. can be double-sided. Agreement needed on the specific content.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 1st October 2009 at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.

Following meetings are scheduled as follows: - 5th November 2009 3rd December 2009