

***BALLINTOTAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL***  
***Newsletter - No. 3 - December 2004.***

\*\*\*\*\*

***Dear Neighbour,***

Another year has flown by and here we are on the brink of what is for many people one of the most hectic periods of the year. Hopefully, you will get an opportunity to read through this newsletter as we endeavour to review and preview some of the happenings in our community. At this juncture, it is appropriate to extend a very warm welcome to the residents of the Ballintotas area who have moved into our locality since our last issue.

Ballintotas Community Council is at present very much in its infancy - its members are just coming up to the midway point of their 'term of office'. Since its formation the Council has strived to represent in the best way possible, the desires, needs and concerns of the people of the Ballintotas district. It has been very much, as stated on day one - a case of walking slowly before even contemplating running - the expectation level though is that during 2005 events will begin to accelerate at a faster pace. Over the Christmas period, we will again be involved in organising a special Family Mass on December 26<sup>th</sup> and are planning another 'Lap of the Lake' on the following day. On Thursday next December 9<sup>th</sup>, our sub-committee, Ballintotas Community Alert, are hosting their annual Dinner Dance at Garryvoe Hotel.

But, before we look further ahead, let's firstly look back and briefly review the first A.G.M. of Ballintotas Community Council, which took place on Thursday October 28<sup>th</sup> at the Two Mile Inn. Unfortunately, the meeting was held during the worst week of weather we have experienced in recent times and no doubt the vagaries of our climate was a significant factor in a small attendance being present.

***Chairman's Address***

In his opening address, Chairman Mr Frank Hayes reflected on the early life of the Community Council in Ballintotas and indicated that quite a lot of preparatory work had to be undertaken by the steering committee, prior to the Council initially getting off the ground. The Chairman complimented the members of that original committee for their industry and also praised the efforts of the elected and co-opted Council members for their work during the past twelve months.

In reviewing the activities of the Council over this period, Mr. Hayes pointed to a number of events which characterised initial activities, including a very successful fund-raising dance, a seasonal Lap of the Lake at Christmas, the clean up of Loughaderra Lake in early Summer, the work of the local people in the compiling information for the Cork/Kerry Place Names Survey and the efforts of the Council in relation to a number of matters of local concern. Whilst appreciating the Council's short lifespan to date, the Chairman expressed the view that some important groundwork had been done in this period and hoped that the coming twelve months would bring some considerable development on a number of issues

### **Secretary's Report**

Mr Gerard Cott, who has done trojan work in the position of Secretary, presented a comprehensive report outlining in detail the activities and events in which the Council were involved with during the past year. The Secretary went on to highlight matters of serious concern to the Council: 'the provision of traffic islands at the junctions to Ballintotas, Churchtown North and Whiterock, (with adequate signposting of that dangerous junction within a blackspot area) ; the replacement of the railings around the green area at the lake; the extreme concerns regarding damage to the headstones at Ballyoughtera Graveyard; the provision of a Community Hall in our area.' He stated that 'once specific projects are on the table, state funding, Co. Council funding, business and private sponsorship could be targeted.'

In conclusion, Mr Cott, complimented the members of the Council for their 'dedication, commitment and enthusiasm in advancing and enhancing community spirit and facilities and in preserving the aesthetic, historical and archaeological inheritance of the Ballintotas Area.'

### **Treasurer's Report**

Assistant Treasurer, John McCarthy, presented the Treasurer's Report, which reflected a very positive response to last year's fund-raising dance. Insurance apart, the Council's expenditure has been limited since. However in relation to financial matters, it was clearly recognised by the meeting that a major fund-raising mission would have to be undertaken, if any future projects were to come to fruition.

### **Community Hall**

In relation to what seems to be the most pressing requirement of the local community i.e. a Community Hall, the Chairman Mr Frank Hayes, reported that some work had already been done on a feasibility study, which focused initially on the possibility of constructing a new building, adjoining the Church and incorporating a new Sacristy. When this feasibility study is complete, it is the intention of the Council to call a special Public Meeting to outline the results of the study and discuss in detail the possibility of such a venture becoming reality. A special sub committee comprising of Jean O'Gorman, Fr. Billy O'Donovan, Paula McAulliffe, Frank Hayes and Gerard Cott will present a progress report on their study at next month's meeting of the Council.

### **Officers Elected at A.G.M.**

.Chairman – Frank Hayes. Vice-Chairman – Liam Ryan. Joint Secretaries – Gerard Cott and Anne Motherway Joint Treasurers – Paul Kelly and John McCarthy. P.R.O. – John Cashman. Asst P.R.O. – Josie Knowles.

### **Age Profile - Website**

Just a short time ago, Josie Knowles compiled an age profile survey. The information will be of valuable assistance as we look ahead to any possible developments in our district. The current figures for the Ballintotas region show 142 residents in the under 12 age bracket, 119 in the 12 to 22 age group, 204 in the 23 to 40 category, 283 in the 40 to 65 sector and 66 in the over 65 bracket.

Josie has also been busy on the computer, as she has recently set up a web site for the Community Council. A taste of what is to come can be viewed by logging on to [www.geocities.com/councilbt](http://www.geocities.com/councilbt)