



**Gorey
Chamber**
IN BUSINESS...FOR BUSINESS

Press Release

DATE.
24th May 2011.

Good Attendance at Chamber Annual General Meeting.

“Come to Gorey Come To Life” to be launched as a Brand for Gorey

Chamber Year Reviewed.

Gorey Chamber staged its Annual General Meeting at a very well attended meeting held in the conference suite at Gorey Business Park on Tuesday the 24th of May. Over thirty individual businesses were present on the night to hear the Chamber year reviewed.

Dick White Chamber Executive was the MC on the night.

With Chamber membership of 155, the launch of Doing Business Member to Member, in addition to the staging of Build Your Business and a strong business after hours and social networking programme having been put in place the work of the Chamber in the past year surpassed all expectations.

Chamber President and Retail Working Group Chair, Marian McKenna from La Crème Boutique, reported that a very successful year which saw the Retail sector deliver on a strong programme of work. This included the staging of the window display competitions at Easter time and the Market Festival, the summer blooms display in conjunction with the Wexford County Council as well as the Easter Market on Esmonde St at Easter. Plans for 2011 will hopefully include an enhanced Halloween festival in the town in addition to a major promotional programme for the town.

With Finances always an issue for every business, James Kinsella from Sherry Fitzgerald Kinsella, who heads up the Finance Committee looked at developing new income streams in the coming year in an effort at regularising the Chamber finances. Fundraisers during the year were reported upon but he emphasised that “new ideas were needed to make the Chamber self sustaining into the future”.



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Following on, Ann McLoughlin, FAS Services to Business, presented the Social Committee report, outlining a number of events including Fun N' Flutters at Enniscorthy Greyhound Track, the Winter Wonderland at Marlfield House Hotel organised to celebrate Christmas and Soul Cuisine for the Mexican and Spanish themed night.

During the year the Business Services and Services to Members sub committees amalgamated under the banner of Services to Business. This year has seen Doing Business To Business and the Build Your Business Network being launched, while the enhanced Lunch with the Chamber continues to flourish in addition to a plethora of After Hours Events. Committee member, Michael Doyle of Doyle and Associates delivering this report commented "that access to funds continues to be a concern of business but that the banking system and the newly launched Gorey Credit Union Small Business Loan Support scheme will assist business."

The reports were concluded by Dick White, who as the acting Chair of the Tourism Working Group outlined a busy programme delivered by the committee including the management of the Tourist Office and the implementation of the Family Friendly Initiative. The Aim according to White was "to sell North Wexford as a Destination that has it all"

Chamber representatives are also sitting and working on committees and groups including South East Chambers, Gorey Adhoc Community Facilities Ltd, Gorey Town Councils Enterprise Committee, and the Joint Policing Committee for Gorey.

The new committee of the Chamber was sanctioned on the evening with Marian McKenna, Dave McCormack, James Kinsella, Niall Slattery, Pat O'Hagan, Andrew Owen, Finbarr O'Donoghue, Keith Groarke and Juliana Walters all being nominated.

Chamber plans for the future were outlined by the current President, Marian McKenna who stated "At last years AGM I set the target of developing the Brand Gorey project, having set up a working group to put this project together tonight I can tell you that Come to Gorey, Come to Life will be launched on the 9th of June. This is an all encompassing brand suitable for every sector of life to use. I invite all of you to attend this launch and to the actively participate in the projects roll out. We have strength in numbers and if we harness this in all walks of life, Business, Sporting, community, tourism. All of us individually and collectively will benefit."

Continuing, McKenna stated "The work in conjunction with Wexford County Council in relation to the Public Realm has progressed nicely with a comprehensive plan awaiting adoption and most importantly implementation."

Concluding Ms McKenna added " It is vital that the work of the Chamber is relevant to its membership and to the wider business sector. I am not offering a solution to every problem for everyone, that is unrealistic but I am offering a Chamber that is responsive, interactive and professional."



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ENDS.

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