

## **BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM**

Meeting Minutes  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009

### **Introduction:**

The Chairman opened the meeting stating that Paul Gorry would take the Minutes in the absence of the Hon. Secretary and Minutes Secretary.

### **Attendance:**

Forum Members – Noel Lyons (in the Chair), Ken Browne, Pat Byrne, Cáit Clerkin, Michael Cogan, Phyllis Flanagan, Maria McCormack, Chris Murray, Cathy O'Toole, Andrew Pender, Martina Power, John Vernon and Paul Gorry; Observers – William Patterson.

### **1. Apologies:**

Paul McGowan, Orla O'Sullivan, Ann Patterson, Fran Quaid, Mai Quaid and Mary Vernon.

### **2. The Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd September, having been circulated, were taken as read. Adoption was proposed by John Vernon and seconded by Ken Browne.

### **3. Matters Arising:**

The Hon. Secretary had written to Rooney & Associates indicating that their submission had been passed to the Roads Sub-Committee. She had passed the PURE literature to Simon Murphy of Baltinglass Tidy Towns.

### **4. Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

### **5. Financial Report:**

The Hon. Treasurer reported a balance of €326.46 after payment of €100.00 to John Barrett, as agreed at the last meeting. The Hon. Secretary had paid J. Barrett. There had been no other income or expenditure since the last meeting.

### **6. Roads Sub-Committee Report:**

J. Vernon and K. Browne reported that the sub-committee had looked at the submission from Rooney & Associates but that no definite proposal had been outlined. Furthermore, the statistics submitted were out of date. The sub-committee had agreed that it would not offer an opinion on the submission, given that the nature of the 'proposed development' was unclear, there not being enough information to assess it. The sub-committee could only offer an opinion when a Traffic Assessment is prepared on the

back of a firm development proposal which is subject to application to Wicklow County Council for planning permission. The sub-committee's recommendation was noted.

P. Byrne raised the point of planning regulations not being adhered to by developers. C. O'Toole stated that the Blessington Community Council brought such irregularities to the attention of the County Council. C. Clerkin reminded the meeting that the Forum concerns itself with developments affecting the community at large rather than individual developments which have no bearing on the community. The Chairman suggested putting P. Byrne's point on the agenda for the next meeting. J. Vernon agreed to draft a letter re same for discussion at the next meeting.

#### 7. **"Wilde Night Out"**

The performance 'An Evening with Oscar Wilde' is arranged for Friday 6 November, commencing at 8pm at the Lalor Centre. P. Flanagan allocated five tickets to each Forum member for sale. The performer, Richard Lynch, requires only a small table, a chair and a glass of water as props. His fee is €700. 100 tickets must be sold. A raffle was suggested, and the Country Market donated a hamper.

It was further reported by C. O'Toole that, as she was stepping down from the chair, the Social Sub-Committee needed to appoint a new chair-holder. The sub-committee is still looking for a premises for its swap shop. It intends approaching owners of empty premises and re-advertising. It suggested that the Forum should look at the disused Handball Alley on Chapel Hill to see if it could be put to good use. It is hopeful that the now bi-annual newsletter will appear in November in time for Christmas events. Patricia Bennett agreed to do the typing and lay-out, and the sub-committee proposed giving her €50 towards her time and effort.

Discussion followed in relation to the Handball Alley. K. Browne stated that it was now owned by the GAA Club. The sub-committee will look at it before the next meeting. The premises in Belan Street in which the Sue Ryder shop operated a few years ago was also mentioned. It was believed that this was owned by the Freemasons. The Chairman agreed to approach a member for clarification.

#### 8. **Any Other Business:**

W. Patterson stated that John Gethings of Parkmore mentioned that he intended approaching the Forum regarding the condition of the roads and pavements around the town and the lack of drainage of surface water.

J. Vernon asked about the status of the bus stop. P. Gorry reported that there had been no development on the matter and that no response had been received from Bus Éireann to the Forum's letters. He mentioned that it was rumoured that Bus Éireann was considering the removal of all bus services through Baltinglass. He and some other commuters had made contact with two Carlow County Councillors, one of whom is on the board of Bus Éireann and the other is involved with Develop Tullow, a community development organisation. He felt that co-operation with Tullow could help put pressure on the bus company. J. Vernon suggested that the Forum ask Deputy B. Timmins to approach Bus Éireann about the bus stop.

P. Gorry raised the matter of children cycling on footpaths and without lights after dark. They were causing distress to elderly pedestrians and causing a danger to themselves and other road users. K. Browne suggested that the Garda be asked to go into the schools to communicate with children on the matter. Sergeant M. Doran is to be contacted.

The Chairman stated that the AGM must be held in November or December. It was agreed that December would be the more suitable time.

The meeting concluded at 9.30pm.