

Palace Fields Residents Association Monthly Minutes: www.palacefields.com

Date: 05-Feb-14: 8pm; **Next Meeting:** 05-Mar-14: 8pm; Árd Rí House Hotel.



1. Scan the code: www.palacefields.com
2. We are now on Facebook: "Palace Fields c/o the Residents Association"

Attendees

2: Marion Treacy
3: Kitty O'Connor
5: Marian Walsh
9: Kurek Agmeside
12: Deirdre McCarthy
39: Magua Kronicke
40: Briget Flaherty
48: Michael Goss
49: Francis Finnigan
73: G.Sealey
77: John Fleming
78: Joik Joinkocick
91: William Martin

102: B.Okey
144: Ronan O'Ceallaigh
148: Andrea King
150: Karen Kennedy
154: Amie Hochmon
175: Aerins Congson
179: Marian Costello
183: Imelda Fahy
184: Imelda Stoack
190: M.Keaney
194: Miceal Reilly
194: Madeline Collins
194: Sharon Treacy

197: Geraldine Halion
204: Podraic Burke
221: Tommy Hynes
238: Geraldine Rigney
238: Paul Bennison
239: Stephen McDonnell
242: Bernie Kelly
245: JJ Burke
245: Denise Burke
247/9: Rob Steed
254: Aidan Connoughton
264: Kathleen Desmond

Apologies

64: Bronagh McLoughney
143: Mary Monaghan
275: Mary Fahy

CONDOLENCES: On behalf of the Residents Association and committee members, we would like to extend our sincere sympathy to Joe Mannion on the passing of his beloved wife, Christina. Our thoughts remain with Joe and his family at this difficult time.

Rest in peace. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

Treasurers Report & General Financial Details:

- A one page graphical analysis handout, of the contributions from 01-May 2013 to 05-February 2014, was given to each attendee of the meeting for their information, by R'OC.
- Contributions for 2012 64% with 36% not contributing and 2013 77% with 23% not contributing. This represented an increase of 13% on 2012 being a positive improvement.
- A housing plan of the entire estate, showing what houses contributed and the houses that haven't contributed to date, was provided for anyone to view.
- R'OC asked if more volunteers would come forward to collect contributions in areas 8 and 9 as it is a very time consuming business. GR volunteered for area 8.
- A chart was produced detailing annual expenditure as follows, for more detail on the costs please contact Michael Goss at the phone number below, on the bottom of the minutes.

Grounds maintenance on greens	€8,645.77.
Printing	€843.30.
Insurance	€360.00
Administration	€549.69
Miscellaneous	€393.80
Total	€10,792.56

- Social Account €389.46
- JJ Rhatigan or Arlum Ltd is to make a contribution of €1,750 towards the maintenance in 2014. The contribution for 2013 was €2,000.

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- It was voted (38/38) that the existing annual contribution of €60 be maintained for the next financial year of 2014/15.
- Due to certain difficulties with electronic payments into the Credit Union account it was suggested that the Associations account be moved to a clearing bank. WM explained that he had spoken to the CU and they informed him that they were changing to the status of a clearing bank with an electronic payment system. It was carried that the account remain as it is and see what transpires.
- It was voted (38/38) that a new petty cash system for the paying of stationary and stamps etc. with the opening sum of €200 per annum.

Achievements in last 12 months:

- A year's maintenance was completed with a new contractor. Issues were experienced during the year however, the contractor Fox Landscaping is to be retained to complete their contract for 2014. A meeting is to be held with him prior to works commencing this year, to ensure issues that arose last year do not arise this year.
- A 3 year tree pruning programme was completed.
- A successful social day was held in July organised by R'OC.
- Neighbourhood Watch signs were erected.
- The Palace Fields website layout was improved, and a Facebook page was setup for the Palace Fields Residents Association. Added thanks to R'OC and JF.
- A successful objection was launched to dismiss the Appeal for the 499KW Waste Anaerobic Digestion Plant from the Athenry Road.
- The sweeping of the estates roads and gullies was carried out in 2013.
- The Constitution Document was generated in 2013.

Discussed:

- The current **frequency of committee meetings** (10 per year) is to be maintained. (Voted 38/38).
- It was suggested that the **AGM** be moved to correspond with the financial year end, on the 30th of April each year. After some discussion it was agreed that it made little difference. It was carried (38/38), that it be left as existing.
- The **Constitution Document** was explained to the meeting and that it was ready for signing.
- Was agreed a **Text Alert' system** be set up and that the necessary forms be sent off.
- Can residents please not leave **bins** out days before collection and please use rubber bands as was under helpful tips in January's minutes, for tying down the bin lids during strong winds. On occasions bins have blown over with rubbish being strewn all over the area.
- A number of residents expressed concern over **cars not stopping at two junctions** in area 4. It was agreed that new white lining with STOP signs on the road was required. Rhatigan's to be asked to do this. One accident has occurred already. Speeding on the Tullinadaly Road to be addressed with Council. Estate is at times, dangerous to exit with speeding vehicles being close to a blind bend.
- **Dog owners** need to be aware that it is not acceptable to allow dogs to mess on the estates verges and footways. These owners are to be approached and spoken to. Also certain breeds of dogs being walked on the estate without muzzles, these can be reported. Noise pollution from dogs barking is illegal. These maybe due to dogs left alone in the house or garden. A noise pollution certificate can be obtained or down loaded from Galway Co.Co., and handed to the dog owner.
- A number of residents complained about **windows in their houses being excessively drafty**. A note of the houses was taken and a letter will be sent to Rhatigan's for action.
- **Rob Steed** attended the meeting to address the issue he had with his name being placed on the monthly minutes relating to an incident over the cutting back of trees on the North West boundary. He read out his letter that had been delivered that day to the Association. It was resolved that the matter would be rectified and his name removed from the minutes.

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Projects for 2014:

- The pedestrian entrance to the park project is in hand and will form part of a larger ecological project currently in hand by Galway Co.Co..
- A survey and inspection of the trees on the estate is to be carried out removing all dead and trees that are not growing properly. This is to include the removal of the stakes in area 8.
- Rhatigan's to complete tree planting to certain verges within the estate
- The placing of protective guards to the base of certain trees for protection against strimming damage.
- The rear of the decorative entrance walls are to be decorated to remove graffiti.
Shrubberies to be added in areas 3, 6 and 7, but may be subject to Rhatigan's carrying out drainage works on the greens in question first.
- Verges to certain areas have been damaged by vehicles. These are to be made good.
- A summer social event is to be carried out on a date to be arranged.
- A Mass to be held in the estate in June at a date to be arranged.
- The cleaning of the gutters to the roads and the gullies to be carried out by Rhatigan's.

Appeal against Galway CoCo. Illegal Decision Allowing Joe & Helen O'Toole Retention of Car Park Area and Right of Way:

- Some residents announced concern with regard to the objection notice sent by the Association last year, to the Galway Co.Co decision to give retention to the car parking areas behind O' Tooles supermarket.
- MG pointed out that the Association was objecting to the road closure and retention of the public's 'Right Of Way' across the parking area, and not the car park itself. The Association had no hand in the closing of the car parking area. This was carried out by the High Court and then supported by the Supreme Court, pending a decision by An Bord Pleanala next month.
- It was agreed that the Palace Fields Residents Association position be clarified publicly in the local newspaper, the Tuam Herald, and possibly the Connaught Tribune, to explain what the Association had a concern with. This statement has been submitted to the local newspaper for publishing.

Rhatigans & Galway CoCo. Handover:

- MG has spoken with Celine Delaney the 'Taking In Charge' Staff Officer at Galway Co.Co. It was confirmed that an Enforcement Notice had been issued to Rhatigan's / Arlum Ltd requiring completion of the estate. The matter has been referred to the Council's Law Agent for summary proceedings on the 7th of October 2013. They are not in a position to do any more until they hear from their Agent.

Nuisance Behaviour:

- Noticed that children from the estate been kicking a football against walls in the early hours of the morning, causing distress to residents. MG approached parents of children involved, and issue is now closed.
- If people hold house parties please consider the neighbouring properties, and keep noise to a minimum, and don't be a nuisance to your fellow neighbours. We all need our sleep and have commitments the next day.

Useful Phone Numbers & Email Addresses:

- Palace Fields Residents Association: 087 3395593.
- Electric Skyline for street lighting replacement low call 1890 328587 or text 087 1955076 or Email: faults@electricsskyline.ie
- An Garda Síochana Tuam 093 70841. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Liaison Officer – Frank Breslin.
- Dog warden name and number Christy Corcoran 087-2224192