

London Irish Centre Administrative Committee Meeting

7th November 1995

Present: A Finan [Chair], J. Kivlehan OMI [Director], P. Carolan OMI, F. Phelan, M. Allen, M O'Malley, M. Sills, T. McAssey, J. Coote, M. Kenny, M. Fitzsimons [sec].

Apologies: T. Ganley, M. Kearney.

1. Welfare Report

- Presented by C. Mohan. Copies circulated, items discussed included Review of October.
- Two staff on Camden Social Services CNA training.
- Links developed with Black and Ethnic Minorities Mental Health Project.
- CREC: discussion of Housing White Paper initially excluding Irish Groups, challenged by Irish Group in Camden.
- Continued raising of community services profile with a rolling programme of team members at housing and DSS liaison meetings, speaking at the Camden Irish Forum AGM.
- Aims for Members: raise specification with Camden SS for alcohol assessment service. New meeting date with principal officer for mental health - November
- Fund-raising: £2,300 received from Camden SS development of Children Play area. National Lottery Assessor visit re funding application. Formal breakdown requested.
- Camden SS Children and Family one off grants - to meet with Camden Social Workers team leaders to discuss the needs of Irish Children and families in the Borough.
- Fr. Jerry: funds for mental illness coming to Crisis Centre - grant allocation to Camden to improve security to Centre, Panic buttons in situ only. Whether to take action now or await grant.

2. Minutes

- Minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were taken as read.

3. Matters Arising

- One correction item 2.1.3 page 3. Mary Allen not in attendance should read M. Kenny.

4. Director's Report

- staff handbook as collated not well accepted by some staff. One member taken her copy to Voluntary Action Camden another to her union. Awaiting developments.
- Grants: concern expressed, needs consensus not coming through as expected £2,500 only. Alcohol assessment
 - £1,600 children in need
 - £1,000 from Ireland fund.
- National Lottery: Application for £285,000 for resource centre. Care in the Centre and outreach worker. Provision of minibus, poverty within the community. Assessors visit, interview positive.
- Lawlor Foundation - issue resolved.

- Christmas Raffle: tickets in print.
- Saxon Inns: unsatisfactory, no money received. Re-financing package. Insufficient shareholders at meeting. Contracts now with the solicitors, funds promised this week.
- Amount owed £10,000.
- Fr. Pat commented that there is goodwill hopefully.
- Supplies - cash on delivery.
- Accident in ladies toilet. Door fell on client's head. Transport to hospital offered. No injuries sustained.
- Entertainment Licence: 28th Nov 7pm Town Hall.
- Considerable complaint re noise, some genuine, needs to be limited.
- Door restructured as per EHA requirement.. One client in particular particularly unreasonable and difficult.
- Members of Admin Cttee will attend hearing.
- Luncheon Club: concern re: decline in numbers. Consideration as to its future. Time to close, redecorate and consider its future, new image with new personnel.
- Meals £100 Salary £100pw receipt £40pw. Four only attending.
- Fr. Pat noted it would be more economical to give them the money for a restaurant.
- Luncheon club needs reorganisation.
- Fr. Pat - there is no economic sense, propose close of premises for redecoration seconded by M. Allen.
- Fr. Jerry - there are no volunteers and no funding for salary. It was agreed to close, mid December following the annual Christmas Dinner.
- Camden Councillors: links lost with politicians in Camden area.
- Efforts made to contact meeting held 6th Nov to establish links and highlight Irish issues, aware of anti irish issues within the council.
- Fr. Pat said no support from Camden, high percentage of Irish no recognised as Ethnic Status, anti Irish Bias.
- M. Allen - in agreement Camden's lack of recognition for Irish/English - overseas only.
- Fr. Pat - should meet every 3/4 months open for the time being. Irish Community should benefit.
- Fr. Jerry equal opportunities - grants not considered - ETHNIC consideration; each having the right to their own identity.
- Solas Anois: space available, second office. Guarantees from Solas, allowed to use for one year. Irish Centre workers not in that office. Rent £50pw. Contract being drawn up by solicitor.
- Re-decoration of Centre: small bar looks attractive, thanks to Maeve for her fund-raising efforts.
- Welfare Advisory Committee: status.
- Fr. Jerry: suggested that T. Ganley co-opted on to Admin Committee and co-opting K. Glynn would be more effective in welfare work.

- Fr. Pat - appointment of new WAC.
- Fr. Jerry: WAC meet once a month and are not aware of day to day happenings.
- J. Coote/M. Sills: status of WAC.
- Chairman to Fr. Jerry - WAC current situation considered of no benefit.
- Fr. Jerry; no decision, no direct policy as to the way welfare should go.
- J. Coote: disband WAC and appoint two special members as agreed to this committee.
- Should Admin challenge WAC use and status. In the past chair of Admin was also chair of WAC.
- M. Sills: Fr. Jerry's point valid. Two special members as already suggested by him more effective.
- Chair: should we have Teresa and Kay for discussion - try to sell as a positive move.
- Fr. Jerry: structure has never worked, it's not a very happy situation.
- Will discuss with K. Glynn and invite her to the next meeting.. They have very positive views and nowhere to go.

5. Finance Report

- J. Coote queried progress in Trustee Replacements.
- Fr. Jerry considering approach.
- Philip Fitzpatrick following the death of Peter. Mgr Stack had spoken to Fr. Jerry re approaching the oblate order to consider. Probably Fr. Paul Byrne. It was sad that Jim Commene had opted out.
- J. Coote proposed Fr. Jerry to act and make a formal proposal for next meeting. Proposal seconded by M. Sills and agreed.
- Copies of report circulated and detailed.
- Pay phones: P.I. LIC should read £397.55.
- EXP Legal Fees £2,800 owed.

6. Planning and Development

- National Lottery Assessors Meeting - encouraging. Different possibilities discussed at first meeting of sub-committee.
- Retain house this side, maintain some dancing recreational and welfare facilities. Relinquish MacNamara Hall worthless on its own - the only alternative continue down the road.
- St. Pancras housing - and community housing would be interested.
- J. Coote: read a letter from T. Platt similar proposals as P. Fitzpatrick MacNamara site including Corner site on to Murray Street.
- Chair: we have to question the future of the Irish Centre on its present site. Welfare Retention Concern protected and advisable.
- Fr. Jerry: should work in a viable unity. Labour intensive impossible to keep afloat - not a viable enterprise.
- Chair: reduction of running costs necessary.

- Saxon Inns: agreement expires in 18 months we should move quickly.
- Professional outside advice.
- Fr. Pat - St. Pancras housing?
- We do not know what we can hand over to another body. The Centre should move, we need a hall. Welfare important, you cannot have a small Irish Centre.
- No good - structure from a practical point of view - the Centre should move.
- M. Allen could we not retain probably Kennedy Douglas Hyde and Small bar.
- Re. Phelan. Irish Centre elsewhere would attract.
- Chair: A crisis is looming, we must look at the situation.
- Fr. Jerry: according to an analysis of bar takings in any one month, we could not survive.
- Chair: we should welcome a feasibility giving definite instructions which buildings - being retained.
- Fr. Pat - keep three houses and let the housing do a feasibility.
- Fr. Jerry: option, a survey sponsored by AIB and Bank of Ireland.
- J. Coote: positive idea, sell for the future.
- Fr. Pat: progress needed.
- Chair: greater value to sell whole unit and build elsewhere.
- Fr. Pat: suggest get a feasibility on the whole site and part; proposing same seconded by A. Finan accepted. Fr. Pat to act also look at by a different agency.
- J. Coote: community housing, Peabody, Circle 33 re: location advice. Community Housing, St. Pancras and Circle 33.

7. Fund raising

- Report from meeting held 24th October
- Christmas raffle; tickets in print.
- Sponsorship for prizes, cash.
- £200 pledge from ICH Fr. Pat.
- Rathcairn Draw: not viable. Race night: March '96
- Festival Car Draw.
- Card drives: 8th and 22nd December
- Christmas Bazaar: 2nd December.
- Next meeting: 28th November.

8. A.O.B.

- Congrats to Fr. Pat and his team at ICH for a brilliant outcome. Food fantastic. Launch by President Robinson - successful.
- Meeting closed at 10pm

Date of next meeting: 12th December 1995 8pm sharp.