## Birmingham Irish Community Foram Ltd

Appaal Report

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<u>Page</u>	<u>Title</u>
2.	Foreword - Councillor Albert Bore
3.	Chairs Report
4.	<b>Project Co-ordinators Report</b>
6.	<b>Education Sub-committee</b>
7.	<b>Employment and Training Sub-committee</b>
8.	<b>Health and Social Services Sub-committee</b>
9.	Housing Sub-committee
10.	Parade Sub-committee
11.	Personnel Sub-committee
12.	P.R. Sub-committee
<b>13.</b>	Birmingham Irish Youth Group
14.	Birmingham Irish Business Group
15.	<b>Board of Directors</b>
16.	Directors Report
17.	Auditors Report
18.	Financial Report
<b>25.</b>	List of Sub-committee members
26.	<b>Affiliated Organisations</b>
<b>27.</b>	Pending Affiliation
28.	Acknowledgements



I was delighted to be asked to contribute to this report on the work of the Irish Forum this year,

Very shortly after taking up the position of Leader of the Council in May, I was invited to meet with the Forum to discuss the future relationship between them and the City Council. As I expected I was warmly welcomed and widely challenged! It was a most enjoyable and thought provoking afternoon.

The work of the Forum is not new to me. It has established itself as a key player in the city's development, reflecting the role of the Irish community in the regeneration of the area.

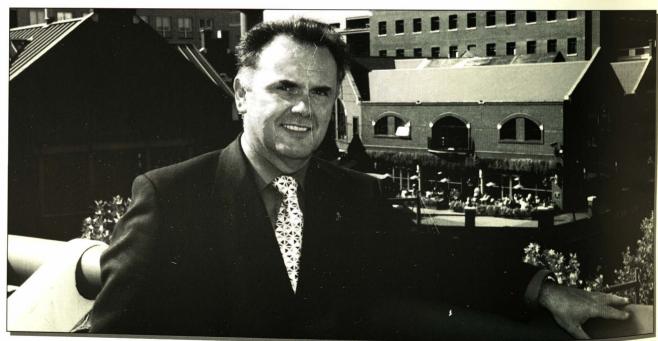
The whole community can be proud of the Forum's achievements this year. We all enjoy the annual spectacle of the St Patrick's Day Parade, and the events which surround and support it.

Less widely known, but equally significant, is the work undertaken in the area of Health and with the community's Elders, which led to two very successful conferences on these issues during the year.

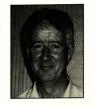
The major contribution made by the Forum to the establishment of the Birmingham Irish Business Group, and the excellent Business convention in June, will also be remembered as highlights of this year.

Last year Councillor Theresa Stewart had the privilege of laying the foundation stone on the site of Fr Taaffe House. As I write I am delighted to see that the building is reaching its completion.

There is much that the City Council and the Irish Forum can achieve together. I congratulate the Forum on the work undertaken this year, welcome the challenges you have set me for the coming one and look forward to a challenging and rewarding relationship.



Councillor Albert Bore - Leader Birmingham City Council



### Tony Downey - Chair of Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd

I am delighted that the Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd is going from strength to strength.

We are very lucky to have active and committed members of our Board, many of whom go to endless meetings. We are equally fortunate in the committed and hard working staff at the office. No voluntary organisation could flourish without the support of its numerous volunteers.

Both Fr Ryan and Barney Griffin resigned from the Board during the year and I want to express our deep appreciation of their huge contribution. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to Fr Moran, of Irish Welfare & Information Centre, who was co-opted onto our Board in July.

This has been another year of great achievement; I commend the reports of all the subcommittees to you to see the range and depth of achievement. Most noticeably we are delighted with the success of the first Housing Project, Fr Taaffe House; the phenomenal growth of the Parade; the establishment of the Birmingham Irish Business Group and the Employment and Training Project.



Rory O'Hanlon T.D. Visiting Cara House

Do drop into Cara House our offices in Birchall St, to see the staff and the facilities at any time, during the year. You will always be welcome.

We look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

Once again, to all who have made 1998/1999 such a success, thank you and congratulations. Good Luck to Gobnait in Dingle, Co Kerry and farewell to Cath Beniston, who has moved to Cork. Many thanks for your invaluable contribution.

And welcome to all the new(ish) staff at the Forum - see Pauline's Report.





### Pauline Schofield - Project Co-ordinator

As I write this report I am celebrating the 1st anniversary of my appointment to the Forum in my capacity as Project Co-ordinator. It has been a wonderful, exciting and stimulating year and it is with the greatest of pleasure that I formally introduce our new staff team who have joined the Forum Office.

Caroline Carr the Employment and Training Worker joined the Forum office in October and has worked tirelessly to address a whole range of issues around unemployment and skill shortages within our community. These included a Women's Roadshow at the Irish Centre, outreach work in parishes and providing advice and guidance to individuals within the community.





Katriona Larkin the Forum's Administrator took up post in November and has responsibility for ensuring the effective running of the office and day to day budget control. With the departure of Cath Beniston to Ireland in April Katriona has also been carrying out the secretarial function and has coped brilliantly with the resultant workload.

Paul Gannon was appointed in March to develop the Birmingham Irish Business Group and several events have been organised to promote and develop the Irish Business Community. This strand of the Forum's work has been quite demanding but I am convinced that it is crucial that we promote this successful dimension to our community.





Catherine Bell our Admin Assistant supports the Employment and Training Project. Although she is our youngest member of staff Catherine has proved to be an extremely efficient and willing member of the staff team.

The most recent addition to our team at the Forum has been Bernadette Harding. She started work for us in early September and is already showing an ability to be friendly, efficient and hard-working.



This has been a year of consolidation, of opening new offices, establishing new projects and developing our skills both as an employer and a budget holder. As part of our maturing process we held a half day review in July for Board members and staff to take stock and plan for the future. At this point I must acknowledge with the greatest of sincerity the absolute commitment of the members of our Board and the many people who form our subcommittee's for their outstanding work during the last year. With their support and encouragement, we in the office are inspired to be innovative and enthusiastic for everything that concerns the well being of our community.



It has also been a year for the Irish Forum to develop its' role as a partner to other organisations with similar aspirations. We have held regular meetings with Irish Welfare, the Irish Centre, the Fireside, South Birmingham College and of course Cara Housing. We have also had regular meetings with the Race Equality Manager of Birmingham City Council, Joyce Springer and other equalities staff within the council. Our sadness is that we have not yet been accorded equal status with other minority ethnic communities in the city but hopefully this will change in the near future.

During the past year there have been many events which we have supported in a practical way, for example the Health Conference, the Irish Elders Conference, the Seminar Series on Health and Social Care and two Networking Events for the Birmingham Irish Business Group. We were delighted to be involved with the organisation of the St Patrick's Day Parade and to open up our offices to the public on that day. It has been my personal ambition to make our offices as open, accessible, friendly and helpful to everyone in our community as is possible and we will continue to encourage members, friends / friends of our community to come and use us as their resource.



Civic Reception - March 17th 1999

Of course none of the above could have happened without the help of the various grants that we have received. I formally therefore thank the National Lotteries Charities Board, Birmingham & Solihull Training and Enterprise Council and the Government Office for the West Midlands for grant aiding us to carry out our work. Special thanks also to Anthony Costello, Jane Gallagher, and Joan Murphy for helping us to access these grants and to Clare Whistle (NLCB), Ray Walker (TEC) and Martin Pearson (Government Office) for providing the ongoing support to project staff. Although we have secured independent funding we were delighted that Birmingham City Council did not totally "abandon" us and we acknowledge their transitionary grant with special thanks to Haroon Saad, Head of Equalities.

Finally our thanks to everyone in our community who has supported the work of the Forum in the last year. I am indebted to Mary Connolly, Chair of Personnel and members of the Personnel Subcommittee for guiding me through my first year as Project Co-ordinator. A special thank you also to Gerry McNamee of Cara Housing our onsite landlord, for his tremendous practical help and advice.

In the coming year we hope to carry out more outreach work and to bring the Forum into the community. In the meantime a great "Céad Míle Fáilte" awaits one and all in our offices, so I look forward to welcoming you to Cara House in the very near future.





### Clare Cooke - Chair of Education Sub-Committee

'Where do I begin?'

There certainly is plenty to report on the education front this year and we hope that you will be as excited as we are about some of the possibilities that are opening up for the education of young and old alike.

### Irish in Schools.

We were pleased to hear the announcement by the Education Secretary, David Blunkett, that all schools may now offer Irish as part of the National Curriculum for Modern Foreign Languages. We will wait and watch closely to see how schools will be responding to demands from pupils to learn Irish in the classroom.

This year we have seen the continued success of the 'Irish Music In Schools Project' which was produced and piloted in 1998. There are now more than 15 primary schools in Birmingham which have used the pack and there is a possibility that the project may extend into secondary schools.

The Education Authority has agreed to carry out some initial research into the levels of achievement of Irish children in schools. This would also allow us to monitor the number of schools which offer pupils the opportunity of studying aspects of their Irish Language, History and Culture.

St Thomas Aquinas RC School in Erdington has become the second Birmingham secondary school to host an 'Irish Week'. The Irish Forum offered support for their bid for funding which ensured that the week was a great success!

### More Good News For Schools!

The extremely successful and popular Irish writer, Maeve Binchy has kindly agreed to judge the finalists of our Short Story Competition which is open to pupils in Years 10 and 11 in all Birmingham Schools. Entrants are asked to write a short story linking themes suggested by five photographs.

### Learning Doesn't stop at Sixteen!

City College Birmingham is running a 10 week course in Irish Studies this Autumn Term and they hope that this will be the start of more to come. We continue to work in collaboration with South Birmingham College who together with FÁS are providing some training and basic skills tuition for recent school leavers.

We are investigating the possibility of creating an 'Irish Education Development Unit'. The focus of such a unit need not be on Irish related studies but on the educational needs of the Irish Community. In relation to this we would love to hear from you. What are your needs and interests?

### And Finally...

The Education Sub-Committee would like to extend thanks and good wishes to our Chair, Tony Downey on his appointment to the post of Deputy Head Teacher at St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School in Willenhall. We are sure that Tony will be keen to realise some of his own great ideas and we hope that he will continue to support our efforts in making lifelong learning an enjoyable and successful experience for all members of our community.



### Pat McGillicuddy - Chair of Employment and Training Subcommittee

This has been a very successful year for this subcommittee. Our development worker Caroline Carr has been very busy organising several different events including a Women's Roadshow, developing a Post Sixteen Initiative, visiting job centres and holding assertiveness training for women. Caroline has also found jobs for several young people and is establishing a database of people supported by the project. Caroline works very hard at her job and is now beginning to reap the rewards. Our congratulations to Caroline for all her brilliant work. We would also like to thank Ray Walker of Birmingham and Solihull TEC for the part he played in securing this year's funding - long may it continue!

This year we received E. R. D. F. funding with the help of Jane Gallagher and her colleagues at Birmingham Voluntary Services Council. May I express our sincere thanks to all concerned. This funding allowed the Forum to appoint a Community and Economic Business Animateur for the Birmingham Irish Business Group, namely Paul Gannon who has a background in Marketing. Paul reports to the Employment and Training Subcommittee as well as to the Birmingham Irish Business Group. We wish Paul and the Birmingham Irish Business Group every success in the future.

We had another appointment earlier this year, this time in administration. This young lady's name is Catherine Bell and she provides excellent support to Caroline Carr. Catherine is a great asset to the project and we appreciate her good work.

The Line Manager for both of the above projects is Pauline Schofield and we are grateful to Pauline and her administrator Katriona Larkin for their help during the year.

We would also like to thank the following for their continued support, Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Voluntary Services Council, Birmingham and Solihull TEC, Economic Development Department, Business Link, the Rathbone Society and all other city agencies; the Line Manager, the project workers, the administration workers and this committee who all have one common goal and that is to improve the quality of life for the Birmingham Irish Community.



Caroline Carr advising a client at the Women's Roadshow March '99

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### Rory Murray - Chair (from June) of Health and Social Services Sub-committee

At our last AGM, the Chair of Birmingham Health Authority, Mr Bryan Stoten, addressed the meeting on the health needs of the Irish Community. This address gave a high profile to the work of our subcommittee, but it reminded all present - including Mr Stoten, himself - of how much work remains to be done.

Last October also saw the first conference on the health, (physical and mental) of the Irish in Birmingham take place. Leading experts on Irish and ethnic minority health addressed an audience of over 100 delegates. In particular the appalling high suicide rates among our young and the paucity of the well-being of our old were once again highlighted as needing urgent attention.

During the year, the sub-committee continued to support several established projects including:

- Irish Welfare's Alcohol Project representation on this project's steering group.
- Elders Project Pauline Schofield contributed to the considerable success of the Elders Conference in June.
- Irish HIV Community Project The Irish Forum continued to play an active role in this project, which is developing a specialised support service for Irish people with HIV.

As the lack of reliable information on our health needs continues to be one of the stumbling blocks to the improvement of services to our community, we have continued to promote the need for research. Our negotiations with Birmingham Health regarding mental health research are being taken forward by the Irish Mental Health Group. We are also supporting a research initiative into the needs of older Irish people with alcohol problems, in conjunction with Irish Welfare and Birmingham University.

An important role for the Irish Forum is to be seen to influence the quality and cultural sensitivity of local mainstream services. This subcommittee has been an active advocate in a number of areas, including:

- Advising the Department of General Practice at Birmingham University on training for GP's.
- Contributing to Northern Birmingham's Community Trust's Minority Ethnic Council, in relation to better services for older Irish people and Irish people with learning disabilities.
- Representations to Birmingham Health about inadequacies in services provision to drug users.
- Participation in the Voluntary Sector Forum on Primary Care Groups.

Over the summer the subcommittee has taken stock of its achievements, and looked at issues which will require closer attention in the coming year. Our priorities for the next twelve months will be:



Workshop at Irish Elder's Conference - June 1999

- The younger and middle-aged generations.
- Families and children.
- Primary Care Groups and Health Care Providers.
- Drug use and HIV.

We are expanding our membership, particularly to reflect these priorities, and welcome enquiries from interested individuals.

Our thanks to all those who have worked on the subcommittee, and who have supported us; Pauline Schofield who has worked closely with the committee and taken a lead on several major areas of work, Catherine Bell, other staff and the Directors and staff of Irish Welfare, with whom we have a partnership which is going from strength to strength.



### Sylvia Murphy-Brennan - Chair of Housing Sub-committee

I am delighted to announce that the building of our first project has been completed ahead of schedule and Father Joe Taaffe House should be opening its doors to its first residents in September 1999.

Father Joe Taaffe House is located in Alcester St opposite St Annes Church and provides 27 self contained one bedroom flats for elderly Irish people living in Birmingham The scheme includes a communal lounge, a laundry room, a lift and an office for the Project Manager, who will be on duty during office hours to help provide a culturally sensitive service.



Fr. Taaffe House

The scheme is a culmination of many years of hard work by my colleagues on the Housing Subcommittee who identified a need for this type of accommodation and lobbied hard to make it a reality. May I take this opportunity to single out one member of the group, Martin Earlis, who through ill health is unable to be involved at present. My sincere thanks to Martin and to all the dedicated and committed members of the Housing Subcommittee and the staff of the Irish Forum.

Thanks must also go to Family Housing Association, who developed the scheme, to Kendrick Contractors for their efficient and high quality work and to Cara Irish Housing Association who will manage it.

It is hoped that the Irish President, Mary McAleese, will officiate at the opening of the scheme in Spring 2000.

However, there is still much work ahead for the Housing Subcommittee and we are delighted to be working along with Cara Irish Housing Association in identifying other potential projects to cater for the needs of the Irish Community. We have targeted the Erdington and Sparkbrook areas which have the largest Irish populations in Birmingham.

In conjunction with Social Services, a need has been identified for extra care sheltered housing. This type of scheme endeavours to maintain independent living for the tenant, but also provides an independent care element and is able to cater for those with higher support needs.

Other projects for the Irish Community are also in the pipeline. Cara have 15 family homes under construction at Eastwood Road in Balsall Heath which should be completed by June 2000, they will provide housing for Irish families.

The housing needs of the Irish Community continues to be assessed and the Housing Subcommittee will continue in their aim to provide for these needs by following on the work started by Father Taaffe R.I.P. In my last conversation with Fr Taaffe, when I asked him about using his name, he agreed and urged me to do anything I could for the "cause". His unseen guiding hand continues to be an inspiration to us all.





### Mary Connolly - Chair of Personnel Sub-committee

The Personnel Subcommittee has been in existence for just over a year. The first meeting was held in May 1998 with Tony Downey, John Gordon and myself in attendance supported by Gobnait Ni Chrualaoi, who has since left us to return to her native Cork. Pauline Schofield, Project Co-ordinator has now taken on Gobnait's role.

Our first year as a committee has been a very busy one, we have produced Personnel Policies and Procedures and drawn up job descriptions and personal specifications as and when required. We have also been involved in the recruitment and selection of staff - these include our Project Co-ordinator, Pauline Schofield and our Administrator Katriona Larkin with both posts being funded by the National Lottery Charities Board. Caroline Carr and Catherine Bell have been recruited for the Employment, Training and Education Project. The Birmingham Irish Business Group is now supported by Paul Gannon. I would also like to welcome Bernadette Harding, our new secretary, to the Forum. Bernadette is the most recent recruit to the Forum office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gobnait for assisting us in the first instance and Tony, John and Pauline for their help and support during the year. We are indebted to ACAS for their advice and guidance which has helped us to develop our skills as an employer.



Board Review - July 1999

### Pat O'Neill - Chair of P. R. Sub-committee

The year as far as the P.R. Sub-committee was concerned, started with the Keynote speech at our last A. G. M. entitled "The Health of the Elderly Irish" by Bryan Stoten, Chair of the Health Authority in Birmingham. The nice thing about this presentation was that so many good things have developed from it. Bryan Stoten now chairs a working group on Elderly Irish and we are very appreciative of his support.

Our next meeting was mainly to get the city to invite President Mary McAleese to Birmingham. The Lord Mayor, Susan Anderson was approached, and after discussions with George Banford, Chair of General Purposes Committee, it was agreed that the President should be invited. She was due to come in November to coincide with the opening of Fr Taaffe House and various other events had also been planned for her visit. Unfortunately, I later received news, saying that the President would not be able to visit Birmingham in 1999, but would hope to visit in early 2000. The President sends her good wishes to the people of Birmingham and is looking forward to meeting everyone when she arrives.

The opening of Cara House by Robert Molloy, T.D. Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal in Ireland, was a great success and an added bonus was the presence of Councillor Dennis Minnis, Chair of Housing in Birmingham.

The Civic Reception on March 17th was again a great event. The banqueting suite was the place to be with music from Ceoltas thanks to Vince Jordan and his musicians. Thanks are also due to the Sylvia Murphy-Brennan School of Dancing and especially to the Tir na nÓg Accordion Band. Special thanks also to Bob Brolly and Ed Doolan M.B.E. for making such an effort; to the Lord Mayor for her hospitality and kind words and finally to Joe Owens and his team for the catering.

There have been some changes during the year not least the election of a new leader to the city. We would like to wish Councillor Teresa Stewart all the best for the future and thank her for her support to the Irish Community.

The newly elected leader is Albert Bore, a well known councillor. We wrote to congratulate him on his election and he responded by offering to come to meet with members of the Forum Board of Directors on July 23rd. This again shows the importance with which the city regards the Irish Community.



Meeting with Rory O'Hanlon T.D.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the members of the PR Subcommittee for all their hard work during the year. Particular mention to our roving reporters Bob Cowen and Brendan Mulvey and the editor Katriona Larkin for their work in carrying on with the newsletter, which is bigger and better than ever before. Also to the ever reliable Anne Kennedy, who manages such a busy work schedule between Birmingham and London. And last but not least the very hard working Sylvia Murphy-Brennan. The departure of Cath Beniston to Ireland was a loss, but we wish her well.





### Anthony Duffy - Chair of Parade Sub-committee

On Sunday 14th March 1999, 50,000 people took to the streets of Birmingham, for what was probably the biggest St. Patrick's Day Parade ever to take place in this country.

Despite some dreadful weather earlier in the week, fine skies were promised over Brum for the weekend and sure enough, blazing sunshine brought people out in their short sleeves. St. Patrick and Fr. Taaffe had once again done the necessary!

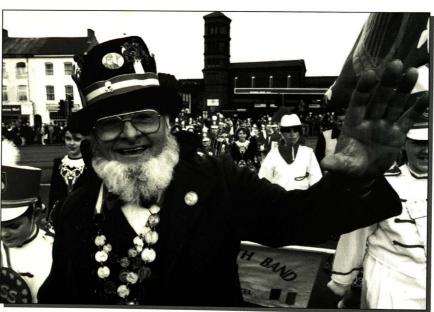
As usual, the Parade lined up in its familiar spot by St. Catherine's Church in the Horsefair. At 11.30 we set off towards Digbeth and the Emerald Village. The streets of the city were painted with 40 shades of green, as the bands, colourful floats and assorted marching groups made their way. Cheering crowds grew and grew as we moved along, six deep on the pavements in parts of Digbeth! It was all the stewards could do, to try and keep the crowd on the pavements to allow the Parade to pass!

Dr. Carl Chinn and Bob Brolly did their radio shows live from the Parade, a fun fair took over Lower Bradford St, the Kiltubrid Pipe Band played "Kelly the Boy from Killane" and PC. Pete McCormack released 500 green, white and orange balloons to the strains of U2's "Pride (In the Name of Love)".



Green, White and Gold

Without a doubt, the highlight of the Parade for me, was to see our own marching bands taking part for the 1st time, namely the young people of Tír na nÓg Accordion Band, with Joel and adults in the Birmingham Irish Pipes and Drums. Both bands put on a fine show and did us all proud.



Leprechauns lead the Arklow Accordion Band from County Wicklow

Once again the committee, supported by the local community, Forum office, businesses, media, W.M. Police and Birmingham City Council, had worked wonders. The ability and dedication of the members is deserving of every commendation

The Evening Mail summed up the event in its two page feature the following day. "Invasion of the Emerald Army", ran the banner headline. The challenge now must be to keep the Emerald Army on the move. As they say in Hollywood "You ain't seen nothing yet!"



### Eamon Corduff - Chair of Birmingham Irish Youth Group

The Birmingham Irish Youth Group held their AGM on February 15th 1999. It was a lively and enjoyable occasion and Irish dancers and the Tir na nÓg Accordion Band entertained everyone. The main purpose of the night was to elect new officers to stand for the forthcoming year. Ian White, the acting Chair, Phil McCarvill, the Youth Officer for the Federation of Irish Societies, Rory Murray and myself spoke on our insights, experiences and aspirations for the Birmingham Irish Youth Group.

The main ideas to come from the AGM as to how the Youth Group could move forward were promoting Irish Culture in general through music, language, sports and drama, lobbying the City Council and developing stronger links with Birmingham Catholic Youth Service through schools and parishes. I would like to thank our committee members Orla Brennan my co- Chair; Noreen Connolly, Vice Chair; Caroline Carr, Treasurer: Katriona Larkin and Leanne Mitchell, secretary and co-secretary; Phil McCarvill, Ian White, Rory Murray, Johnny Torgysen, Margaret Fitzgerald, Bronagh Connolly and lestyn Williams for helping the Youth Group work towards these goals.

We were keen to implement some of the hopes and dreams and we also realised the importance of raising our profile. To this end we linked with the Wicklow Association disco which regularly attracts two hundred young people. This is an area in which we plan on developing in the short term. In the longer term we intend to run our own fundraising and promotion evenings.

We also seized upon another hope - drama as a means to cultural awareness. This resulted in the development of a feasibility study into an Irish Youth Theatre in Birmingham. This was made possible through a grant from the Digbeth Trust. The study focussed on Small Heath, Sparkhill and Tyseley and was aimed at providing background information and a selection of strategies leading to the establishment of an Irish Youth Theatre Group that is sensitive to the needs and aspirations of young people with an Irish background living in Birmingham. Our thanks to Greg Cox, the feasibility consultant and everyone who took part in the research. We have now been able to apply for a grant from the Digbeth Trust to further the study.

Since being in the role of Chair, I have been impressed by the enthusiasm and gifts of the Youth Group, who are genuinely concerned with the general welfare of young Birmingham Irish people. We are

delighted that an Irish category is to be included in the Census 2001 and local that government acknowledges the great contribution of the Irish to life in Birmingham. There is cause for celebration for the second and third generation Irish who are mostly young and who desire to be involved in their Irish Community. Already experiencing this with secondary school Irish Festivals, growing numbers of young people at the St Patrick's Day Parade, GAA interest, dancing schools and projects catering for Birmingham Irish Youth. B.I.Y.G. prepares for 2000 with much hope.



Workshop at the Youth Group AGM - February '99



### Paul Gannon - Community and Economic Animateur

Following the phenomenal success of the Birmingham Irish Business Conference in April last year, the Irish Business Group has flourished over the course of the last eighteen months.

A committee of 17 members was elected to run the group and a Limited Company was formed in December.



Basil Burke at Business Meets Business Event December '98

A very well attended Business Meets Business Event took place in December. This event was organised to facilitate Irish Businesses coming together in an arena that was less formal than a conference. It was also the first opportunity for businesses to join the business group and many at the event took up this opportunity. Tony Downey, Chair of the Business Group, had the pleasure of announcing that European Regional Development Funding had been secured to employ two members of staff to manage the activities of the Business Group on a day-to-day basis.

Allied Irish Bank and Bank of Ireland generously affirmed their support for the group by equally providing considerable amounts of sponsorship.

Membership has been steadily increasing and a number of significant initiatives are currently underway to support and assist member businesses.

A successful Networking Event was staged in June, followed by an I.T. seminar held in collaboration with the University of Birmingham. These are the first of many events that will form part of an annual programme.

A Business Directory is now a priority but our Web site directory is currently "live" online at www.irish-business-group.com

We are continuing to cement our excellent relationships and partnerships with various national and local government offices and trade departments, enabling us to act as a lobbying voice for all of our members.

Through our economic development work we will also continue to support and contribute to the success of the Irish Forum.

As we enter into the new millennium, the future for the Irish Business Group looks bright. If the level of unprecedented success we have so far achieved continues unabated we will be well on our way to reaching our mission and forming our very own "Celtic Tiger Cub" economy here in Britain.

Success is a journey, and we are well on our way.

# Directors and their Advisers

### Tionól na n-Éireannach Birmingham Teo

### Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd.

### **Directors and their Advisers**

### Year Ended 30 June 1999

**Directors:** Mr. Anthony Downey

Mr. Edmond Falahee Mrs. Mary Connolly

Mr. Philip McCarvill

Mr. Frank Ryan

Fr. Frank Ryan

Mrs. Clare Cooke Mr. Bernard Griffin

Mr. James Mulvey

Miss Mary Carway

Mrs. Sylvia Murphy Brennan

Mrs. Margaret Falahee Mr. Rory Murray

Mr. Rory Murray Ms. Lena O'Malley

Mr. Patrick McGillicuddy

Mr. Chris Conway

Ms. Joan Murphy Mr. Robert Cowen Miss Margaret Fitzgerald Mr. Maurice Long (Chairman)

(Resigned 8 October 1998)

(Resigned 21 June 1999)

(Resigned 10 May 1999)

(Elected 8 October 1998)

(Elected 8 October 1998)

(Resigned 8 October 1998)

(Elected 8 October 1998) (Elected 8 October 1998)

(Elected 8 October 1998)

Company Secretary: Ms. Katriona Larkin

**Bankers** 

Allied Irish Bank 445 Stratford Road Birmingham B11 4LD **Auditors** 

Noel Duffy & Company 2 The Cross

Worcester WR1 3PT





### Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd.

### **Directors' Report**

### Year Ended 30 June 1999

The directors present herewith the annual report, together with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 30 June 1999.

### 1. Result and Dividend

The surplus of income over expenditure for the year was £11,161 giving reserves to be carried forward of £24,853.

### 2. Review of Activities

The company's principal activity during the year was to represent the needs of the Irish community in Birmingham. Due to the receipt of grant funding in the year the company has been able to extend the scope of its activities. Grants were received from the National Lottery Charities Board, Birmingham and Solihull TEC and the European Regional Development Fund, as set out in note 2 to the financial statements.

### 3. The Directors

The directors who served throughout the year are as shown on page 1.

### 4. Auditors

Noel Duffy & Company have expressed their willingness to continue in office and a resolution to re-appoint them will be submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

### 5. Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985, as amended. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By Order of the Board.

### Kationa Lalli

Katriona Larkin (Company Secretary) 09/09/99

Registered Number: 3386486

Cara House, Birchall Street, Deritend, Birmingham, B12 ORP

### Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd.

### **Auditors' Report**

### **Year Ended 30 June 1999**

We have audited the financial statements on pages 18 to 22 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

### **Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Auditors**

As described on page 16 the company's Directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

### **Basis of Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient, reliable and relevant evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material mis-statement, whether caused by error, fraud, or other irregularity. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 30 June 1999 and of its result for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 1985.

Noel Duffy & Company

Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors

Worcester

Date 10/09/99





### Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd.

### **Income and Expenditure Account**

### Year Ended 30 June 1999

	<u>Note</u>	1999 £	<u>1998</u> £
Incoming Resources Resources transferred in Grants receivable Donations and sponsorships Services and related income	2 lb lb	96,201 2,515 29,046 127,762	7,591 — 7,335 29,533 44,459
Support & Administration Costs Direct expenditure Management and administration	1c 1c	16,751 99,861 116,612	15,485 15,371 30,856
Surplus from operations Interest receivable and similar income Retained surplus for the year	3	11,150 <u>11</u> 11,161	13,603 <u>89</u> 13,692
Accumulated reserves brought forward Accumulated reserves carried forward		13,692 24,853	<u></u>

There are no recognised gains or losses in 1998 and 1999 other than the result for the period.

The notes on pages 20 to 22 form part of these financial statements

### Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd.

### **Balance Sheet**

### Year Ended 30 June 1999

	<u>Note</u>	30	June 1999	30	D June 1998
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	7.		4,026		—
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Debtors	8.	15,554		254	
Cash at bank and in hand		30,132		13,788	
		45,686		14,042	
<b>Creditors</b> - Amounts falling due					
within one year	9.	24,859	2. 通過	350	
Net Current Assets		· ·	20,827		13,692
Net Assets			24,853		13,692
Accumulated Reserves			24,853		13,692

The financial statements on pages 18 to 22 were approved by the board of directors on 9th September 1999 and signed on its behalf by:

**Edmond Falahee** 

Rory Murray

The notes on pages 20 to 22 form part of these financial statements.



### Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd.

### **Notes and Accounting Policies**

### Year Ended 30 June 1999

### 1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies of the company are as follows:

### a) Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. As permitted by financial reporting standard number 1, the company has taken advantage of the provision available to a small company exempting it from preparing a cash flow statement.

### b) Incoming Resources

Services - Income from services for the year represents invoiced sales and advertising income. Donations and fundraising - Income is recognised when it is received.

### c) Support and Administration Costs

Direct expenditure comprises merchandise and event costs.

Management and administration costs comprises overhead costs incurred in the running of the company.

### d) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life. The annual rate applied, on the reducing balance basis, was 25%.

### 2. Grants Receivable

Grants receivable comprised

Lottery funding Solihull TEC ERDF Other

1999	1998
£	£
41,272	-
31,257	_
11,691	<u>-</u>
11,981	<u>-</u>
<u></u>	
96,201	-

### 3. Interest Receivable and Similar Income

Interest receivable and similar income comprised:

Bank interest

<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
£	£
<u>11</u>	<u>89</u>

### **Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd.**

### **Notes and Accounting Policies**

### Year Ended 30 June 1999

### 4. Support and Administration

Support and administration costs include the following:

Auditors' remuneration Depreciation Staff costs (note 5)

### 5. Staff Costs

Staff costs comprised:

Salaries Social security costs

<u>1998</u>
£
<del>-</del>
<u>-</u>
<del></del>
<u>1998</u>
£
<b>-</b> 1
$\dot{\epsilon}$
<u> </u>
-

The average number of persons employed during the year was 3. None of the directors of the company received any emoluments.

### 6. Taxation

The company has applied for charitable status and as such is not considered to be liable for corporation tax on its surplus for the year. The full potential liability, were charitable status not to be obtained, amounts to £2,150.

### 7. Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets comprised:

	Furniture, Fittings and		Telephone	
	Office Equipment £	Computer £	<u>Systems</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
Cost Additions	<u>1,901</u>	<u>1,684</u>	<u>1,783</u>	<u>5,368</u>
At 30 June 1999	<u>1,901</u>	<u>1,684</u>	<u>1,783</u>	<u>5,368</u>
<b>Depreciation</b> Charge for year	<u>475</u>	<u>421</u>	<u>446</u>	<u>1,342</u>
At 30 June 1999	<u>475</u>	<u>421</u>	<u>446</u>	1,342
Net Book Value At 30 June 1999	1,426	1,263	1,337	4,026





### Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd.

### **Notes and Accounting Policies**

### Year Ended 30 June 1999

### 8. Debtors

Debtors comprised amounts falling due within one year as follows:

Grants receivable
Other debtors
Corporation tax recoverable
Prepayments

<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
£	£
13,474	-
229	-
1,281	-
570	254
15,554	254
	<del>22222222</del>

### 9. Creditors

Creditors comprised amounts falling due within one year as follows:

Bank Overdrafts Lottery grant received in advance Accruals

<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
£	£
3,196	-
16,171	-
5,492	350
24,859	350

### 10. Members' Liability

The company is limited by guarantee, not having any share capital. The liability of each member is £1.

### 11. Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities or capital commitments as at 30 June 1999. (1998: nil).



Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd.

# Detailed Income and Expenditure Account Year Ended 30 June 1999

us St Patricks Total 1998 p Day Parade		0 0 41,272 0 0 0 31,257 0 91 0 11,691 0	91 0 96,201 0	0 850 2,515 7,335 0 3,672 5,251 10,855 0 2,170 6,207 0 21,625 21,625 12,344 0 0 0 0 127,691 0 0 0 127 0 0 127	31     26,147     127,773     44,548       0     11,342     16,751     15,485	31     10,849     99,861     15,371       31     22,191     116,612     30,856	
Lottery Solihull Irish Bus St Patri TEC. Group Day Pa	<b>4</b>	41,272 0 0 0 31,257 0 0 0 11,691 0 0 0	41,272 31,257 11,691	3,		39,815 29,661 11,691 10,8 39,815 29,661 11,691 22,1	
Forum	¥	0 0 0 11,981	11,981 4	1,665 1,579 2,170 0 0 0	5,409	7,845 3	

Donations & sponsorship Services & related income

Lottery Solihull TEC.

Grants receivable

Income

Other Grants

ERDF

Resources transferred in

Advertising

Events

Interest receivable

**Total income** 

Miscellaneous

Management & administration

Surplus for the year

Total expenditure

Support & administration

Direct expenditure

## Financial Report



Tionól na n-Éireannach Birmingham Teo

Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd.

Detail

								1 1	_	~	$\sim$	6	7	2	6	2	0	4	2	3	2	8	6	7	1_
	Total	Ŧ	10,171	235	3,495	2,750	100	16,751	59,720	3,398	16,540	1,129	182	395	2,659	885	4,580	1,264	1,275	1,743	1,342	1,108	1,609	2,032	99 861
June 1999	St Patricks Day Parade	3	7,647	200	3,495	0	0	11,342	0	0	8,303	368	35	0	0	625	380	288	0	792	0	0	0	28	10.849
iled Income and Expenditure Account Year Ended 30 June 1999	Irish Bus Group	£	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,158	1,203	344	0	12	0	39	0	538	70	0	0	0	0	0	327	11,691
Account Yea	Solihull TEC.	Ŧ.	0	0	0	0	0	0	18,808	1,352	1,756	292	82	123	1,362	130	1,831	288	0	0	733	999	1,609	630	29,661
penditure /	Lottery	£	0	0	0	0	0	0	29,644	2,206	2,618	204	0	230	1,508	130	1,831	20	0	0	485	443	0	466	39,815
e and Ex	Forum	Ħ	2,524	35	0	2,750	100	5,409	2,110	-1,363	3,519	265	53	42	-250	0	0	268	1,275	951	124	0	0	551	7,845
Incom																									
ilec																									

15,485

1,500

3,087

2. Management & administration Printing, postage & stationery Internet connection charges Rent, services & room hire Miscellaneous expenses Repairs & Renewals Professional fees Bank charges Depreciation Recruitment Catering 7 Training Publicity Telephone Insurance Travel

00

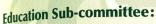
1,363

15,371

### **Board Members**

Tony Downey, Chair,

Mary Carway, Mary Connolly, Chris Conway, Clare Cooke, Bob Cowen, Eddie Falahee, Peggy Falahee, Margaret Fitzgerald, Anne Kennedy (co-optee), Maurice Long, Phil McCarvill, Pat McGillicuddy, Fr. Martin Moran (co-optee), Noel Mulvey, Sylvia Murphy-Brennan, Rory Murray, Mike Nangle (co-optee), Lena O'Malley.



Clare Cooke, Chair,
Anne Anderson, Paddy Brennan,
Johnnie Burke, Teresa Concannon, Martin Flynn,
Gearoid Mac an Mhaoir, Denise Ni Loinsigh,
Julie Nugent, Marie McDermott
Forum Staff: Catherine Bell, Caroline Carr,
Pauline Schofield

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### **Housing Sub-committee:**

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Martin Earlis, Brenda Fleming, Pat Goodhew,
Malcolm Horgan, Maura Ketland,
Gerry McNamee, Noel Mulvey, Cllr. Mike Nangle,
Frank Ryan, Ronan Segrave, Sr. Sabina Staff
Forum Staff: Bernadette Harding, Pauline Schofield

### Youth Group:

Fr. Eamon Corduff, Chair,
Orla Brennan, Co-Chair
Bronagh Connolly, Noreen Connolly,
Margaret Fitzgerald, Phil McCarvill,
Leanne Mitchell, Rory Murray, Johnny Torgysen,
lan White, lestyn Williams
Forum Staff: Catherine Bell, Caroline Carr,
Katriona Larkin

### **Employment and Training Sub-committee:**

Pat McGillicuddy, Chair, Chris Conway, Tony Downey, Eddie Falahee, Jane Gallagher, Cllr. Tony Kennedy, Pete Vincent, Ray Walker Forum Staff: Catherine Bell, Caroline Carr, Paul Gannon, Pauline Schofield

### **Health and Social Services Sub-committee:**

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### **Parade Sub-committee:**

Anthony Duffy, Chair, Len Cale, Anne Dunne, Celine Finn, Laura Grigg, John Henry, Maurice Long, Brendan Mulvey, Sylvia Murphy-Brennan, Patsy O'Brien, Pauline Roche, Ted Ryan Forum Staff: Katriona Larkin

### **Personnel Sub-committee:**

Mary Connolly, Chair, Tony Downey, John Gordon Forum Staff: Pauline Schofield

### P. R. Sub-committee:

Pat O'Neill, Chair, Bob Cowen, Anne Kennedy, Brendan Mulvey, Sylvia Murphy-Brennan Forum Staff: Katriona Larkin, Pauline Schofield



Some Board Members with Andy Howell, Deputy Leader of Birmingham City Council

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## Affiliated Organisations as at September 22nd 1999

**Armagh Association** Birmingham Irish Development Association Birmingham Irish Pipes and Drums Birmingham Irish Women's Group Birmingham Irish Youth Group Birmingham Rose of Tralee Committee Birmingham Women and Ireland Cairde le Cheile Cara Irish Housing Association Connolly Association Conradh na Gaelige **Donegal Association** Fireside Day Centre GAA - Sean McDermotts (H) GAA - Erin go Bragh GAA - John Mitchells (H) GAA - Kingdom GAA - The Emerald **Galway Association** Irish Commission for Overseas Prisoners Irish Golfing Association Irish Mental Health Forum Irish Music Made Easy Irish Welfare and Information Centre Kenny Academy Kerry Association Kilkenny Association Leitrim Association **Limerick Association** Longford Association Louth Association Madden School of Irish Dancing Mayo Association Midlands Republic of Ireland Soccor Supporters Club Monaghan Association Murphy Brennan School of Irish Dancing Offaly Association Redditch Irish Society Roscommon Association Sean Eireann Sligo Association South Birmingham C.C.E.

Tír na nÓg Accordion Band

**Troops Out Movement** 

Waterford Association

Wicklow Association

Tyrone Association

John Henry Pat McGrath Bill Grigg Pauline Roche **Eamon Corduff** Ita McKenna Patsy Davis Seamus Lynch Gerry McNamee Sean Kenny Gearoid Mac an Mhaoir John McIntyre Rev Pat Nimmo Ann Sweeney Dennis Neenan Michael Collins Jacqueline Moriarty Mairead de Roiste Martin Monaghan Peadar O'Tuathail Patsy Glennon Barney Griffin Patrick Brennan Fr Martin Moran O.M.I. Michael Kenny Maurice Long Michael Meally **Noel Mulvey** Mary Truman Martina Crehan Michael Doherty Maeve Smith Maureen O'Malley Paul Smith Bill Grigg Sylvia Murphy Brennan **lim Kehoe** Peter Fraser Peggy Falahee Rosemary Ellis May Kerins Breda Moore Sylvia Murphy-Brennan Mary Pearson Margaret Coogan Mary O'Brien Queenie Monaghan

## Pending Affiliation

## Organisations with Affiliation Pending at time of going to print

An Suil
Ashford School of Irish Dancing

Cavan Association

Clare Association Coimisiun Rinci

Colmcille Dancing School

Doherty Irish Dancing

GAA - Clann na nGael

GAA - John Mitchells (F)

GAA - Sean McDermotts (F)

GAA - St Brendans

GAA - St Chads

Glennarragh Dancing School

Irish Amateur Boxing

Irish Legion

Kidd Irish Dancing School

Kilrush School of

Laois Association

**MacCarrghamhna** 

McDaid Set Dancing

Meath Association

Scanlon School of Irish Dancing

Westmeath Association

**Wexford Association** 

Laoi Minto

Anne Marie Kenny

Angela Gilbride

Rita Cosgrave

Caoimhin MacCarrghamhna

Mauretta Armstrong

Danny Doherty

George McGuigan

Kevin McGinnity

Michelle Dowling

Angela Forde

John Dennehy

Aidan Comerford

Seamus Jackson

Con Harnett

Siobhan Monaghan

Marian Downes

Patrick Lalor

Helena MacCarrghamna

B. MCDaid

Oliver Eivors

Carole Scanlon

John J. O'Connor

Paddy Rochford



Cara House



### To everyone who has worked with the Forum and helped us in any way in the past year.



ACAS

Aer Lingus

Allied Irish Bank (GB)

Bank of Ireland

Birmingham City Council

Birmingham Health Authority

Birmingham and Solihull Training and Enterprise Council

Birmingham University

Birmingham Voluntary Services Council

Brent Irish Advisory Service (Traveller's Project)

Business in the Community

**Business Link** 

Cara Irish Housing Association

Careers and Education Business Partnership

Celtic Court Hotel

City College

Co-Enterprise

Coventry Irish Advisory and Resource Group

Drop In Centre

**Employment Service** 

**English Martyrs** 

**Enterprise Link** 

Family Housing Association

FÁS (Irish Employment and Training Agency)

Federation of Irish Societies

Fireside Day Centre

Focus Housing Association

Irish Centre

Irish Embassy Irish Government via the Dion Committee

Irish Ferries

Irish Post

Irish Welfare and Information Centre

Irish World

Rathbone Society

South Birmingham College

Stena Line

Sutton Coldfield College

Tara Television

W. Cawthorne & Son Ltd.

Whitbread Murphys

And to all the individuals and volunteers who attended our many events and made the work of the Forum worthwhile over the past year. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir!

fiche 21810cht



### BIRMINGHAM IRISH COMMUNITY FORUM LTD.

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Email: birmingham@irishforum.freeserve.co.uk

Company Registration No.: 3386486