

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th June 2012

1. Attendance:

Noel Lyons, Fran Quaid, John Vernon, Mai Quaid, Ken Browne, Phyllis Flanagan, Mary Vernon, Orla O'Sullivan, Ann Patterson, Theresa Doyle, Simon Murphy & Cait Clerkin.

2. Apologies:

William Paterson, Gerorda Stamps & Chris Murray.

3. Welcome:

The Chairperson, Noel Lyons, welcomed all to the last meeting before the summer recess.

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:

There were no matters arising.

6. Correspondence:

A letter from the Co Wicklow Partnership indicated that there was approximately €10 million available in funding under the "Leader" programme and that an opportunity now exists for local groups and associations to submit applications for small local projects. Nothing major in the building line will be considered but re-furbishment of existing facilities. Following a discussion on the format of the application it was decided to pass the information on to the Parish Council and the Church of Ireland at Stratford Lodge.

An application had been made to the Forum on behalf of the "Trout Anglers Interprovincial River Youths Fly-fishing Final" by Billy O'Brien to have the Forum act as an umbrella organisation for this competition to be held on the Slaney on 23rd June. A copy of the competition rules and a sample of the insurance cover note granted to the Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland were submitted.

Mai Quaid reported briefly on a meeting with the Financial Ombudsman in relation to age restrictions imposed by insurance companies. Apparently these can only be dealt with on an individual basis.

7. Mill Street House:

The Chairperson recognised Simon Murphy and suggested that he should address his concerns relating to this property to the meeting at this point.

Simon reported that three sections of the WCC had together issued a "Dangerous Structure Notice" in respect of the property on Mill Street on a date in May. Such an order requires the owner to carry out the specified works outlined within 90 days. Penalties are not specified. The concerns expressed by Simon are that the work stipulated would effectively create another eye-sore on the approach to the town which already has more than its share.

The committee agreed and undertook to write to the WCC expressing their dissatisfaction with their proposals and with the lack of constructive solutions in this and the other situations around the area.

8. Finance:

An apology from Chris Murray who sent details of the balance as unchanged, however, an amount of €120 is due to the Parish Office for use of the room for the four meetings with the facilitator, Conor O'Leary.

9. Sub-committee reports:

Roads: On the River Trail Ken Browne reported that a grant for Technical Assistance has been applied for.

Paul Gorry and Orla O'Sullivan had walked the route and were impressed.

Social: The Social sub-committee had one meeting since the last Forum meeting. On the Newsletter John Vernon has input most of the text and Orla undertook to do the preparation on the layout. A picture of the River Trail is required for the Front cover.

10. Facilitation Exercise

A review of the exercise carried out over four sessions by Conor O'Leary was delivered by Orla O'Sullivan with detailed findings from each session. The result the exercise achieved was that what was required was not a community survey but a reappraisal of the structure and membership of the forum and the way it operates.

Paul Gorry then presented an exercise on how the findings impact on the existing constitution and any changes which should be considered if we were to adopt these ideas.

This result should be studied by all the members and creative solutions brought to the forum when it re-convenes in September.

A workgroup to consider the ideas and come up with concrete proposals was suggested peopled with Ann Patterson, Paul Gorry, Orla O'Sullivan, Mai Quaid, Noel Lyons and Fran Quaid.

11. Any Other Business

Theresa Doyle mentioned the availability of funds for small projects dealing with water conservation community services and other local projects. The Chairperson mentioned the flood early warning scheme. Any ideas to be pursued must be in by 11th July 2012.

Compliments were passed on the work carried out on the flood control measures at the first avenue location in Parkmore.

The Secretary reported that grants to community schemes were allocated in Wicklow to-day but that only one went to Baltinglass, to the community garden.

The Expo suggestion for September, a display of crafts and projects from the various groups and associations within the area, is to go ahead. Joe Dolan will be contacted by Mary Vernon and the Wicklow Partnership will assist us with this project.

The Chairperson expressed appreciation to all the members for their attendance and efforts throughout the year and encouraged them to have a good break for the summer.

12. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on Monday 10th September 2012 at **8.00p.m.** in the Parish Centre.