

## **Loughshinny Community Association AGM 15/05/25**

Meeting convened: 2000 @ Loughshinny Community Centre  
Attendance sheet: signed in attendees attached

**Agenda:** see attached and below discussion points

**Chair Robert Kelly opened** the meeting. Issued thanks for all attendees too, from the Community. A welcome too to Brendan Ryan County Councillor (Lab) who was in attendance.

- 1 Issued an appreciation of the officers and committee who put in their time, voluntarily, throughout the year. Issued an appeal to the Community to offer their time as there was a lot going on and additional expertise needed.

- 2 **Minutes of the previous year** were read (Anthony MacNamee (Sec). It was proposed that we publish the minutes of our AGMs, on the updated Community website, so that they can be reviewed by the community in general. Agreed.

Matters arising included the airing of frustration in the Community as to the lack of progress being made on the various issues important to the Community - footpaths on the Skerries and Baldungan being a major issue. That the playground (to be sited at the Nursing Home has not been concluded yet is another. Mention too of the positioning of the pedestrian crossing, as opposed to traffic lights at the crossroads was also raised.

Robt Kelly did confirm that contact with FCC was ongoing.

2024 minutes proposed for acceptance by Robt Kelly and 2nd by John Farragher. Passed.

Treasurer John O'Reilly presented his **report on the Finances for year ending Dec 2024**. Two sets of accounts are reported annually: the CLG and the LCA. Our accounts are audited and if community members request a copy he will issue a copy.

On the CLG finances the cost of insurance was flagged as a major cost increase in 2024. A re-evaluation of the buildings forming the Community Centre was carried out and it was seen that we were under insured. This has been rectified. Our Operating surplus was €3420 which is down from €10k.

- 3 On the LCA report, our income is mainly grants through various sources - FCC. €1900 was the total received in 2024. Grants applied for in 2025 will be communicated out from FCC during June. Current deficit on P&L is **€2861**.

A question raised in relation to the plan for €218k which forms part of the balance received from the company AquaComms (see previous reports) for community enhancement. The committee are aware that the money was assigned for use as a bartering tool with FCC to provide the footpaths. So far FCC are not showing an interest in using it.

Treasurers report proposed for acceptance by John Farragher, 2nd Eoghan Stuart. Passed.

### **Activities:**

Robt K outlined the work done to gain Grant Finance for the various activities to be undertaken in 2025.

1. We are launching a "Harvest Festival" in 2025 with several events planned. There are grants available from FCC to assist Communities in running.
2. A Halloween event - very successful in 2024 and again grant aid available.
3. FCC also have a "local enhancement program" and we have applied for grant aid.
- 3 4. Leader Program; We are seeking to purchase various equipment for the CC - projection equipment for instance.
5. Redevelopment of the CC: Under the Towns and Villages renewal scheme between 50k and 500k can be allotted to individual projects.

Robt Kelly again emphasised the work being done and any assistance from individuals in the Community with expertise greatly appreciated. We spend a lot of effort in applying for grants and are getting better at it. "Sponsorship" also highlighted as another means of funding - just saying!

A lot of discussion on the topic of the **CC development**. **Dermot Forkan** highlighted the discussions with architect Mark Kelly and the proposed plan to create a community centre fit for purpose for the years ahead. The brief to the architect, from the committee, emphasised the attachment the Community had to the school, MK has taken that on board. The school was established in 2029 and we are looking to create a version of the school for the next 50 - 60 years.

- 4 With the building being 100 years old, it needs maintenance and enhancement. The committee is also looking at sustainability in the plan. A question regarding use of the rooms: we don't have the space to create a sports use - more class related activities.

The plan is to go forward for Planning Permission and seek a phased or a 10 year permission. The 2 buildings to be linked with a hub between to cater for an main entrance and a small meeting point for the community. 1st phase would be to develop the CY (current thinking). Suggestion that an employee of Slattery & Co - fire consultants - could be of assistance - resides in Loughshinny. Noted.

There followed a good discussion on the issue of the progress on paths in the village. Reference made to initial request in the 60s and subsequent years and still no progress. The amount of traffic currently is heavier and indeed the Baldungan Rd is a designated HGV route to avoid the low bridge in Skerries. Currently HGVs and car traffic are avoiding Rush as a bottleneck and using the Baldungan Rd. The amount and type of traffic is preventing children walking and cycling to school. Proposed we write to Ann Marie Farrelly and David Storey at FCC to again highlight our requirement.

Robt Kelly highlighted that Minister Daragh O'Brien had written to D Storey to push for progress.

- 5 **Brendan Ryan** updated the meeting on contact with D Storey too. There is a commitment to get a feasibility study carried out. This needs to be filed on time in late summer to ensure the footpaths gets on the works program.

Robert again called for support from the community in keeping up the noise with FCC and the councillors.

The existing traffic light was raised as inappropriate - since the green light can be seen from a distance drivers are speeding up to ensure that they get through without stopping. Suggestion that the lights are changed to a louvred version - preventing a view from a long way out.

Further discussion on the Baldungan Rd surface and the very poor condition it is in. Is It is dangerous for drivers, cyclists and walkers/runners.

- 6 **B Ryan** stated that the resurfacing work west of the railway bridge is in the works for 2025. The recent road closure only addressed work adjacent to the ESB substation. Also raised was the lack of a safe parking at the graveyard and indeed a path in the area.

#### **Discussion on the beach.**

It was stated that the water quality has improved - which is welcome. However a negative is the use of the beach by various stables walking their horses on the beach outside of the stated by-law times. **B Ryan** highlighted that the by-laws are to be reviewed in 2025 and suggested the Community make a submission on behalf of users.

it was acknowledged that it was difficult to "police" the overall use of the beach.

- 7 The installation of the showers is another positive plus a bench is to be installed adjacent to it. The toilets are on a contractor schedule and are in more use as a result.

Also raised was the lack of lifeguards being assigned to Loughshinny Beach. As we are a small community we are often left out of the summer coverage arranged by FCC. B Ryan requested to assist. The boathouse has been made available each summer by FCC for lifeguards assigned here. We need to have FCC assign lifeguards from the end of the college year and not from July as been the practice heretofore. Hence the lack of availability.

#### **Playground:**

- 8 It has been confirmed that the land transfer from Bartra to the FCC has been completed. The expectation now is that the works will be completed before the year end. Some discussion about the location but it was clarified that there was no other site suitable (in public ownership) in the area. Bartra agreed to donate a suitable area on their grounds. Questions raised in relation to closing times - centred on unsocial behaviour - given the location.

**Cathy Foran** gave a presentation on the upgrade of our webpage - loughshinnyvillage.com -

The upgrade now includes:

Landing page

Info on community events

Booking page - with calendar

Activity groups within the community

link to Instagram and WhatsApp for photos

- 9 There followed too an interesting update from the **Historical Society** and especially around there own archive material. Request made to ensure that it remains intact and in the locked cabinet and not despatched with any clean ups held.

The point was also raised that the **Youth Club** is sorely missed and help is needed from parents to get it back up and running. Again a call to the Community to get involved. The younger members of the community would appreciate a place to "hang out" with friends.

John Farragher updated on our scheduled events/groups.

- the Tidy Towns work undertaken. Again the attendance asked to make contact through the Website or the WhatsApp group.

- beach clean

- 10 - cutting back on weeds and an especial mention on the efforts of **Pat Monks** in creating and maintaining step in areas on the Mine Road.  
- Harvest Festival: **Volunteers needed**. Perhaps a walk and talk event or a talk at one of the marquees on our local historical (volunteer from the Historical Group??)

Individuals from the Community need to be recognised for their efforts in making the village a great place to live.

**John Spencer** - volunteer award - for his efforts through Loughshinny United

- 11 The aforementioned **Pat Monks** for his work on the Tidy Towns side of things  
And **Gail Corr** for keeping the communications open and up to date via our Facebook page and WhatsApp groups.  
Well done to all three and a bottle of wine will be presented to them in due course.

The election of officers and committee followed. The result of nominations and seconding are :

Chair: Robert Kelly

Vice -Chair: John Farragher

- 12 Secretary: Anthony MacNamee

Treasurer: John O'Reilly

PRO: Gail Corr and Pat Monks

Committee: Cathy Foran, Aoibheann Brennan, John O'Toole, Dermot Forkan, Rachel Corr, Eoghan Stuart,

**AOB**

Robt invited items under AOB. **Brendan Ryan** advised the committee to continue work in getting a deputation in to an FCC meeting. This is an item we will certainly pursue asap.

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**Meeting ended at 1000 with acknowledgement from Robert of our thanks for all who attended.**