

## BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting Minutes Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010

### 1. Attendance:

Noel Lyons, Mai Quaid, Fran Quaid, John Vernon, Mary Vernon, Orla O'Sullivan, Andrew Pender, Chris Murray, Phyllis Flanagan, Ken Browne, John Dore, Ann Patterson, Anne Leigh, Michael Cogan, Cait Clerkin, Pat Byrne, Paul Gorry.

### 2. Apologies:

William Paterson, Paul McGowan.

### 3. Introduction

The Chairperson thanked all for attending.

### 4. The Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and acceptance proposed by John Vernon and seconded by Michael Cogan.

### 5. Matters arising

What happened to the answers to the Quiz? These will appear in the next issue of the newsletter together with a new quiz.

The Chairperson apologised for missing the last meeting.

Fifty-eight companies have signed up for the web-site with contributions ranging from €5 to €50 and four refusals.

### 6. Elections

On the subject of elections the Secretary has still not received any of the information requested from Michael Sargeant.

It was decided that the A.G.M. would be in October and the Honorary Officers have offered their resignations. They will however be available for re-election under the constitution, not having over-served their term. The public should be notified by press and on the web-site and on public notice-boards throughout the community of the date of the A.G.M. and the importance of a representative attendance.

### 7. Correspondence

A letter from the OPW Martin Mansergh re flooding. A study to measure the flood-risk in the area. Notification re the "Pure Mile" competition which is attempting to get local groups to adopt a mile of road in the community and improve the maintenance of same with notices about any items or areas of interest along the mile. [www.pureproject.ie](http://www.pureproject.ie)

The meeting congratulated the local businesses who staged the recent festival for their efforts in keeping the streets clean during the festival and maybe suggesting that the Tidy Towns/FAS should get involved with the Pure Mile Project.

The window boxes organized by the Tidy Towns were excellent this year but the hanging baskets were a disaster and might benefit in the future from good advice from

### 8. Financial Report

The Treasurer reported an unchanged balance of €909.66 less Newsletter print costs of €400 to be paid to Fintan and €80 to Patricia Bennett leaving €429.66. An amount of €65 was collected by Noel Lyons as business contributions and it had been discussed that this should be used to promote awareness of the town web-site.

## **9. Fund Raising/Social sub-committee.**

It has been arranged to get Richard Lynch to stage "From the Shoulders Down" on 1<sup>st</sup> October and permission to use the Lalor Centre is arranged. The lighting requirement is a little more complicated than that required for the last production and Pat Byrne has agreed to tackle it.

Tickets will be available shortly at €20 per head to include cheese and wine reception. Committee members are asked to sell five tickets with a target of 100 overall. Any queries to Phyllis Flanagan 059-6481329.

The next edition of the Newsletter should appear simultaneously on the web-site and should include articles on the work of the Roads sub-committee on the flood issue and the walks also mention of the Pure Mile programme should be included.

## **10. Website**

The variety of categories required to show all firms has meant that an alternative method of display needed to be introduced.

Launch date will be 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

## **11. Roads Sub-Committee**

Ken Browne delivered a report on the flood early warning system. Pat Lee and Chris Caplice met up and various alternative scenarios were discussed. Although price tags were applied to the different options they may not now be realistic as a suitable siting position has been found for the necessary equipment which means that no special housing will need to be provided. This should considerably reduce the cost of installing the system but it still may be beyond the means available. It appears that those people not affected by the flooding are not interested in paying for a warning system while others would prefer to see any funds expended in flood prevention rather than a warning system. The Secretary reported on a meeting held on the Wednesday night with reference to the flooding at which our three local representatives attended. It was decided at that meeting that representation should be made to WCC and a motion tabled at the next Council meeting. A group of residents will attend the meeting, in the public gallery, to ensure that the councillors are aware of the level of disquiet felt in the area about the lack of action on this matter. For the council to say that there is no money available now is unacceptable as nothing happened when the funds were available.

On the subject of walks Ken felt that the River Walk should present no problems as the total route is over land owned by the local authorities. Having established this but being informed by Jack Kelly that nothing would happen he was surprised to find that at another meeting with representatives of the Tidy Towns Mr Kelly agreed that something could be progressed. As the Forum has no axe to grind in this matter and is only concerned to see some action it was agreed that the Tidy Towns should be contacted by the Forum and joint efforts towards the project be implemented.

## **12 Any Other Business**

It was asked that the Forum should write to the Gardai and congratulate them on their excellent work during the recent festival. The Forum should also congratulate Arthur Gillespie on the provision of extra car-parking space at SUPERVALU.

## **13. Next Meeting**

**The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.**