

**Date:** A.G.M. 05-Feb-15: 8pm; **Next Meeting:** 04-Mar-15: 8pm; Árd Rí House Hotel.



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

#### Attendees

2: Marian Treacy
5: Marian Walsh
12: Deirdre McCarthy
40: Bridget Flaherty
48: Michael Goss
51: Anne Kelly

77: John Fleming
109: Brian Murphy
109: Eileen Murphy
143: Mary Monaghan
144: Ronan O'Ceallaigh
150: Karen Kennedy

179: Marion Costello
190: M.Keaney
194: Breda Nicholson
197: Liam Halion
197: Geraldine Halion
221: Tommy Hynes

239: Stephen McDonnell
239: Mary McDonnell
242: Bernie Kelly
245: JJ Burke
245: Denise Burke
269: Demies Gibbons
275: Mary Fahy

**FULL A.G.M. Presentation available to download on the [www.palacefields.com](http://www.palacefields.com) website.**

On behalf of the Palace Fields Residents Association (P.F.R.A.), as Michael Goss has officially stepped down as Chairman of the P.F.R.A., we would like to thank Michael for his excellent work for the past 6 years. Without a doubt, Michael will be missed immensely, due to his dedication to the estate, and his very approachable nature to address any issue that any resident has had.

**The very best of luck Michael in your future endeavours.**

#### Treasurers Report & General Financial Details:

- For year 01-May-14 to 05-Feb-15, as per attached.
- Landscaping: €7350; Printing: €705.50; Petty Cash: €600; Insurance: €360; Administration: €454.15; Shrubs: €3035. = Total €12504.65. Social Account: €390.61.
- A pie and bar chart was presented on screen illustrating the current state of Associations income in terms of those houses making contributions. Contributions for 2012 64% with 36% not contributing, 2013 77% with 23% not contributing and 2014 72% with 28% not contributing. This represented a decrease of 5% on 2013.
- JJ Rhatigan or Arlum Ltd have not made an offer to date, stating their contribution for years 2015 or 2016. However, MG had spoken to Paul Fitzmaurice who indicated that they would be. He mentioned that their funding for the estate had altered recently and was unable to submit a figure at this time.
- It was put to the meeting that the existing annual contribution of €60 should be maintained for the next financial year of 2015/16. This was carried. A suggestion that this should be increased to either €65 or €70 was put forward however, this was rejected on the grounds that it would be difficult to collect.
- It was suggested that the names of people/houses contributing to the upkeep of the estate, be published and thanked at the end of the financial year i.e. April 2015.. It was thought that this was a good idea. This item was passed, and will be published.
- MG suggested that in order to make the Association sustainable into the future, we should explore the possibility of creating a legal mechanism by which to collect contributions in the future. This would not be a 'Management Company' it would be a covenant assigned to the Association, to agree an annual fee by a voting process by the residents themselves.

#### MAIN HIGHLIGHTS from the A.G.M.:

- Michael Goss, has stepped down as Chairman of the Palace Fields Residents Association.
- No person has put themselves forward to be Chairman of the Palace Fields Residents Association, and position remains open.
- The position of Treasurer has not been filled and remains open.
- William Martin to remain as Vice Chairman of the Palace Fields Residents Association.
- Deirdre McCarthy to remain as Secretary of the Palace Fields Residents Association.
- Quotation for landscaping by Foxe Landscaping and by another Connell Landscaping for 2015-2016 is €12,000. This is an approximate increase of €3000 on 2014-2015. This typical balance of our account any year at present is €12,000 approximately. **This is a HUGE PROBLEM as we potentially cannot afford Fox Landscaping or Connell Landscaping for the coming year. Situation under URGENT review.**

**Why Do We Contribute to the Upkeep of the Estate:**

- To maintain our estate in pristine condition so that it's a pleasurable place to live in, for all residents within the estate.
- The maintenance of the estate ensures that all properties maintain their value. Ask yourself would you buy a house in an estate with poorly kept lawns and shrubberies, with rubbish strewn everywhere.
- When Galway County Council take over the estate, does this mean that they will maintain the estate? NO !! They are only obligated to maintain the roads, kerbs, footpaths and drains. They will not be maintaining the grassed areas or plants. It would look very shabby, be under no illusion.
- What about our property tax ? This will not maintain our estate other than the parts described above.
- It is important that we look after our estate, it's in **ALL OUR** interest. If people are not contributing, we should all try to encourage each other to contribute. **It's your housing estate.**

**Achievements 2009 to 2014:**

- Adopted the maintenance of all our green areas.
- Appointed a landscape contractor to maintain the green areas of the estate.
- Created a Website and Facebook page unique to the Palace Fields Estate.
- 'Dusk to Dawn' light installed at the entrance of the estate.
- Clearing of all shrubberies in the estate and replanting including the securing of sponsorship.
- Cleaning and painting of the wall at the entrance to park, to remove unsightly graffiti.
- Removal of tree posts in all areas, unless trees require support. Together with the pruning of all trees in phases on the estate.
- Sweeping and cleaning of estate gullies and gutters cleaned, on a yearly basis.
- A summer social held in 2013.

**Achievements 2014 to 2015:**

- Power washing and painting of the rear of the wall to the entrance of the estate.
- Shrubbery to front of estate weeded and cleared with new block border added.
- Dog fouling signs erected, requesting dog owners to clear up their own dogs poop.
- Survey of trees not doing well on the estate and grass verges damaged by vehicles causing rutting making mowing difficult.
- Completed a tree planting schedule in two phases to verges within the estate. It was pointed out that the monies paid out for these items may be reimbursed to the Association during the 'Taking In Charge' process.
- Placing of protectors to the base of trees to protect against strimming completed.
- Fox landscaping, completed another year of green maintenance.

**Projects for 2015: (all subject to funds being available, where applicable):**

- Park entrance scheme. Meeting has taken place with Galway County Council.
- Shrubberies to areas 3, 6, 7 and 8.
- Assess cost of green drainage e.g. Area 3, and who is responsible.
- Discuss with landscaping contractor how we wish them to maintain the estate.
- Verges damaged by vehicles in certain areas to be filled with top soil and seeded to make good level.
- Summer social for 2015. This was agreed however, volunteers will be required.
- JJ Rhatigan and Co Limited. To drain greens particularly in area 3. This may possibly be part of the 'Taking In Charge'.
- Cleaning of road gutters and gullies with road sweepers.
- Removal of dead trees.
- Text alert system to be commissioned.

**Estate "Taking in Charge" & Extra Business:**

- MG has spoken to the Engineer charged with snagging the estate as part of the 'Taking In Charge' process. He advised that the Association write to the Council's 'Taking In Charge' office to arrange a site meeting. This has been done. The letter has been acknowledged but we are still awaiting a reply.
- Michael Goss, confirmed that he would be at the next meeting and would make every effort to sort out the maintenance contract for the next two years.
- MG thanked everyone for attending the meeting. With particular thanks to all those who have helped run the Association and will continue to do so. Particular thanks to R'OC for his work on the overhead projector slides that made the presentation very clear and contributed to the meeting running very smoothly.

**Statement of Account 01 May 2014 – 05 Feb 2015.**

**Also available on the website, embedded within the AGM Presentation.**

Date	Ref No	Payee	Amount	Printing	Petty Cash	Admin	Insurance	Shrubs	Landscape			
2/6/2014	1	Ard ri AGM expense	€ 86.00			€ 86.00						
2/6/2014	2	Petty Cash	€ 200.00		€ 200.00							
2/18/2014	3	J Coen printing AGM	€ 154.00	€ 154.00								
3/18/2014	4	J Coen Printing March	€ 67.00	€ 67.00								
4/29/2014	5	J Coen Printing April	€ 57.00	€ 57.00								
5/13/2014	6	Galway Co Co.	€ 25.00			€ 25.00						
5/20/2014	7	J Coen Printing May	€ 57.00	€ 57.00								
6/24/2014	8	Munster Insurance	€ 360.00				€ 360.00					
6/24/2014	9	Murphys Garden	€ 740.00					€ 740.00				
6/24/2014	10	Petty Cash	€ 100.00		€ 100.00							
6/24/2014	11	J Coen Printing June	€ 57.00	€ 57.00								
8/15/2014	12	J Flemming Web page	€ 120.00			€ 120.00						
8/15/2014	13	Petty Cash	€ 100.00		€ 100.00							
9/17/2014	14	J Coen Printing Sept	€ 57.00	€ 57.00				€ 1,295.00				
9/30/2014	15	Murphys Garden	€ 1,295.00								*	
10/13/2014	16	Rennicks Signage	€ 196.68			€ 196.68						
10/13/2014	17	J Coen Printing Oct	€ 57.00	€ 57.00								
10/13/2014	18	Petty Cash	€ 100.00		€ 100.00							
10/31/2014	19	J Coen Printing Nov	€ 57.00	€ 57.00								
11/19/2014	20	Fox Landscape	€ 7,350.00						€ 7,350.00			
12/3/2014	21	Murphys Garden	€ 1,000.00					€ 1,000.00				
12/9/2014	22	DIRT	€ 26.47			€ 26.47						
12/17/2014	23	J Coen Printing Dec	€ 57.00	€ 57.00								
1/22/2015	24	J Coen Printing Jan 15 AGM	€ 85.50	€ 85.50								
1/22/2015	25	Petty Cash	€ 100.00		€ 100.00							
2/1/2015		<b>Total Expenditure 2014</b>	<b>€12,504.65</b>	<b>€705.50</b>	<b>€ 600.00</b>	<b>€ 454.15</b>	<b>€ 360.00</b>	<b>€3,035.00</b>	<b>€7,350.00</b>			

**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: [faulds@electricsskyline.ie](mailto:faulds@electricsskyline.ie);

An Garda Síochana Tuam 093 70841.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Liaison Officer – Frank Breslin;

Dog warden name and number Christy Corcoran 087-2224192;

Fascia's and gutters damaged Mid West Gutters contact 093- 45434 or 086-8407831;

Draughty windows or worn seals E. O'Donnell contact 087- 250739 or Weather glaze: contact Dave 087-6260497.