

Malahide Chamber of Commerce

Annual General Meeting

Held at the Grand Hotel on 23rd March 2010

Agenda:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous AGM
3. Treasurer's report
To consider and adopt, if approved, the accounts and balance sheet for the past year.
(available at the meeting)
4. To appoint auditors
5. President's report
6. To Elect Officers and Members of the Committee
7. Any Other Business

Apologies: Graham Smith (Wordsmith), Darragh O'Brien T.T., Cllr. Peter Coyle, Ann Byrne (CTA), Gerry Rafferty (CPS), Córa Garvey (DMG Sailsports), Barry Gibney (Gibney's), Ronan Reynolds (ACS), Eamon Porter (Aspire).

2009 Minutes: Minutes of the 2009 AGM were circulated, read and approved.

Treasurer's report

Ernie Brenner presented the 2009 audited accounts.

Income

- Subscriptions were healthy even though the rates were reduced by 25%.
- There was no Golf Classic fund raiser this year due to the economic conditions.
- The Christmas lights show a surplus of €1214 but we have an additional bill of €380 just presented. This project was a great success due to the voluntary input lead by Gerry Walsh.
- The Malahide Brochure was produced to ensure local business and although ads were very competitively priced, it produced a surplus of €1629.

Expenditure

- There was one legacy cost from the 2008 Cervia project of €540.
- Tidy Towns net cost was €1432 which when matched against prize money gave a surplus of €168.
- The big expenditure for the year was the radio campaign which cost €5860.

In all it was a good year financially and 2010 has also started well with subscriptions. The Treasurer recommended the adoption of the Accounts.

Proposer: Mary Farrell Seconder: Matt Corcoran. The motion was carried.

Re-appointment of Auditors

The Treasure, Ernie Brenner, proposed to the meeting a motion to re-appoint Des Mullock as Auditor to the Chamber for the next year.

Proposer: Eric Crampton: Seconder: Ken O'Connor. Motion was carried.

President's Report

Our objective has been to focus all our efforts on encouraging and promoting business into Malahide. The Committee has worked hard, giving of their own time over the last twelve months to make progress toward this objective. I take this opportunity to thank them for their work and most importantly for the time they have given unselfishly to us all.

A brief synopsis of the year would be to list some of the events and projects we have undertaken on your behalf.

1. Communication is a key component of our work so we ensured there was a monthly newsletter and regular email updates on matters of concern to Chamber members.
2. In March 2009 we attended the exhibition on the plans for development of Malahide Castle. We subsequently sent in a written submission asking for better signage and connection from the Castle to the town. We also asked that local businesses be given any opportunity that might arise from new retail units.
3. Work on the website site has been continuous. In March we added a new blog and updated the Business Directory. Often this is the only web based listing for many Malahide businesses. In May we introduced our Facebook presence which has been very successful, we currently have 1508 fans. In July we started our presence on LinkedIn. My thanks to Córa Garvey for her work and initiative on this very successful project.
4. Car parking and traffic remain our top priorities. In March we contacted Iarnrod Éireann to see if a multi storey car park could be developed on their site, unfortunately that doesn't seem to be a runner. In June the first news of possible plans for the Bridgefield car park were heard and in October we saw the plans issued by Fingal County Council. We welcomed the expansion of this car park but felt it needed more work in terms of a traffic plan and how it would be charged. We made a submission to this effect to FCC. In recent discussions with FCC we understand that the proposal is to reduce the spaces from 330 to about 200. We await final clarification on pricing etc. but would welcome any increase in car park spaces when they come. The car park however probably won't be in action until at least September this year.
5. We have made a recent submission to FCC to have the traffic lights at the Diamond and at the Church co-ordinated. We also have asked that the bus stop be moved to a better location that avoids stopping all traffic.
6. During the year we have attended two Malahide Liaison Group meetings with comprise ourselves, our local councillors, the Forum and Tidy Town Committee meeting with Council officials on all matters Malahide. There was a suspension during the summer due to the local elections but even two meetings proved very productive and we will seek to ensure they continue.
7. The County Development Plan is due for release for Public comment in April. In June I attended a half day seminar along with public bodies and other interested groups in the Fingal area. This was an excellent opportunity to get our view into the early stages of the plan.

8. The Chamber set its priority on promoting the town and business. In April we commissioned a logo for the town which we seek to encourage everyone to use for free. We built on this with the "Malahide Has It" slogan provided by Brenda Hickey. We then used that slogan in a radio marketing campaign in June on Q102. It's difficult to gauge the effectiveness of the campaign but it did get our name out on the airwaves. The culmination of the promotions campaign came when our team of Córa Garvey, Cathy Dunne, Mary Farrell produced and distributed the "Malahide Has It" business Directory to all homes and as importantly to businesses in the town that will continue to distribute it throughout this year. In all we have printed 20k brochures and the project created a surplus of €1400.
9. For the past number of years the Tidy Town Committee has run successfully under the wing of the Chamber. This year we recognised that to flourish in the future it would be best operating on its own. To this end Gerry Rafferty and Eric Crampton has formed a new and invigorated TT Committee. Our objective to make it more representative of the whole community is reflected in the composition of the Committee. As passed at the AGM we are transferring over funds and the banner system to the new group. We have also assisted in providing a new Constitution for Tidy Towns to work within and funds to create a 64 point plan for the Group from a TT expert. I wish them every success in their endeavours and promise our whole hearted support for the future. I would also like to thank Eamon Porter for organising the two FAS workers who weekly help us keep the town in good order, this cost us just €200, definitely the best value project of the year.
10. Our community project each year is the Christmas lights. This year, with the financial constraints being heavily felt by all, we were very fortunate to have Gerry Walsh put him forward to look after this project. In 2008 it cost us €14k for lights. This year we were faced with that cost plus the cost of re-equipping with low energy lights. Gerry sourced new lights and organised a fully voluntary effort to put them in place. Other companies provided material and in the end the project, including the capital cost of new light, came in at €9k. Because we are now leaving the lights in place, next year we can invest even more in additional lights and expand the display to be something the whole town can be proud of.
11. On the social end we postponed the usual Golf Classic due to the economic situation but hope to have it running again this year. We did organise a Christmas social in Gibney's which was a great night for the 40 or so who attended. In February we organised the Malahide Awards and a visit by An Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan. This drew in nearly 100 attendees and it again was a great night for all.
12. There have been many other smaller things undertaken by the Chamber during the year including chairing a liaison group to deal with Iarnród Éireann on the bridge collapse, supporting the work of the Low Rock group etc.

It was an active year and in the year ahead we hope to build on that. The outline of our plans for 2010 are:

- a. Lobby FCC re Bridgefield car park, traffic etc.
- b. Submission of the County Development Plan
- c. Survey of town to update mailing list.
- d. Creation of Promotion Group.
- e. Affinity Network events.
- f. Co-operation with Howth Sutton Baldoyle Chamber.
- g. New edition of Malahide Brochure.
- h. Expansion of Christmas Lights.
- i. Monthly Newsletters.
- j. Development of website.

- k. Malahide Awards.
- l. Fund raising Golf event.
- m. Christmas Social event.
- n. Maintain Malahide Liaison Group with FCC or seek a Town Co-coordinator.

At the end of the day we can only rely on ourselves to do this work. I thank all those people who participated in 2009 and ask that everyone here considers giving some time to the Chamber in 2010.

Election of Officers and Members of the Committee

Al Ryan presented to the meeting the four nominations for the Officer positions and four other nominations for membership of the Committee. Without further nominations from the floor, the motion to elect those nominated was put to the meeting.

Proposer: Ernie Brenner Seconded: Peter Farrell. The motion was passed by the meeting.

Those elected were as follows:

President:	Al Ryan
Vice President:	Deirdre Rochford
Honorary Treasurer:	Ernie Brenner
Honorary Secretary:	Cathy Dunne
Committee member:	Matt Corcoran
Committee member:	Mary Farrell
Committee member:	Ronan Reynolds
Committee member:	John Byrne

Any Other Business

Rates

Bernie Flanagan asked if there was anything to be done about Rates. Al Ryan said that Fingal CC, uniquely, had in fact reduced the ARV (Annual Rate on Valuation, which replaces old 'Rate in the pound'). In Fingal we also had the revaluation under the 2003 Act, only the second county to do so. This revaluation has caused some confusion on rate changes but anyone who disputed the revaluation should have had their appeal in by now. The Chamber ran a seminar on this during the year and reminded members on when to make appeals. Eric mentioned that some appeals did give reductions. AR mentioned that retailers were hardest hit with revaluation increases.

Water Rates

This is another big expense. There was some complaint about water pressures and Mary Farrell suggested we ask FCC about this. In response to comment about pipe bursts, Ernie

Brenner noted this hadn't happened recently and since the problems of 2007 and 2008 Fingal have installed a second supply pipe to the town.

Malahide Shuttle

Mary and Ann asked if there was an update. Al Ryan explained that CIE had objected to the 'launch grant' and that this was now unlikely. However the application by Malahide Coaches for the licence was still on-going and the Shuttle Committee lead by Mark Hely-Hutchinson was determined to proceed. There was wide welcome at the meeting for the Shuttle and the Chamber will support it in any way it can.

Google

Ken O'Connor said that a \$300 a day (for a year) grant to promote Tara's Palace/Museum of Childhood would be used to also promote the village of Malahide wherever possible. This could be a great on line promotion for Malahide.

Heart Foundation

Bernie Flanagan noted that she is auctioning a dress for the Irish Heart Foundation on 17th April. The dress is currently on display.

Events

Billy Kelly said he would like to see more events run in the village, there were none last year, perhaps FCC could run the events. Al Ryan said that volunteers were needed if this was to happen but it was difficult to get people to come forward and give their time, the current Chamber Committee members are already giving too generously of their personal and business time to take on additional projects. Martin Mills suggested we make better use of the sea and sporting activities. Killian suggested sports competitions such as a Triathlon would be good events. Nuala Burke said that to recruit people we need to identify good candidates and approach them directly. John Byrne said there is no shortage of ideas but we'll have to do things for ourselves rather than waiting for someone else. Deirdre Rochford said we would like more retailers to be involved, especially as they were the most likely to benefit from events. It was agreed that we look at asking a few people to take on a project.

Transfer to new Malahide Tidy Town Group

Al Ryan explained that the Tidy Town committee has been under the wing of the Chamber in recent years. While they have done well, it's agreed that it would be better that they operate now as a separate committee. With Gerry Rafferty and Eric Crampton leading, a new committee with broad community representation and experienced personnel has been formed. It is the view of the Chamber that we transfer the role to this new committee. Al Ryan presented the following motion: "That the Malahide Chamber of Commerce relinquish the role of its Tidy Town sub-committee and transfer its assets and responsibilities including cash, the banner system, water system and other Tidy Town activity to the new Malahide Tidy Town Group upon their adoption of the Constitution prepared by the Malahide Chamber of Commerce and also their adoption of a letter transferring the asset, responsibilities etc. to them"

Proposer: Ernie Brenner: Seconder: Matt Corcoran. The motion was passed by the meeting.

Al Ryan took the opportunity to thank Eric Crampton for his years of service to the Chamber. Eric is stepping down from the Committee this year but we hope he will continue to attend meetings from time to time. Without Eric's leadership it is likely the Chamber could have foundered during a couple of lean periods. He has served the Chamber and community with great dedication and charm. We wish him the very best with his new endeavours for the Tidy Town Group.

AGM Attendees

Al Ryan	Grand Hotel
Ernie Brenner	Grand Hotel
Deirdre Rochford	Irish College of English
Anne McGrath	Sans Souci
Mary Daly	Sans Souci
Billy Kelly	Jeffrey Adams Menswear
Fergus Giblin	Eurospar
Judith Troy	AIB
Jim O'Carroll	Aurora Electrical
Martin Mills	Procure Ireland
Cathy Dunne	iCatch Design
Sean Farrell	Duffy's
Brian Morris	Morris Financial
Ken O'Connor	Map My Business
Matt Corcoran	King Travel
Eric Crampton	The Pottery Shop
Mary Farrell	Village Books
Peter Farrell	Village Books
Bernadette Flanagan	Salon Euphoria
Killian McKay	Fingal Sailing School
Miriam Clyne	Diamond Card
Bernie Mulvey	Diamond Card
Donnie O'Sullivan	O2
Nuala Burke	O'Dwyer & Associates
John Byrne	Saol Business Partners