



ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

23rd JUNE 2009

WOODLANDS CHURCH



Carrickfergus Borough



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AGENDA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
23rd JUNE 2009

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of previous meeting 24th June 2008
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Chairpersons Report
- 6 Secretarys Report
- 7 Presentation of accounts
- 8 Guest Speaker - Sammy Douglas
- 9 Coordinators Remarks
- 10 Election of Committee
- 11 Date of next committee meeting

CARRICKFERGUS COMMUNITY FORUM

Minutes of Carrickfergus Community Forum Annual General Meeting held in Carrickfergus Library on Tuesday 24th June at 6pm.

1. Apologies.

Deane Houston, Damian Cassidy, Karen McManus, Brenda Leslie, Maggi Watson, George Gibson, Helen McClean, Neil Baird, Rosy Meadow, Aileen Marks, Dawn Shackles, Jim Crothers, Sean Neeson, Patricia McKinney, Valerie Reynolds, Owen Mulvenna.

2. Present

Lucy Simms, Janice Cherry, Beryl McKnight, Billy Ashe (Carrickfergus Community Forum), Christine Harper (Charles Sheils Community), Bob Harper (Belfast Lough Sailability), Mary McCreight (Carrickfergus CAB), Helen Sloan, Margaret Goudy, Cath Deddis(Whitehead Residents Association), Leslie Crothers (Castle Heritage Community Association), William Carson, Irene Carson, Margaret Addis (Greenisland Community Council), Martin Clarke(Whitehead Community Association), Joy Rankin (Taylors Avenue Community Association), Jim Conlon (St Nicholas Parish), Ann Allen (Carrickfergus District Policing Partnership), Sandra Bradshaw (Carrickfergus Beacon House), Bob Loade (Carrickfergus YMCA), Cllr Isobel Day (Carrickfergus Borough Council), Leslie Addis, Joanne Arbuthnot (Woodlands Presbyterian Church), Pat Clarke (St Nicholas Community Development), Martin Murray (Carrickfergus Journey in Understanding), Jim Gilmour Gilmour & Co Accountancy), Philip McAllister (Church of the Nazarene), Philip Mannis(Glenfield Community Association).

3. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the previous annual general meeting were approved.
Proposed by Brian McIlwaine seconded by Leslie Crothers.

5. Chairpersons Report.

See Annual report.

The Chair presented her report and commented on the work and growth of the work of the Community Forum, thanking the staff and committee for their support throughout the year.

6. Treasurers Report

The treasurers report was given by Jim Gilmour.
See annual report.

There was a question from the floor asking how the accounts could be improved Jim answered that he felt the bank charges were too high and this could be resolved.

7. Co-ordinators Report

See Annual report

Billy Ashe commented on the work of the Forum throughout the year and outlining plans for the new committee and the Forum in the next year.

- Team building exercise in August.
- Programme of Community Skills training.
- New 3 year strategic plan to be discussed and implemented this consultation will take place late August / September.
- Community Award event in November.
- The bi monthly volunteer meetings with other groups.

Billy outlined these immediate plans and highlighted intentions for the future.

8. Presentation of Certificates by Councillor Roy Beggs.

Beryl McKnight Keeping Safe certificate

First Aid Training

Leslie Crothers Keeping Safe certificate

First Aid training.

9. Election of new committee

Nominations

Brian McIlwaine	Carrickfergus Day Centre Council
William Carson	Greenisland Community Council
Beryl McKnight	Carrick Neighbourhood Development Group
Aileen Marks	NIHE
Jim Conlon	St Nicholas Community Development
Robert Loade	Carrick YMCA
Jim Crothers	Woodburn PAKT
Philip Mannis	Glenfield Community Association
Leslie Crothers	Castle Heritage & Community Association
Joy Rankin	Taylors Avenue Community Association
Leslie Addis	Woodlands Presbyterian Church
Joanne Arbuthnot	Woodlands Presbyterian Church

Adree Wallace agreed to act as an advisor to the committee.

Proposed by Martin Clarke seconded by Isobel Day.

10. Guest Speaker

Adree Wallace (Associates) commented on the work of the Forum and the challenges ahead for the future, A new committee, the review of Public Administration the development of a 3 year action plan to ensure that the Forum delivers for all its members. She commented on funding opportunities mentioning the Peace 111 funding and the partnership of Newtownabbey, Carrickfergus and Antrim LSP.

Adree finished by congratulating the Forum staff and committee on the work and time given on a daily basis and the importance of input from local groups stating 'that the Forum will only be as good as its members.'

11. Launch of the Information Pack for community groups.

Billy Ashe commented on the need for information on funding opportunities and procedure for setting up a group in the local area, this will be helped by the Information pack and the website. The pack and website will add to the service provided by the office staff and the newsletter. Billy invited those interested to visit the website where the information on the Forum and services will be readily available. Billy also commented on the Forum Action Plan which has been developed following consultation with local groups at the Community Conference in 2007.

He looks forward to a productive and successful year.

12. Close

The Chair closed the meeting and invited everyone to have supper.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It has been my pleasure and privilege to have presided as the Chair of this organisation for a number of years. During that time we have seen the Community Forum move from an organisation that teetered at the edges of community development in certain areas of Carrickfergus to one that is firmly established at the centre of community development in the Borough of Carrickfergus.

This progress has been possible due to the efforts of many people who have come together under the umbrella of Carrickfergus Community Forum to help make our Borough a better place to work, live and play. We intend getting back to the route of our communities, by taking responsibility for our circumstances and our life's choices.

We believe this will bring about a better environment better community cohesiveness and create the conditions where our young people prosper, our elderly are respected and looked after and where we as a community can be proud to say we live.

I believe everyone has a role to play if we are to be successful in attaining this goal and we at the Forum welcome all that can contribute to this aim irrespective of gender, race or religion.

Our vision is of a Carrickfergus Borough community that is vibrant, strong, confident, inclusive and prosperous playing a positive role in civic society. Join with us and play a constructive role in enhancing our communities.

Beryl McKnight

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since joining the Community Forum committee in 2006 the transformation of the Forum has been steady, the reputation of the organisation has grown throughout the Borough and the Community Forum has become an integral part of the Carrickfergus community.

It has been an opportunity for me to gain information and knowledge of the differing community groups within the Borough, the membership having grown to over 60 this year, and to learn of funding opportunities and new skills.

The work of the Forum is more important than ever with the many changes which will be taking place over the next couple of years during the implementation of the Review of Public Administration. It is essential that local groups are kept informed of changes to ensure Carrickfergus Borough maximises the opportunities available in the negotiations of the new Council area.

Not only has the Community Forum gone from strength to strength, the new premises in the Miskimmon Suite of the old town hall will ensure that the Forum is at the centre of the Borough, available and accessible to all.

With the enthusiasm of the staff team, I know that the Carrickfergus Community has a well established, well informed Forum to represent the growing number of Community groups in the Borough.

After three years as Secretary I will be stepping down, but will remain part of the Committee. I wish to thank the members of the committee and the Forum staff for their support and enthusiasm, which has enabled the Forum to blossom over the past year we look forward to the next.

Mary McCreight

COORDINATORS REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen I thank you for your attendance tonight at this the Annual General Meeting of the Carrickfergus Community Forum and for your interest in the community and voluntary sector in general.

The Forum like many other groups in this area has gone through a turbulent time as the uncertainty of funding forced decisions upon the organisation. However we believe that the anxiety and frustrations that have been endured has been a worthwhile exercise and that the organisation has emerged stronger and better prepared to face the challenges that face the sector.

The current membership of the forum has reached 75 groups and our full time staff complement is four. We are currently funded by the Department of Social Development's Community Investment Fund, Small Pockets of Deprivation administrated by the Housing Executive and Carrickfergus Borough Council; we are indebted to all.

We have recently moved into the Miskimmon Suite Carrickfergus Town Hall and invite those who have not seen our new premises to pop in. We plan to have an open day on the 9th July when we have successfully attracted the finance to furnish the new premises. The Old Townhall was designated for community and Civic use in 2005, at the time of its renovation plans, so it is only befitting it has a community organisation as a sitting tenant.

During the last twelve months we have co-hosted the Business and Community Awards, held a Community Conference, facilitated workers network meetings, held members meetings, provided web site training, computer training, provided the opportunity for accredited prior experiential learning to university entrance level, held a meet the politicians session, held a number of workshops to produce a strategic plan for the Forum 2009-2012 (copies available) held a number of social economy workshops, provide first aid training, committee skills training, surveyed our membership groups and held various focus groups. This is just a snippet of some of the work the Forum has been involved in. This work could not have been achieved without the dedication of

the Management Committee and the staff members and key individuals from the community sector working as a team.

Looking to the future I believe the big challenge for the community and voluntary sector will be community planning; to this end we have already facilitated a number of good practice visits with our counterparts from Ballymena and have been in dialogue with those from Larne. A workshop to explore community planning is scheduled for August and I would encourage as many people as possible to participate in this very worthwhile exercise.

In closing I wish to thank all who have shown an interest in our community and have supported the Forums efforts to encourage more community participation. Special thanks to Janice and Lucy for having to work with me. And to Beryl, Mary and Bob for the enormous time they have committed to the Forum as the principle officers.

Billy Ashe Coordinator

OUTREACH OFFICER REPORT

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since the last AGM and despite a few periods of uncertainty around funding I am still with the Forum and have just accepted a new post within the Forum as a Community Support Officer.

The Confident Communities programme finished on 30th November 2008 and proved to be a very successful project for the Forum, exceeding the expected targets. It was a great pleasure to work on this project during which community infrastructure was developed, community groups were formed and the capacity of the Carrickfergus community sector was increased and nurtured. In total eighteen groups were supported and engaged with the project and 179 people successfully completed training programmes including First Aid, Child Protection and Committee Skills.

From 1st December 2008 I was employed by the NIHE Small Pockets of Deprivation Fund and the focus of my work was the Greenisland and Sunnylands estates. During the four month project we attended five best practice visits, Harryville, Cregagh Interagency, Ballysally, Loughgiel and Hanwood Social Economy Project. During this time I worked alongside the Carrickfergus Historical & Cultural Society to arrange cultural programmes for the Sunnylands area which were a great success and well received by the participants. I had a number of individual meetings regarding the setting up of an interagency model in both the Greenisland and Sunnylands areas.

I assisted with funding applications for festivals, a Re-Imaging project and completed an Awards for All and various SPODS applications for individual project programmes. I have arranged various training initiatives and I currently mentor the twelve participants taking part in the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) course which has been organised in partnership with the Workers Educational Association and Northern Regional College.

A very busy year for myself the outreach officer, looking forward to an even busier one next year.

Janice Cherry

GUEST SPEAKER PROFILE

Sammy Douglas; MBE Community Advisor

Sammy Douglas Has nearly 30 experience in community and economic development. He also worked on a part-time basis to develop projects in disadvantaged areas of Belfast for the International Fund for Ireland for 12 years until 2008. The projects included The Hanwood Centre in Castlereagh and the Enler Site development in Ballybeen.

Sammy is a former Chairman of Castlereagh Business Start Programme and founding member and past chairman of East Belfast Partnership and East Belfast Social Economy Company; a subsidiary of the partnership.

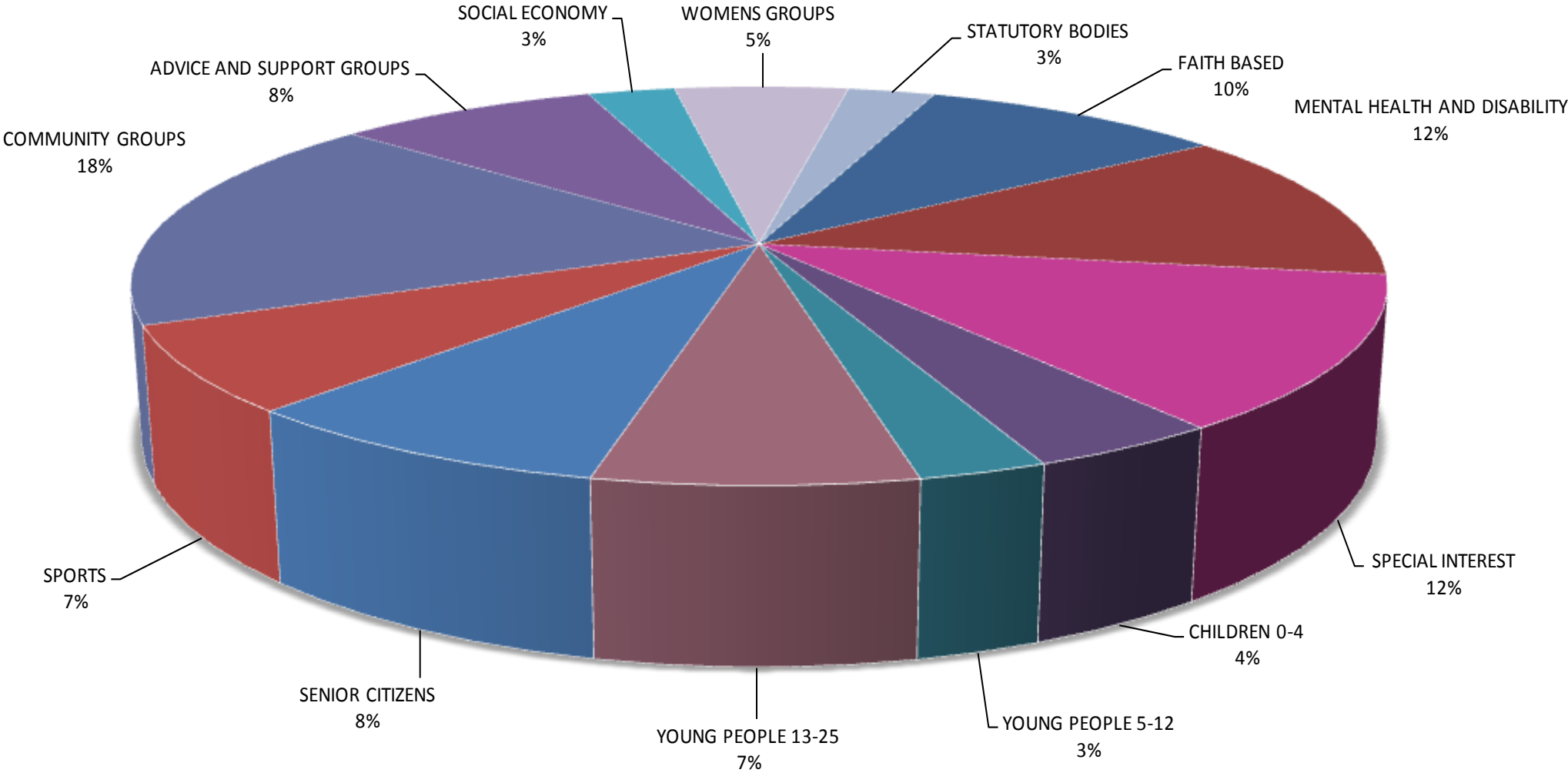
He has been working with NI Housing Executive and 'key influencers' to address the removal of sectarian graffiti, flags and militaristic, loyalist murals through re-imaging communities.

He has been involved in mediation and conflict resolution in a number of areas of Belfast, in particular, East Belfast. He is a founding member of East Belfast Interface Group working to address conflict and reconciliation.

Sammy has also worked on a number of important publications, including 'Community Development in Protestant Areas' and 'Poverty Amongst Plenty'. He also wrote a number of feature articles for the Belfast Telegraph, Daily Ireland, Andersonstown News, East Belfast Community telegraph, The News Letter and East Belfast Observer where he had a weekly column.

In May 2008, Sammy was appointed as a Community Advisor to The Rt Hon Peter Robinson M.P., First Minister of the NI Assembly.

MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN



MEMBER GROUPS

- Acting Out Theatre Company
- Alphabet Playgroup
- Alzheimers Society Befriending Scheme
- Alzheimers Society East Antrim Branch
- Autumn Club
- Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid
- Belfast Lough Sailability
- Branching Out
- Brighter Whitehead
- Carrickfergus Art Club
- Carrickfergus & District Senior Gateway Club
- Carrickfergus Beacon House
- Carrickfergus Borough Church Forum
- Carrickfergus Boxing Academy
- Carrickfergus Citizens Advice
- Carrickfergus Community Drug & Alcohol Advisory Group
- Carrickfergus Day Centre
- Carrickfergus DPP
- Carrickfergus Enterprise
- Carrickfergus Historical & Cultural Society
- Carrickfergus Musical Festival Association
- Carrickfergus Junior Gateway Club
- Carrick Neighbourhood Development group
- Carrickfergus Radio Committee
- Carrick Rangers Football Development Centre
- Carrickfergus Road Safety Committee
- Carrickfergus Sailing Club
- Carrickfergus Women's Forum
- Carrickfergus YMCA
- Carrickfergus Youth Forum
- Carrickfergus Young Citizen's Forum
- Castle Heritage & Community Association
- Charles Sheils Community
- Cithrah Foundation
- Contact Youth
- Disability Action
- Downshire Presbyterian Church
- Eden Allotment Holders Association
- Extreme Youth
- Flame Gasworks Museum
- Gateway Church
- Glenabbey Church
- Glenfield Community Association
- Good Morning Carrickfergus
- Greenisland Community Council
- Greenisland Knockagh Wrestling Club
- Greenisland Knockagh Youth Club
- Home Start Carrickfergus
- Horizon Surestart
- Inter Community Development Programme Greenisland
- Kilcreggan Urban Farm
- Kilroot Playgroup
- Kilroot Rec FC
- La Leche League of East Antrim
- Larne Line Passenger Group
- Mediation Resource Centre
- NIHE Carrickfergus
- Norsun Community Group
- Northlands Pensioners Association
- Royal Air Force Association
- Sense NI
- Shopmobility Carrickfergus
- Source Pregnancy Crisis Centre
- St Nicholas Community Development
- Talk Up Self Help
- Taylors Avenue Community Association
- Whitehead Community Association
- Whitehead Rangers Over 50's Club
- Windmill & Minorca Residents group
- Windsor Residents Association
- Woodburn Community Association
- Woodburn PAKT
- Woodlands Presbyterian Church

CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2008 / 2009

- Leslie Addis Woodlands Presbyterian Church
- Robert Loade Carrickfergus YMCA
- Philip Mannis Glenfield Community Association
- Beryl McKnight Carrick Neighbourhood Development Group
- Mary McCreight Carrickfergus Citizens Advice Bureau
- Brian McIlwaine Carrickfergus Day Centre Council
- Leslie Crothers Castle Heritage and Community Association
- Joy Rankin The Autumn Club
- Aileen Marks Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Jim Conlon St Nicholas Community Development
- William Carson Greenisland Community Council
- Joanne Arbuthnot Woodlands Presbyterian Church

The Committee and Staff would like to thank Jim Conlon, who is retiring from the committee, for his contribution to the work of the Forum.

Although we think he is still far too young to be retiring!!



Relax and enjoy your retirement Jim

NOMINATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE FOR 2009 / 2010

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| ■ Leslie Addis | Woodlands Presbyterian Church |
| ■ Maggi Watson | Greenisland Knockagh Youth Centre |
| ■ Robert Loade | Carrickfergus YMCA |
| ■ Philip Mannis | Glenfield Community Association |
| ■ Beryl McKnight | Carrick Neighbourhood Development Group |
| ■ Mary McCreight | Carrickfergus Citizens Advice Bureau |
| ■ Brian McIlwaine | Carrickfergus Day Centre Council |
| ■ Leslie Crothers | Castle Heritage and Community Association |
| ■ Joy Rankin | The Autumn Club |
| ■ Daniel Clarke | Carrickfergus Junior Gateway |
| ■ Steven Harrison | Carrickfergus Historical & Cultural Society |
| ■ Valerie Reynolds | Whitehead Community Association |
| ■ Karen Montgomery | Windmill & Minorca Drive Residents Group |
| ■ Rachael Kirker | GRASP Project |

ADVISORS TO GROUP

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ■ Ann Allen | Carrickfergus District Policing Partnership |
| ■ Aileen Marks | Northern Ireland Housing Executive |

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Forum would like to thank the funding bodies that support us :

- The Department for Social Development
- Carrickfergus Borough Council
- NIHE Small Pockets of Deprivation
- Carrickfergus Good Relations
- Carrickfergus Local Strategy Partnership

Carrickfergus Community Forum would like to thank the management committee for giving up their time to attend meetings and events held by the Forum.

We would also like to thank Sammy Douglas for taking the time to speak at our Annual General Meeting.

Finally thanks must go to the community and voluntary sector in Carrickfergus, Greenisland and Whitehead for your contribution to community development in the Borough of Carrickfergus.

PHOTO GALLERY

MOVING CARRICKFERGUS FORWARD CONFERENCE 30TH JAN 2009 WOODLANDS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



STEVEN AND DAWN HARRISON OF CARRICKFERGUS HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING PRINCESS ANNE AT THE GARDEN PARTY



THE STAFF AND COMMITTEE OF CCF ATTEMPTING TO WRITE THEIR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2009 - 2012



SUNNYLANDS Multi Usage Games Area

PROJECT MANAGED BY CCF AND FUNDED THROUGH NIHE SMALL POCKETS OF DEPRIVATION FUND



WOODBURN REIMAGING WORK - CHERRY WALK

FROM THIS....



TO THIS !!



This wall has been removed as part of a project delivered by Carrickfergus Historical & Cultural Society in partnership with CCF and NIHE



CARRICKFERGUS COMMUNITY FORUMS
NEW OFFICES



WE ARE HOLDING AN OPEN DAY ON
THURSDAY 9TH JULY
FROM 11am TO 3pm
CALL IN AND SEE US



RECEPTION
AREA



CONFERENCE
FACILITIES