

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th January 2012

1. Attendance:

Noel Lyons, Fran Quaid, John Vernon, Mai Quaid, Ken Browne, Ann Patterson, Chris Murray, Paul Gorry, Phyllis Flanagan, John Dore and Cait Clerkin, William Paterson, Orla O'Sullivan, and Theresa Doyle

2. Apologies:

Gerorda Stamps, Mary Vernon, Pat Byrne, Maria McCormack.

3. Welcome:

The Chairperson, Noel Lyons, welcomed the attendees to the first meeting of 2012 and thanked them for attending.

4. The Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting having been distributed were proposed for acceptance by Ken Browne and seconded by Fran Quaid.

5. Matters arising

6. Correspondence

An e-mail received from Edward Timmons in reference to street repairs in the town.

He stated that the matter was raised with the Director at the meeting on 19th Dec and will be raised again at the local meeting to-day.

A report received by the Secretary in her role as Chairperson of the Co Wicklow Forum was passed to Ken Browne in relation to road repairs being planned for the County.

An e-mail from Simon Murphy re the dilapidated property on Mill Street was read and also a copy of the letter sent by him to WCC. The secretary had replied informing him that the matter had already been raised by them with WCC and also with the proprietor of the property and his agent. It was agreed that a copy of Mr. Murphy's letter should also be forwarded to them.

7. Finance

The Forum Account balance remains at €375.01. The Web-site fund stands at €138.62 (Some details on the Web-site to be up-dated this week)

It was suggested that the Forum should be applying to the VEC for funding through Breda Delaney on a form procured by Mary Vernon and that the proposed Community Survey might be a suitable project to generate financial support from that source. Orla O'Sullivan undertook to complete the form and establish whether funds could be obtained from this source.

8. Roads Sub-Committee

The Roads Sub-committee through Ken Browne had sent a report to the Secretary pulling together the various details of the River Walk Trail and progress achieved to date and the outstanding items. The Secretary read the report to the meeting.

Ken also delivered the text of a report from the Irish Times of Jan 6th on the subject of Lead Piping used in the water supply. Lead Piping has been recognised as a health hazard since the 1950's.

The EPA and the local Health Service Executive have identified 5.5 kilometres of lead piping to be replaced by Dec 2013. In 2013 E.U. standards are being revised downwards to 10 mgs per litre which effectively means that sixty-three water authorities will be in breach of the new limits. The

replacement work must be completed by 2013 to avoid a rapid decline in Ireland's compliance with the E.U. standards.

The Secretary was asked to write to WCC and our local representatives on the subject and ascertain what plans they had in place to achieve compliance and protect the residents.

9. Social & Fundraising

The date for the Table quiz was to be confirmed as Friday 17th February in Quinns at 9.00p.m... The event should be advertised well in advance and word circulated to all the usual interested parties. Tables of four at a charge of €40. A Raffle to be held on the night and any prizes that people might be willing to donate would be welcome whether for the quiz itself or for the Raffle... It would be preferable if committee members could get a table together from outside the Forum so as to broaden the scope for participation. Paul Gorry undertook to enlist the services of Liam Murray as quiz-master. Orla would e-mail the posters to the Secretary for distribution.

10. Relevance of the Forum:-

A small sub-committee was formed at the December meeting to look at the performance of the Forum and examine how participation could be extended in the local community. Various suggestions and ideas were proposed and put to the meeting.

Publicising Guest Speakers in advance

Partnerships with other groups for joint projects

Changing the constitution of the Forum to facilitate wider representation

From: - Area Representatives

Local Organisations

Businesses

Street Residents Groups

Get other local organisations such as Community Alert groups in Bigstone, Stratford/ Grangecon to seek nominations as representatives

Hold information evenings for parties interested in setting up Community Alert or Other Groups in their areas. Delegates to be invited from local vestries to attend. The Parish Council, through Fintan Doyle, were invited but suggested that a sub-committee such as Community Youth might wish to get involved.

More involvement with local projects such as

Leaflet on points of interests in the local churches

Heritage Trail (put on web-site)

Renew efforts to establish a hill walking trail

11. Any Other Business

Theresa Doyle had agreed to attend the Forum as a representative from Fairtrade.

The local businesses are reportedly pleased with the "Shop Local" signs and their effectiveness. The secretary was requested to write and thank Liam Quinn for his generous sponsorship of the signs.

The Community Survey. A copy of the survey form will be distributed to all committee members with a request that they revert to the February meeting with suggestions as to how the questions might be tailored to our own location.

Ann Patterson reported that a representative from "Kare" will attend our next meeting.

The noise level generated by the music played on the street from certain establishments was questioned. Chris Murray agreed to try to get a sound level and to establish what the permitted noise level is for such broadcasts.

12. Next Meeting

After a vote by show of hands it was agreed that the next meeting of the Forum will take place on 13th February 2011 at **9.00 p.m.** in the Parish Centre. This to facilitate use of the larger committee room and avoid clashing with other groups. Your attendance would be greatly appreciated.