

# BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 14th May 2012

### **1. Attendance:**

Noel Lyons, John Vernon, Ken Browne, Phyllis Flanagan, Mary Vernon, Orla O'Sullivan, Ann Patterson, William Paterson, Paul Gorry, Cait Clerkin, Theresa Doyle, Bernard Cloney, Chris Murray, Billy Timmins.

### **2. Apologies:**

Fran Quaid, Mai Quaid, Pat Byrne, Gerorda Stamps.

### **3. Welcome:**

The Chairperson, Noel Lyons, welcomed the attendees, and proposed a vote of congratulations to Mai Quaid on her appointment as President of Active Retirement Ireland. The Forum congratulates Mai and wishes her the best of luck in her endeavours.

### **4. The Minutes:**

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

### **5. Matters arising:**

The approach by the Chairman to one of the involved landowners concerning the Baltinglass Hill Walk and access through his property were to no avail - the owner quoted previous bad experiences with various hill walking groups and activists.

It may be advantageous to survey properties surrounding Baltinglass Hill at The National Titles Office to substantiate landowner holdings and ascertain whether or not "common grazing ground" does exist around the pinnacle, and whether there are any documented "rights of way".

### **6. Correspondence:**

Two letters received.

1. From TD Simon Harris concerning the grant of €20K allocated to WCC to conduct a vulnerable road user study of the Baltinglass Bridge, and a review of bus and parking regulations in Baltinglass Square.
2. From TD Billy Timmins concerning the same subject and appending the drawdown's by project from NTA funding.

This subject was discussed before Billy Timmins joined the meeting, and subsequently expanded upon following Billy joining the meeting. Refer Item 9. The immediate discussion highlighted that the Forum had already made a submission some years ago regarding traffic planning, parking and a proposed layout for a bus stop. The submission did not favour pay parking.

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In addition there was an earlier report outlining the difficulties for disadvantaged persons in the community. Various road works and traffic control measures were implemented under the aegis of this report.

The general feeling of the meeting was the €20K could be best spent implementing some of the already proposed improvements.

### **7. Digital Switchover**

Ms Eileen Byrne from Bray Area Partnership joined the meeting to speak about the Digital TV Switchover scheduled for 24th October this year, and the introduction of SAORVIEW. Two brochures were distributed to all participants at the meeting outlining the switchover. Additional copies are held to distribute to persons identified under the outreach program (see below)

Her primary aim other than to educate/inform those present was to establish an outreach program in Baltinglass District to inform those most likely to be adversely effected by the changeover.

It was considered there may be potential for the Baltinglass Active Retirement Group and the Forum to assist. Mary Vernon offered to liaise with ARA.

### **8. Finance:**

Balance is €1,045.01 . The website fund stands at €138.62.

### **9. Sub-committee reports:**

**Social & Fundraising:** The sub-committee are still considering a summer newsletter issue but there was nothing to currently report.

**Roads:** The Riverside Walk sub-committee have met with the Blessington Lakeside Walk Project to discuss common interests. Other than the size of the relative projects there are a great number of similarities/hurdles etc. John Horan of Blessington Forum was very helpful and the two committees will keep in touch.

At present our Riverside Walk scoping study is with WCC to ascertain whether or not planning permission is required.

**General:** Billy Timmins provided considerable background to the NTA grant. He indicated he did not favour pay parking. Billy suggested the Forum make a submission to WCC regarding the project, and indicated OPW were to erect a Interpretive Board at the Abbey in the near future.

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The subjects of lead water mains, vacant/abandoned premises, and outstanding ESB work, and road surfacing were discussed. Billy Timmins recommended the Forum write to WCC on these issues. The Forum will also consider inviting the area engineer Mr Jack Kelly to attend one of our meetings to elaborate on these subjects.

Bernard Cloney undertook to speak with local publicans concerning the practice of letting customers/drinkers with drinking glasses out on the public roads. Broken glasses and bottles are becoming an increasing safety hazard.

Drinking & Parking Bye Laws are the responsibility of WCC.

Noel, Paul and Phyllis are still to meet to seek funding for the town centre signpost showing a map of the town and the points of historic, religious, genealogical or cultural interest.

### **10. Community Survey**

Paul Gorry commented that the series of meetings were proving highly beneficial and were touching on broader issues such as structure of the Forum not just the survey. The facilitator has been asked to document the proceedings and recommendations.

The Secretary reported that the next meeting with Conor O'Leary, the facilitator is scheduled for Thursday 17th May in the Parish Centre.

### **11. Any Other Business**

- There was brief discussion on the Wicklow 2020 Vision for Tourism and associated tourism development ideas.
- The idea of a gathering of Baltinglass Clubs in early September to generate community awareness was considered. A suggestion of involving the transition year students in such an intergenerational event will be taken up with their supervisor. The idea requires further discussion and development.
- The Tearmann Garden will be holding its Bealtaine Gathering on 15th May @ 11.00am - all are welcome.
- It was suggested the Forum promote the speakers for each month's meeting **prior** to the meeting.

### **12. Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be on Monday 11th June 2012 at **8.00p.m.** in the Parish Centre.