

London Irish Centre
Administrative Committee Meeting

12th March 1996

1. Present:

A. Finan [Chair], M. Sills [Vice chair] J. Kivlehan OMI [Director], P. Carolan OMI
M. Allen, T. McAssey, , M. Kenny, Rev. Phelan, M. Fitzsimons [Sec], M. Kearney
J.J. O'Brien

Apologies: , T. Ganley. J. Coote, N. O'Malley

C. Mohan in attendance.

2. Welfare Report

Presented by C. Mohan copies circulated including lottery grant breakdown

Client stats for Feb	Male: old 145 new: 57	Tel: 11029
	Fem: old 75 new: 28	Total 217

2.1 Review February 1996

Two Social Advice Workers have successfully applied for new posts at Arlington Housing Association's Irish Alcohol Project in Brent.

Deirdre Robinson Team Leader, J. Glynn - Outreach Worker

Christine looking for new Employment. She advised person spec and job descriptions for Social Advice Worker Post out-of-date. Suggested to Fr. Gerry that he formally invite Brigid Loughran on to recruitment panel to discuss with Management Committee and feed back - 13.3.96.

2.2 Aims for March 1996

That structures are in place for the new projects which have been initiated and the processes line managed by Christine to enable effective hand-over of Advice Workers and Co-ordinator and to enable continuous funding/credibility of the projects.

Volunteer Co-ordinator/Befriending scheme for homeless/isolated Irish people with support needs £99,000 three year post and some refurbishment costs funded by National Lottery.

Communtiy Care Alcohol Rehabilitative Assessments for Irish people. £2,500 funded by Camden L.A.

Ailing - £2,000 funded by Camden LA. Seasonal children's playscheme and Child Safe Adaptations. £1,600 funded by Camden LA £1,600 from help a London child.

Basic Literacy Classes (funded by Local Education Dept)

Suaimhneas Irish Mental Health Project (Applications to be re-submitted to Camden LA Alcohol Worker and Outreach Worker Posts)

Application to be re-submitted to Joint Consultative Council

Involvement in Camden's Children and Families Services Steering Group

Alcohol Advice Sessions (facilitated by Drink Crisis Centre)

Re-settlement service

Volunteer Legal Surgery

Volunteer Counselling Service

Advice From Christine: write to B. Loughran who has been involved in a formal capacity with the work of the Irish Centre

Questions to Christine and discussions invited.

Two workers lost - should do well. M Allen: we are sorry to lose them, also Christine who is applying elsewhere.

Chairman to Christine: I have been made aware through written correspondence that there is an air of conflict within your department. I have a letter a copy of which I will give to Fr. Jerry for your meeting of 13.3.96 and request replies from you and Fr. Jerry.

Christine intimated that she was unaware of any conflict was not prepared to comment at this meeting would await discussions with Fr. Jerry

Chairman thanked her - she took her leave. Fr. Jerry intimated that Christine has been critical of management - Fr. Jerry to respond in writing and that he sets goals and targets for Christine.

There have been misgivings the way welfare is managed.

Fr. Jerry - Andrew Small has been made a scapegoat during my absence.

A Community Services Report and Application form requiring completion. No action taken by Christine - she called a meeting excluded Andrew, has ostracised him, severe harassment in the work-place.

M Allen: Who is B Loughran?

Fr. Jerry: a consultant as PT worker in Hackney. Fee £20 an hour.

Chairman: await reactions from meeting. Agreed to meet with Brigid Loughran.

3. Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated adopted on the proposal of Revelation Phelan seconded by M Kenny.

4. Matters Arising

M Sills queried Migrant Training mis-information in Camden Journal re-allocation of funds from Camden.

D Horan had requested not to proceed with action as they owed money to Camden Council.

Fr. Jerry: during the recent audit by Brussels team a considerable amount of match funding from Irish Centre in kind. Full time advice worker £60,000 PA for 2 years.

Fr. Pat: from European money you are allowed to match in kind - real figure £9,000. Office space has to correspond with space in the District.

Fr. Jerry: there are two sources of funding.

5. Director's Report

5.1 Change of staff:

Adverts in press for two social advice workers.

Interview panel: It was agreed to exclude Christine our own interviewers. Fr. Jerry, A Finan and T Ganley. Review opportunity to look at Dion Grant. £40,000 not touching real

problems. Considerable amidst the drug/drink areas. Contract care services - Home Helps etc. suspended. Ethnic agencies setting up their own, Carers to do respite services for isolated people in Camden area.

Plan: next meeting structure and finance for three years. Enlist partnership of certain Housing Associations.

5.2 Strategic Planning:

Have accumulated considerable information for any organisation to go forward. Vision needed. Where are we going? Serious need for reflection.

Bank of Ireland: Annabel Beerel involved in Business life, an office in London and Boston with a view to getting a different point of view going forward. Look into the future with a purpose.

No definite date for meeting set - a professional outlook to future planning being sponsored by Bank of Ireland.

5.3 Saxon Inns:

Difficulty, 2 new people company functioning as normal. They have paid up to the end of January. Owing first two weeks in Feb. and legal fees. Bill will go to Administrators whoever buys the company I centre can terminate. Company coming in can terminate with us. Future vague and uncertain. J O'Brien Deposit £25,000 - advised this was a premium stock and value £8,000 against Inventory. A considerable amount missing.

Entertainment licence appeal m/s Peyton on behalf of Saxon Inns do not want to go ahead - cost £6,000. A risk if we do not. Would have to close at 12 midnight.

M Allen: if we do not go ahead - Outcome?

Fr. Jerry: music will stop at mn. To look into outlay of £6,000 would be foolhardy. Occasional music licence for functions?

Fr. Pat: there have always been problems given that it is a residential area.

Chairman: expending £6,000 is not justified

Fr. Jerry: a public entertainments licence covers public events if the tickets do not go public and are sold privately.

Fr. Jerry; to seek advice in this field.

5.4 St Pancras Housing:

Interest still there no major decisions taken since development - committee meeting needed.

5.5 Cara Housing

Wish to purchase No 12 Murray St. Have money to develop six flats for Mental Health Accommodation. Angela Brady - a survey of the building with Robert Rendell

Fr. Pat: £170,000 no less needed for No 12.

Fr. Jerry: High Interest Annually plus corporation tax and Minor Repairs. The financial situation is critical; the loan should be paid.

Fr. Pat proposed: if you get a good price sell, but not according to the valuation seconded by T. McAssey. Fr. Jerry action and given the discretion to deal with the situation.

5.6 Bombs and Media Interest

TV and gay Byrne Show. Comments good and positive - a scandalous biased and unfair report in the times.

5.7 Book Fair: excellent week-end.

5.8 Trustee Document: still in the rounds being signed.

5.9 Staff and Management Handbook

Being printed, definite principles needed re management ethics. Carelessness about the truth and adverse reference to people's characters has existed in the past - serious violations. Policies must be put in place.

5.10 Irish Centre Cultural Programme - in print.

5.11 New Solicitor:

Steve Hammet a valued advisor going on to lecture - being replaced by Tom Lemon.

Camden Irish Needs conference: A very good day, reasonable representation. Good quality input. Follow up in June - make recommendations to move the process forward.

6. Development sub-committee

St Pancras interested. Visited Arlington Rd. Needs serious consideration as possible alternative site for Irish Centre -size of hall and adjacent site.

Fr. Pat: it is smaller, more central awaiting diocese' reply. For active consideration at next meeting. Progress, has great possibilities an ideal site.

Chair: has great potential. Would answer a lot of problems. Being investigated.

7. Fund-raising sub-committee.

M Sills - queried stock taking, are the company still in position.

Fr. Jerry: administrator taken over in loco appointed by court.

Close observation/supervision of contents, painting, crystal etc must be put in position as a priority in the current situation. Results of fund-raising race Night circulated. Profit £920-950 for which Michael thanked supporters. Despite small attendance the outcome was successful.

Next Meeting, 1st April 8.30pm.

Dance in O'Neill's Leytonstone.

8. Finance Report:

Not to hand. Gone to Accountant but no significant changes.

9. AOB

A letter from Social Committee relating to poor cleaning of D Hyde. Lounge lack of maintenance and repairs. Saxon Inns Responsibility.

Meeting Closed 9.45pm

Next Meeting 2nd April 1996

Management Committee to visit Arlington Rd premises 6pm.