

**Short Report
of
A meeting to discuss establishing a
'Baltinglass Forum'
Stratford Lodge Hall
20th September 2007**

See Appendix A for list of participants

Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to:

1. Review the amended Interim Guiding Document
2. Update participants of progress on nominations for members of the inaugural Baltinglass Forum.
3. Table the invitation letter to business communities.
4. Report progress on preparations for the public meeting 25th September
5. Prepare for the forum meeting 27th September to formulate and agree the submission to WCC on the proposed Baltinglass Town Plan.
6. Select the date and venue for the first meeting of the Baltinglass Forum

Due to time constraints the meeting focused on four main issues:

- a) The update of participants on progress of nominations for members of the inaugural Baltinglass Forum;
- b) The invitation letter to the business communities;
- c) The progress report on preparations for the public meeting 25 September; and
- d) Preparation for the forum meeting 27th September to formulate and agree the submission to WCC on the proposed Baltinglass Town Plan.

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Item 1. Interim Guiding Document was held over until all participants had the opportunity to review the amended document.

Item 6. First meeting of the Baltinglass & District Forum was held over until the participants had exhausted all avenues of including further group nominations.

The meeting commenced with a brief report and discussion on progress with nominations - clarification of several issues were discussed and agreed. Following this the Forum focused principally on preparations for the public meeting 25th September

This short report summarises the issues raised in discussion and the next steps agreed.

The Meeting

- Progress of Nominations

An update of the status of nominations @ 20th September was tabled. 18 groups had provided 30 nominees.

Several nominations were tabled at the meeting. This raised the number of nominees to 38 from 22 groups.

Discussions identified a further 11 groups that may still provide nominees. Various participants agreed to liaise further with these groups to increase inclusion.

The first meeting of the Baltinglass & District Forum was held over until the participants had exhausted all avenues of including further group nominations.

It was agreed that if a group had made two nominations this implied the two people were forum members, the two members were expected to attend forum meetings, and the two members were entitled to vote.

It was agreed the first Thursday of each month would be the regular meeting date for the forum at the Stratford Lodge, subject to confirmation by Canon McCullagh that the venue was available on an ongoing basis. Due to existing commitments the first regular meeting would be in November.

It was agreed the specification of a quorum of members at a meeting would be held over until final nominations were concluded.

It was agreed that if a new group was formed in Baltinglass & District, the group could nominate member(s) during the term of the existing forum.

- Invitation letter to Business Communities

A letter of invitation to the business communities was tabled and accepted. It was agreed to also include an invitation to the Irish Farmers Association.

BCG & BTTL are to follow-up.

- Report on preparations for the public meeting 25th September; and preparation for the forum meeting 27th September to formulate and agree a submission to WCC on proposed Baltinglass Town Plan.

It was agreed at the previous meeting that the Forum would hold a public meeting to inform our community, and in the process attempt to collect sufficient opinions and information to allow the forum to make a comprehensive submission to Wicklow County Council prior to the deadline of the 4th of October 2007.

The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 25th September.

Progress on preparation for the meeting was provided by Fintan Doyle & John Vernon. The workgroup was scheduled to meet on Saturday 22nd September to finalise preparations.

It was agreed that Jim O'Neill and Geraldine Cole (Chairman and Secretary of the Dunlavin District Forum) were acceptable facilitators for the meeting.

TD Billy Timmins provided considerable background information on the town planning process and various related matters.

Several issues were raised and discussed in relation to the proposed town plan. They will be included for discussion and decision at the forum meeting (which the public may attend) scheduled for Thursday 27th September. At this meeting the forum will attempt to formulate and agree its submission to WCC. This will be subsequently documented and submitted prior to the deadline of the 4th of October 2007.

A summary of points raised at the public meeting on Tuesday 25th September is to be prepared as input to the forum's deliberations on Thursday 27th September.

Next Steps

- Send a brief report on this meeting to all participants; to those groups who did not attend and a statement to the public
- Organise a follow up meeting (Thursday 27th September in Stratford Lodge Hall). Representatives of all the community and voluntary organisations are invited as well as any member of the public who would like to attend
- Follow-up nomination forms from participating community and voluntary organisations for nomination of their candidate(s) to the Baltinglass Forum
- Issue letter to business communities of Baltinglass, Grangecon, and Stratford on Slaney inviting them to be represented on the forum.

Enclosed

Appendix A - Attendance Record 20 September