

Ballymun Community Facilities Forum Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th September 2008

Present:

Mary Higgins	Chair
Dermot King	BCON
Paul Billings	BNC
Eamon Farrelly	BRL
Pamela Connolly	BRL
Elise Finnigan	BNC
Mary Taylor	DCC
Bernie Roe	DCC

In attendance: Margaret Doyle - DCC

Apologies:

Manus Bree	Ballymun Partnership
Colma Nic Lughadha	Ballymun Partnership
Emma Freeman	BCON

1. Minutes

Agreed

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Update on Database

Manus Bree, Ballymun Partnership and Brian Mongey, Dublin City Council, met to cross reference the information on the Database. The Working Group did not meet during the summer months.

4. Review of Forum meetings

A discussion took place regarding the frequency of the Forum meetings. It was agreed that the Forum would meet every two months from November onwards. The schedule will be reviewed after six months.

Schedule of Meetings

20th November 2008

22nd January 2009

26th March 2009

5. Transition Programme for Community Groups

The meeting of the working group scheduled for September did not take place due to the unavailability of the members. Eamon Farrelly noted that there was no BRL representative on the Working Group, he will reflect on this and put forward the appropriate person. Bernie Roe agreed to convene the next meeting of the 'Groups Transition Programme' Working Group.

6.Update on Most Effective Models of Community Facilities

A short meeting of the Working group took place after the Forum meeting in July. The Forum members need to look at other models that are up and running for example the Clondalkin Community Property Company and the MACRO Centre. A discussion took place regarding the previous suggestion to hold a Conference or Open Seminar.

The following comments were made:

- The Forum should look at models of Community buildings.
- A conference may not be the best way to look at community facilities.
- There is expertise available, a paper based and or phone calls exercise could be useful.
- An Open Seminar could be a forum for ideas from the community.
- An Open Seminar could have the advantage of creating a sense of ownership within the community of Ballymun.
- There is very little information available regarding Models of Best Practice for Community Buildings.
- The question of what we are trying to achieve in Community Buildings needs to be addressed.

It is important to address the following in Community Buildings:

- Who is responsible for the Management of the building?
- Community Management versus Agency Management.
- Rental of facilities, buildings may not be accessible to the community due to cost.
- Sustainability of Community Groups an issue.
- Buildings cannot now rely on volunteers as in the past.
- Community Groups have major issues with accessing funding for rent.
- DCC and BRL are meeting the shortfall in running costs of some buildings in Ballymun.

Decision

Mary Higgins agreed to convene the Working Group on the 'Effective Models', Hugh Kilbride, DCC, Manager of New Projects, will be invited to attend this meeting.

7. Review of the 'Reflections of People Who Have Moved' Seminar

The Review of the 'Reflections of People Who Have Moved' Seminar was discussed. There are a lot of 'shoulds' and challenges in the report that DCC and BRL are working towards but not in a position to deliver. The report is aspirational in content. Some of the outcomes of the Seminar are incorporated in the Forum protocols. Mary Higgins agreed to make the changes suggested for the next meeting. It was agreed to that the report would be sent to those who participated in the Seminar and also be put up on the Websites.

8. Visits to Community Facilities

Bernie Roe agreed to organise visits to the Poppintree Community Centre and DCC Neighbourhood Centres to take place after the November meeting of the Forum.

9. A.O.B.

Emma Freeman requested that the Secretary follow up on the payment by BRL of the invoice from Ballymun Communications for the video of the 'Reflections of People Who Have Moved' Seminar. Eamon Farrelly said he understood that the invoice was paid and he would follow up on this matter.

Mary Taylor drew the attention of the Forum to the fact that the new 'state of the art' swimming pool and gym in Ballymun is greatly under used.

Bernie Roe distributed copies of the Database with colour-coded columns showing the Accommodation Status of the Community Groups in Ballymun. The members are requested to feed back any comments at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the **Community Facilities Forum** is scheduled to take place on **Thursday 20th November 2008 at 10.00am** in the **Architect's Room** on the **3rd Floor** in the **Ballymun Civic Centre**.