

## **BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM**

Meeting Minutes Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010

### **1. Attendance:**

Noel Lyons, Mai Quaid, Fran Quaid, John Vernon, Orla O'Sullivan, Phyllis Flanagan, Paul McGowan, Ken Browne, John Dore, Ann Patterson, Cait Clerkin, Paul Gorry, Mary Vernon, Michael Cogan, Bernard Cloney.

**2. Apologies:** Wm. Paterson, Gerorda Stamps Martina Power, Andrew Pender, Liam MacGabhann, Chris Murray.

### **3. The Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting having been distributed were proposed for acceptance by John Vernon and seconded by Phyllis Flanagan.

**4. Matters arising** The Play bus which was scheduled to arrive to coincide with the President Mary McAleese's visit is now due on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> between 2.00 and 5.00 at the park.

### **5. Correspondence**

While not directly addressed to the Forum it was felt that the content of a letter from Wicklow Co.Co. to the Flood group was of interest to the committee. It outlined the aspirations of the Council to arrange funds for a survey of the flood situation at Baltinglass and intimated that money could be available to bund the river at Parkmore.

In the context of the river flooding it was queried whether the alteration to the water flow at the old mill site could be adversely affecting the situation. Some further investigation is envisaged.

### **6. Community Website (baltinglasstown.com)**

The website is being officially launched on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November (to-morrow) at 7.00p.m. in the Library. The Fairtrade group has arranged to provide Coffees and Teas and perhaps some cheese and wine. The Forum thanked them in advance.

John Dore requested as many as possible to register for the discussion forum on the website. Noel Lyons thanked John for the work he has put in on the site and said that the Forum owed him a vote of thanks. Paul Gorry said that Noel Lyons had also put a lot of effort into enlisting local businesses and contributions from same. Entries to the events calendar should be sent to [admin@baltinglasstown.com](mailto:admin@baltinglasstown.com)

### **7. Fund-Raising sub-committee**

The disillusionment felt by the fund-raising committee caused by the lack of support from the both the public and the Forum members was evident. Cait Clerkin stated that there was no culture of attendance at events such as this in the community or indeed in other small towns in the area. Phyllis reported a reasonable profit considering the slight support and said that this was due to the efforts of the volunteers.

### **8. Roads Sub-Committee**

On the flood early warning system Ken Browne reported that Terry Crampton was having difficulty getting together with Pat Lee. The basic components of the system had all been discussed and at the December it is hoped that a presentation might be staged to display the different options available. Pat Byrne said that the flood group do not appear to want to have anything to do with an early warning system but that we should keep our doors open.

## **9. Any Other Business**

Country Markets are moving to Stratford Lodge School on Saturday 20th November 2010 and are celebrating their second birthday on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December which is also the date of their 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas Fair for 2010. This will continue on 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December.

At a meeting of the Wicklow Sports Partnership in December grants will be given to local clubs and organisations and applications have to be in by 19<sup>th</sup> November. All clubs or organisations wishing to avail of these grants in 2011 must first register with the Wicklow Sports Partnership.

It was decided to give €50 to the Tidy Towns group as a contribution towards the Christmas Lights programme.

Noel Lyons asked if anyone was aware of the current rate of unemployment in the area and suggested that all residents should seek local tradesmen or businesses if they have any remedial or repair work to be carried out. A “Shop Local” policy is advocated for all community residents. In this regard it was said that the new website is an ideal place to advertise the commercial enterprises and the various skills and crafts available locally.

Our local golf course has introduced a programme of training for juveniles and lessons are also available for adults under the tutelage of Tom O’Neill, PGA professional, formerly attached to Rathallagh Golf Club.

## **10. Next Meeting**

**The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010 at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.**