

Minutes of Skerries Community Association Annual General Meeting
Thursday 25th June 2026, Little Theatre, Skerries Community Centre, starting 8pm

Attendance

Board of Directors: Breda Shankey (Deputy Chair), Paul Walsh (Company Secretary), Brid Grimes (Treasurer), Mary Conway, Brendan Sherlock, Michael McKenna, Brendan Friel, Jane Landy, Helen Scullion, Kalanne O'Leary, Ger O'Mahony; Shay Fanning (Chair Community Centre Board of Management), Reps from Skerries Tidy Towns, Sustainable Skerries, Skerries Town Twinning, Skerries Autism Friendly Town, Skerries Cycling Initiative, Age Friendly Town, Skerries Sustainable Energy Community Initiative (S-SECI), Transport Working Group, Frosties swimming group. Former Mayor, Cllr. Tom O'Leary, who also represented Tony Murphy, the current mayor, Cllr Malachy Quinn, Cllr. Brendan Ryan, Cllr. Sinead Lucey Brennan, Grace Boland T.D., Robert O'Donoghue T.D.

Jeanette Scott, (Community Officer FCC)

Erin Cartlidge, (Rush Community Council).

Mark Lanigan (Daly Accountants) , **Garda Keith White**

In addition approximately 25 members of the Association attended

Apologies:

Directors: Eithne O'Connell, Eric Byrne, John Coleman, Rowena Walsh.
Senator Lorraine Clifford Lee

Agenda:

To transact the Ordinary Business of the Company, that is to say: –

1. To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting 19 June 2025
2. To receive and adopt the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for year ended 31 Dec. 2025
3. To elect Directors to the Board of Skerries Community Association CLG
4. To elect Members to Skerries Community Centre Board of Management
5. To reappoint Daly Accountants and Advisory Services (formerly Dempsey Mullen), as Auditors and to authorize the Directors to fix their remuneration
6. To transact any other business proper to an Annual General Meeting of the Company
7. Updates from Committees
8. Open Forum for Discussion
9. Jim Quigley Volunteer of the Year Award.

Chair BMS welcomed all to the AGM and shared apologies from those as noted above. After Health and Safety notices re the location of fire exits and toilets, all were reminded to switch mobile phones to silent. Chair explained how the SCA is composed of nine groups, the Board of Directors (BoD) and eight committees who are all represented on the BoD.

The business of the AGM then began:

1. To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, 19th June 2025:
BMS referred to the above, minutes of which are available on the SCA website.
Proposed by: Shay Fanning **Seconded by:** Helen Scullion

2. To receive and adopt the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Copies of these were available on the SCA website and in hard copies at the AGM. BG summarized the key points. The net position at 31/12/25 was 293,570, up from €258,316 at 31/12/24. This healthy capital reserve will finance major works planned for next couple of years, and will include roof replacement on The Old School, a protected structure. The Community Centre generated a surplus of €66,000 before depreciation. Savings on power and light of €12,000. The Treasurer emphasized that the Company is in a very healthy condition and she commended the work of Community Centre Manager Sharon Guinane, her staff and the diligent oversight of the Board of Management. She commended Brendan Friel for his work in rationalising the company's bank accounts, which had the added benefit of earning €2350 in interest.

Treasurer thanked Mark Langan of Daly Accountants and Advisory Services for all his assistance in preparing the accounts for audit.

Treasurer invited queries or comments on the accounts. No questions were asked.

Adoption of the accounts:

Proposed by: Bob Laird **Seconded by:** Michael McKenna

3. To elect Directors to the Board of Directors of Skerries Community Association CLG:
Chair explained that there are currently 15 Directors on the BoD, so the 5 longest serving Directors since their last election are due for re-election.
Directors who had agreed to go forward again for re-election, Mary Conway, John Coleman, Jane Landy, Brendan Friel, Helen Scullion.

All were taken as one Proposal.

Proposed by: Sabine McKenna **Seconded by:** Anne Laird

Kalanne O'Leary was proposed for election. She had been co-opted since the last AGM.

Proposed by: Brendan Friel **Seconded by:** Catherine McMahon

Aoife Malone resigned from the Board during the year and has been replaced as Company Secretary by Paul Walshe. Chair thanked Aoife for her work on the board.

4. To elect Members to Skerries Community Centre Board of Management (BoM):
Chair explained that there are 10 members of the BoM, and 2 due for re-election.
Tony Murray and Michael Mulryan are proposed for re-election by the SCA..
Proposed by: Shay Fanning **Seconded by:** Brendan Ryan.

Sharon Lynch and Sheila Fogerty were proposed as SCA nominees to the Board of Management

Proposed by: Helen Scullion:

Seconded by: Sinead Lucy Brennan

5. To reappoint Daly Accountants and Advisory Services (formerly known as Dempsey Mullen) as Auditors and to authorize the Directors to fix their remuneration:

This was agreed. **Proposed by:** Shay Fanning **Seconded by:** Tony Murray

6. To transact any other business proper to an Annual General Meeting of the Company.
No items were raised.

7. Committee updates:

Community Centre

Shay Fanning updated on the three Phase Plan currently in progress to improve the Centre. This started with the refurbishment of the all-weather pitch, and changing the heating system in the Old School from oil fired radiators to electric panel heaters. Next came the installation of LED lights and planting of biodiversity friendly plants around The Old School. Phase 3 will comprise additional solar panels on the main Community Centre building which will provide power for use in The Old School.

Other projects to be carried out include external door replacement in the main building. Recent additions include the creation of a Sensory Room and the installation of a "Tap to Donate" point at the coffee kiosk which is providing additional funding to Skerries Youth Support Services.

Skerries Tidy Towns: Stephanie Hynes referred to the highlight of the last year being the installation of the mosaic in Floraville last August to commemorate May McGee's landmark legal case in 1973 which was followed some weeks later by her untimely death in October. Stephanie thanked the Men's Shed for their help in painting benches, fences and water pumps.

The Pollinator plant giveaway was a great success both last year and this year. Weekly work parties continue and Adopt a Patch needs additional volunteers for litter picking.

Skerries Age Friendly Town:

Brendan Sherlock began by thanking his predecessor as Chair, Mary Conway, for her hard work over many years. He also thanked the staff of Skerries Library for their assistance in making the monthly movie matinee initiative a success.

Movies are shown on the last Wednesday of each month and advance booking is necessary. A looped walk suitable for older people is being developed and a walkability study of the

town is in progress. Age Friendly advocates for better medical services for older people including access to free shingles vaccination.

Sustainable Skerries: Sabine McKenna stood in for Katie Lattimore and gave an overview of the many activities of the group. Signage for the fourteen Open Orchards around the town is now in place. The Forest Summer School will take place again in August and the wetsuit and swimwear swap took place during Skerries Water Week. The Beach Toy Library is an ongoing success. The group works with other groups to create synergies such as the Rolling Open Orchards picnic held on 17 June run with Skerries Cycling Initiative which introduced participants to some of the orchards and also showed them new short cuts and byways in the locality. Climate conversations, a new initiative enables people to meet up and chat about issues and what can be done at local level to help matters. The Irish Times Electric Ireland Ireland's Greenest places award 2025 for Greenest Town went to Skerries in and will encourage all groups to continue working together for a more livable and sustainable Skerries.

Skerries Town Twinning:

Town Twinning is about fostering friendship through cultural, sporting and interest-centred exchanges. Chairperson Brendan Friel talked about the excellent program in place for the visitors from Guichen on 10–15 July this year. He invited members of the different groups to participate in a session aimed at telling the visitors how our sense of community is fostered here in Skerries. Groups are invited to give short presentations with Town Twinning providing translation where required. Jane Landy and David Beattie will present on the SCA and SYSS respectively.

Skerries Autism Friendly Town (SAFT)

SAFT started out as an advocacy group for people with autism but as chairperson Ger O'Mahoney explained it has now extended its advocacy role to include all people with special needs

He thanked in particular, the Community Centre Board of management for the monthly family fun days in the Centre. The newly refurbished Sensory Garden in Floraville is being well used and the official launch expected soon now that the library has been reopened. The sensory Santa in the Mills in December and the many other sporting activities are helping to improve inclusion. He acknowledged the great work of the Skerries Business Association in making the sensory garden a reality. In an expanding town these needs are growing and must be met with new ideas and activities.

Skerries Cycling Initiative (SCI):

Conor Keegan described how SCI promotes cycling as a healthy, practical and sustainable choice for our community. He pointed to the gridlock in the town at school drop-off and pickup times caused by a lack of safer options for many schoolgoers. A Zebra crossing on a busy road can make a huge improvement in safety for walkers and cyclists.

SCI organised a cycling camp for children in 2025 and have run a number of workshops in collaboration with the Bike Hub and Foróige where young people were taught how to carry

out basic maintenance and repairs on bikes donated by Skerries residents. Our bike week 2026 fun cycle, supported by Fingal County Council, attracted over 120 people, young and old from all over Fingal. SCI is delighted to see such good use being made of the eCargo Bike on loan from Fingal County Council. Like many others SCI awaits the next iteration of the draft Active Travel Strategy.

Sustainable Energy Community Initiative: Chairperson:

Michael Mullan Jensen summarised the activities by S-Seci over the last year, including advising Skerries Men's Shed and Skerries Town FC on how to frame their (successful) grant applications for energy saving projects. They have helped the Community Centre monitor energy usage of LED lights and solar panels and advised on planned upgrades to The Old School. They are working with public representatives to have storage batteries for domestic systems made VAT free for standalone PV batteries.

SSECI has given its Home Energy Monitoring kit to the Library from where it can be borrowed by any residents. **Chair commended Paddy McMenamin on his excellent presentation on Retrofitting which took place before the AGM.**

There will be a further talk by Paddy on this important topic on 9th September in the Library..

Transport Working Group:

Chairperson Bob Laird explained how the TWG has formed a Coastal Connects group which includes community representatives from Loughshinny, Rush and Lusk as well as Skerries. With the support of locally based public representatives, it advocates for changes in the planned Bus Connects plans as they affect this part of Fingal. A direct service to Dublin using the motorway and direct connections to destinations such as Beaumont Hospital and DCU are priorities.

A recent meeting with the Minister for Transport and NTA representatives in Malahide will hopefully lead to a reconsideration of what is planned for the area.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Initiative

Evelyn Cottell and Catherine McMahon gave a "two hander" presentation on this initiative which was launched early in 2026 by Director Eric Byrne (who chairs the committee) and other volunteers.

Almost 100 people have been trained in the use of an AED and basic CPR skills and it is hoped that some will undertake further training and become Community First Responders.

Skerries Community Liaison Committee (SCLC):

Paul Walsh, Company Secretary, outlined the purpose of the Liaison Committee.

Attendance at the quarterly meetings comprises:

Officials from FCC Operations dept., local politicians, reps from Skerries Business Association, Skerries Community Association, Skerries Tidy Towns, Skerries Tourism and Loughshinny Community Council.

It is a very useful forum to discuss plans for the Skerries area area, and for making sure there is plenty of local input into decisions being made about local issues.

8. Open forum for discussion.

Bob Laird suggested that FCC be requested to reduce the minimum car parking fee for Pay and Display from the current €1 charge. It was twenty cents when Pay and Display was introduced twenty years ago.

David Beattie, Chair of SYSS, expressed deep appreciation for the support of the Board of Mantraining of the Community Centre over the years and in particular for their funding of the “Tap to Donate” point.

Sabine McKenna, facilitator of the Neighbourhood Network WhatsApp groups, encouraged residents’ groups who are not yet members, to join the Network which is a means of improving local communications.

9. Jim Quigley Volunteer of the Year Award.

The Chair gave a summary of the life and work of the late Jim Quigley. She acknowledged those who had nominated people and all the nominees and thanked the Adjudicators for their diligence. She then invited Helen Scullion, director SCA, to present the award.

After announcing that Maeve McGann was the winner of this year’s Jim Quigley award, Helen outlined some of the achievements that have taken place under Maeve’s leadership before presenting her with the Jim Quigley certificate and a small token of appreciation.

The chair invited Jeanette Scott, Community Officer, to speak. Jeanette mentioned some upcoming events and invited groups to get in touch for assistance with grant applications. She praised Skerries for its excellent community spirit.

The AGM concluded at 9.50 with the Chair thanking all who attended and contributed to it.

**Prepared by MMCK
27 June 2026**