

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th February 2012

1. Attendance:

Fran Quaid, John Vernon, Mai Quaid, , Ken Browne, Paul Gorry, Phyllis Flanagan, Cait Clerkin, William Paterson, Gerorda Stamps, Orla O'Sullivan, Pat Byrne, Bernard Cloney, Brenda Delaney, and Theresa Doyle

2. Apologies:

John Dore, Maria McCormack.

3. Welcome:

The Chairperson, Noel Lyons, being absent the meeting was chaired by John Vernon, the Vice-Chairperson, who welcomed all the attendees and asked that Brenda Delaney of VEC who had kindly agreed to address the committee be allowed to take precedence on the agenda.

4. The Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting having been distributed were proposed for acceptance by Mary Vernon and seconded by Orla O'Sullivan.

5. VEC Funding:

The meeting was addressed by Brenda Delaney of the VEC who was invited by Orla O'Sullivan following the suggestion that some funding might be available in regard to the proposed Community Survey. It was suggested that assistance could be available for a facilitator who could direct and focus the committees' efforts in this regard.

A suggestion was put forward that perhaps the approach should be to firmly establish the objectives of the survey and tailor the questionnaire to return information on these points. Following further discussion it was agreed that the committee members should each prepare an outline of the benefits which could be obtained from the survey and therefore a selection of questions which could be incorporated in it. This process should also be carried out by the church bodies who have agreed to be involved and the results discussed in detail at the March meeting. Having established the *raison d'être* for the survey the facilitator would then come on board to help formulate the enquiry form. It was stressed that the process should be complete before the summer recess. The timing and location of the meeting to be arranged by Brenda Delaney through the secretary. Copies of the Blessington survey questionnaire should be sent to the local vestries and the Parish Council.

6. Correspondence

A letter advising of a meeting organized by the First Responders in Inis Fail on 25/26th February to be circulated to the list of volunteers.

An e-mail was received by the Secretary from John Dore advising that he is leaving to take up a position in New Jersey. The Secretary had replied wishing John the very best in his career and thanking him for all his work on behalf of the Forum. She also took the opportunity to ask that he impart details of any access codes required to operate the community website.

The Secretary had attended a meeting in Annamoe organized under the Leader program in conjunction with WCC where details of funds available for local community projects were revealed. This was one of a series of meetings being organized throughout Wicklow and it is intended that one will eventually be held in Baltinglass but as yet no firm date has been set. It is hoped that the funds will not be fully allocated before that takes place.

7. Finance

In the absence of the Treasurer no report was available.

8. Roads Sub-Committee

Ken Browne and John Vernon attended a meeting in Aughtrim at which the leader/WCC funding was outlined and following that Ken reported that the Roads Sub-committee had achieved some concord with the Tidy Towns and Parks committees and are working together in a new sub-committee "The Riverside Walking Trail" comprising Liam McLoughlin, John Vernon, Ken Browne, and Simon Murphy with a view to obtaining some funding towards phase 2 of the river walk and signage.

On the roads front improvements have now been scheduled for Tuckmill to make the junction safer and a figure has been allocated to effect repairs on the town streets.

9. Social & Fundraising

On the subject of fund-raising the quiz night arranged for next Friday at Quinns was discussed. The questions have been prepared by Paul Gorry and he has agreed to take the part of Quizmaster. The table numbers, answer papers and scoreboard are with John Vernon and some raffle prizes have already been collected. Gerorda Stamps volunteered the services of some teenagers to act as answer paper collectors and Noel Lyons had volunteered to keep score. A quick survey of committee members indicated that at least nine tables could be expected and it is hoped that this will be doubled at least from outside.

10. Any Other Business

Fairtrade fortnight will take place this year from February 27th until 11th March.

A product tasting will take place in the Mill restaurant on 2nd and 10th March courtesy of Gillespies.

We are reminded that National Tree Week takes place between 4th and 10th March and all are encouraged to take part.

11. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on Monday 13th March 2012 at 9.00p.m. in the Parish Centre.