

Donabate Portrane Community Council

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

May 7th, 2014 at 20.00

Waterside Hotel

The meeting started at 8.05

Chairperson Clara La Combre welcomed everyone and presented guest speakers from HSE.

National Forensic Mental Health Services Facility at St. Ita's

Professor Harry Kennedy (Executive Clinical Director, Central Mental Hospital) and Mr Michael Gallagher (HSE Estates, Project Manager) presented information on the new National Forensic Mental Health Services facility to be located on St. Ita's Hospital campus which will replace the Central Mental Hospital , Dundrum. Representatives were also in attendance from Central Mental Hospital 's carer's group and the HSE.

There were a number of questions raised from the floor and the Community Council recorded some of the questions to be presented at a meeting with the HSE and FCC in May.

Minutes of 2013 AGM

Minutes of the 2013 AGM were read out and adopted

Chairperson's Address

The chairperson has thanked all Community Council members for their hard work and commitment to the community and summarised the work of the council during the year:

- 2 newsletters were produced and increased in size from 8 pages to 12 to reflect the increased activity and community projects on the peninsula
- The Bleeding Pig Cultural Festival, supported by the Community Council, was a great success last year, so much so, that it is now extended to a full weekend and will take place in September 2014.
- The Swimming Pool Project is now a sub-committee of the Community Council. Signatures are being gathered for the petition, engineers and architects are working on the drawings and the first draft of the business plan is being drawn-up.
- A submission was made for the Local Area Plan. The Community Council successfully lobbied for an extension to the deadline for submissions to avoid Christmas period and made it's own submission at the end of January. All community clubs and groups were contacted.
- Donabate Portrane Community Research Needs Analysis is kicked off earlier this year and is fully supported by Community Council with representation on the Steering Committee of the Research Project.
- A submission with regard to the redevelopment of the land at St. Ita's Hospital was also made. The CC fully support St. Ita's AFC's request for a 90 year lease from the HSE for the football pitches and has asked for a meeting with HSE and County Council to secure this commitment. The meeting will take place in May.
- A lot of work and re-organisation has happened within the Community Council itself . The Facebook page is live and active and the website got re-organised and re-launched.
- Pobáil requested at the behest of the Department of Justice that the unspent CCTV funds be returned. The CC has asked by return that the funding programme first be officially cancelled before funds are given back.
- All weather facility: the Community Council fully supports the urgent re-instatement of the pitch. Over the past year letters were written to all parties involved with encouragement of a speedy solution. No firm feedback as of yet.

- A number of meetings were held with the Manager and Directors of Sophia Housing. As a result a full review of the policies and procedures was conducted by Sophia Housing management and brought about changes such as a new tenant's charter for all residents (with a good neighbour policy) with assurances from the managers that gates will be installed and a caretaker on site in the near future.
- The Tidy Towns project is a sub-committee of the Community Council and was re-launched last October. The committee has gone from strength to strength with clean up day and large planting projects planned for May in Donabate and painting of railings and bollards to take place in June. The group is working on a 3 year plan which will incorporate a wider area around the peninsula with particular focus on Portrane village next year.
- The new Donabate Portrane Chamber of Commerce (a subcommittee of the Fingal Chamber) is being launched at the end of May. This aim to kick-start the Chamber with a view to linking the Tidy Towns, the Transition Towns, the Chamber of Commerce and the Community Council with the end result being all the groups working together for the betterment of the peninsula. The Chamber will focus on networking and the economic growth for the businesses on the peninsula as well as contributing to the wider community.

The Chairperson went on to outline the proposed long-term vision for the Community Council to become an advocate for all community groups on the peninsula, working with the community and Fingal County Council to improve and enhance the area:

- Introducing dedicated contacts for each type of the community groups: sports, culture, youth, etc.
- Using website as a single source of information on local community groups, projects, businesses, etc.
- Supporting new initiatives and projects and assisting with the best course of action.
- Promoting integrated co-operation between the different community groups.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer summarised the accounts for 2013 which were then put to the meeting and approved.

Constitution Changes

The updated version of the constitution was presented and walkthrough of the changes/reasons for changes given. The draft of the constitution was previously posted on Community Council website and hard copies were distributed at the AGM. Constitution adopted on a unanimous vote.

Community Council Elections

Resignations tendered: Charlie Weston, David Moore, Ciaran Handley

Existing members wishing to continue on the community council: Clara La Combre, Anna Kiernan, Tom Burke, Larry Carolan, Roger Lamb, Andy Carroll, Hubert Higgins, Gareth Lee. Existing members proposed in block by Ita White. Seconded by Lorraine Halpin

Election of new member: Erica O'Dowd. Proposed by Clara La Combre Seconded by Gareth Lee.

One other nomination received for new member for Tony O'Byrne. However, due to the fact that Tony is running for local county seat, his nomination was not eligible under Community Council Constitution.

Conclusion

The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting then concluded at 9.45pm.