

Summary of Presentation 9th August 2007

Baltinglass Forum

Criteria for Inclusion in Proposal

- ❖ Learn from neighbouring towns
- ❖ Use the best of other forums reviewed
- ❖ Don't reinvent the wheel
- ❖ Don't think Baltinglass is different
- ❖ Keep it **realistic & simple**
- ❖ Make sure the proposal is **inclusive** and **democratic**
- ❖ Ensure the constitution will be **stable** and **long-lasting**

Proposed Objectives

Objective #1

Involve as many people as possible in the promotion of the social, educational, cultural, economic, and environmental welfare of the Baltinglass community

Objective #2

Represent every member of the community, and the community as a whole, in dealings with local government statutory bodies, and other agencies

Objective #3

Encourage old and new residents of Baltinglass to generate community spirit and participation

Objective #4

Assist in resolving issues raised by the residents and businesspeople of Baltinglass

Objective #5

Act as an umbrella group for community based interest groups and individual residents in the District, to further common interests by providing information, advice and assistance

Objective #6

Liaise with, and participate in the community development projects initiated by Wicklow County Council and the Government

Objective #7

Acquire and hold by rental, lease, purchase, donation or otherwise, such property and effects as shall be necessary or expedient to attain the Forum's objectives

Proposed Representation

Establish Baltinglass Forum as a decision making group interested in the advancement of Baltinglass & District with the stated intention of moving as quickly as possible to broad elected representation

Proposed Ethos

Conduct its business in a non-sectarian, interdenominational and non-party-political manner

Proposed Structure & Organisation

- ❖ A Forum of 20-30 Members administered by an Executive Committee (6 Members)
- ❖ "Liaison Members"
 - Garda Superintendent or Representative
 - Church Representatives
 - School Boards Representatives (Primary & Secondary)
 - Pre School/Crèche Representatives
 - TD's, Councillors & WCC Representatives
- ❖ Forum Members elected for 2 years after which new elections must be held
- ❖ All members of the Forum eventually to be elected through an electoral ward system
- ❖ Plenary meetings of the forum take place as often as necessary but at least once a month.
- ❖ Binding decisions are on the basis of simple majority of those present and entitled to vote
- ❖ The Public can attend Forum meetings but hold no voting rights
- ❖ "Liaison Persons"
 - Attend Forum meetings by invitation, or when raising specific issues requiring their input to the Forum, and participate in the associated debate
 - They cannot hold office or exercise voting rights
- ❖ Draft and Agree a Constitution

- ❖ Draft and implement provisions for:
 - Special Resolutions
 - Confidentiality
 - Disciplinary Issues
 - Conflict of Interest

Proposed Forum Officers

- ❖ Bi-Annual Nomination & Ballot
- ❖ Forum Officers
 - Chairperson
 - Vice-Chairperson & PRO
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Deputy Treasurer
 - Minutes Secretary
- ❖ Chairman may exercise the facility of a casting vote
- ❖ The functions of the other officers have their normal interpretation and application

Proposed Sub-Committee (or Work Group) Structure

- ❖ Sub-Committees be set up on an ad hoc basis to deal with specific items of work or specific work areas
- ❖ Terms of Reference be provided to the Sub-Committee in writing by the Forum including the timeframe for the finalisation of its work and submission of its Report(s)
- ❖ Sub-Committees have a minimum of 3 members appointed by the Forum, and may co-opt additional members to their Sub-Committee because of their particular expertise. Co-Opted members have no voting rights on the committee
- ❖ Conflict of Interest provisions apply

Other Issues to be Considered

- ❖ General Meetings
- ❖ Finance & Insurance
- ❖ Communications & Web Site
- ❖ Proxy Voting
- ❖ Interpretation/Amendments of the Constitution
- ❖ Dissolution
- ❖ Venue of Meetings