

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

8th January, 1991

### 1. Present:

Jim Myers, N.C.; Rev. Denis Cormican, OMI; John Walsh, AIB; Mary Allen; Mary Mc Cormack; Jim Kirby, Aer Lingus; Mary Kenny; Chris O'Connell; Maura Fitzsimons.

### Apologies:

Tommy Dunne; Tom Mangan.

### In Attendance:

Paul Murphy, Community Services; Michael O'Boyle, London Irish Society; Declan Curley, AIB; June Swan, Secretary, Residents Association.

### 2. Residents and Tenants Association:

June Swan invited to contribute. She stated that their Association was pleased to co-operate in this way. As Secretary, receiving any complaints she stays neutral, working in unison - promising.

A function on Saturday night caused some concern at 1.30am - noise on the street. They appreciate such noise is not Irish Centre responsibility as it is outside the premises but a resident had observed a lady causing a disturbance, "carrying a glass". Jim Myers stated that there is a notice displayed and a doorman on the premises - this in conjunction with an announcement at the end of each function to consider others. He assured June that all caution was being taken and thanked her for her attendance.

### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting:

Having been circulated, the minutes were taken as read, adopted on the proposal of Mary Allen and seconded by Mary Kenny.

### 4. Matters Arising:

None.

### 5. Welfare Report:

Presented by Paul Murphy, Copies circulated.

Interviews December '90 increase; Telephone calls increase;

Annual Report - statistics not yet complete.

December '90 busy arranging hampers for needy families.

Work recession causing concern. Income Support £28.80 inadequate.

Pay decreasing in Construction industry from £33.00 per day to £29.00 per day (7.30am - 7.30pm).

Day Agencies unwilling to include on list unless worker willing to do a 7 day week.

Alcohol Project - F.I.S. have contacted re: a Dion funded project being run by Rugby House, Mobile Alcohol Service; £17,000 fee offered; based in Camden; research into level and nature of Alcohol related problems amongst Irish in pilot areas in Britain. Community Services requested to participate in "a 15 question interview" and forward report to Centre. Paul stated that details are unclear and if current pressure continues 4 staff cannot cope. A meeting is being held on Saturday, Fr. Denis and Paul will attend.

John Walsh, referring to Paul's report stated that this is a major problem and it would seem the Irish Centre is currently being used as a Refuge, and if more and more are accommodated, still more will come. Paul said that whereas they are happy to talk through the day to day problems they are not in a position to provide food.



Chairman, appreciating Paul's current pressure extended his gratitude to him and his staff.  
Paul asked whether a photo could be taken for insertion in Annual Report. Chairman agreed to arrange.

6. Hostels Report:

Presented by Fr. Cormican.

Christmas period was quiet - 50 people left in Quex Road. Fr. Carolan now more selective.

Girls Hostel full - 100% employed. C.B.C. from Ireland do a display at Westminster Cathedral - until this year Sr. Gertrude could allocate a helper. Time limit - 6 months. Whereas Sr. Gertrude encourages the girls to move on there are some who need sheltered accommodation for their own protection - sometimes up to 2 years.

7. Appointment:

Fr. Denis Cormican, OMI, Director/Treasurer. Chairman welcoming Fr. Denis to succeed Fr. Scully requested Committee approval for his appointment. Acceptance proposed by John Walsh, seconded by Mary Allen - agreed and welcomed to an onerous task.

8. Director's Report:

Presented by Fr. Denis - thanked members for their approval. He is not looking forward to his role stating that he is well aware that there are problems when dealing with various Committees and Organisations - requested to work together towards amicable solutions. His hope would be developments that the Irish Centre would go forward and progress in trying to lift the 'doom and gloom' which seems to exist having a positive approach to the most awkward situations.

Josephine Vaughan's Research Project on Education and Training launch 6.00pm on 6th February. Fr. Denis asked for suggestions re: invitations - Irish Centre needs publicity, this will be a good P.R. exercise.

Bar Manager and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Killeen leaving on Wednesday, whereas he appreciated there were some problems he regretted their departure and hoped we could wish them well.

St. Patrick's Day, 17th March, Sunday P. Keegan is seeking bar extension in this instance.

Problem still exists with roof tank - Michael Fallon coming to investigate.

Table Cloths - Mc Namara Hall - rented from Initial Supplies, Fr. Denis requested approval to purchase a supply and they would launder - agreed.

Youth Club - Youth Leader, K. Fitzsimons has not been totally satisfactory, a difficult situation. Kennedy Hall allocated Mondays and Wednesdays two years ago - now Wednesday no longer available. K. Fitzsimons originally employed by I.L.E.A., now Camden Council. Complaints re; mal-use of Kennedy Hall and lack of supervision - Youth Officer from Camden had visited recently - Youth Leader not present. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Youth Officer - Fr. Denis - action in an effort to clarify the situation.

Finance Report - Circulated - Reason for reduction in turnover causing concern. Cancellation of function fees - how implemented not known. Fr. Denis said this does not compensate for losses. Jim Kirby queried whether an appeal could be made to Associations who had functions at Grosvenor Rooms to return to the Irish Centre. Mary Allen stated that all Counties hold their functions at the end of the year and dates are fully booked and overlap. Jim asked yet again whether any progress in the appointment of a P.R.O. for the Centre. A close relationship with Irish Chaplaincy and Irish Centre would help - as Parish re-unions are popular. John Walsh and Jim Kirby suggested and approach to Irish Papers for a feature article. Could we contact Donal Mooney, Irish Post



inviting him to attend a meeting with a view to publicity for Irish Centre benefit, Declan Dunne, Irish in Britain News and P. Cowan, Irish World. Jim Kirby and John Walsh - action.

9. Social Club Report:

Disastrous Christmas period - Peggy Finucane reported that the Club was still solvent but an improvement in attendance would be welcomed. Douglas Hyde Lounge - used by members Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights - Ceilidhe. Some conflict re: Sunday 17th March - Social Club expecting to use Douglas Hyde Lounge. A letter had been received from Anton Coyle, Chairman Ceilidhe Committee expressing concern re: need for conflict. Mc Namara Hall had been booked by Social Club and an offer to reduce bar prices in this instance. Committee decision that Social Club and Ceilidhe Committee should hold a meeting to resolve the situation. Fr. Cormican's responsibility as Director does not extend to this area. Jim Myers stated that such a situation should not arise and should be resolved by relevant parties concerned.


Lack of advertising a problem. Fr. Denis said that an advert in the Irish Post costing £160 weekly was too expensive. John Walsh stated that a high profile (advert) article in the Irish Post could be worth while to let the public see the potential of utilisation of Mc Namara Hall. Fr. Denis asked to pursue costing of weekly advertising, including photos in a feature article. Mary Allen said that Fr. Cormican as Director involved in the day to day running of the Irish Centre should be empowered to take decisions. It was agreed to advertise for 4 consecutive weeks and await results.

10. Any other business:

Jim Myers expressed concern re: the statement made by June Swan - "a girl outside the premises with a glass". He said it was a sad reflection on security. A uniformed Security Officer was needed as a matter of urgency - 8.00pm to 1.00am - costing to be pursued.

'Get Well' wishes were extended to Tommy Dunne, Chairman and to Chris O'Connell, currently an in-patient in R.F.H. Renal Unit having Renal Analysis.

Date of next Meeting: 12th February, 1991

 12/2/91