

BALLINTOTIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL - NEWSLETTER

No 1 - Summer 2003

Dear Neighbour,

As many of you are already aware, the last few months has seen the establishment of a Community Council in Ballintotis area. This Council is for each and every one for us. It's about making progress together as a community. It's about getting to know our neighbours better and it's about holding out a very special hand of welcome to the many new people who have chosen Ballintotis as their place to reside.

Our area boasts a wealth of natural resources and talent. The formation of this Community Council is seen by many as a means of pooling these resources and fulfilling our potential. So much has been achieved in the past - the very moving and touching Reflection on Good Friday and the magnificence of our young hurlers at Pairc Uí Chaoimh represent just two immediate examples. There is so much more besides down through the corridors of time - the potential here in Ballintotis is immense.

In this our first dispatch from the Communications Committee, we bring you just a brief update on developments thus far in the very early life of Ballintotis Community Council.

The idea of setting up a Community Council in our district was first aired at last year's A.G.M. of Ballintotis Community Alert. From there, a public meeting was organised in late February and after a hugely positive response, events have accelerated at pace since then. An initial steering committee was formed to advance the process and their work culminated with the distribution of ballot papers to each house in the locality, a process which eventually saw the election of two representatives from each of the seven electoral/station areas. A return of close on one hundred per cent of ballot papers was a really significant indicator that the people of Ballintotis are extremely enthusiastic about the development of a Community Council.

The following are the people elected in the respective geographical areas:

Roxboro, Milltown, Clashduff

Brian O'Driscoll & David
O'Driscoll

Ballintotis, Ballybutler,
Ballyedekin, Farrantrenchard

Gerard Cott & Josie Knowles.

(Continued Overleaf)

Kilmountain, Ballinascartha	Norma Ferriter & Liam Ryan
Caherultan, Curragrine, Loughaderra, Ballyoughtera	John Cashman & Frank Hayes
Dromada, Glenagare, Gurtstoke, Dromsarane, Meelshane	Anne Motherway & Jean O'Gorman
Kilbree, Killurriga, Gurteenina, Attyquin	Scott Daly & John McCarthy
Stumphill, Castleview, Churchtown, Whiterock, Dunsfort	Jerry Smith & Dick Smithwick.

Subsequently the election of officers resulted as follows - Chairperson - Frank Hayes. Vice-Chairperson - Liam Ryan. Secretary - Gerard Cott. Asst. Secretary - Anne Motherway. Treasurer - Brian O'Driscoll. Asst-Treasurer - John McCarthy. P.R.O. - John Cashman.

Two sub-committees have also been formed to deal specifically with Finance and Communications. In the near future, the elected Council are likely to co-opt up to seven other people, in keeping with the general guidelines laid down by Muintir na Tire and other advisory bodies.

Already the Council has met on a number of occasions in recent weeks and initially a number of small scale projects are to be undertaken over the next few months. We also plan to organise a fund-raising event in the autumn - details will be published in due course. As stated at the outset, this Community Council is all about you - the people of Ballintotis and we would be delighted to hear your ideas and suggestions. Please do not hesitate to contact your local Area Representative.

So, the first steps have been taken in the life of Ballintotis Community Council. It's very much a case of walking slowly before we can run, but work is underway. Let's go forward together and in the months and years ahead, hopefully that priceless gift that money cannot buy, 'the spirit of the Ballintotis people' will again shine through as we move forward together.

John Cashman
PRO Ballintotis Community Council