

Newtownpark Parish of Guardian Angels
Parish Pastoral Council

Sixty sixth Meeting

on
16th January 2019 at 7.30pm.

Draft Minutes

Present: Roisín Drury, Fr. Dermot Leycock (President), Ray McNicholas, Brendan Riordan (Hon. Secretary).

Apologies: Fr Bill Fortune (on vacation), Eugene O'Connor, Bernard Walsh.

By invitation: Cora Lambert, M.A. **Absent:** Paddy Duggan,.

1) Introductions: Brendan thanked Cora for coming to this meeting on arranging a listening meeting in 2019, as she had played a central role in the design and execution of the Listening Meeting in October 2012.

2) Prayers were led by *Cora*.

3) Adoption of Agenda: Agenda was adopted as circulated.

4) Listening Meeting aims:

- ✓ *'A time for people to sit back and think of what they want from the parish and what they could do for the parish community.'*
- ✓ *'An invitation to think deeper.'*
- ✓ *'An opportunity to hear new voices.'*

5) How might we enable parishioners to express their concerns?

A multi-stage process to stimulate interest in the project and think of what needs to be said, was favoured.

Stages in the process might include:

- ❖ Promotion 'we need your help' to include:
 - An invitation in the Parish Quarterly,
 - Posters in church,
 - Invitations given out at the door of the church or put on cars,
 - A short talk and reflection during the Mass;
- ❖ A session to explore issues and stimulate thinking, potential contributors would include: Donal Harrington, Kevin Egan;
- ❖ A social event with eating, talking and an address;
- ❖ Satellite meetings with groups in the parish including the 'Faith Affirmed' group;
- ❖ A Parish Convention for everyone to come and be heard;
- ❖ Questionnaires, especially for those who did not manage to contribute at one of the earlier stages.

6) What would be the structure of the Listening Meeting?

Discussion of this topic reflected the idea of a multi-stage process:

- ❖ Promotional material to raise awareness, interest and commitment to come to the meeting would include mention of themes to be explored in the Listening Meeting. However, the wording would not be the same as the wording of the questions to be put to the Listening Meeting.
- ❖ Questions at the Listening meeting would cover the themes of 'Appreciate', 'Appraise', 'Aspire', 'Action' and related questions in the Draft Questions proposed by Carol (attached).
- ❖ Small groups would be formed and asked to respond to the questions. These groups would ideally have 5 or 6 participants plus a facilitator and should be no larger than 7 participants. One of the group would record what was said.
- ❖ Facilitators, process guides, should above all be neutral and may come from outside the parish.
- ❖ Demographic data for people responding to the questions should be gathered to indicate gender, approximate age, and their neighbourhood in the parish or outside the parish.

7) What preparations need to be made?

Most attention was given to choice of a date for the meeting to which everyone would be invited. The meeting favoured a date after Easter Sunday, which falls on 21st April this year.

8) Conclusions

- ✓ This was a creative start to the process of listening to the people of the parish,
- ✓ Points raised at this meeting should be given detailed consideration at the next meeting.
- ✓ Planning had also been deferred to the next meeting.
- ✓ Finally, Cora was given great thanks for helping the meeting arrive at a creative outcome and for coming at short notice and after a long journey.

9) Dates for future meetings

Next meeting set for Wednesday 30th January.

10) Closing Prayer: *Fr Dermot.*