

## BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting Minutes  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009

1. **Attendance:** Noel Lyons, Mai Quaid, Phyllis Flanagan, Ann Patterson, John Vernon, Andrew Pender, Ken Browne, Kevin Sheehan, Orla O'Sullivan, Fran Quaid, Paul McGowan, Chris Murray, John Dore, Paul Gorry, Anne-Marie O'Shea, Anne Leigh.

2. **Apologies:** Mary Vernon, Cathy O'Toole, Pat Byrne.

### 3. **Honorary Chairperson's Report**

The Chairperson welcomed all and thanked the members attending and gave his report on the activities of the Forum during the year. He felt that the Forum was moving forward. The concentration had in part been about fund-raising to meet the administration costs of the Forum itself and towards activities planned by the various sub-committees. He complimented the Social sub-committee on the publishing of the Newsletter and acknowledged that the plans for the drop-in centre will soon bear fruit. On the Roads sub-committee he apologised for the number of items which were directed their way and applauded their efforts particularly in regard to the developments at Supervalu and the John A, Doyle development site. He also took the opportunity to thank the Hon. Secretary, Mai Quaid and Orla O'Sullivan and William Paterson for their work in bringing the Forum's activities to a wider audience. He stressed the need for the Forum to expand their membership and also the representative nature of the members in terms of the local community.

### 4. **Honorary Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reported a very busy year and hoped that some progress would come from our efforts in the town. The memorable occasions during the year included the Patrick's Day parade and visits from the various reps in the town i.e. the Gardai, the Co. Council and from architects representing proposed developments in the town. Thanks to all of them for coming. Congratulations to the Social sub-committee for their hard work in producing the newsletters and to Phyllis Flanagan and her co-volunteers for the "Wilde Night Out".

To our Chairperson, Noel, our Treasurer, Chris and our Minutes Secretary, Fran many thanks for all their work and to John Vernon for texting all the members pre-meeting and his many other tasks throughout the year.

Thank you to the Press for their help in getting us in the news, Orla and William especially.

To all the sub-committees who gave freely of their time and thanks to all the others for their efforts.

Our aim for 2010 must be to increase our membership and to encourage social inclusion.

Sincere thanks were also expressed to the Parish for the use of the Centre which has been very much appreciated.

Happy Christmas to everyone and a healthy New Year and May the weather be kinder and the Government be more honourable in their dealings with us all

### 5. **Honorary Treasurer's Report**

The Hon. Treasurer, Chris Murray reported that starting with a balance of €315 and thanks to the various fund-raising activities undertaken by the members and a considerable and timely contribution from the Tidy Towns the Forum ended the year with a balance of €54.57.

## 6. Social Sub Committee

In reporting from the Sub-Committee Cait Clerkin said that although Cathy O'Toole had requested that submissions for inclusion in the Newsletter be sent in by e-mail these were very slow to appear. This and the cost of printing made the Newsletter time consuming and expensive and it was eventually decided to limit it to two issues per year. The basis of the newsletter will be reviewed at our January meeting and meantime the possibility of more information being put on the Forum web-site to be pursued.

## 7. Report of the Roads Sub-Committee

### Activities in 2009

#### Main Project - Safe Pedestrian Routes Across Town

**Focus of subcommittee has been on developing proposals for the project to provide safe pedestrian across the town. Much of the focus for the year was on identifying the various routes and carrying out a general survey of each route to determine the work required to upgrade the route to provide for safe pedestrian access.**

**The subcommittee commenced work on the individual routes with a view to producing a document for consultation with An Garda Siochana and Wicklow County Council. It became obvious that some of the routes require considerable planning, community engagement and resources.**

**This work is ongoing.**

#### Planning Application - Supervalu Development

**Consideration and drafting of letter to Wicklow County Council regarding application 082105 - Development of Supervalu Supermarket. Forum broadly welcomed the development but asked for consideration of concerns about access on bridge and pedestrian safety on bridge; we specifically advocated a pedestrian bridge be incorporated into the development or developed by the Council.**

#### Proposed Development in Town Centre – Consideration of Transport Assessment

**The subcommittee, at the Forum's request, considered a Transport Assessment by White Young Green on behalf of Joe Miley and Partners. It was agreed after lengthy discussion that no opinion be offered until a TA was submitted in support of a firm development proposal.**

## 7. Any Other Business

John Dore, a new attendee introduced by Andrew Pender is interested in setting up a web-site for the whole town which would presumably cater for all local information and news items and could incorporate a calendar of events from all sources to avoid the sort of clashes that occurred this year. Chris Murray was asked to liaise with John to see if a joint approach might be workable.

Secretary reported that a premises had been found at a reasonable rent for the Social sub-committee's **Swap Shop** project. Subject to inspection and the cost of insurance and heating and the agreement of the sub-committee members on staffing the project could go ahead.

Paul Gorry reported the latest situation in regard to the **Bus Eireann** problem. Contact has been established with the relevant Trade Union official and hopes are high, based on the attitude received that progress may be made.

**Christmas Lights** will be turned on at 6.00p.m. on Saturday and Paul McGowan requested that anyone willing to help with crowd control should contact him.

The funfair recently staged in Weaver Square caused a great disturbance in an area with little enough parking space available and with resident families with small children. This went on for a week; probably well beyond the permit term, presumably as the very bad weather kept attendances low. The complaint is not against the funfair as such but against the location. Were it to be held in Jackson's field, the normal location for visiting circuses there would not be a problem. It was proposed that letters be sent to the Co. Co., as the permit granting authority, and to our local representatives to request that in future this alternative site be used. This was proposed by Ann Patterson and seconded by Orla O'Sullivan.

The **Fair Trade shop** in Jimmy Murray's premises will run again to-morrow, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December from 1.00p.m. until 5.00p.m.

The **Active Retirement** will hold their Christmas Craft Fair from 10.00a.m. on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December in the old Badminton Hall.

The **West Wicklow Historical Society** is holding a launch in the Parish Centre to-morrow night, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.

The **Church of Ireland Concert** will be on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. in St Mary's Church tickets €15.00 this is a fund-raiser for extra classrooms for Stratford Lodge.

Paul Gorry queried the workings of the fund-raising sub-committee this year and the Secretary undertook to run this sub-committee next year.

#### **8. Next Meeting**

**The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 7th January 2010 at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.**